

1997 People's Summit on APEC
Daily Summit Communiqué, Issue 5 [electronic version only]
Youth Forum
Tuesday, November 11, 1997

YOUTH FORUM COMES TO AN END

After five days, 45 workshops, 9 guest speakers, and a lot of discussion and debate, the Youth Forum has come to an end.

Delegates began their last day with a closing plenary where a long list of recommendations coming out of the workshops were discussed and debated. In particular, youth engaged in a lively debate about the stand they would take on child labour: while some youth called for an outright ban, most felt the Forum's recommendation on the issue should recognize that many children in impoverished countries had to work, and that improvements were a better first step. Among the calls for change were a ban on forced labour, minimum age requirements, higher wages, better working conditions, improved safety, and higher family incomes so children do not have to work. After reaching consensus on mandatory universal education and the need for product labelling, the plenary referred the issue to a group for further discussion.

Ten delegates from the Youth Forum will take the group's calls for action to the People's Summit on APEC, which runs November 17 to 24. The complete listing of Youth Forum recommendations can be obtained from Co-Development Canada, the organizers of the Youth Forum. Contact Co-Development Canada at 205 - 2929 Commercial Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5N 4C8, tel: (604) 708-1495, fax: 708-1497, e-mail: codev@web.net

Delegates then observed a minute of silence in recognition of Remembrance Day, a national holiday in Canada. In introducing the yearly ritual, forum coordinator Rana Ghose expanded the traditional meaning to include those involved in current conflicts around the world.

GUEST SPEAKERS: RAYMOND CHAN AND LIBBY DAVIES

Youth delegates then heard from Raymond Chan, a Liberal Member of Parliament from Richmond BC and Canada's Secretary of State to the Asia Pacific.

Chan outlined Canada's history in the Asia Pacific, touching on the World War II, foreign aid and NGO-building in more recent years, and Canada's current role as chair and host of APEC. Chan stressed Canada's leadership role in technology, and how "Canada can help (developing nations) build a more efficient society."

Chan's speech focussed his speech on democracy, foreign aid, human rights and environment goals. For example, Chan outlined how APEC brought about the Asean Regional Forum, where countries such as Malaysia, the Philippines, Viet Nam and Indonesia talk about security issues, something Chan said helps to prevent war in the Asia Pacific. "APEC creates dialogue among these countries," said Chan.

Chan also touched on the economic agenda of APEC, telling the assembled youth that the meetings help developing countries' economic goals, and that "The markets in the Asia Pacific provide an opportunity for jobs for Canadians."