

## **Asia Pacific peoples urge governments: Do not Sign the TPPA (Call for endorsements)**

On February 4, New Zealand will host the historic signing of the Transpacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) amidst widespread people's protests against the deal. All members of the TPP, which include United States, Canada, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Australia, New Zealand, Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam, are expected to come to the signing of the trade deal.

Negotiations of this mega regional trade agreement were done in secret for almost a decade until governments produced the text on October 2015 due to strong calls for transparency by peoples' movements and civil society organizations. The text confirmed what critics of the trade deal have been warning the public--that the TPP will take away people's rights in favor cementing corporate power.

Careful analysis of the text revealed that the TPP will violate a number of fundamental human rights and would negatively impact people's access to quality and affordable health care, further endanger the environment, and violate national sovereignty.

Thus, we are once-again urging the governments of the TPP not to sign this dangerous deal.

The TPP's liberalization agenda will force open sectors of the members' economic sectors such as agriculture, which employ millions of poor peasants and agricultural workers who are mostly women. The TPP will further push them into poverty, as they will be forced to compete with giant agricultural corporations from more developed countries. This liberalization agenda also increases corporations' access to indigenous people's lands and territories for resource extraction without their free prior informed consent (FPIC).

The TPP will undermine the country's right to reject genetically modified organisms (GMOs) that they have not approved and to subject those GMOs to a prior risk assessment. The TPP will ensure uninterrupted trade for GMOs to the benefit of major GMO producers and exporters like the US and Canada.

The TPP will also permit corporations to violate labor rights by making it easier to offshore jobs to countries with lower labor standards. Only corporations win in this set up as they get to increase their profits by cutting their operational costs, at the expense of workers losing their jobs in origin countries, and workers in recipient countries who receive meager wages, and work long hours in dangerous conditions. TPP also encourages more inflows of migrants who later forced to become undocumented migrants in order to add to the source of more cheaper and docile labor.

Strict intellectual property rights imposed on patents to medicines, especially life-saving drugs, will endanger the people's right to quality and affordable healthcare by giving corporations increased patent and data monopolies. Strict

intellectual property rights also apply to educational materials, making them more expensive, especially for poor students. Under the TPP, digital policies enforced by corporations will violate internet users' privacy rights and will stifle creativity and freedom of expression through severe copyright rules.

Moreover, the TPP would mean death to democracy as it allows corporations to use investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) to attack public interest laws to increase their profits. We have seen these through corporations suing governments over implementing living wages, environmental protection measures, and protecting people's access to public utilities.

Although not all the countries in Asia Pacific are members to the TPP, we believe that the sheer size of the deal which covers 40% of the global economy would have knock-on effects on the whole region. The TPP also has high potential to be the standard that all future trade deals will follow.

Signing the deal would increasingly promote the hegemony of corporations, neoliberal regimes and political and economic dominance of the US and other powerful States over the developing and underdeveloped economies of the world. It is clear that this deal was not created in the interest of the people and thus should not be signed. We express our full support and solidarity with the peoples of TPP countries who have lobbied against the deal and are pouring out in the streets to stop the signing of the deal.

### **List of Endorsers:**

Action for Health Initiatives (ACHIEVE), Inc.  
Active Society Nepal (ASN), Nepal  
Advocates of Science and Technology for the People (AGHAM)  
Andhra Pradesh Vyavasaya Vruthidarula Union (APVVU)-India  
Article 19  
Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)  
Asia Monitor Resource Center (AMRC)  
Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM)  
Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN)  
Asia Pacific Students and Youth Association (ASA)  
Asia Pacific Women in Law and Development (APWLD)  
Asia Pasific Council of AIDS Service Organizations.  
Asia-Pacific Solidarity Coalition (APSOC)  
Asian Peasant Coalition (APC)  
Australian Action for Peace & Development in the Philippines (APDP)  
Bahing Kirat Mulukhim  
Bahing Kirat Mulukhim Women Union Department  
Bangladesh Apparels Workers Federation (BAWF)  
Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition  
BAYAN USA  
Bote Adibasi Janajati Samuha  
Burma Partnership

