



YOUTH TO YOUTH

NO. 7/2007

Information for young members in Asia and Pacific Region

PSI Young Workers Meeting "We want space"



people start their working lives in the informal economy, or as migrant workers, where they are vulnerable to low pay, insecurity and discrimination including sexual exploitation," said Noxow Happy Exumisa of Hospersa in South Africa.

In many countries it is legal to discriminate against young people in terms of pay and working conditions, and young workers are less likely than their older colleagues to know about their rights or health and safety issues. "Young people also want to see their unions more active on big issues that will affect our future, like global warming and abysmal failure of global institutions to do anything about the gap between rich and poor," said Exumisa.

More than 100 young delegates attended the PSI Young Workers Meeting on September 23, 2007 held in Vienna, Austria. During the meeting, the young trade union activists sent their message **"TRADE UNIONS must campaign on issues relevant to young workers and change their working methods if they want more young people to join. They also need to make space for young workers to mobilise their energy and commitment to global justice to encourage more young people become active in unions. They also called on union leaders to listen to young people and campaign on the issues they feel strongly about"**.

PSI changed its rules to give young workers guaranteed representation on its committees for the first time **"to engage young workers in all aspects of PSI's work in order to strengthen the membership base of affiliates"** (PSI Policy and Strategic Objectives 2007-2012 Session 5) :

- PSI implements a 30% quota for young people, based on gender parity, in all PSI education programmes and ensures that their issues are taken up and acted on.
- PSI's Constitution is reformed to include affirmative action measures established at sub-regional, regional and international level.
- PSI assists affiliates to set up effective young workers' structures and training programmes.

The delegates said unions could do this by addressing the tough issues that young workers face, like youth unemployment, exploitation and job insecurity. **"Millions of young**

28th World Congress also endorsed Resolution No. 20 "Succession planning through intensified and meaningful involvement of young workers"

ASIA PACIFIC YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE



Sister Tan Sze Wei

Sister Tan Sze Wei of AUPE, Singapore (Titular Member) and Sister Sesilia Mann of SPSA, Samoa (Substitute) have been elected to represent Asia and Pacific Young Workers by the new composition of the PSI Executive Board (EB).

The changed of rules with immediate effect to facilitate the involvement and participation of young workers representatives in each region at the PSI Constitutional Meeting of Executive Board.

Giving a voice for young workers in the union is not just promised but reality in PSI works. We believe that young workers are very important for the PSI movement in the future, more and more support given to them to strengthen their voices and bring them closer together.

Herewith email address of Sister Tan Sze Wei for your future contact: szeweithegreat@gmail.com

**Youth are NOT ONLY leader of future BUT ALSO leaders of today:
leaders of those younger; leaders of our generation; partners in leadership with the state and those older**

Partnership needed to tackle youth unemployment

The government, public and private sectors must combine efforts to reduce unemployment among young people in Indonesia.

Promoting youth employment is one of the most critical challenges currently facing Indonesia, with alarming unemployment figures for this age group.

Data from ILO shows that the number of unemployed people aged between 15-24 years has grown from 1.4 million in 1990 to 6.9 million in 2006, indicating

only 30.6 percent of Indonesians in this age group belong to the labor force.

According to the ILO, the country's unemployment figures were dominated by young people, who accounted for 61.8 percent of all unemployed people.

The total number of unemployed nationwide represents around 10 percent of the 110 million Indonesians in the labor force:

The reasons given for young workers unemployment are slow economic

development which has failed to keep up with rapid increases in educational attainment, and school curriculums that were inappropriate for the work force. Rapid urbanization has also caused young people to become more mobile than adults, thus becoming unemployed or engaged in the informal urban economy; sustainable education and training.

Please email me if you want the full report of the ILO:
indah.budiarti@world-psi.org

Australia - Election date set for 24 November

John Howard (Australian Prime Minister) cannot be trusted on industrial relations. The Australian Government plans 1.5 million more Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs) (Individual agreements). There is no doubt the Liberals will take Work Choices (Labour Legislation) further after the election, the ACTU said today.

Mr Howard's statement today that the Government has 'completed the process' of Work Choices is simply not believable. A Government document prepared by the Department of Workplace Relations (DEWR) shows that a re-elected Howard-Costello Government would expand the Work Choices system to the entire workforce. The Government plan specifies a target of an extra 1.5 million workers being pushed onto lower-paid AWAs, lifting AWA coverage to 20% of the workforce. Research

shows that workers on AWAs earn \$106 a week less on average than workers on collective agreements. Many young workers are affected by not having a choice when entering the workforce, being offered an AWA not allowed to be a party to a Collective Agreement.

