

subsidiaries of United Nations institutions (e.g. subsidiaries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the FAO, UNESCO, the ILO) and are not autonomous regional organizations.

Among the factors that have contributed to the relative lack of multilateral institutions and multilateralist inclinations in the North Pacific are: a lingering animosity towards and suspicion of Pacific War belligerents; continued political and military tension among several states in the North Pacific, most notably but not exclusively on the Korean peninsula.

Opportunities for functional co-operation in the Asia Pacific region as a whole can be expected to increase as the region comes increasingly to be identified as a single economic entity. The Pacific Economic Co-operation Conference (PECC) has pursued collaboration on the regional macro-economic outlook and on trade policy, agricultural policy, investment, resource processing, fisheries and, more recently, telecommunications and technology transfer. More recently, APEC has embarked on co-operation in trade and investment data; programmes and mechanisms for regional trade promotion and cooperation; the expansion of investment and technology transfer; human resource development; regional energy cooperation; marine resource conservation; and telecommunications.

Further progress in functional cooperation across Asia Pacific will strengthen links among some North Pacific countries; however, given resolved questions of membership in functional cooperative institutions, it is uncertain whether it will contribute to the development of a North Pacific identity or open avenues for enhanced dialogue.

The list of functional mechanisms in the South Asia, South East Asia, and South Pacific sub-regions provides some indication of areas of functional cooperation which might be developed in the North Pacific, as do the work programs of PECC and APEC. The list of areas for functional cooperation is potentially limitless, and possibilities include:

- the environment and natural resources (including energy conservation and development of sources of renewable energy; management of natural resources; conservation of flora and fauna both in general and with regard to particular species; environmental education; waste management; regional sustainable development post-UNCED 1992; driftnet and other fishing controls; aquaculture and coastal resource management; environmental planning and administration; regional effects of climate change; transboundary air pollution and other forms of environmental degradation);

- emerging unconventional security issues including international terrorism, the illicit traffic in narcotics, and international criminal activity;