Center for Human Rights and Development- Mongolia  
Center for Trade Union and Human Rights (CTUHR)  
Chulachuli Unceco Club (CUC)  
CIE "Peremena" from Kyrgyzstan  
Coalition for Diversity and Action  
Coalition of Cambodian Farmers Community (CCFC) in Cambodia  
Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education & Advocacy (ECCREA)  
EquityBD  
Feto iha Kbiit Servisu Hamutuk (FKSH)  
Forum for public awareness rural development and environmental conservation (FPARE)  
Forum Tau Matan (Eye on Human Rights) Timor -Leste  
Gabriela Australia  
Garivi Unmulan tadha Sahayog Anusandhan Kendra Nepal  
Hamro Mechi Samajik Sanstha  
Hurbure Yuwa Club  
IBON International  
IMA Research Foundation  
Indigenous Nationalities Single Women Network (INSWN)  
Indigenous Nationalities Women Youth Network (INWYN)  
Inspirator Muda Nusantara-Indonesia  
INSTITUT PEREMPUAN (Indonesia)  
IT for Change, India  
JAGO NARI, Bangladesh  
Janauthan Manch  
Just Associates (JASS) Southeast Asia  
Kanchangjangha Women's Development Group  
Karani Community Development Centre  
KARAPATAN  
Kathriya Society Nepal  
Katribu Kalipunan ng Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas  
Kesedaran Komuniti Selangor (EMPOWER)  
Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP)  
Kilusang Mayo Uno International  
Kirat Chamling Association (KCA)  
Kirat Chamling Language Culture Development Association (KCLCDA),  
Kirat Chamling Youth Society (KCYS)  
Kirat Welfare Society (KWS)  
Kirat Youth Society (KYS)  
Kulung Mingma Guskham  
Lok Kalyan Nepal  
Luta Hamutuk Institute, Timor-Leste  
MADPET(Malaysians Against Death Penalty and Torture)  
MASIPAG-Philippines  
Migrant CARE-Malaysia  
Migrante Australia  
MIGRANTE Europe  
Migrante International  
Minerals Policy Institute

MONFEMNET National Network  
Movimiento Migrante Mesoamericano  
MTUC Sabah/SBEU  
Nepal Manav Adhikar Samaj  
Nepal Rana Tharu Samaj  
NGO Association for Promotion Sustainable Development Hisar,India  
Observatorio Ciudadano, Chile  
Pahadi Samaj Bikas Kendra  
Pakistan Development Alliance  
Pakistan Kissan Mazdoor Tehreek (PKMT)  
Parti Sosialis Malaysia  
Participatory Research Action Network- PRAN  
Partnership and Institute for Global Justice  
People Unity Youth Society (PUYS)  
Persatuan Kesedaran Komuniti Selangor (EMPOWER), Malaysia  
Philippines Australia Women's Association (PAWA)  
PINAY-Canada  
Prangbola Chhar Nham  
Prasamsha Samudaik Bikas Kendra  
Putri Padi – Indonesia  
Rasuwa Janajati Development Committee  
Rasuwa Tamang Samaj  
Roots for Equity  
Routa Welfare Community Center,  
Rural Women's Association "Alga", Kyrgyzstan  
Sanayee Development Organization (SDO)- Afghanistan  
SCODE  
Sedane Labour Resource Centre/Lembaga Informasi Perburuhan Sedan (LIPS)  
Indonesia,  
SEJIWA Foundation, Jakarta, Indonesia  
Shilichong Club Development Centre  
Shilichong Club Social Development Centre,  
Siluti Namphunyak Paryatan Bikas Kendra  
Social Action for Change (SAC)  
SUARAM-Malaysia  
Sustainable Development Foundation-Thailand  
Tanggol Bayi  
TASAT (TransAsia Sisters Association, Taiwan)  
Tenaganita  
Tharu Innovative Youth Society  
Timor-Leste NGO Forum (FONGTIL)  
Unity Society, Nepal  
Urban Poor Resource Center  
Women's Centre for Change (WCC), Penang  
Working Group for Peace in Cambodia  
Youth Awareness Society Nepal (YASN)  
Zo Indigenous Forum, Mizoram State India