

Oxfam America, Engage and Gay Men's Health Crisis

present

FREE TRADE V. TREATMENT ACCESS: AIDS IN THAILAND AND THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES

Wednesday, October 11, 2006

10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

The Tisch Building
119 West 24th Street, Room 410
(between 6th and 7th Avenues)
New York City

Thailand was one of the first countries in Asia to offer antiretroviral treatment regimens and to promote generic production of anti-retroviral medicines to reduce the cost of treatment for HIV and AIDS. This national treatment program has served as a model for many other countries, and has succeeded in prolonging the lives of thousands of HIV positive individuals, while encouraging prevention, harm reduction and openness towards HIV and AIDS in Thailand. Since 1984, when the first case of AIDS was reported in Thailand, the World Bank estimates that more than 1 million Thais have been infected with the virus. Of those, more than 400,000 have died. Currently, there are still approximately 20,000 new infections every year.

Today, the financial sustainability of Thailand's national treatment program is under threat. A proposed free trade agreement between the U.S. and Thailand would undermine Thailand's ability to produce generic versions of new HIV medicines that would ensure lower drug prices.

Join us for a discussion with Thai AIDS activists and other public health advocates to learn more about the history of Thailand's HIV treatment program, the proposed free trade agreement between Thailand and the United States, the implications of a possible free trade agreement for Thailand's HIV treatment program, and the sustainability of HIV treatment programs around the world in light of the growing trend towards strict enforcement of intellectual property rules.

Guest speakers:

Boripot Donmon TNP+ (Thai Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS)
Jiraporn Limbanon FTA Watch/AIDS Access Foundation (Thailand)
Sang-Siri Teemanka AIDS Access Foundation (Thailand)
Dan Rosan Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (New York City)

Moderator:

Robert Bank Associate Executive Director, Gay Men's Health Crisis

The discussion is free and open to the general public. Light refreshments will be provided.
For more information, please call (212) 367-1016 or send an e-mail to krishnas@gmhc.org.



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