



THE 1997
**PEOPLE'S
SUMMIT**
on APEC

DAILY SUMMIT

**YOUTH
FORUM**

issue
4

COMMUNIQUÉ

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1997

**YOUTH AND THE
ENVIRONMENT**

The final day of workshops at the Youth Forum was devoted to environmental issues. The day began with guest speaker Steven Schrybma of the Western Canada Environmental Law Association, who spoke on a range of environmental issues that tie into APEC, and included an afternoon presentation by Dyana Timmer, 24, co-founder of the Environmental Youth Alliance.

Promoting sustainable agriculture

Sustainable agriculture – such as Indigenous harvesting, permaculture and community farming – are balanced systems of agriculture that are not generally detrimental to the environment. In this workshop, participants learned that not only farmers, but natural life, urban dwellers and governments contribute to this form of agriculture. The government has the power to pressure farmers and horticulturists to avoid the use of harmful chemicals. Youth, as the leaders of tomorrow, found it is important to raise awareness about this type of agriculture in all countries, and to promote sustainability. The workshop was presented by Farm Folk City Folk.

Taking action on climate change

The major topic discussed in this workshop was how youth can help to prevent climate change. The discussion included cars with damaging air-conditioning systems, the types of cars that can be purchased, and alternatives such as public transit. Many delegates agreed that the smog and noise from cars and factories disrupts communities and increases average temperatures. Also discussed was how climate change caused by deforestation causes soil erosion and weather pattern changes. These topics fit into the larger context of APEC and the corporate agenda because of the types of economies that purchase products that lead to climate change, and the types of economies that lead to environmental destruction. This workshop was presented by the Canadian Environmental Network.

Rising concerns about salmon farming

In this workshop presented by the Sierra Club of Canada, delegates learned about the farm habitats of salmon and faulty farming techniques. Among the issues discussed was space limitations on fish farms, resulting in overly dense, and therefore stressful, living spaces where fish immune systems are weakened. In these environments, sanitation is ignored, with waste left to settle on the river bed. Fish farmers are adding immune system weakening antibiotics into the feed, which people then consume from fish. Delegates also learned how Atlantic salmon is now farmed on BC's Pacific coast, introducing a wide variety of problems into the local fish habitat.

Protecting ecology in the South Pacific

The South Pacific People's Foundation presented this workshop about the many islands that make up the region of the South Pacific, and how APEC and other trade agreements will effect this stunning ecological area. Youth learned about the traditional ways in the Micronesian region, and how Western cultural imperialism has affected ways of life. Logging, mining, air pollution from factories, water contamination and dynamite fishing were some of the environmental problems discussed in the workshop. Delegates also discussed the impact of nuclear testing in the region.

Profit-making advances in biotechnology

In this workshop participants discussed the social and ethical implications of what is often viewed as a strictly technological issue. Biotechnology, which has been used in agriculture, and research on humans and animals. Participants raised concerns that these new technologies can be abused if they continue to be directed to profits instead of human welfare. Also discussed was the issue of intellectual property and