

A LETTER TO ASIAN GOVERNMENTS



Greetings from the Peoples Vaccine Alliance (PVA) in Asia.

We are a rapidly growing and diverse alliance of advocates for an **equitable and free COVID-19 vaccines for all peoples** and affordable for all nations. Our movement includes people with lived experience of COVID, health rights and humanitarian organisations, past and present world leaders, healthcare providers, social movements, civil society organizations, journalists, faith leaders, economists, lawyers, and others.

We are extremely concerned by the very slow progress in scaling up global COVID-19 vaccine access and inoculation. Most of the world's population, especially in middle- and lower-income countries, lacks access to the vaccine. At the speed with which it is proceeding, it will take decades to vaccinate all who need it.

The COVID-19 vaccines are owned by big pharmaceutical corporations who are refusing to share the science and technology that could speed up mass production and distribution for the entire planet.

A temporary waiver of World Trade Organization (WTO) intellectual property rules during the COVID-19 pandemic, as proposed by South Africa and India and supported by more than 100 WTO member states and numerous health experts worldwide, is a vital and necessary step to bring an end to this pandemic.

WTO TRIPS waiver must be combined with ensuring vaccine know-how and technology is shared openly. This can be achieved through the World Health Organization COVID-19 Technology Access Pool. These actions would expand global manufacturing capacity, unhindered by industry monopolies that are driving the dire supply shortages blocking vaccine access.

The full protection of intellectual property and monopolies will adversely impact efforts to vaccinate the world, and therefore is self-defeating. Given artificial global supply shortages, poor people do not have access to vaccine and cannot go back to work without risking their lives, pushing into deep poverty and distress. It may erase any gains which countries in the south have made to reduce poverty thus far.

The Peoples Vaccine Alliance in Asia is reaching out to you, with this hope that you will listen to the voices of citizens across Asia and the global South and decide to:

- 1. Support the 'temporary TRIPS Waiver' proposal at the WTO during its general council meeting scheduled on 30th April, 2021.**
- 2. Lead and support moves to encourage and ensure big pharmaceutical companies and rich country governments to voluntarily join WHO led COVID-19 Technology Access Pool.**

Countries in Asia, including China, India, Thailand, and others have demonstrated capacity to produce vaccines. The Asia region has a world-class generic pharmaceutical industry with a little more shared technology and know-how, Asia-based companies can quickly support new manufacturing capacity in other countries, thereby reducing the negative impact of COVID and improving response capacity for future pandemics.

Your action today will determine how many people, and among them mostly the poor of the world, will be vaccinated by end of 2021 and in 2022. And this at a time when a solidaristic, humanitarian and accountable response is being called for to save people and their futures.

We look for your positive response and thank you in advance for supporting universal access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

Signed,

Access to Health and Drug Policy Reform Advocate Malaysia	Malaysia
Action for Economic Reforms (AER)	Philippines
Action for Health Initiatives, Inc. (ACHIEVE)	Philippines
ActionAid Arab Region	Jordan
ActionAid Association India	India
ActionAid Cambodia	Cambodia
ActionAid International	Global
AIDS Access Foundation	Thailand
Aksyon sa Kahandaan sa Kalamidad at Klima (AKKMA)	Philippines
APCASO	Regional
Asia Catalyst	Regional
Asia Dalit Rights Forum (ADRF)	Nepal
Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA)	Regional
Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (APN+)	Regional
Asian Peoples Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD)	Regional
Association of People Living with HIV (APL+)	Laos
AWO International	Nepal
CARE Consortium Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
CBCP-NASSA/Caritas Philippines	Philippines
CBO_Bông Hồng Đen (SWS)	Vietnam
CBO_Cầu Vồng Đen (PUD)	Vietnam
Center for Supporting Community Development Initiatives	Vietnam
Community Health and Inclusion Association (CHIAS)	Laos
Dalit NGO Federation (DNF)	Nepal
Diversity and Solidarity Trust	Sri Lanka
Equal Asia Foundation (Stichting EqualA Foundation)	Regional
Fight Inequality Alliance - India	India
Foundation for AIDS Rights-FAR	Thailand
FTA Watch	Thailand
Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) Asia	Regional
Global Fund Advocates Network Asia-Pacific	Thailand
Growthwatch	India

Hai Phong Union of Science and Technology Associations	Vietnam
Health and Opportunity Network - HON	Thailand
Highland People Health Network	Thailand
IDEALS	Philippines
IDUCARE	Philippines
India Social Action Forum (INSAF)	India
Institute for Social Development Studies	Vietnam
Institute of HIV Research and Innovation	Thailand
Lhak-Sam, Bhutan Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS (BNP+)	Bhutan
Liên Minh Nhân Ái	Vietnam
Mekong Development Research Institute	Vietnam
National Transgender Network Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
NGO Federation of Nepal	Nepal
Oxfam International	Global
Oxfam India	India
Pakistan Development Alliance	Pakistan
Pakistan Kissan Rabita Committee	Pakistan
Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA)	Philippines
Payoonsritrang group	Thailand
Persons with HIV/AIDS Rights Advocacy Association of Taiwan (PRAA)	Taiwan
Positive Malaysian Treatment Access & Advocacy Group (MTAAG+)	Malaysia
PT Foundation	Malaysia
Service Workers in Group Foundation (SWING)	Thailand
Social Watch Philippines	Philippines
StreetLawPh, Inc.	Philippines
Tamtang	Thailand
Thai NGO Coalition on AIDS - TNCA	Thailand
Thailand National Community Advisory Board on HIV Research	Thailand
The HIV Foundation Asia	Thailand
Vietnam Network of People who Use Drugs	Vietnam
Vietnam Youth and Adolescent Women Union	Vietnam
Voices for Interactive Choice and Empowerment (VOICE)	Bangladesh
Woolcock Institute of Medical Research	Vietnam
Young Out Here Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
Youth LEAD	Thailand
ActionAid Nepal	Nepal
Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW)	Thailand
Focus on the Global South	Global
CARE Nepal	Nepal
Population Foundation of India	India
South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)	Regional
Trshuli Plus	Nepal
Women Development Innovators	Sri Lanka
Jubilee Australia	Australia
Bangkok Rainbow Organization	Thailand
KHANA	Cambodia
Sanayee Development Organization SDO	Afghanistan
Be The Change Organization (BTCO)	Afghanistan
Labour Education Foundation	Pakistan

Families of the Disappeared	Sri Lanka
NCIDIN Bangladesh	Bangladesh
International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism-Asia	Global
ActionAid Thailand	Thailand
ActionAid Vietnam	Vietnam
Human Rights Alliance, Nepal	Nepal
ASEEM (Association for Socio-Economic Empowerment of the Marginalized)	India
Sanayee Development Organization (SDO)	Afghanistan
Progressive Plantation Workers Union (PPWU)	India
Prantojon	India
Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS)	Bangladesh
Yappika-ActionAid	Indonesia
Raks Thai Foundation	Thailand
Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network (AFTINET)	Australia
ActionAid Australia	Australia
Australian Council for International Development	Australia
INTERSEX ASIA	Regional
Asia Centre	Regional
Mineral Inheritors Rights Association (MIRA)	India

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