

Call for Papers for *südostasien* 1/2015

EU- policy on trade and investment in South-East Asia Liberalization and Privatization as a universal remedy

Background:

Since many years the EU is negotiating and enacting bilateral and regional free trade agreements (FTAs). Until now, their negative implications could be sensed predominantly in countries of the global south. Due to the current negotiations on a comprehensive free trade agreement between the EU and the US (TTIP) public interest and concerns are growing within the EU itself. Suddenly European consumers have to fear the negative consequences of free trade appearing right here in Europe, instead of somewhere in the “third world”.

A tight network of bilateral negotiations and agreements is already binding Asia to a policy of liberalization and privatization. They include a liberalization of private and public services and investment, as well as cuts on tariffs and agreements on the protection of investment. Through these investment-protection-regulations corporations will gain the right to sue governments in case their expected profits would be affected by a political measure (Investor State Dispute Settlement, ISDS). Thus, governments will lose their political sovereignty to decide on services to the public, environmental protection and energy supply.

Objectives:

The magazine aims to direct public attention on the free trade issue, achieved by TTIP and CETA, onto the situation in South-East Asia,

- + to provide access to discussions in South-East Asia ,
- + to help assessing the implications of FTAs
- + to present counter strategies and actions of the civil society, social movements, institutions, and organizations in Asia facing the current negotiations
- + to provide arguments and examples to question free trade ideology.

The focus lies on questions of trade and investment protection (ISDS, etc.), who are tightly intertwined. One key aspect should be the activities, positions, discussions, strategies and possible political actions of civil society as well as alternative perspectives.

This diverse and complex topic can be divided into three categories:

1. Negotiations, discussions and activities in single countries, preferably with a focus on one aspect of their effects on people's lives: Health, fishery, agriculture, land grabbing, resources, tourism, ... One possible question here: What are the government's motives and interests in negotiating this issue? It would be great to point out interests of European and transnational corporations as well.

2. Regional negotiations, within the ASEAN nations, the (for now failed) negotiations between the EU and ASEAN blocs and their implications, as well as China's strategy – given China's economical and (geo-) political interests.

3. The geopolitical implications of the FTA-boom: Subsuming

- + the importance of TTIP for the global south,
- + the negotiation of the Trans-Pacific-Partnership (TPP),
- + geostrategic, economic and political interests, such as a containment of China and the division of the world into trade blocs,
- + the negotiation of TTIP, CETA, TISA and TPP as a blueprint for coming bilateral agreements and negotiations (Setting of standards).

Possible articles:

A long list of possible topics for individual articles arises from these objectives, which by no means claims to be complete:

- Looking back on the protests against the 2008 EU-ASEAN FTA
- Implications of EU trade policy on food security in South East Asia
- Myanmar – European investment paving the way to wealth and peace?
- Possible effects of an EU-Philippines FTA on the health sector. Is it the end of the „Access to cheaper medicine law“?
- Human rights in EU trade policy – claim and reality
- Vietnam: Fears and hopes arising from the upcoming FTA with the EU
- Alternatives to EU trade policy from the global south
- Alternatives to EU trade policy from Europe
- Perspectives of labor unions from South-East Asia
- EU trade policy as a threat to means of social security systems
- EU trade policy as a threat to gender equality
- The implications of FTAs to intellectual property rights and the access to medicines in South-East Asia
- Corporation vs State – investment protection in South-East Asia
- Free trade and investment protection as a part of EU policy on resources
- ASEAN-Integration 2015 – potential winners and losers
- Ongoing competition for free trade hegemony in Asia (EU-China-USA)
- Effects of TTIP and CETA on the global south

Format specification:

maximum of characters per page (incl. blanks):

1 page = 3.800,

2 page = 6.900,

3 page = 11.000

Articles should not exceed three pages. The maximum number of characters includes titles, a prolog and one picture per page. Do not exceed the maximum of three photos for three-page articles. Please look for suitable photos and check the copyright, number them and add

captions as well as the name of the photographer.

Formatting is not requested, except for paragraphs; include footnotes and explanatory notes in the text, do not format them as footnotes. Please insert subheadings, on average two every 2,000 characters.

Deadline for the articles is December 30th 2014; Contact: jan.pingel@asienhaus.de,