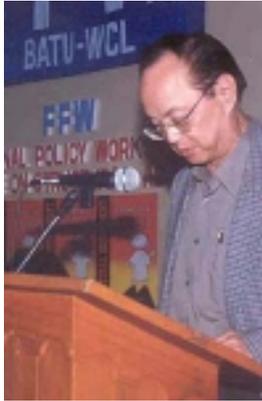


**TRADE UNION MOVEMENT  
MOURNS FOR JOHNNY TAN**



The Asian and the international trade union movement lost one of their great leaders. Juan C. Tan was interred on Thursday 15 September last. Being an advocate of trade unionism, he created the Federation of Free Workers (FFW), an organisation based on integrity and humanistic values. In his trade union work he stood up against the dictatorial Marcos regime. He joined the Philippine resistance movement. Together with August Vanistendael, the then Secretary General of IFCTU, he created the Brotherhood of Asian Trade Unionists (BATU). He was convinced that a strong and values-based continental and international trade union movement was indispensable for the protection of the workers' and women workers' rights. At the Manila Congress of WCL, in 1981, he was elected President of WCL. He held this office with great panache until 1989. As a national and international trade union leader he soon became active in the International Labour Organisation, where he was Vice President of the workers' group. Besides this, he represented for more than thirty years the Philippine workers at the International Labour Conference. Today, our thoughts go to his family and next of kin. **For further details:** [www.batu.org.ph](http://www.batu.org.ph)

**TRADE UNIONS TAKE LEGAL  
ACTION AGAINST THE NEW  
EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT IN FRANCE**

It looks as if the social scene in France is heading for turbulent times this year. The reason is the notorious contract for new employments of the Villepin Administration, which belongs to the right-wing majority party, UMP. The measure was launched on 7 August and is aimed to stimulate growth and to fight unemployment. The aims are laudable, the way they are pursued much less though. The employment contract is reserved for companies with less than twenty workers. Thanks to the contract they can dismiss workers in the first two years,

without having to justify this decision. The trade unions find the contract unacceptable. The three trade unions – CFTC, CFDT and CFE-CGC – decided to take joint legal action with the Council of State against provisions of the contract such as the calculation of the threshold for the number of staff. This provision excludes young workers under 26 for the calculation of the threshold that imposes social and financial obligations on the companies. *“The threshold according to which young workers under 26 are not counted in has unacceptable consequences in the matter of prevention, safety and health at work and of staff representation among other things”*, so the three trade unions in a joint declaration. FO and CGT had taken the same steps early in August. The trade unions are expecting a strong reaction of the government. A joint “action” day is already being contemplated for early in October. One thing is for sure: the debate is not yet closed! **For further details:** [www.cftc.fr](http://www.cftc.fr)

**UN REFORM DISCUSSED  
AT 58TH DPI/NGO CONFERENCE OF UN**

On 7-9 September last, the UN Department of Public Information organised the 58th annual conference for NGOs on the theme: “Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnership and Renewal”. More than 2000 representatives of non-governmental organisations and other civil society partners, including WCL, assembled to express their views on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and on issues such as peace and security, human rights and the reform of the United Nations. The conference was important in more than one respect because it took place just before the UN World Summit at which stock would be taken of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. Paul Tennessee, permanent representative of WCL in Washington, attended the conference. In his speech he said that *“the eradication of poverty, security and respect for everybody’s rights are entirely linked to the reform of the United Nations. Despite everything this reform will be insufficient if we want to attain the goals in 2015. We must combine forces and developed a new approach based on solidarity”*. WCL has

**TELE-FLASH**

is a monthly information bulletin containing brief trade union messages, edited by the information department of the WCL.

