



## *the* **TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP**

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) levels the playing field for American workers and American businesses, leading to more Made-in-America exports and more higher-paying American jobs here at home. By cutting over 18,000 taxes various countries put on Made-in-America products, TPP makes sure our farmers, ranchers, manufacturers and small businesses can compete—and win—in some of the fastest growing markets in the world. With more than 95 percent of the world’s consumers living outside our borders, TPP will significantly expand the export of Made-in-America goods and services and support American jobs.



## **Standing Up for Human Rights**

TPP also provides an opportunity to promote our values. This includes promoting and protecting human rights, which is a core value of the Obama Administration. Through the commitments in TPP, we can press to ensure that people everywhere are treated with dignity and respect.

### **HOW TPP STANDS UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

TPP helps improve respect for human rights in TPP countries by:

- **Prohibiting exploitative child labor and forced labor**, giving workers a voice by protecting **freedom of association** and collective bargaining, prohibiting employment discrimination and **combatting trade in goods made by forced labor** in countries both inside and outside of TPP.
- **Bringing workers out of the shadows.** Earnings are consistently lower and working hours longer in the informal sector, and informal-sector work is particularly common in developing countries. But research by the International Labor Organization and the World Trade Organization finds that **combining expanded trade opportunities with strong protections for workers can help workers move from informal-sector jobs into formal work** in wage-paying, regulated export industries which offer a minimum wage, benefits, and safety programs. TPP will combine economic growth opportunities with strong labor protections to help improve the lives of workers across the region.

- **Improving governance by increasing transparency and anti-corruption efforts.** TPP helps encourage good governance by promoting transparency and encouraging public participation in the rulemaking process. TPP also seeks to discourage corruption and establish codes of conduct to promote high ethical standards among public officials. Research also shows that trade improves human rights conditions by fostering pluralistic institutions and increasing open exchanges of information.
- **Promoting development.** For the first time in any trade agreement, TPP includes a development chapter that helps parties align their development efforts, including to help women workers and businesses owners take advantage of TPP's benefits; promote education, science and technology, research and innovation; and enhance broad-based economic growth.
- **Addressing poverty and raising real incomes.** Expanded trade can fuel growth, facilitate investment, spur development and reduce poverty. This translates into better jobs and increased incomes for the poor.



- TPP provides a **unique opportunity to address issues that are essential to ensuring the dignity of all people.**
- TPP **protects labor rights**—a fundamental element of human rights—through strong and fully enforceable labor standards.
- TPP **encourages good governance and fights corruption, promotes sustainable and broad-based development**, and leverages tools to **reduce poverty.**
- Our engagement through **TPP has allowed us to make progress on a variety of human rights issues.**
  - **Brunei.** In March, 2015, Brunei informed the UN of their intent to sign the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT). We have also proposed the launch of a human rights dialogue with Brunei, which has agreed to regular bilateral human rights consultations as part of our Senior Officials Dialogue. This is an important step, and will create a process through which we can regularly engage with Brunei on human rights issues, explore new avenues of cooperation, and discuss additional positive steps.
  - **Vietnam.** Under the spotlight of the TPP debate, we have seen progress on human rights in Vietnam. Vietnam ratified UNCAT, has released political prisoners, and has committed to overhaul some of its key laws to in a manner consistent with its international obligations and commitments.

- **Malaysia.** We have worked closely with the Malaysian Government and stakeholders in the international community to fight trafficking in persons—and in July 2015, Malaysia passed significant reforms to its Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (ATIPSOM) law that improves protections and support for victims of trafficking. TPP requires that these legal reforms be supported by additional legal and institutional reforms to protect migrant workers' rights and strengthen the enforcement of Malaysia's laws.

## **What's in the Trans-Pacific Partnership?**

Learn everything you need to know about what's in the deal and who it helps.

**[WWW.USTR.GOV/TPP](http://WWW.USTR.GOV/TPP)**