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NGOs voice fears over TPPA

KUALA LUMPUR: A non-governmental organisation yesterday expressed concern over the outcome of several Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) provisions, such as on medicine and intellectual property, at the meeting in the United States next week.

Badan Bertindak Bantah TPPA (Bantah) highlighted the danger of Malaysians having limited access to affordable medicine and treatment, should the US decide to patent them. A member of the group, Malay Economic Action Council (MTEM) chief executive officer Mohd Nizam Mahshar said leaks by Edward Snowden showed that the US was trying to monopolise essential items.

Malaysian AIDS Council policy manager Fifa Rahman expressed concern over the alarming health-care information that had been leaked. However, she praised former health minister Datuk Sri Liow Tiong Lai and other negotiators for being firm on several provisions to protect the people's access to medicine.