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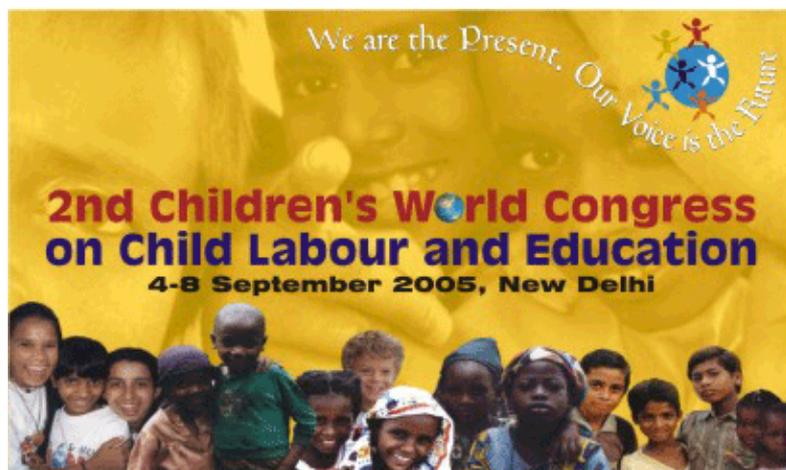
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expressed itself several times already on this matter. Time has come to suit the action to the word. **For further details:** [www.undpingoconference.org](http://www.undpingoconference.org)

### **GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY CRITICISED AT WORLD CONGRESS OF CHILDREN**

The first World Congress of Child Workers was held in Florence, Italy, in 2004, in the presence of children from more than 45 countries. WCL took



an active part in this international meeting, delegating three child workers from member organisations in Sri Lanka, Togo and Colombia. Many children could not attend the Congress because the Italian government did not issue their visas. The second World Congress took place on 4-8 September last in New Delhi. Many children who could not participate in the first edition were now present. Also WCL participated, through its Indian member organisations. The aim was to draw up a plan of action against child labour and to attain education for all. In the final declaration the government responsibility in the matter of child labour was criticised. According to the Congress, the policy to improve the living conditions of children must be a worldwide absolute priority. Child labour and trafficking in human beings must be stopped without delay. Education for all, one of the Millennium Development Goals, must be part of these priority-based policies. WCL totally agrees with this, as it is one of the key factors in the struggle against poverty. **You can find the final declaration on:** [www.globalmarch.org](http://www.globalmarch.org)

### **PRESS FREEDOM IN JEOPARDY IN PERU**

The incident dates back from 19 August last. We were informed of it by ANP – *Asociación Nacional de periodistas* (national association of journalists), which is part of the network of CLADEHLT – *Comisión Latinoamericana por los derechos humanos y libertades de los trabajadores y los pueblos* (Latin American Commission for the Rights and Freedoms of the Workers and Peoples). The information is based on pictures in the broadcast “Cuarto Poder de

América television”. Luis Toledo, brother of the Peruvian President, Alejandro Toledo, would have attacked journalist Gino Marquez and his cameraman German Huaroto. The cameraman was taken to hospital with serious leg and head injuries and with bruises all over his body! By letter to the authorities of the country WCL has expressed its concern about this incident. It demanded an immediate unbiased inquiry and effective measures to guarantee the protection of Peruvian journalists. Freedom of the press must be guaranteed, for the freedom of information is at stake. **For further details:** [www.cladehlt.org](http://www.cladehlt.org)

### **NEWSLETTER OF ETUC**

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) recently introduced a Newsletter (the first number appeared in June-July of this year). It provides information on current social events in Europe and on ETUC’s response to them, contains the agenda of ETUC and informs about current dossiers regarding the social dialogue and about everything related to the Lisbon strategy. The Newsletter also includes features such as a dossier on a specific subject. We wish this new means of communication a long life! **You can subscribe to the Newsletter of ETUC on:** [www.etuc.org](http://www.etuc.org)

### **Schedule of activities**

#### **October 2005**

- 04: EVV – Working group on trade and globalisation (Brussels);
- 04-06: OMCT - “Poverty, inequality and violence: is there a human response?” (Geneva);
- 06-07: FNPR/Russia – centenary celebration (Moscow);
- 10-11: FIOST – World Board (France);
- 11-12: TUAC – Meeting on OECD reports and G8 Summit in Gleneagles (Paris);
- 16-18: WVA – Europese Sectie (Brussel);
- 17-21: ACTRAV - International symposium: “The role of trade unions in the global economy and the fight against poverty” (Geneva);
- 19-20: ETUC – Executive Committee (Brussels);
- 27: CNV – International Committee (Utrecht);
- 31/10-02/11: ILO – Tripartite meeting of experts on a fair approach to migrant workers in a globalised economy (Geneva).