

## **The TPP and other integrated economic agreements' negotiation principles and representation: a New Zealand. librarian's perspective.**

**Cherry Gordon**

Although the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) has been described as a trade agreement, from everything revealed officially, it is apparent that its scope and impacts are more far reaching. This would not be a problem if balanced representation of all players with a stake in its content and outcomes had been permitted. But WTO-style periodic communication of negotiation developments and resultant feedback has not been the case with the TPP, following signature of the Memorandum of Understanding of 4 March 2010 under which no TPP text would be released until the agreement is signed or negotiations abandoned. If the treaty negotiations were evidently simply about defence, tariffs or self-evident non-tariff barriers; if the Minister of Economic Development had confirmed that the Copyright Review due in 2013 would be wider in scope than the outcome of the TPP; and if affected national, parliamentary and civil parties has been allowed as much access to the text as over 500 largely overseas corporates, this would not be so problematic. But it is evident from country-wide reactions that more acceptable processes are needed. This paper considers the TPP IP process from the perspective of N.Z. library and information services, their desiderata and IP negotiating principles developed by international IP lawyers, UN independent experts and Special Rapporteurs and asks if these could be applied to all current and future N.Z. integrated economic, bilateral and plurilateral negotiations.