



**Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission-
Association of the Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines
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*To the Lord belong the earth and its fullness-
the world and all that dwell on it.
He has found it upon the ocean and set it firmly upon the waters.
Who will ascend the mountain of the Lord?
Who will stand in his holy place?
Those who are clean of hands and pure of heart,
who desire not what is vain, who never swear to lie. (Isaiah 23:1-4)*

**Agreement to Japan's imported eco-wastes thru the
JPEPA aggravates the perennial ecological issues in the country!**

The collapse of the WTO talks in Cancun has triggered countries like the Philippines to pursue trade thru bilateral and multi-lateral trade negotiations with developed countries like the US, the EU and Japan.

The Philippines and Japan have negotiated a bilateral free trade agreement, officially called the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) signed in Helsinki by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi last September 9, 2006.

The inclusion of "importing" Japan's wastes like medical and municipal waste and sewage sludge is a monumental ecological scandal as this potentially violates Republic Act 6969, or the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990; RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000; and the Basel Convention of 1989, an international treaty controlling the movement of hazardous wastes. **No less than the highest office in the land faces the ire of Mother Nature should this be implemented in the country. It has shown, time and again, our brand of economic policies which is desperate for foreign investment even if it means the destruction of the environment.**

The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Commission-Association of the Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (JPICC-AMRSP) expresses its dissent on the possible entry of Japan's wastes like medical and municipal waste and sewage sludge or of any biological or ecological wastes. We already have enough illegal dumping sites in the country that have yet to be significantly addressed by the national and local government(s). To top it all, we have yet to properly enforce a comprehensive, functional and an ecological-friendly waste management plan nationwide. Consistently, our ecological laws do not have enough "teeth" to ban dumping sites, burning or incinerating of plastic, styrofoam, hospital wastes and other non-biodegradable materials which put health of every creation of God at costly risks.

We also greatly question the "political maneuverings" of the Executive branch of the Philippine government for bypassing the role of Senate to scrutinize the provisions of JPEPA especially the provisions in Article 29 of the Basic Agreement of the JPEPA and ratify any bilateral treaty. The Senate should intervene and exercise its role especially in favor of the vast majority of Filipinos and especially for the protection of the integrity of creation.

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