

workers are working in Maquilladora zones in Mexico alone.

"These [areas] are major strategies in developing economies," said Yanz. "It used to be [primarily] U.S. capital, but increasingly it's becoming Asian, from places like Japan, Taiwan, and Korea."

According to Yanz and Tuico, crimes include physical abuse of women, unpaid overtime work, underpaid work of all types, forced pregnancy tests, insistence on women not being able to talk to, or even smile to, their fellow workers, and many human rights violations.

Both resource women challenged delegates to work past boycotts: the jobs shouldn't necessarily go, but they must get better. The women also encouraged consumers to pressure companies to uphold human rights treaties, pay decent wages, and allow workers to unionize. They asked women to inform consumers: for instance, that the \$100 Barbie Mini-Van retailing in Canada is made by women paid less than \$45 a week. Finally, they caution that labels reading "Made in Canada/USA" might be assembled here, but constructed under poor working conditions abroad. Educating and organizing are other things women can do.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

by Lindsay Poaps

Marjorie Cohen and Lee Ying Chuen were resource people for the Economic and Social Development Workshop. Cohen, who works as the head of Women's Studies at Simon Fraser University near Vancouver, discussed how the economic and financial framework being created by big business and neo-conservative governments and institutions are widening the gap between rich and poor throughout the APEC region. "This provides a view of the world in which the interests of the powerful are defined as necessary, while the demands of the poor appear as greed," said Cohen.

In calling for a critical economic analysis, Cohen advocated economic pluralism – the need for not just one, but many different strategies to address globalization. She suggested the creation of an international institute to monitor the movement of capital around the world, and to discipline corporations.

Lee Ying Chuen focused on the issues facing

sweatshop workers in China. There are free trade zones in China that have few safety and environmental regulations, said Chuen. What protections do exist are being further downgraded or dismantled. Chuen also warned about the increase in occupational deaths among female workers in China.

The dialogue in the sessions was animated, with participants sharing their diverse experiences. There were many ideas and concrete strategies, including developing networks and having an international education campaign on trade agreements.

MEGA DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS/AQUACULTURE

by Carolyn Whittaker

The workshop session was opened by Melissa Benollo-Morales from the Philippines and Hushi Khabir from Bangladesh.

Morales, who works for the Center for Environmental Concerns in the Philippines, covered a wide range of issues affecting her country, beginning with the impact that APEC has on the mining sector through promoting deregulation, privatization and free trade.

Morales explained that foreign mining companies are given incentives to explore in the Philippines, such as easement, water and timber rights.

Local communities, particularly Aboriginal people living in forested areas, are displaced, forests are harvested at tremendous rates and remaining communities have limited access to resources such as forest, land and water.

According to Morales, only 6 million hectares of forest remain in the Philippines, and under the new mining act the 137 applicants currently asking for exploration rights could each be granted up to 81,000 ha – 50 per cent of the remaining forest and one-third of the country's land base. Countries leading in the mining exploration are Australia, Canada and the US.

Hushi Khabir, who works with landless peasants in Bangladesh, emphasized the importance of the aquaculture/agriculture problem in her country, which is fertile and traditionally agriculture-based, particularly

According to Khabir, "individual rights are superseded to encourage investment"