

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Introduction:

On March 21, 1997, the International Media and Policy Alternatives Centre (IMPAC), in conjunction with the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union (CEP) hosted **Open Markets, Open Media?**— a one-day roundtable on trade liberalization and the media in the Asia Pacific region. The roundtable, which was supported by the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development, was held at the Sutton Place Hotel in Vancouver.

**Open Markets, Open Media?** brought together members of the media, academics and other knowledgeable individuals, to address the question of whether trade liberalization is leading to freer, more open and independent media in the Asia Pacific region. Participants were asked to address this question from a variety of perspectives, including:

- Factors which may be contributing to the development of free media in the region;
- Factors which may be limiting this development;
- The role of journalists, media ownership, and Canadian foreign policy in supporting free media.

Based on their deliberations, participants identified options and strategies for policy change. The day's discussions were "off the record."

The roundtable was designed as a "stand-alone" event. However, the discussions and outcomes will be used to inform an agenda for a larger, international symposium being planned by IMPAC, the CEP and other partners for Nov. 19, 1997, as part of the People's Summit on APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation), to be held in Vancouver.

### Participants

The roundtable was designed for a group of no more than twenty journalists and academics. Over 50 journalists were consulted in the development of the participant's list. Invitations and reading packages were sent to seventeen journalists and two academics. All but one were present for the roundtable.

Considerable effort was made to have representatives from both Indonesia and Mexico present at the roundtable. Due to timing, availability and cost, we were unable to have secure a Mexican participant. Efforts were also made to contact "owners of media" and encourage their participation. Although considerable interest was expressed in the roundtable theme, only one media owner was able to attend. For a full list of participants, please see Appendix A.

At the closing of the session, participants were asked to fill in evaluation forms. Thirteen completed forms were received and are summarized in the section entitled: Participant's Feedback.