

PM Key hasn't got a clue about TPPA

The PM's response to questions at his post-Cabinet press conference would be laughable if his ignorance did not have such serious consequences. The Dominion Post reported on 26 March that Key welcomed Japan's interest but said NZ would be a 'laughing stock' if it signed a deal without agriculture and expected it would pull out. Of course, no one is saying there will be no agriculture, just nothing meaningful. And that's not actually what he said – he muddled China, Japan and TPPA in a garbled response that shows he doesn't have a clue what it's about.

Nelson Wins Again!

Over 150 people packed out Lambretta's café in **Nelson** on 19 March to launch the cartoon exhibition, and hear Jane Kelsey speak and handover the cheque to winner Mike Moreau. Photos are online. The exhibition moved on to the Nelson library from 25th March to 4 April, and then to **Motueka**. Thanks to Mary Ellen O'Connor and Graeme for a great job. It's a great way to get people involved so [let us know](#) if you want to host an exhibition and meeting on your town.

International day of action on TPPA 11 May 2012

An international day of action on the TPP is being planned for Saturday, May 11 (just prior to the next TPP negotiating round in Lima, Peru). This is a great target date for activists to organize events in their own communities that help people explore the potential local impacts of the TPPA and opportunities to take action. Let us know what you are planning and how we can help.

Auckland Strategy Meeting Tuesday 9 April 2pm

The next Auckland strategy meeting will be at 2pm on Tuesday 9 April at the Greens office at [17 Mercury Lane, Newton](#). Please come will follow-up from the last meeting and armed with ideas!

NZCTU warns TPPA would lock in National's hands-off changes to RMA

The NZCTU's [submission](#) on National's assault on the Resource Management Act has warned that the investment chapter of the TPPA would stop future governments from taking meaningful steps to address the problems that will inevitably flow from National's hands-off approach to corporate exploitation of our natural resources.

US Congress Committee make flying visit to Wellington

A delegation of staffers from the US Senate finance committee, which deals with the TPPA, has just been on a [whistle stop tour](#) to meet 'senior government officials and industry leaders' in NZ, Australia and Vietnam – if anyone has news, please share.

Obama is preparing to seek 'fast track' authority

One way the US gets FTAs through the Congress is called 'fast track' - the final text is voted for or against as a package deal, rather than being picked apart. Obama doesn't have that authority at present and seems to be [taking steps](#) to get it. It would have all sorts of conditions attached, including what he must have in areas like medicines, Internet, investor rights etc. and what he can trade away on dairy.

NZ Pharma Lobby Attacks Oz Report Supporting Pharmac

The lobby group for big Pharma in NZ, Medicines NZ, has rejected an [Australian report from the Grattan Institute](#) that shows Pharmac delivers medicines much cheaper than Australia's Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme. Medicines NZ's spokesperson is former ACT MP Heather Roy. See the [Sunday Star Times article](#) on the report and Medicines NZ response (same [link](#)).

What Japan's entry means

Tim Groser welcomed Japan's entry to the talks and said the TPPA countries might agree to this at their side meeting at the [APEC Trade Ministers' meeting](#) in Indonesia in April. That would still mean 90 days notification to US Congress and Japan would not get to the table before September. [Jane Kelsey explained](#) in the *NZ Herald* the tortuous process and politics around Japan join sign the TPPA talks, even on this fast track, and what that means for NZ and our campaign.

Stiglitz warns Thailand off TPP, urges protests

Nobel laureate Joseph [Stiglitz](#) has urged Thai civil society groups to protest if the government takes steps to join the US-sponsored Trans-Pacific Partnership accord, because negotiations were taking place behind closed doors and corporate interests were at the table. In 2008 Stiglitz warned that NZ would get nothing from a US FTA because the US doesn't 'negotiate' with anyone and it won't give up dairy.

Media reports and resources

[Nelson Mail](#) has a report on the hard work of Graeme O'Brien, a Nelson resident drawing attention to the impact that TPPA will have on the proposed Nelson's 50 year sustainability strategy, which could render the entire document null and void.

Jane Kelsey's recent [NZ Herald op-ed](#) provides some information on what Japan's involvement with the TPPA process means, and the now uphill battle facing the USA in pulling together such an enormous agreement in a short time.

Public Citizen have released an updated [briefing](#) on pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly's investment dispute against Canada under NAFTA's investor-state dispute provisions, the first attempt by a patent-holding pharmaceutical corporation to use those provisions as a tool to push for greater monopoly patent protections.

This academic [article](#) by Cuban law lecturer Larry Catá Backer explores the significant economic and geopolitical effects of Japan joining the TPPA process, and how this affects relations with China.

National Day of Action Against Asset Sales

On Saturday 27 April [Aotearoa Is Not For Sale](#) is holding a National Day of Action Against Asset Sales, with events in [Auckland](#), [Christchurch](#), [Dunedin](#), [Hamilton](#), [Hanmer](#) (taking place on Sunday 28th), [Napier](#), [Tauranga](#) and [Wellington](#). The government's asset sales campaign has taken a serious hit with the success of the [petition in support of the citizen's initiated referendum](#) and the [Tiwai Point debacle](#), so now is the time to get out there and make your voice be heard!

Please share TPPA activities or good articles:

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