

9. USA and Australia

"There are many issues about mining in these countries but a very important point to be made is that most new mines are on indigenous land." [Due to time constraints it was decided to not focus on mining issues in these two countries.]

10. Japan

"Japan is particularly interested in APEC and has technical cooperation agreements with many countries. They are looking to APEC as a way to secure sources of minerals because they do not have a large mining industry."

Mining Activities Within APEC (Nedjo Rogers, Environmental Mining Council of BC)

"Although there are only 18 economies in APEC they include a high percentage of the world's population and gross domestic product. APEC is an 'economic power' in the world and there are sharp divisions between the countries. The primary investment in mining comes from the USA, Australia, and Canada. The objectives of APEC are:

(a) to facilitate investment, and

(b) to remove barriers (for everything). Any actions taken by APEC affect mining. The Group of Experts on Minerals and Energy Exploration and Development (GEMEED) was formed and is managed under the auspices of the APEC Regional Energy Cooperation Working Group. It is based in Chile and has met three times. We should address this committee since sustainable and environmental impacts of mining are a focus of their group."

"Generally speaking the link to mining in each country is via the Energy Ministers."

Mining and its Impact (David Chambers - Centre for Science and Public Participation - Montana, USA)

"There are many technical issues and trends in 'modern mining' and [something called] 'best practices' has evolved. These changes have an incremental benefit to the environment. No mine will employ all of the 'best practices' or new technologies but usually there is a mix; the question however will always be, will 'best practices' be used to stop a mine or to improve a mine?"

In a 'best practice' we should scrutinize:

- (1) the probability of applying the technology successfully; for example, dealing with tailings could be relatively simple while building water treatment plants is complex;
- (2) the consequences if the technology fails; and
- (3) the ability of the mining company to successfully apply the technology; for example, large companies usually have a plan but the junior mining companies usually do not have the money to do it.

Some of the emerging 'best practices' are:

- (1) paste backfilling,
- (2) dry tailings disposal,
- (3) geosynthetic clay liner (GCL).