



Association Internationale de Techniciens, Experts et Chercheurs

21 ter, rue Voltaire 75 011 Paris - tél. 01 43 71 22 22
Internet : <http://aitec.reseau-ipam.org>

Invitation Seminar

Europe and its trade policies at the heart of the global crisis.
Analysis and perspectives for our organisations and social movements

Paris, 5th and 6th of October, 2012
Venue: AGECA, 177 rue de Charonne, 75011 Paris

Dear friends, dear colleagues,

This last decade we had many opportunities to work together on trade policies, whether about WTO or EU bilateral agreements.

However, since the broad coalitions towards Hong Kong mobilization in 2005, the situation has changed. The "Doha Round" is blocked, there is a multiplication of bilateral and bi-regional agreements, new players have emerged (as *Anonymous* mobilization against ACTA, or the ever increasing mobilization of movements for the right to water). We are faced also to a new context with Europe in deep crisis and submitted to austerity programs, emerging countries asserting themselves and changing the geopolitical situation, and the resurgence of North-North agreements (the EU-Canada negotiations are only the first step). New issues are rising, such as land grabbing or initiative more and more aggressive to secure access of natural resources. The anti-extractive struggles there have found their echo in the mobilizations against gas and oil shale here. Trade policies and investment policies now walk hand in hand.

In this context, we all have followed the dynamics to the best of our affinities and specialities: Some work more on agricultural issues, food sovereignty, and the fight against any form of resources grab, others on social rights and decent work, and still others strive for a binding legal framework for multinationals etc. Similarly, some of us work more with Latin America, others with Africa and not enough of us with Asia... And everywhere, the demands for a democratization of policies are renewed and more urgent than ever.

In order to make sure these specificities and our diversity are more complementary than a division of our forces, AITEC proposes that we all meet together for a two days seminar **"Europe and its trade policies at the heart of the global crisis. Analysis and perspectives for our organizations and social movements" on the 5th and 6th of October, 2012**, to:

- Share our progress and our positions
- Highlight the points of agreement and issues that are still in debate
- Identify emerging issues and update our analytical framework
- Facilitate common work



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The invitation to this meeting is to international solidarity organisations, environmental organisations, trade unions, citizens' movements, researchers... committed to these issues in France. European and international speakers will however be associated, since we are working together at all levels. We hope to bring together 50 to 80 participants.

These two days of plenary sessions and workshops have no other purpose than to be useful to many of us in our work on these issues. We therefore wish to build them in a participatory manner.

Some of you have already told us the issues they wish to address as a priority, we warmly invite others to do the same, so that we define collaboratively the agenda of these two days. Do not hesitate to send us significant elements of your work and recent campaigns (position papers, analysis) on trade policy in general or on a specific topic. This will help us to put together introductory documents for the seminar.

Similarly, in order to better respond to your requests, we thank you in advance for filling out the registration form attached and returning it as quickly as possible to fannys.aitec@reseau-ipam.org (deadline for registration: September 28, 2012).

Waiting for your feedback, and hoping for your active participation in our seminar on 5th and 6th of October,

In solidarity,

The AITEC team

For more information, contact Fanny SIMON – fannys.aitec@reseau-ipam.org

Attached: Registration form