

Letter

First comment on Hong Kong experience

Friday 23 December 2005, by [McILROY Jim](#) (Date first published: 19 December 2005).

Thank you to the European United Left/Nordic Green Left Group (GUE/NGL) of the European Parliament for inviting us to be part of the delegation to the important Hong Kong WTO events.

I believe the inspiring people's movement in Hong Kong this week may be a turning point in the development of the struggle against neo-liberal globalisation. The enormous campaign carried out by a broad range of Asian organisations representing farmers, workers, and migrants puts the potential for building a people's struggle coalition in this region on a new basis.

While the trade ministers and bureaucrats met in smoke-filled rooms inside the World Trade Centre here, and came up with very little in the end, the people's movement in the streets brought the significance of the views of the disenfranchised masses of Asia, Africa and Latin America to the attention of millions of people around the world through their TV screens.

Led by the militant example of the Korean farmers, thousands of activists have put the issue of the rights of the poor majority of the earth to the forefront. This impact may have the effect of reviving the international mass movement against neo-liberal globalisation, which has been somewhat de-emphasised after 9/11, the so-called war on terror'' and the Iraq war. The most impressive aspect of this people's movement in HK was the wide variety of organisations from Asia represented here. What arises from this is the potentiality for an ongoing alliance of popular organisations and parties in this region, to continue the struggle against the WTO, but also against the other neo-liberal organisations such as the World Bank, IMF, etc. The initiative of the GUE/NGL in calling forums at the beginning and end of the week is to be applauded. At the forum on Sunday Dec 18, entitled: Evaluation of Hong Kong and prospects for common action, allowed representatives of a number of social movements and parties to exchange views of the possibilities for future collaboration, and to strengthen links with the European left parliamentarians for further campaigns.

(This is an initial comment only, and I will follow up with some further thoughts in the near future.)

In solidarity,

Jim McIlroy.

P.S.

* From Jim McIlroy is member of the Democratic Socialist Perspective (DSP), Australia.