



## YOUTH TO YOUTH

Information for young members in Asia and Pacific Region

### YOUTH TO YOUTH is

the Asia Pacific Electronic news bulletin for young members in the region. It is published every two months by the Public Services International Asia and Pacific Regional Organisation (PSI APRO).

PSI is an official recognised non-government organisation for the public sector within the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and has consultative status with ECOSOC and observer status with other UN Bodies as UNCTAD and UNESCO.

PSI APRO welcomes your views and comments. Please send news and information on young workers in your union to:

[indah.budiarti@world-psi.org](mailto:indah.budiarti@world-psi.org)



### South East Asia Sub-region Young Workers Network Meeting

South East Asia Sub-region Young Workers Network Meeting was held in Singapore on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2009. It was the first official meeting after last year when the South East Asia Advisory Committee agreed to support the creation of youth network in this sub-region. Nine youth representative from PSI Affiliates in five countries met to discuss young workers issues. The country reports highlighted the common issues faced by the affiliates in this sub-region these included: the financial crisis creating rising unemployment, underemployment, low youth participation in trade unions, and contracting out of jobs.

The youth network is appreciative of the EB Resolution No. 20 **“Succession Planning Through Intensified and Meaningful Involvement of Young Workers”** which would provide greater participation to the young people and anticipate that: (1) *PSI must provide adequate resources to execute*

*this resolution; (2) immediate action be taken to facilitate involvement and participation of sub-regions’ young workers representatives at all constitutional meetings: sub-regional, regional and executive board meetings; (3) within three years (therefore in 2010) an international young workers’ forum be organised and thereafter be held annually*

Regarding the International Young Workers’ Forum in 2010, the South East Asia Young Workers Network proposed four themes: (1) **Awareness, Engagement and Action;** (2) **Decent Work, Decent Life for Young Workers;** (3) **Organizing Young Workers;** (4) **Today’s Youth, Tomorrow’s Leader.** However, this sub-region youth network wants to take the opportunity to participate and contribute in this important forum for the young unionists/leaders of the public sector union world-wide.

The SEA Young Workers Network agreed to bring the following recommendations to be considered and supported by South East Asia Advisory Committee (SEASRAC): (1) *PSI to implement the 30% quota of young worker’s representative in all PSI activities;* (2) *To sponsor SEA Youth Network Meeting on an annual basis prior to the SEASRAC Meeting;* (3) *Representation of young workers from the SEA to the 2010 International Young Worker’s Conference in relation to EB Resolution No. 20;* (4) *Sub-regional youth workshop 2009 on Capacity Building;* (5) *Working towards institutionalizing the youth network (regional, sub-regional and international Level).*

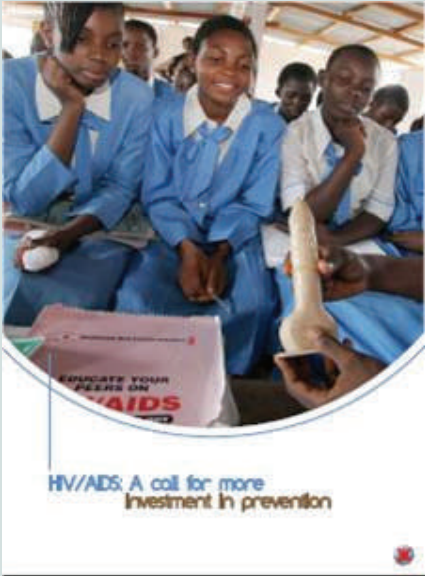


The ITUC youth community blog is created to give a youth perspective to the ITUC areas and to give a space for young people’s voices on trade union issues. The youth community blog is the place where you will find content from the ITUC Youth Committee members and from young trade unionists from the ITUC affiliates around the world.

Choosing a different theme for topics provides a reader some insight into the

issues and to encourage discussion. From February to April 2009, the blog’s theme will be youth organizing: *what are trade unions doing to recruit and organize young people?* This trimester theme will enhance the collection of insights, tools, strategies and model of organising young workers in the trade union movement. It will be useful for trade unions to see the different approaches from different unions on organising young workers in the union movement.

