

company even received a 5-year tax holiday on investments from this mine. In this case the state would not regulate the mining company and would not return the profits to the people. The key issue is who was the operating company (not who owned it or who the stockholders are) and it has been consistently Placer Dome over the past 20 years. Now the community wants Placer Dome to do something about all the damage."

"A further question on this is: what is the Asian Development Bank (ADB) doing, making loans to Marcopper to develop copper mines, while at the same time, making loans to rehabilitate the damaged watershed from copper mining?"

3. Papua New Guinea

"Mining, specifically by Placer Dome, is causing environmental damage by their disposal method. The PNG government made legislation to prohibit locals (who live downstream) from making legal cases overseas against the companies. For us, this is not just. Mine tailings are disposed directly into the environment, i.e. rivers and ocean, and this is our source of livelihood. Many people have been affected but particularly the indigenous people. Other new legislation says that everything under the land belongs to the government and this is directly against indigenous land claims. The feeling now, in PNG, is that if you say anything against the state you will be in trouble."

"The Melanesian Trust is an umbrella organization of community groups and NGOs which provides linkages and networking about environmental issues related to mining."

4. Canada

"We have a lot of environmental issues due to mining. One of the most common problems is acid drainage, which contributes to toxic waste sites, even though the companies supposedly have highly advanced technology to work with. At present the clean-up bill for abandoned mines is \$6 billion Cdn. We do have an Environmental Assessment Process which in theory is world-leading however in reality is very flawed. The mining industry and associations played a major role for deregulation and this has degraded the environmental system; the main push was by the Mining Association of Canada. While we have a number of good laws there is a complete breakdown in the ability to monitor and enforce them. We need community solidarity with both technical and legal advice."

"Since APEC people say that they are moving towards 'sustainable energy' this can only mean nuclear. We need to work together to orchestrate campaigns against uranium mining and the Candu reactor. We need to expose Placer Dome and the nuclear waste hazard."

5. Indonesia

"The acceleration of mining in Indonesia is very fast. The main concerns are coal and gold mining. There are 3 main problems:

- (a) The mining policy of the government of Indonesia basically says that all proceeds of mining activity belong to the people of Indonesia but in practice the proceeds seem to belong to mainly transnational corporations.
- (b) There is no place for traditional or small-scale mining. For example, for the Dayak people of Kalimantan mining has always been part of their life but now many go to jail