The Government plan also aims to reduce the coverage of industrial awards (Collective Agreements) by almost half (from 19% to 10% of the workforce) which would further dramatically reduce workers' protections for penalty rates, holiday pay, overtime pay, redundancy pay, rest breaks, rostering and other conditions.

For more info contact: Mike.Ingpen@psa.org.nz

ARGENTINA: HUGE YOUTH MARCH

The Youth Department of the Central de Trabajadores de la Argentina (CTA), the HIJOS group, the agricultural workers' Federación Agraria Argentina (FAA) and the Federación Universitaria Argentina (FUA) organised a huge march on Friday 28 September to the Parliament, where they transmitted the 10 demands comprising the political agenda agreed between many youth organisations.

Over 5,000 young activists joined the march to the Congress, where they gave a public presentation of the united political programme of the organisations in pursuit of their rights.

"Our primary aim is to force a discussion agenda on the State and the major economic interest groups that are currently running the country, with a nationwide redistribution of wealth as the

priority issue", stated Pablo Reyner, National Director of CTA Youth, before adding: *"we are struggling to secure public policies that enshrine young people's right to a decent life and provide for the future wellbeing of the whole nation"*.

Source: www.ituc-csi.org

More information is available here: <http://www.cta.org.ar>

STAND UP AND SPEAK UP AGAINST POVERTY 2007

Many trade unions, community, women and youth organisations, non-governmental organisation (NGO's) and other campaigners were involved and took part in the Global Call Against Poverty day on October 17, 2007.

The campaign is encouraging governments to meet their international commitments to end poverty and meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) by 2015.

Our affiliated unions in many countries have organised activities around October 17:

- **India:** the campaign took place in the National Girls Higher Secondary School, Chennai and the National Body High School, Triplicane. They signed the pledge to stand up and speak out against poverty and to promote quality public services. PSI believes that quality public services are for achieving social equality

and eradicating poverty in order to contribute towards achieving the MDG's.

- All the Indonesian affiliated unions participated and took part the event under the theme of "**The Achievement of MDG's on Water and Sanitation**". Water supply and sanitation in Indonesia is characterized by poor levels of access and services quality. Over 100 million people lack access to safe water and more than 70 percent of country's 220 million population relies on water obtained from potentially contaminated source.
- **Tonga Public Service Association.** On the 17 October the TPSA after identifying the most needy village in Tonga collected a kilo of food from each member, in some cases money as well, and distributed this to the villagers. This activity received good publicity and raised the

awareness of this international issue of poverty eradication.

The Pacific Island were attending their annual meeting in Tonga at this time and they received a letter raising this issue and calling on the leaders to act on their return home.

Global Awareness campaign against poverty is very important for the young workers. Youth poverty is a serious global, not least because of the large numbers of youth and children living in absolute in developing countries.

In many contexts, youth are relatively likely to experience poverty because of age-based discrimination and the uncertainties and dynamism surrounding the transition from childhood to adulthood.

Detail of the report click PSI Website: www.world-psi.org



Unemployment still haunts Korean youths



The Korean National Statistical said that the nation's youth labour

market remains sluggish even though the overall unemployment rate is decreasing. The unemployment rate among youths aged 15 to 29 came in at 7 percent in September, down 0.3

percentage point from a month earlier. The overall employment rate also dropped 1 percentage point to 41.6 percent from the previous month.

Experts, however, claim that these figures fail to reflect the employment status of most youth, since many of those who are seeking jobs are classified as economically inactive, and are thus not included in the category of be-

ing unemployed.

The unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed people as a percentage of the economically active population. The employment rate represents the number of employed people as a percentage of the total population.

For detail click this address: http://www.koilaf.org/KFeng/engLabornews/bbs_read_dis.php?board_no=4842&page=1&keyField=&keyWord=&keyBranch

Young workers meeting in Thailand



23 young workers activists from eight affiliated unions in Thailand participated in two days workshop, 23rd-24th October 2007, on **young workers and Quality Public Services**. This workshop was organised by the PSI South East Asia Sub-regional office in order to facilitate young workers to be actively involve in the union works and also to ensure that young workers voices be heard in their own union and to the PSI Thailand Advisory Council (PTAC).

