**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.

Initial list of Endorsers:

Asia Pacific Research Network

Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants

Tanggol Bayi

KARAPATAN

Asian Peasant Coalition (APC)

Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP)

Sedane Labour Resource Centre/Lembaga Informasi Perburuhan Sedan (LIPS) Indonesia,

Asia Monitor Resource Center

SUARAM-Malaysia

Minerals Policy Institute

Coalition for Diversity and Action

INSTITUT PEREMPUAN (Indonesia)