



patenting of living organisms: a delegate from Papua New Guinea related the story of a remote tribe who consented to give blood samples to an American researcher whose institute then claimed exclusive ownership of their genetic material. Other areas of concern were the motive of companies that provide expensive cures rather than relatively inexpensive preventative methods, and the violation of safety regulations by companies operating in developing countries.

Playing the natural resources vs. profits game

Participants in this workshop on the environmental effects of profit seeking began with a few tangible objects: paper (representing natural resources) and scissors and rulers (tools and technology). The purpose of this game was to produce certain shapes of paper, which were worth various amounts of money.

The participants simulated trade by acting as countries and companies with certain privileges, but also disadvantages. Even on this small level, the group of individuals who won (earned the most money) were the ones who stole, cheated and were cruel to other groups. As one participant put it, "It is curious how we were caught up in making money without knowing why. At the end it was incredibly meaningless."

Youth put forward environmental alternatives

A few of the many recommendations that came out of the day's environmental workshops.

We should address environmental issues and think about what legacy we are leaving. • All communities and regions must have equal opportunity to provide for social, economic, and environmental needs. • Governments should increase funding for education and public transit. • There should be more international laws and legislation to preserve the environment. • APEC should be subject to international laws governed by the United Nations. • There should be other organizations that monitor APEC. • Universal regulations for biotechnological products and cloning should be implemented. • We should avoid consumerism and boycott corporate products. • We need to avoid being cynical and pessimistic: although there are no easy answers, and no one thing works alone, change is possible.

Compiled from reporting by Jana Hanova, 17, Burnaby; Camille Nanayan, 16, Burnaby; Margaret Chung, 17, Vancouver; Kathryn Minichiello, 16, Burnaby; Alfred Pechisker, 15, Vancouver; Ben Jackson, 17, Newfoundland; and the steering committee.

Delegate profile: Jorge Tenreiro, 16, Monterrey, Mexico

by Aman Dhaliwal, 17, Surrey

Jorge Tenreiro heard about the Youth Forum through an e-mail received by his school principal. With his strong humanitarian beliefs, there was no surprise that Tenreiro showed interest in representing his country at the Vancouver Youth Forum of the People's Summit on APEC.

So far, Tenreiro has found the conference to be very interesting. "I was fortunate enough to meet so many people from a wide variety of cultures," he said, adding that some were countries he had never heard of, showing the importance of education.

Tenreiro said he particularly enjoyed guest speaker David Orchard, because "he gave many examples that hit close to home." Tying his own country's experience to the larger APEC agenda, Tenreiro said "The Zapatista rebellion is only one example of what can happen in Mexico if human rights continue to be violated."

Tenreiro hopes to bring home some of the valuable things he has learned at the Youth Forum. "I got a lot of brochures and took notes during each workshop I attended," he said, noting that he plans to educate his peers with the knowledge he has gained.

Jorge says he is interested in keeping in touch with all the friends he made at the conference. People like Jorge ensure youth voices are represented. We are happy to see him here!

The Youth Forum will end tomorrow with a final plenary, closing ceremonies, a keynote address by Member of Parliament Libby Davies, and a cultural show.

Remarks from the closing ceremonies, together with all the Daily Communiqués from the Youth Forum, can be seen on the People's Summit on APEC's virtual summit at www.vcn.bc.ca/summit. The Youth Forum website is at www.islandnet.com/vglobe/codev/codev1.html.

Thanks to all the youth delegates for their generous contributions to the Daily Communiqué.

