

being negotiated in preparation for UNCED, they are becoming enmeshed in debates concerning technology transfer between developing and developed countries. This once again serves to highlight the difficulty of separating economic issues from the environmental protection process. It also serves to illustrate the manner in which global environmental issues are rapidly becoming among the most important North-South issues to be dealt with in the coming years.

Water and Marine Resources

This is an area that was identified as one in which there is a potential for significant cooperation between Canada and Japan. The Japanese participants indicated that greater investment, particularly in the area of waste treatment plants, was necessary in their country.

5. TECHNOLOGY SHARING

The debate surrounding the global management of natural resources is directly connected to the larger issue of technology transfer to developing countries. The transfer of technology is hindered by a number of obstacles. For example, for technology transfer to be an effective tool in dealing with

environmental problems, it is necessary that a selection process be developed to ensure that the *appropriate* technology is offered. Similarly, if transfers are going to be effective, it will be necessary to transfer skills and training in addition to basic technology. Another barrier comes from organizations such as the WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) which are hesitant to include intellectual property in any form of trade talks.

As a means of addressing some of these concerns, Japan has created the International Centre for Earth Technology Transfer (ICETT). It was created to collaborate with other industrial countries regarding the transfer of environmental technologies, some of which are developed at RITE, to developing countries.

Costs

The problem of technology transfer is further compounded by the high cost of technology. Canadian participants in the workshop concluded that it was necessary to either find a way to increase competition in order to drive prices down or to develop a way to fund the cost of purchasing available environmental technology. A lack of competitively priced alternatives and, more seriously, the high cost of capital