

Urgent reminder – contact MFAT if you want TPPA briefing in your town

[NZ's TPPA negotiators](#) are promising 'TPP stakeholder sessions' in major centres from June to August. This is a great chance to demand answers, either by seeking a briefing in your town or by attending one they have arranged. Send 'expressions interest' to attend a stakeholder session or requests for an individual meeting to tpp@mfat.govt.nz soon.

Japan's terms of entry could stuff the TPPA negotiations

After a lecture tour in Japan earlier this month Jane Kelsey [explained](#) that its terms of entry to the TPPA talks include two parallel track negotiations, over which the US claims a veto. This means the US could hold both Japan and the whole TPPA to ransom if it doesn't get what its corporations want. The good news is that this could put another spanner in the works of the agreement ever being concluded.

Hidden Agendas: what you need to know about TPPA – now in PDF

People who were having trouble buying the latest comprehensive update on the implications of the TPPA for NZ can now [buy the e-book](#) for \$4.99 in PDF form.

Value of 'Adopt an MP' emerging

The feedback from visits to one National MP is that (a) the text will be made public before it is signed and (b) the government will not agree to investors rights to sue in the offshore arbitration courts. We are pretty sure that Tim Groser doesn't know that's what his caucus colleague is saying, so we are asking which is right. We need more people to [sign up now](#) to put MPs on the spot – especially as the TPPA negotiators' briefing to the Labour caucus has been deferred.

UN asked to challenge NZ government on human rights impact of TPPA

As part of the periodic review of NZ's track record on meeting its human rights obligations we have asked the UN to require the NZ government to prepare a human rights impact assessment of the TPPA or request and fund the NZ Human Rights commission to do so. The [submission](#) was based on an earlier request to the Human Rights Commission to do a scoping study for such an assessment. It said it didn't have the resources but would keep a watching brief – we have seen no evidence that it has done so.

Cartoon exhibition now in Christchurch

The TPP cartoons are on tour and currently on exhibition in the WEA Hall, 59 Gloucester Street Christchurch until the end of June. Then they move to Blackball, details to follow.

Protests against secret TPPA investment talks in Vancouver

A mini-negotiation on investment was held [secretly in Vancouver](#) last week, presumably to tie up as much as possible of the text before Japan joins. [Activists](#) from Canada, the US and Mexico, under the banner of the TPPxBorder network, held an emergency teach-in at Greenpeace Vancouver offices on Saturday night and

projected messages about the unacceptable secrecy in the TPP negotiations on downtown buildings.

Secrecy breakthrough, US politicians still on the warpath

US Congressman Alan Grayson has finally been allowed to [see three chapters](#) of edited text under strict confidentiality. He stated there was no justification for the secrecy of what he saw, especially when unelected corporate advisers to get greater access. This follows a letter from senior Democrat Senator [Elizabeth Warren](#) to the USTR asking for public release of the TPPA documents. It's time for our politicians to up the ante on the secrecy.

Trouble in Malaysia, host of next TPPA round

All is not well in Malaysia, host of the next round of negotiations. The official government press agency [published a call](#) by Consumers Association of Penang for the Malaysian government to withdraw from the TPPA talks, citing 'the unethical plundering of natural resources, and the effects on the public health due to environmental pollution and degradation'. The Malay Economic Action Council (MTEM) [walked out](#) of a 'consultation' meeting with the Ministry in charge after it refused to provide information on its talks on the TPPA. The Malaysian Consultative Council of Islamic Organisations called for a debate on the TPPA in the first session of the new Parliament scheduled for June 24.

Japanese movement against TPPA growing

See an excellent video on the [opposition to the TPPA in Japan](#) with interviews that explain many of their issues – no, not just agriculture! Prof Jane Kelsey and Lori Wallach from US Public Citizen have just been on a lecture tour in Japan as follow up.

US Citizen Trade Campaign's People's Assemblies

US activists organised a series of [people's assemblies](#) to oppose the TPPA last month. Their website has some great resources on how to do this. They also ran a teach-in at NYC on 29 May 2013, which you can view [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#) (start watching at 34 mins)

First Nation in Canada challenges TPPA-style Investment Treaty

The Hupacasath First Nation, a small band in the Port Alberni area of Vancouver Island, has launched a challenge in the Federal Court of Canada to the Canada-China Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA), which has similar investment powers to TPPA. They are concerned FIPA will capitalise on the weak environmental assessment process and allow foreign corporations to coerce from restricting tar sands development and adopting stronger environmental policies.

US Green Shadow Cabinet opposes TPPA

All five branches and 81 members of the [Green Shadow Cabinet](#) in the US have committed to act in concert to defeat the TPPA and show America that another government with another global economic agenda is possible.

Media and resources

Susan Chalmers from InternetNZ set out the relationship between the [review of NZ's copyright law](#) and the TPPA for the Auckland District Law Society.
[PSA Journal Working Life](#): 'TPPA – An attack on our rights and services?' (p.14)
[Al Jazeera](#) – how TPPA undermines the health system