

Join AFTINET

Tax Invoice - ABN 83 659 681 462

Please indicate type of membership*

- \$220 International / National / Large Organisation
(includes large state organisations)
- \$55 Small Organisation (less than 100 members
or few resources)
- \$66 Passionate Individual Member
- \$44 Individual waged
- \$11 Individual concession

*All membership fees are GST inclusive

Donations

AFTINET receives no government or corporate funding and relies on the active support of members. Please consider giving a donation.

I would like to make a one-off donation of \$ _____

I would like to pledge a monthly donation of \$ _____

You can pay by cheque, money order or credit card.

Cheques should be made payable to AFTINET.

I enclose a cheque / money order for: \$ _____

Please charge \$ _____ to my (please circle)
VISA / MASTERCARD / BANKCARD.

Card Number: _____

Expiry date : _____ / _____

Name of Cardholder: _____

Signature: _____

Post cheques and completed form to AFTINET, 128
Chalmers Street, SURRY HILLS NSW 2010, or fax form
with credit card payment to 02 9699 3717.

AFTINET members include:

Australian Council of Trade Unions

Australian Conservation Foundation

Australian Catholic Social Justice Council

Public Health Association of Australia

Uniting World (Uniting Church)

Greenpeace

Friends of the Earth

Oxfam/Community Aid Abroad

AID/WATCH

Union Aid abroad - APHEDA

Australian Manufacturing Workers Union

Australian Nursing Federation

Australian Education Union

Australian Services Union

Community and Public Sector Union

Australian Pensioners and Superannuants Fed



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Invitation to join

AFTINET is a national network of community organisations and many individuals which campaigns for fair trade based on human rights, labour rights and environmental sustainability.

AFTINET grew out of the successful campaign by community organisations against the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), which had attempted to restrict the ability of governments to regulate both investment and key areas of social policy.

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is failing to meet the needs of developing countries for fairer trade rules which do not erode social policies.

AFTINET's members have demanded greater accountability by the Australian government for its role in the WTO and in bilateral and regional trade agreements like the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement and the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement.

AFTINET supplies education materials, regular bulletins and speakers at public events. We make submissions to government and opposition parties to change Australian trade policy. We form links with similar organisations in other countries to argue for fairer rules for international trade and investment.

AFTINET Principles

There is widespread concern that current trade policy gives priority to the flow of goods, services, investment and finance at the expense of local development, protection of the environment and human rights.

Trade agreements can restrict the scope of legitimate government regulation in many areas. Under the guise of deregulation and free trade, regulatory powers are in fact transferred to international institutions beyond the reach of democratic accountability.

Trade disputes processes, conducted behind closed doors, have defined environmental regulation, food safety regulation, and local industry policies as barriers to trade. These decisions can be enforced through trade sanctions.

There is a wealth of international law developed through the United Nations (UN) on human rights, labour rights, cultural development, rights of indigenous people, the environment and health and safety. UN processes are more transparent and accountable than those of trade agreements, and its agreements are enacted through domestic legislation in each member country. In some cases trade disputes processes have undermined established principles recognised in international environment and health law such as the precautionary principle, that is, the right to restrict potential dangers to health and environment. Some trade and investment agreements give rights to foreign investors to sue governments if public regulation harms their investment.

Thus trade processes can deliver favourable trade and investment conditions for some corporations but foster a race to the bottom on regulatory standards. Developing country government and non-government organisations have criticised the lack of transparency of trade negotiations and the domination by the governments of the most powerful economies.

We reject a "fortress Australia" protectionist strategy and welcome the development of fair trading relationships with all countries. However we believe that trade and investment policy should be based on local conditions and fair regulatory standards and should be decided through democratically accountable processes.

AFTINET Aims and Objectives

- a critical re-assessment of the WTO and other trade structures and dispute processes;
- greater public discussion and accountability for government trade policy and for international trade negotiation processes;
- a trade and investment framework which does not erode local ability to regulate on issues of health, the environment, economic development, human rights and labour rights;
- more effective representation of developing countries in trade negotiations;
- more effective international regulation through the United Nations on the environment, human rights and labour rights.

AFTINET

- monitors trade and investment negotiation processes;
- establishes contacts with similar international networks;
- exchanges information and basic educational material on trade issues;
- raises community awareness and debate through public events and activities and
- seeks to change trade and investment policy based on these principles

AFTINET structures and constitution

The AFTINET constitution provides a basic democratic structure for the organisation. Members elect a working group which administers the organisation. The working group keeps membership and financial records and reports to annual general meetings of members. AFTINET is registered under Commonwealth legislation as a company limited by guarantee to limit the financial liability of members to their membership fee.

Organisations and individuals who do not wish to become members can become subscribers. This means they receive all other benefits of membership but cannot vote at meetings and are not bound by the constitution.

A copy of the constitution is available from the address over the page.

AFTINET MEMBERSHIP FORM

You can join as an individual or an organisation.

Members will receive:

- regular AFTINET publications
- regular email bulletins with relevant news, analysis and AFTINET events
- access to the bulletin to publicise their own activities relevant to AFTINET

I / my organisation would like to join AFTINET.

Name / Organisation: _____

Postal Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

Contact person: _____

Declaration:

Name / Organisation: _____

I / We agree with the AFTINET principles and will join with others to implement them.

I / my organisation wish(es) to be a member under the constitution. Yes No

OR

I / my organisation wish(es) to be a subscriber (without membership rights.) Yes No

Signed _____

Organisation _____

Position _____

Date _____