

KOREAN AMERICANS FOR FAIR TRADE

For Immediate Release

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The Impact of the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA): Who Wins, Who Loses?

WASHINGTON, D.C.—June 11—The Bush administration is poised to sign the Korea-US Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA), the second largest trade deal since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). In the first public hearing since the text of the agreement was released on May 25, leading experts from South Korea and the United States will share analyses about how the KORUS FTA will impact job loss, health, human rights and the environment of both countries.

The KORUS FTA forum is on Monday, June 11, from 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. at the AFL-CIO building, Gompers Room, 815 16th Street, NW, in Washington, DC. Lunch will be served. The event is organized by Korean-Americans for Fair Trade (KAFT), the AFL-CIO, Alliance for Responsible Trade (ART) and The 50 Years is Enough Network.

Speakers include Young Koo Heo of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), Ban Myong JA of the Korean Government Workers' Union (KGWU), Seo Joon-seop of the Korean Alliance Against the Korea-US Free Trade Agreement (KoA), Thea Lee of AFL-CIO, Doug Meyer of United Auto Workers (UAW), Michael Greger, M.D. of the Humane Society of the U.S., Mike Palmedo of the Center for Information Justice and Intellectual Property, and Sofia Plagakis of the Center for International Environmental Law.

“For too long, the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) has ignored the concerns of working people here in the United States and around the world,” says Jeff Vogt, Global Policy Specialist of the AFL-CIO. “Trade between the United States and Korea is very important, but any agreement must ensure that working people of our countries are the principal beneficiaries. Unfortunately, USTR is taking the same failed approach to trade - weak protections for labor and the environment and excessive rights for corporations. This agreement is unacceptable, and we will fight to see that it does not pass.”

“In serious violation of fast track rules, the KORUS FTA was just released to the public, 54 days after it was signed,” says Christine Ahn, National Coordinator of KAFT. “We are learning day-by-day how the KORUS FTA is being used by multinational corporations to worsen inequality in both countries and overturn local, state and federal public health, safety and environmental laws. That is why this public forum is so urgent.”

For more information, visit www.kaft.org or www.aflcio.org.

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