

Structured transfer mechanisms will strengthen the process, but nothing takes the place of time spent together, working together.

2. EMERGING ALTERNATIVES

Alternative FOREST PRACTICES and TRADE POLICIES with respect to forests are identified in particular in the set of notes from the afternoon report-backs from round-tables.

Changes in use of subsidies, towards positive ends; public education and awareness; full-cost accounting and other economics-related measures which quantify the parts of the environment and values that can be measured that way, along with legitimate recognition of the aspects necessary for sustainability – of the environment most broadly, of the forest as a living ecosystem, of the people who live close to and work in that forest; expanding the involvement of people who live closest to the resource and forest base in decision-making about it, increasing value-added measures, maintaining protective measures that cover threats to long-term forest health or survival (such as releasing pests of untreated whole-log imports are permitted), or using subsidies to value-added local producers to increase the timber supply available for community based economic development. All these are part of the array of alternatives pooled by participants in the workshop. By collecting these in the record, the November 1997 event will contribute the planning documentation for the Malaysia APEC preparation of forests activists, recognizing this as the continuing process it is.

In terms of alternatives, an emerging alternative for maintaining and strengthening relationships in the networks of organizations at the November 1997 session is that of being a network. Interest in working on issues together was clear. Supporting each other on achieving shared goals may be one incentive for stronger networks. Electronic communications permit about 2 / 3 of the participants to stay in touch.

3. POLICY OPTIONS and Recommendations

No explicit recommendations were made. An agreement was loosely made to continue to work together, and to develop a strategy to do so, incorporating the ideas from this session and using core concepts to weave a set of messages simple and direct enough to work with the broad public identified as needing to hear that message.

The forests workshop group agreed on certain core messages to take forward to the evening plenary session. These are in the record of that report-back. Some of those points relate to policy (i.e. a fundamental rejection of the fast-tracking proposal being made by Canada with three other countries for forest products).

The workshop group also agreed to keep working together on strategy, including no doubt on strategy linked to policy. This work is continuing. Key points of concern identified in the special session on forests to be taken forward include the following.