## HIV/AIDS: young people are an important target for prevention



As pointed out in the 2008 Report on the Global AIDS epidemic, it “can not be reversed without sustained in reducing new HIV infection among young people. Nearly half the world’s population is under 25. **Globally, it is estimated that young people under age**

**25 accounted for an estimated 45% of all new**

**HIV infection in adults in 2007.** During a meeting at the World Economic Forum in Davos, PSI’s General Secretary Peter Waldorff called for more investment on prevention against HIV/AIDS “*The number of people infected with HIV is rising and yet we see a decline in prevention programmes. We must renew our efforts in effective prevention actions,*” says Waldorff. In 2001 almost 28 million people around the world were HIV-infected. In 2007, the number had grown to over 33 million. That year an estimated 2 million people died as a result of AIDS. Click [here](#) for the PSI Campaign. PSI also demands more investments to protect health care workers who have run high risks while performing their jobs. PSI launched a campaign at the end of 2007 to promote the switch to the use of safe injection devices, such as retractable syringes. The use of retractable syringes protects not only patients, but they also protect nurses, laboratory personnel and doctors as well as waste collectors from the risk of HIV infection.

## Portrait of a young trade union activist: Maria Fernanda Bolaños



On March 27th, 2008, PSI launched an urgent action campaign after learning of the assassinations of four Columbian trade unionists and of

death threats against one trade union activist: Maria Fernanda Bolaños. Maria is an employee of the publicly-owned waste and sanitation services of the city of Cali, Colombia and a leader of PSI affiliate SINTRAEMSIRVA.

She is 34 years old and the mother of a 17-year-

old daughter. With menaces still hanging over her head, Maria Fernanda travelled to Antigua and Barbuda in July 2008 to take part in a PSI regional workshop for young workers. From there she went to Canada, at the invitation of PSI affiliates in that country, to take part in a number of meetings talking about the situation in Colombia and her own experiences as a trade unionist.

In an interview with PSI, Maria Fernanda explains why she joined the trade union and why she remains committed to trade unionism, despite the dangers that entails in Colombia. Read more: <http://www.psiapyouthnetwork.org/2009/01/09/portrait-of-a-young-trade-union-activist-maria-fernanda-bolanos/>



## Singapore: PUBEU Youth and Sport

Public Utilities Board Employees’ Union (PUBEU) set up Youth and Sport Sub-Committee to support and facilitate their youth members. The Sub-Committee engaged and organised the union youth members who are 35 years and below in various activities and events to promote young workers participation within their own union and the national centre. **Hanaffia Hamzah**, Secretary of the Sub-Committee, told us that the goal of the sub-committee is to attract young workers and to create their awareness for active participation in the union. Sport is interactive and social activities are a common union strategy to entice committed youth and to expand the union movement. Please contact Hanaffia Hamzah to get share from him: [hanaffia\\_hamzah@pub.gov.sg](mailto:hanaffia_hamzah@pub.gov.sg)

# AP YouthNet

ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

The Asia-Pacific Knowledge Network on Youth Employment (**APYouthNet**) is a community of practice that aims to connect youth employment experts from across the Asia Pacific region.

**APYouthNet** aims to bring together individuals engaged in designing and implementing policies and programmes which promote decent and productive work for young women and men. A lively network can benefit everyone. By sharing information and experiences we can better

understand youth employment challenges in the region and works towards achieving decent work for young people. **APYouthNet** is being launched within the framework of the Asian Decent Work Decade as part of the Asia-Pacific Knowledge Network on Decent Work. Enter the portal, click [here](#).

This website is based on the community practice and its members are the people in the region who's work is dedicated to youth employment. Register your name and actively participate. Contact **Ms. Goy Phumtim**, moderator/facilitator for the APYouthNet Portal: [porn-penn@ilo.org](mailto:porn-penn@ilo.org) or you can communicate directly with her through her **Skype**: [goy.phumtim](#)



Asia Pacific Youth Network

Public Services International - [www.world-psi.org](http://www.world-psi.org)

## The 2nd Asia Pacific Youth Network Meeting

(afternoon). Prior to the meeting, the youth will jointly organise the workshop on “**trade union, gender and youth**” on April 6, 2009.

