

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Sponsored by the Faculty of Law and The International Centre of the University of  
**Introduction** Roundtable on Human Rights and International Business was held on  
March 20, 1997. Participants from the academic, NGO and business communities

At its fall Montreal meeting the Foreign Affairs Minister's Advisory Board (Professor Janice Gross Stein, Chair) recommended public policy discussion of some Asia-Pacific issues in 1997. In January the first combined meeting of the National and Vancouver Organizing Committees for the APEC Peoples Summit determined six policy areas for attention: women, sustainable development, human rights, free media, participation of aboriginal peoples and youth. In February and March the Centre initiated a number of Roundtables across Canada to facilitate public views and policy discussion of some of these issues.

Summaries of the reports from some of those Roundtables follow. Included are: Human Rights and Business and Code of Conduct issues (Calgary), Women and Economic Development in Asia (Saint John), Free Media (Vancouver), Indigenous Heritage Rights and APEC (Saskatoon). Other Roundtables included a survey discussion of Sustainable Development interests (Vancouver), Participation of Aboriginal Peoples (Victoria), Central Asian Security (Ottawa).

Organizers and participants deserve generous thanks for their work and for responding quickly and enthusiastically to these initiatives. The Roundtables were designed to generate ideas and if possible policy options. They are not the defining "consultations" on these important issues. There will be other policy discussion events in coming months, including further meetings of the National Forum 1997 which is also considering some of these issues in the Asia-Pacific context. Short notice for some events limited opportunities for participation, including the participation of Foreign Affairs officials, who invariably bring important views to policy discussions. Publication is meant to help continue public-government discussion and policy development.

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