

[New Zealand Vacation](#) Planning a New Zealand Trip? Great Airfare Deals, Travel Info & More. [www.NewZealand.com](http://www.NewZealand.com)

[Grant For Single Mothers](#) Need Money For College? Find Out How You Can Qualify For Free Money. [SmarterSchooling.com/](http://SmarterSchooling.com/)

[Relocating To New Zealand](#) Our Team Will Help You Settle In & Remove The Stress Of the Move [CrownRelo](#) [AdChoices](#)



<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO1206/S00116/china-looking-at-joining-trans-pacific-partnership.htm>

# China Looking at Joining Trans Pacific Partnership

Sunday, 10 June 2012, 6:13 pm

Press Release: The Nation

## China Looking at Joining Trans Pacific Partnership

China is looking at joining the Trans Pacific Partnership trade agreement.

China's Political Counsellor in Wellington, Cheng Lei, this weekend told TV3's "The Nation" that his country was "actively studying the relevant clauses of the TPP and actively studying and I don't want to exclude the possibility of China's entry into this kind of arrangement in the future. "

The TPP is a nine nation trade agreement currently being negotiated including New Zealand, the United States, Australia and Chile with Japan, South Korea and Taiwan among a list of nations proposing to join.

Among Pacific countries China has been the notable exclusion.

But Mr Cheng described his country's absence as ironic.

"To be honest any kind of Free Trade Agreement arrangement in Asia Pacific region would be simply incomplete with the exclusion of China," he said.

New Zealand's Foreign Minister, Murray McCully, told the programme that he thought there was a question in China's mind as to whether they would be asked to join the agreement.

I've made it very clear publically that it's not a matter of an invitation to join the TPP," he said.

"Anyone who can meet the high standards can apply.

"I would certainly welcome China's interests in the TPP.

"It is going to be a comprehensive and high quality agreement, and some might say that's a test that's too tough for China, but then some also would have said that China would never complete a comprehensive and high quality Free Trade Agreement with a developed nation like New Zealand, and together we proved that wrong as well.

"So I say the door is open."

Mr Cheng also said New Zealand had largely got itself out of the 2008 global financial crisis because of its growing trade with China.

Asked how China then regarded the opposition to its companies investing here, he said that both countries wanted to develop their economy that the “fruitful” economic relationship with China was an open secret “that I think many New Zealanders have acknowledged, whether they agree with I mean the Chinese investment or not, that’s the simple fact.”

But on the same programme, Opposition Foreign Affairs spokesman, Phil Goff, said while his party welcomed foreign investment in New Zealand it remained opposed to farmland sales to China.

“We don’t buy their farmland they don’t sell their farmland,” he said.

“It’s wrong e to argue that we’re discriminating against China.

“China doesn’t sell land, therefore that’s excluded from our ability to invest in their country.

“There’s nothing wrong with countries saying we welcome foreign investment but there are certain areas that we will exclude.

“Farmland traditionally has been one of those, and there’s not much benefit for New Zealand that is expert in farming to have others invest in our farmland, it just forces up the price of land and makes it harder for New Zealanders to get on to the land.”

ENDS