



AFTINET
Australian Fair Trade
& Investment Network

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TPP talks and Ministers Meeting Canberra and Sydney: protests, critical media and no conclusion

As TPP negotiations have dragged into their fifth year, they have become even more secretive. We had only three weeks' notice that TPP negotiators were going to meet in Canberra from October 19 – 24, and that the 12 TPP Ministers would meet in Sydney from October 25-27.

The [leaked intellectual property chapter](#) in the week before the meetings confirmed resistance by other governments to US proposals for longer and stronger patents on medicines, which will delay the availability of cheaper generic medicines, and for stronger copyright restrictions for Internet consumers. Industry journals reported other sticking points including the controversial right of foreign investors to sue governments (ISDS), state-owned enterprises, the environment, trade in services, temporary migrant workers, government procurement and financial services.

Hanging over all of this is the fact that the two largest players, the US and Japan, have still not agreed between themselves on market access for manufactured goods and agriculture, and have not made offers on market access to most of the other governments 10 TPP governments. This shows the real power dynamics of the negotiations. The danger is that the Australian and other governments will be prepared to make concessions on access to affordable medicines copyright, ISDS and other issues in return for market access on goods and agriculture if and when these offers are eventually made.

Thanks to your support, we were able to organise a [small protest and successful media conference](#) in Canberra on October 20 and a [bigger protest with more media coverage in Sydney](#), including commercial TV and radio, on October 25. There were also longer critical articles on the TPP published in [The Conversation](#), which did a series of articles on the TPP, in [Crikey](#), the [Fairfax press](#) (Sydney Morning Herald, the Melbourne Age and the Canberra Times) and [The Guardian](#).

The Ministerial Meeting statement reported “progress” in talks on both market access and other issues, and pointed to yet another TPP Ministers meeting, but no conclusion at the time of the APEC meeting of 21 governments on November 7-8, when civil society is planning international protests against the TPP (see next article).

The good news is that the TPP talks have missed yet another deadline of finishing by the APEC meeting, partly because civil society resistance to US proposals have pressured governments to resist them. We must keep saying no to our government [trading off its right to regulate](#) on health, environment and other public interest issues in return for dubious promises of market access on agriculture.

TPP International Protests Fri-Saturday November 7-8

TPP Trade Ministers will meet again in November to yet again try to agree on the outlines of the deal. We are organising protests in Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart and Adelaide, joining others in TPP countries around the world to say no to trading off our rights. Photos will be posted on our website and other social media.

- **Sydney: 11 am, Saturday November 8 on the seaward side of East Circular Quay, past Portobello Cafe, South of the Opera House**
- **Melbourne: 11 am, Saturday 8 November, State Library of Victoria, Swanston St**
- **Hobart: 12 noon, Saturday 8 November, Tasmanian Parliament lawns.**
- **Adelaide: 2:45 pm, Friday 7 November 2014, outside GM Holden, Cnr Philip Highway and Oldham Road, Elizabeth.**

AFTINET at G20 Civil Society Summit in Brisbane, November 13

The G20 meeting of 20 Government leaders is an opportunity to debate the neoliberal trade agenda and put forward our vision for trade justice. If you are in Brisbane, or going there for civil society events, see the Brisban [website](#)

Dr Patricia Randal, AFTINET Co-ordinator, will be presenting: *What's wrong with "free trade" agreements? The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) democracy and sovereignty.*

Thursday 13th November 11:45-1pm at the Olympus Room, the Greek Club, 29 Edmondstone St, South Brisbane

Summary: Neoliberal free versions of extreme trade theory ignore the history of power inequalities in the global trade system. Current "free trade" negotiations like the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) are not mainly about traditional trade issues like tariff reductions, but about changing domestic law to suit the needs of global corporations. This can restrict the ability of governments to regulate in areas like access to affordable medicines and environmental regulation of mining. In the name of "free trade", they actually extend monopoly rights in areas like patents on medicines, copyright on the Internet and the rights of foreign investors to sue governments for damages over domestic laws. This is a challenge to democracy and sovereignty.

AFTINET AGM November 19: Special Guest Speaker Prof Kimberlee Weatherall

The AFTINET AGM will be held at **5.30 pm on Wednesday November 19, 2014.**

Please note the address is the same as last year but different from previous years

Finance Sector Union

Level 2, 321 Pitt St (near corner of Bathurst St and 5 mins from Town Hall station) Sydney 2000

We will discuss the latest developments on the TPP and the next steps in the campaign.

Special guest speaker at 6pm:

Professor Kimberlee Weatherall, University of Sydney, expert on Intellectual Property will discuss the latest TPP leaked documents:

Hollywood strikes again: the TPP, copyright and Internet freedom.

Followed by drinks and snacks.

Hope to see you there!