

# Stop the GATS Attack

**PUBLIC EDUCATION IS NOT FOR SALE!**

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is hosting the first round of negotiations since it was formed in 1995, to make up for the Round that failed in Seattle. The WTO administers over 20 different trade agreements, including the GATS (General Agreement over Trade in Services).

Corporations are looking to privatize our public services and programs, including water, healthcare, education, museums, libraries, social assistance, food labeling, energy, prisons, public broadcasting, environmental protection services and more. Many governments claim that some of these sectors are protected, but in reality the wording in the GATS to protect all our public services is so weak it is meaningless.

The push for the New Round is really coming from lobby groups of service corporations based in the US (US Coalition of Service Industries), the EU (European Forum on Services) and Japan.

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Many of these service corporations joined forces in the 'World Services Congress', a 3-day conference held in 1999 sponsored by Coca-Cola, FedEx, UPS and others.

Many developing nations have expressed hesitations about this New Round of negotiations. However, the US and the EU, representing their corporate services lobby groups, are leaning heavily on developing nations to come on board. India, Malaysia and Pakistan are the key countries leading developing country opposition to a new round.

In the face of these increasing attacks on access to the basic public services upon which we all rely, the International Union of Students is calling upon member and friendly organisations to mobilise on November 9, 2001, in opposition to further WTO negotiations.

# NOVEMBER 9

## Global Day of Action Against the GATS

(General Agreement on Trade in Services)

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS

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