

they worked full time the 3 months up to the forum, thus volunteering additional time. This should be taken into consideration for future events like this forum.

- \* More staff time than initially budgeted for was spent on fund-raising. \$89,490 was raised and the project came in on budget.
- \* The fact that the Asian financial crisis was occurring at the time of the APEC summit was a dynamic that influenced both the official and parallel conferences. Evening briefings by DFAIT were helpful in understanding these changes.

### **LESSONS LEARNED:**

1. The SIF did not manage to liaise with the Manila Summit(s) organizers although attempts were made to receive documents on previous sustainability issues discussions. Liaison with the Malaysian Peoples' Summit organizers is very important.
2. Policy capacity : There is a need for NGOs and academics to collaborate on research, analysis and policy development. There needs to be increased skills-training and capacity for NGOs to do policy work.
3. Differing agendas and reasons why people attend conferences should be respected, anticipated and be part of the program planning. For example a speaker's corner or seminar room for special issues and topics.
4. Multi-sector political advocacy strategies need more work.
5. Media coverage in the midst of multi- issues competition is a challenge. So is communicating complex issues to decision-makers, the media and the public.
6. An increase in knowledge of APEC and how it fits in the broader move towards globalization and trade liberalization is required.
7. Need to improve dialogue between government and corporations and NGOs (some) on some contentious issues (ie. mining) outside of major conferences.

### **OUTCOMES OF THE FORUM:**

1. Stronger North/South linkages, North/North linkages, and South/South linkages were a result of the SIF. Resource people from Asia, the Pacific, Australia, Europe, North and South America played strong roles in the mining, forests, agriculture and aquaculture/fisheries workshops. The cities workshop was primarily northerners with expert resource people and international youth participation.
2. Increased interest, understanding and connections between people of Asia-Pacific and Canadians and British Columbians.