The Asia Pacific Youth Network (APYN) will hold its 2nd meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on April 7, 2009

Please click [here](#) for the meeting schedule. For more information, please contact: [indah.budiarti@world-psi.org](mailto:indah.budiarti@world-psi.org)

## UnionBook: a social networking for trade unionist

If you are familiar with social networking sites like Facebook, MySpace, Bebo and others. Check it out [UnionBook](#), a new social networking site launched and sponsored by [Labourstart](#). Eric Lee, Labourstart Editor, said that unlike other social networking sites,

UnionBook is advertising-free, respects your privacy, and is specifically designed to serve trade unionists movement. The UnionBook is bringing union activists

together in a space controlled by activists for activists. UnionBook offers many features that you and your union will find useful. Among these are:

- Blogs - build your own blog today. Free, with no ads.
- Groups - create a group to support your union and your campaigns.
- Groups can have discussion forums and shared documents. They can be public or closed. They're a very powerful tool.
- Post your profile and sign up your friends - just like in any other social network (with certain subtle differences)

Please check it out and spend some time to explore the possibilities.



## Attention to young women workers: ITUC Special New Video on Maternity Protection

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) launched a special new video on maternity protection aims to bring public attention to the problems faced by women workers in balancing work and activities at home and in the community.

Making maternity protection a reality by ensuring that government and employers apply the standard in practice and this become the central campaign for unions. Especially for young workers, it is important that maternity protection in the world of work is a priority to ensure women's rights to safe maternity, this can be achieved through negotiating better protections in collective agreements.

Join the global campaign to promote maternity protection in your country in accordance to ILO Convention 183 on maternity protection, together with its accompanying Recommendation No. 191. Click [ITUC video on maternity protection](#) to watch the video.

PUBLIC  
WATER  
FOR  
PUBLIC  
HEALTH

8 March - 22 March - 7 April

International Days of Action for  
Women, Water, Workers, Health



## PSI Women, Water, Workers and Health Campaign

For 2009, PSI's World Women's Committee agreed to build on the achievements of previous campaigns on women, water and workers with a special focus on health and, in particular, the link between quality public water and health services and their impact on women. Women comprise the majority of workers in the health sector as well as the majority of users of public health services. The provision of universally accessible, publicly funded quality water, health and care services is crucial to empowering women and promoting gender

equality. Where States fail to provide adequate public health and care services, the burden falls heavily on women to compensate for their non-availability. The key campaign messages are:

- Access to safe and affordable water is a fundamental human right
- Universal access to safe, affordable water promotes public health and accelerates development
- Publicly funded quality health and care services are crucial to empowering women

- Reliance on private provision of health care and water services exacerbates inequalities
- Governments must invest in public water, health and sanitation services
- Water and health care must be kept in public hands

Tell your union and join the campaign. The campaign materials available at the website, please feel free to download: <http://www.psiwater.org/en/campaign-materials.html>



### Australia: National Youth Week 2009

National Youth Week (NYW) is Australia's largest celebration of young people. The young people across Australia are getting ready to get involve for

the NYW 2009. The NYW 2009 will take place from 28 March to April 5 with the theme: **Make a Move!** NYW aims to encourage young people to: *share ideas; attend live events; have their voices heard on issues of concern to them; showcase their talents; celebrate their contribution to the community; take part in competitions, and have fun!*. More info: <http://www.youthweek.com/>



## PSI Blogs

PSI have created blogs to keep affiliates informed and to share PSI-related work. These blogs are intended to elaborate and provide greater perspective on issues concerning the global financial crisis, water, health, youth and municipal services. The blogs provide commentary in interactive format to allow readers to express their opinion or simply comment on posted subjects. Indeed, these blogs are an excellent medium for exchange of views and discussion. The blogs also provide RSS feeds, if you subscribe you will automatically be informed and you will be able to read the new post. Click this below title to explore the blogs:

[Financial Crisis Blog](#)

[Municipal Services Blog](#)

[Health Blog](#)

[Water Blog](#)

[Asia Pacific Youth Net-](#)

[work](#)