



about education and trade union issues in the APEC region, and the need for governments to make education a priority. Norman Carnay of the Asian Students' Association outlined the impact of APEC and trade liberalization on education, and how colleges and universities are becoming increasingly influenced by corporate interests, with a primary focus on education at all levels to train people to be docile workers.

Participants then met in workshops to address education and globalization in various regions: Mexico and Chile, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Australia, Papua New Guinea and the South Pacific Islands, and Malaysia. Other workshops addressed the education struggle in Ontario, and the influence of corporations on education in the United States.

The research workshop built on previous work at other meetings to come up with an action plan. "There was a strong demand to build a researchers' network list, and a call for a commitment to provide documentation among network members," said John Price, a Vancouver labour researcher and conference organizer. Yesterday's workshop included more general discussion, leading to input in coming up with that plan, something the group will build on today. "It was quite a dynamic workshop," said Price of the mix of labour, NGO, academic and activist researchers. As a departure point, the group answered the question: How do we do research that will support an alternative agenda? The group's plan will include long-term research projects and serving popular education needs.

The delegates then met in panel discussions on education in the APEC process, and research issues. The afternoon plenary included the full delegation, who heard from Jane Kelsey on why New Zealanders are so firm in opposing APEC, from Hideo Totsuka, who stressed the need to discuss the social clause question, and who recognized the powerful potential for unions in fighting the APEC agenda, and Gauri Sreenivasan from Canada, who spoke on sustainable human development as a strategic concept.

Afternoon workshops continued to broaden the scope of the conferences themes, with nine further workshops:

- strategies for working together: the case of the Tri-national Coalition in Defense of Public Education
- developing countries in APEC – research papers

- youth and the future in APEC
- the impact of globalization on Maori pupils in mainstream secondary schools
- education issues in countries in Asia – a roundtable
- the social struggle and repression of the Teachers Union Movement in Mexico
- the influence of APEC and other international organizations on the content of public education
- teaching about globalization and global citizenship
- student organizing against APEC

The day ended with speaker Walden Bello, director of Focus on the Global South, who detailed APEC in the aftermath of the currency and stock crisis in Asia.

Kuehn said yesterday's meetings raised a number of important issues. For example, he points to a workshop that included delegates from the Philippines, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Thailand. "Their perspective was one that very much sees the globalization of education as a threat to their cultural integrity," said Kuehn. The delegates specifically pointed to the technology and education aspect of the APEC agenda, and the homogenizing effect that it has.

The direction the APEC meetings are taking is that "the role of education should be to train in ways that support trade liberalization," said Kuehn. The effect of this, as described in one of the day's workshops by New Zealand academic Jane

Kelsey, is to move education from a public good to a private good, something Kelsey called "taking the public out of education, and turning it into commodity."

In tomorrow's final day, the Public Education and Research Forum will meet in three sessions: the issue of where to go with the research agenda will be addressed in a morning session at the Plaza of Nations, while student groups meet at Simon Fraser University to discuss post-secondary issues, and the BC Teachers' Federation hosts a session on the strategies

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