They were discussed and sharing young workers issues and challenges in Thailand and elected two coordinators (Sister Sopa Kanithabuth and Brother Vorathai Maklamthed) and six members for the young representatives. The PTAC strongly support and will work together closely with them.

For further information please contact Sister Katherine Loh, SEA Sub-regional Secretary: katherine.loh@world-psi.org or to Sister Sopa: sopajeab@hotmail.com

CAMPAIGN FOR YOUNG WORKERS ON THEIR RIGHTS AT WORK



Komiti Pasefika

Komiti Pasefika released a campaign that is being run in New Zealand to inform young workers of their rights at work. The Komiti are using their own special website www.kpy.co.nz and popular websites like **Bebo**, **MySpace** and **YouTube** to get the messages out to young people.

"We wanted to go where young people were, and the websites encourage more interactivity and creativity. The whole aim of the project is to help young workers learn their work rights by using fun

video animations, prizes, quizzes and text messaging," Komiti Pasefika co-convenor Teresa Brown said on their November 1, 2007 media release.

Komiti Pasefika (CTU) is the CTU Pacific workers network, aims to educate current and potential Island union members and activities. Komiti Pasefika encourages the involvement of Pacific Island peoples in unions through networking, offering support, providing education and advice and seeking recognition from relevant bodies in order to participate and influence in decision and policy making to meet the needs of Pacific Islands peoples.

Further information please contact Tanja Bristow, NZPSA Organiser: Tanja.bristow@psa.org.nz

Philippines: Workshop on Organising, Recruitment and Retention of young workers in trade union



22 young workers from 6 affiliated unions in Philippines participated in a workshop on **"organizing, recruitment and retention of young workers in Trade Union"** held at Kimberley Hotel Manila from 29-31 October 2007. The activity aimed to establish a core group of leaders from its affiliates in the Philippines who understands the Public Services International (PSI) programs and policies, to identify and discuss issues/problems confronting young workers, to come-up with an action plan that will help in the advancement and advocacy of the youth sector.

The participants concluded the workshop and proposed young workers resolution No. 01-2007 on **"Establishment of PSI Youth Network in the Philippines and Providing a Representatives to PSI Philippines National Coordinating Council"**

Detail of this report, please contact Rodel Leocarrio: apo_sphinx@yahoo.com

PSI RESOLUTION No. 20: SUCCESSION PLANNING THROUGH INTENSIFIED AND MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT OF YOUNG WORKERS

The 28th World Congress of Public Services International, meeting in Vienna, Austria, on 24-28 September 2007,

NOTING that the trade union movement worldwide is in a struggle and constantly faces many challenges in its pursuit for growth, development and effectiveness;

WHEREAS many affiliates of the Public Service International are deficient in their efforts towards vital institution succession planning, particularly in developing countries where the workforce is unstable;

WHEREAS this phenomenon of instability is most prevalent among young workers who fulfill their mission of developing themselves and are then forced to migrate from their homelands mainly for economic reasons;

WHEREAS these young workers are the foundation of their organisation and among them are many capable future leaders needed by the movement to bring about change and stamp out the root causes for such unfavourable and unbearable environments e.g. Corruption, mismanagement, exploitation, poverty etc., especially in developing countries;

DIRECTS the PSI Executive Board to treat as priority and with utmost urgency the implementation, worldwide, of a young workers involvement and motivation program in all sub-regions to broaden awareness with the focus of raising the level of consciousness and commitment to the movement and ultimately to train future leaders;

FURTHER RESOLVES that adequate resources be put in place execute this program;

FURTHER RESOLVES that action be taken with immediate effect to facilitate the involvement and participation of sub regions' young worker representatives at all constitutional meetings; sub regional, regional and executive board meetings;

FURTHER RESOLVES that within three years an international young workers' forum be organized and thereafter be held annually.

This resolution was referred to the incoming Executive Board for further consideration, along with an amendment submitted by the European Youth Forum but not accepted by the Congress Standing Orders Committee.

The Youth to Youth is information for the young members in Asia & Pacific Region, publish electronically in every two months by Public Services International Asia Pacific Regional Organisation (PSI APRO). We are welcoming you to send the news and information related young workers from your union, please do send to us to indah.budiarti@world-psi.org

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