

- ✧ Elimination of the opportunity for government policies to maintain or have meaningful influence is one of the major concerns about global economic agreements, in relation to forests.
- ✧ Policy options for national, provincial, and local governments are of critical concern in relation to multilateral trade agreements, across levels of government as well as different sectors of policy (trade, foreign affairs, development assistance). A strategy for working on coherent positive policies as well as continuing to analyze policies that are being passed (such as was done in the Briefing Materials for the November 1997 working session on forests in relation to APEC).
- ✧ The Briefing Materials and materials prepared for the workshop – both included in the Forests Workshop record – contain a number of specific policy options, and background on policy implications of components of global trade agreements for forests. These materials are worth reading, copying more widely, distributing as part of a kit with distilled “CORE MESSAGES” ... all work for the future.
- ✧ In particular, concern from the Forests Workshop participants in the *Sustainability Issues Forum* is that such agreements restrict the possibility of these levels of government controlling their own affairs. Corporate structures will enjoy the rights to sue these governments for measures taken that limit their economic benefits from what, with respect to forests in much of the Asia Pacific which belong to the people.
- ✧ Policy options with respect to FOREST POLICY in most of the countries represented and in the work of most of the organizations have been responding to negative policy options being pursued by the Government of the day. In the US, a recent victory was after decades of no progress, cut-backs, revoked bills, suspended protections, encroachments on the net that was in place.
- ✧ In British Columbia, the situation is a more difficult one of having unenforceable policies, and thus unimplementable policies, coupled with jurisdictional slippage between federal and provincial and other jurisdictions – at the same time as downloading is occurring. Of equal concern was an accelerated media blitz changing what should be a policy discussion to continuing public relations. Getting better able at presenting complex policy issues visually, in media campaigns, through strengthened capacity to monitor and report to the public, were all identified by different representatives of organizations in the workshop as part of their priorities right now.
- ✧ Policy options in countries where activism is treated as a crime are less clear – how does one develop a strategy to advocate with one’s government when it sends video cameras to international gatherings to capture images of demonstrators, captures the demonstrators themselves when they go home. The greater the degree of repression or lower the degree of economic development, the fiercer the push back and out of activists and organizations representing counter interests (as they perceive them). While good information and reliable data are essential, so are networks of mutual support. These are of much greater significance to some members of such a network than others. Making sure representatives of such organizations are part of continuing strategy development is a continuing challenge, even with electronic communications