

# **RCEP and Free Trade in Asia Pacific: People's Responses**

**Bangkok, 20-24 July, 2018**

Organised by

*Aids Access Thailand, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN), Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network (AFTINET), Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute (CUARI), Focus on the Global South, Forum against FTAs – India, Friends of the Earth – Asia Pacific (FOE-AP), GRAIN, Medecins Sans Frontiers (MSF), Pacific Asia Resource Center (PARC), Public Services International (PSI), Third World Network (TWN), and Transnational Institute (TNI)*

The 23<sup>rd</sup> round of negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) will be hosted by the Government of Thailand from 17-27 July 2018 in Bangkok.

From 20 to 24 July, social movements, trade unions and civil society organisations will come together to organise a series of meetings on free trade and RCEP and its implications on employment, environment, access to essential services and medicines, and policy space.

RCEP is a mega regional Free Trade Agreement (FTA) under negotiation between 16 Asian countries since 2013 that aims at deregulating laws to open markets for companies to expand their presence and profits across the region.

In this context, a series of meetings including workshops, conferences and media events are being organised to deepen the understanding of the implications of RCEP, connect groups on this issue in the 16 countries part of the negotiations, and highlight concerns from different perspectives.

## **Schedule of Activities:**

**Thailand National Workshop on RCEP:** Friday 20 July, from 9 am to 5 pm

Venue: Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, Building 1, Room 103.

Contact person: Jockey (jockey@aidsaccess.com)

**Press conference:** Friday 20 July, 1 pm to 2 pm

Venue: The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand (FCCT), Maneeya Center, Penthouse, Ploenchit Road 518/5, Patumwan

Contact person: Neha (neha@apwld.org)

**Civil Society Meeting on RCEP:** 21-22 July, from 9 am to 6 pm

Venue: Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, Building 1, Room 103.

Contact person: Ranja and Soontare (ranja.sengupta1@gmail.com, soontaree@focusweb.org)

**Official Stakeholder Consultation (by registration):** Monday 23 July, 2 pm to 3:30 pm

Venue: Centara Grand Hotel (Central World Mall compound), 22nd floor, Convention Hall.

Contact person: Jockey (jockey@aidsaccess.com)

*Followed by:*

**Corporate Concentration in Food and Agriculture: Implications for Food Sovereignty in South East Asia:** Tuesday 24 July, 9 am to 5 pm

Venue: Faculty Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, Kasem-Udhayanin Building, 12th floor, Political Science Alumni Conference room

Contact person: Joseph (josephp@focusweb.org)

*(organised by ETC Group, Focus on the Global South and CUSRI)*