

This applies to indigenous peoples in Canada and Asia-Pacific, recognizing that the situation in the latter region is complicated by other categorizations such as minorities, tribal and other communal designations. Indigenous peoples are continuing to pursue North-South and Canada-Asia-Pacific links, dialogues and activities.

Indigenous peoples are adversely affected by non-sustainable economic development such as resource extraction. Indigenous peoples can and do conduct business, but their models for *sustainable development*, which have much to offer, must be acknowledged. In the area of health, there is some recognition of the sciences and knowledge of indigenous and Asian peoples.

The UN "individual" rights framework is being challenged by Asian and indigenous peoples. An indigenous peoples *framework of collective rights*, which requires responsibilities and benefits for individuals, offers a model that can avoid the dichotomy of Asian collective rights and Western individual rights. Also, Canada has in its indigenous peoples an untapped resource to more constructively engage Asia-Pacific nations in such basic areas as diplomatic practices.

Although Canada has the benefit of diversity in ideas, geography and ethnicity, Canada's *credibility* on indigenous peoples issues has suffered since the release of the recent Aboriginal Report.

There has to be a recognition that most human rights violations are directed at indigenous peoples here and in Asia-Pacific.

### **Policy Options**

#### **1. Within APEC:**

- (a) *Promote and broaden civil society participation in APEC meetings, especially greater participation of indigenous peoples.*
- (b) *Promote a forum on indigenous peoples issues.*

2. *Promote "participatory" research on indigenous peoples, that is, conduct research with the participation of indigenous peoples. Pursue shared learning regarding health in particular through cooperative measures.*

3. *Support more diversified exchanges between and among indigenous and non-indigenous peoples from Canada and Asia-Pacific. Pursue broader sectoral or grassroots dialogue and participation by supporting NGOs in their work with grassroots and other contacts. Support technology linkages to encourage dialogue between indigenous peoples with mutual concerns.*