

in Canada, contribute to the difficulties facing Canadian industry wishing to utilize environmental protection technology. While this is a problem in Canada, it is an even greater problem for developing countries.

Related to the above is the issue of linking development aid to the environmental practices of recipient countries. This represents yet another twist to the oft-noted problem of coming to terms with potentially competing aims associated with economic development and environmental protection. Japan has considerable experience in dealing with this problem, most notably in policies concerning development aid to China.

As part of its industrialization strategy, China has plans to build numerous new coal-generated factories. It would be preferable, from an environmental standpoint, if they were to install plants with desulphurisation equipment. Unfortunately, they are far more expensive than factories that do not have such equipment. Given their primary goal, which is economic expansion, China is primarily concerned with increasing the total number of plants, so there is a preference for utilizing less expensive, and hence less environmentally sound, technology.

The choice between a high number of factories and more rapid economic

growth and fewer factories offering greater protection to the environment illustrates one of the most pressing North-South issues the world currently faces. Developing countries are seeking to maximize their economic potential while the developed world is moving towards tying development aid to environmental protection. This issue was discussed by representatives of 41 developing countries at an UNCED preparatory meeting held in Beijing in 1990. It was their conclusion that developed countries should seek to provide aid to developing countries that would allow them to develop environmental protection measures without sacrificing economic growth.

6. GLOBAL COOPERATION

Given the importance of, and interrelated nature of, issues such as resource management, technology transfer, and economic development, it is apparent that global cooperation will be critical to environmental protection. Indeed, it can be argued that the focus of environmental protection should not be on research but rather on action. In the case of Japan, the KEIDANREN Charter and the initiatives of the ICETT represent a positive starting point in this regard. However, it may be possible for Japan to take on an even more active role as a catalyst in the transfer of technology