

NO BENEFITS FOR WORKERS

in a free trade agreement with Thailand

The New Zealand and Thai governments are currently negotiating a free trade agreement. They want to have the deal concluded by November 2004 – regardless of the answers to the following questions.

IS IT FAIR TO WORKERS?

It's not fair to New Zealand workers in the clothing, textiles, footwear, bedding, vehicle parts, tyre, rope, carpet and appliance industries (currently protected by tariffs of 5% or more). They could lose their jobs or be pressured to accept lower wages and conditions if forced into unfair competition with exploited Thai workers working on average 50 hours per week and paid less than \$1 an hour. Child labour is common in Thailand – at least 500,000 children under 14 are in paid employment.

IS IT ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY?

More 'dirty dairying' in New Zealand is likely – NZ dairy company Fonterra asked our government to negotiate the agreement to increase its market share.

IS IT DEMOCRATIC?

Trade treaties in both countries are negotiated by a Cabinet clique with little parliamentary or public scrutiny. Ordinary citizens have almost no influence on what's in them – big business calls the shots.

IS IT A GOOD DEAL?

It will increase trade between New Zealand and Thailand – but the trade will be mainly between big corporations. The vast majority of Kiwis and Thais can not expect to be better off.



Thai workers are often cheated by transnational employers. Workers at a Nike contracting firm protest being laid off without back pay.



Environmental abuses in Thailand are rife. Effigies represent victims of toxic industrial waste in a blue-collar worker protest.

IF IT'S NOT FAIR IT'S NOT FREE!

Hear how a free trade agreement between Thailand and New Zealand would hurt jobs, wages and working conditions, and damage the environment.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Christchurch, Monday September 13, 7:30 p.m.
Trade Union Centre, cnr Armagh and Madras

Wellington, Wednesday September 15, 7:30 p.m.
St John's Hall, cnr Willis and Dixon

Auckland, Thursday September 16, 7:30 p.m.
Trades Hall, 147 Great North Rd, Grey Lynn

SPEAKERS FROM THAILAND

Dr Jakkrit Kuanpoth

Associate Professor of law at Sukhothai
Thammathirat Open University

Ms Sripai Nonsee

Labour organiser and ex-factory worker.
Photos: Manit Sriwanichpoom



Children from the Assembly of the Poor raise banners and shout 'Almighty Prime Minister is a liar!' outside Government House.

TOUR SUPPORTERS INCLUDE:

- Action Research Education Network Aotearoa
- Asia Pacific Workers Solidarity Links
- Brass Razoo Solidarity Band
- Campaign Against Foreign Control in Aotearoa
- Caritas
- Christian World Service
- Clothing Laundry and Allied Workers Union
- Envision New Zealand
- Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand
- MADENZ
- NZ Council of Trade Unions
- Oxfam
- Trade Aid

For more information on what's wrong with the deal and how to object to it, write to or e-mail

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