

the southern area, where 80 per cent of the population is rural and dependent on agriculture.

International pressure for globalization of the economy, such as that exerted by the World Bank (specifically, FAO projects and the economic push for foreign currency), have resulted in the emergence of the shrimp/tiger prawn farming industry in Bangladesh. According to Khabir, "individual rights are superseded to encourage investment," with other impacts such as human rights being violated when production is threatened, environments degraded by farming methods involving salination of land and water, forests lost and other species displaced.

General discussion followed, and a number of questions were raised: Where is the power of governments? Can we develop and make alternative policies at the national level? If GDP is not an appropriate means of measuring a country's growth, what is? How do shifts in policy and power work, and why do they happen? Closing the session, Sunera Thobani posed the following to take into today's action plan: What do we want to change, how can we take that forward and where do we start from?

TUESDAY'S AGENDA:

Focusing the Action Plan

Conference organizers spent Monday night sorting through the discussion and outcomes of the 13 workshop sessions, and identified key issues for discussion in workshops today.

Among the issues identified for developing the action plan was the need for a workshop on the question of engagement. The workshop will analyze the possible outcomes of engaging or not engaging, and examine the source of different positions.

Other workshops include: consumer campaigns and boycotts; children's rights (including child labour and sex trafficking); the question of a borderless world and challenging nation-state structures; challenging the hyper-mobility of capital, considering the creation of regulatory bodies and changing economic systems; and building on mobilizing and organizing.

"One of the goals of the women's conference was to strengthen an international women's movement," said Nandita Sharma, an organizer at the Women's Conference. Sharma hopes the workshops outlined for today's

afternoon sessions will help focus the strategies behind that building.

Sharma called the opening day of the Women's Conference a huge success. "It surpassed all of our expectations," said Sharma. "What the turnout and interest in issues showed is that women are really hungry for an activist-based women's movement."

"One of the biggest historical mistakes we can make," said Sharma, "is to ignore it." In Sharma's view, that includes activist women tackling difficult positions, and tackling APEC head on, something she looks forward to hearing more about through the workshops and final plenary, which will try to reach a consensus on the Women's Conference action plan.

What's up with the People's Summit?

Summit events for today include the Women's Conference and the opening of the World Peasant Round Table. Tomorrow's events include the media forum, the opening of the education/research forum, and the People's Summit opening ceremonies, from 7 to 10 pm in Enterprise Hall at the Plaza of Nations. People's Summit programmes will be available late today at the Plaza of Nations, or can be picked up at registration beginning at 8 am in Enterprise Hall. The summit will continue to November 24.

What's up with the Daily Communiqué?

The 1997 People's Summit on APEC publishes daily communiqués on the proceedings of the various events at the summit. It appears as a printed version for delegates on-site, and allows people from around the world to follow the summit on the Internet — www.vcn.bc.ca/summit.

The communiqué is written by forum participants and volunteer reporters, and material is not vetted by the People's Summit for content, so the perspectives expressed remain those of the writers.

Volunteer writers are needed: please call Nadene Rehnby or Dirk Van Stralen at 873-6399, or look for communiqué badge-holders at the Plaza of Nations.

