

UPDATE from

FAIR TRADE
RESOURCE NETWORK
education and discussion to make trade fair

Fair Trade Movement News

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Jobs in Fair Trade

**Work with FT
organizations:**

FT [Job Listings](#).

Mark Your Calendars!

[Week of Action](#)

Nov 30 to Dec 5
Minnesota

[FT Holiday Festival](#)

December 5, 2009
Madison, WI

[Fair Trade Futures
Conference](#)

September 10-12, 2010

Boston, MA

Find & Post Fair

December 2009

Let Fair Trade Sweeten the Holidays

Fair Trade Certified Label Invites Public Comments on New Garment Standards

TransFair USA, who administers the Fair Trade Certified label in the U.S., has released a draft standard for a **new product category: Apparel and Home Textiles**. The standard



applies to both factories with hired labor, as well as cooperative producer organizations, making garments, home apparel, bedding, and similar cotton products, etc.

The public has been invited to offer feedback during the 45-day **public comment period that ends on December 31**. TransFair expects the label to hit retail shelves in spring 2010. [Read details of the standard](#) and send comments to garments@transfairusa.org by December 31.

Fair Trade Month Holds Over 250 Events

Trade Events

Go to [FTRN's events calendar site](#) to find a Fair Trade event near you anytime of the year! Register your own events in 2 easy steps and let us know how it goes or send along pictures from your local events.



This past October was Fair Trade Month, organized by TransFair USA (administrator of the Fair Trade Certified label). There were over 250 grassroots events, **besting the previous FT Month high** of 170 events in 2008.



Some of the interesting events included: The FT Burlington campaign organized a **FT Business Forum** and **FT City Declaration**, including a daytime event at their local farmers market and multiple talks at the Burlington Peace and Justice Center. Milwaukee FT hosted a **FT Bazaar** and numerous public events at retailers and schools around town. America's First FT Town Committee in Media organized an **artwalk**, a **FT food festival** with area restaurants and participated in their town Halloween parade. FT LA hosted author Jackie DeCarlo for a **talk on starting your own FT business** and FT San Diego brought Fair Trade to the La Mesa Oktoberfest. In Delmar, NY, the FT Town campaign hosted a month-long "Shop Hop" offering **discounts at multiple FT businesses**. The Chicago FT campaign hosted their second annual GlobalFest **fundraiser**; and in Norman, OK, activists gave out free FT **coffee to cyclists**. Both Boston, MA and Chico, CA set new precedents for the FT Towns movement by organizing their own **FT Cupping Competitions to highlight local roasters and cafes**. Furthermore, organizers hosted hundreds of **FT film screenings, tablings, panel discussions, craft fairs and promotions**, and tens of thousands of individuals participated in a **Reverse Trick-or-Treating** campaign. More details at [FT Month](#).

FT Certified Tea Coop Turns 15, Shows Substantial Benefits Over the Years

The Chamraj tea estate in Tamil Nadu, south India, was certified in 1994 as one of the first FT Certified tea organizations. It produces 40,000 kg of green leaf and 10,000 kg of black leaf each day, nearly **8% of which are Fair Trade**.



In 15 years the FT premium has bought a **new school block with computers and**

laboratories, several school buses and a doubling of children in schools. Workers on tea estates are automatically housed, but when they retire they often become homeless. The premium has paid for an **enhanced pension that enables former workers to build a new home.** It has also paid for a **doctor at the local hospital and for modern medical equipment,** which is used by people from miles around.

The conventional tea growers in the surrounding area are reported to be much worse off. See [further details](#).

FTRN Happenings

WORLD FAIR TRADE DAY CAMPAIGN PLANNED

Each year, FTRN coordinates the largest WFTD campaign in N. America. The slogan for May 8, 2010, is "**Fair Trade My Home.**" Organizers will hold events around the country to encourage people to increase Fair Trade in their home and everyday lives. The campaign will have a FT My Home Contest with a variety of competitions. More details coming soon!

MATCHING GRANT TO SUPPORT FTRN

The Fair Trade and Economic Justice Fund will **match tax-deductible contributions to FTRN up to \$10,000 through January 31.** So, please consider [donating to FTRN](#) in 2009 so we can co-host the FT Futures Conference, offer a children's FT book and other resources, and organize a strong World Fair Trade Day campaign.

NOW ACCEPTING CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

On behalf of the Fair Trade Futures Conference, set for September 10-12, 2010, in Boston, FTRN is now accepting scholarship applications from students in N. America, and from FT producers overseas. Scholarships will pay for conference registration fees. See [more details](#).

Other Fair Trade News

FT BANANA PRICES UP

Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International (FLO) is raising the FT minimum price for bananas to its highest level to date despite downward

spiraling supermarket prices. FLO is increasing prices by an average of 21.2% over 2006 levels, effective January 1st, 2010. For the key indicator country Colombia, this means companies must pay producers at least \$8.50 per 18.14 kg box for FT conventional bananas, up from \$6.75/box, as well as the additional \$1.00/box in FT Premium. See [more details](#).

FT CAROLING AND GIFT PLEDGE RESOURCES

Find great resources for FT holiday caroling, as well as a campaign to buy some FT holiday gifts, at [FT holiday](#).

HIGHLAND PARK, NJ, BECOME FAIR TRADE TOWN

Highland Park, NJ, became the 13th FT Town in the U.S., and the 2nd in New Jersey after Montclair. See [further details](#).

FT CELEBRATED AT 10 DOWNING STREET

Last month the Fairtrade Foundation celebrated the 15th anniversary of the first Fairtrade products with a party hosted by Sarah Brown, wife of Prime Minister Gordon Brown, at 10 Downing Street. At the same time the UK government announced an investment of £12 million for Fairtrade. [More details](#).

WEEK OF ACTION IN MINNESOTA FOR TRADE JUSTICE

MN Fair Trade Coalition is having a week of action from Nov. 30th to Dec. 5th, including a rally and table with food, music, art, puppets, speakers and more. Check out the [flyer](#).

FT BIZ NAMED MICRO-ROASTER OF THE YEAR

Kickapoo Coffee, a member of the 100% FT coffee import organization Cooperative Coffees, was recognized by Roast Magazine as Micro-Roaster of the Year for 2010. See [magazine article](#).

At [FTRN](#), our work is not done until Fair Trade is practiced in every household.

Please make a contribution today to help us continue to develop the materials that are essential in effecting people-powered change for Fair Trade. Donate by credit card after clicking on the image below:



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