



PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL ASIA PACIFIC NEWS

DECEMBER 2007

Public Services International

Asia Pacific Regional
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SEASON' GREETINGS



I wish you all strength and success in the coming year to put all our Congress decisions into practice. I take this opportunity, while I am still Acting General Secretary, to thank you for all the support and friendship I have received over the years.

I am sure Peter Waldorff can count on that same support when he starts on 2 January and I wish him the same satisfaction as I have had, in serving you, our affiliates. On behalf of all the staff and elected members I also send you our season's greetings with the firm conviction that together we can work for a better world with more equality and social justice."

The 13th UN Climate Changing Conference, Bali 3-14 December 2007



The Conference, hosted by the Government of Indonesia, took place at the Bali International Convention Centre and brought together more than 10,000 participants, including representatives of over 180 countries together with observers from intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and the media.

The two week period included the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, its subsidiary bodies as well as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto

Protocol. A ministerial segment in the second week concluded the Conference.

The conference culminated in the adoption of the Bali roadmap, which charts the course for a new negotiating process to be concluded by 2009 that will ultimately lead to a post-2012 international agreement on climate change. Ground-breaking decisions were taken which form core elements of the roadmap. They include the launch of the Adaptation Fund as well as decisions on technology transfer and on reducing emissions from deforestation. These decisions represent various tracks that are essential to achieving a secure climate future.

PSI staff, Svend Robinson (Public Services Advocacy Officer) and FX. Supiarso (Indonesia Project Coordinator and SEA TURN Project Coordinator) attended this event. Contact them to get further information: svend.robinson@world-psi.org

Click this website for the information:
<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

Call to Action, take part in PSI's campaign for migrant workers' rights!

PSI Campaign on Migrant Workers Rights



10-18 December 2007

December 10 is international human rights day and December 18 is international migrants day, PSI has called on its affiliates to mark these international days for human rights and migrant workers by joining the campaign for migrant workers' rights.

All migrant workers are entitled to the basic protection of their human rights. The right to join

and be part of a trade union is a basic human right for migrant workers.

Trade unions have an important role to play in organising mi-

grant workers and defending their human rights. They build solidarity among all workers across the globe. Trade unions are actively fighting racism, xenophobia, gender-based discrimination and all forms of discrimination and intolerance. They defend workers' rights to decent work, equal opportunities and equal treatment for all. Take part in PSI's campaign for migrant workers' rights!

If you want to join and share your activities, please contact us at: equality@world-psi.org

Visit PSI website at: http://www.world-psi.org/TemplateEn.cfm?Section=Migrant_workers2&CONTENTID=18911&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm

Migrants' rights are trade union rights! Trade union rights are human rights!

Labour Party Leader is Prime Minister of Australia



Labour party leader Kevin Rudd was sworn in Australia's 26th prime minister on December 3, 2007, launching a new era in which he has pledged to roll back many of his conservative legislation of the previous government.

The new Prime Minister has signed on to the Kyoto protocol on climate

change, and has promised to pull Australian troops out of Iraq and dismantle union-busting labour laws.

Mr. Rudd said. "we intend to proceed calmly, coolly and methodically in order to restore fairness and balance to the workplace"

PSI SUPPORT THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN 25 NOVEMBER—10 DECEMBER 2007



PSI is calling on all affiliates to say NO to violence against women by participating in the 16 Days of Activism to end violence against women. The 16 days of action against violence against women is a global campaign initiative in which trade unions and NGOs seek to raise awareness of and campaign against gender-based violence.

The Campaign runs between 25 November and 10 December. 25 November was officially recognised by the United Nations in 1991 as International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and 10 December is International Human Rights Day. These dates symbolically link violence against women to human rights.

Other important dates for the calendar, during the 16 days of action, include World Aids Day on December 1st; International Day for the Abolition of Slavery on December 2nd and International Day of Disabled Persons on December 3rd.

Australian Services Union (ASU) - In Australia, the White Ribbon Day campaign has made a call to action for all political parties to pledge their commitment to develop social policies

to end violence against women in Australia. Both ASU Assistant National Secretary Greg McLean and ASU WA Branch Secretary Paul Burlinson are White Ribbon Day Ambassadors this year.

Indonesia—Indah Budiarti took part as resource person and facilitator for one day panel discussion on protection of women workers at work organised by ITF Indonesia and Garuda Indonesia Flight Attendants Association.

Japan - PSI Japan Council organised a gender equality seminar 9-10 November which included session on violence against women

Please send your news and photos of your union event to: equality@world-psi.org

Click PSI Website for detail information: http://www.world-psi.org//TemplateHR.cfm?Section=Gender_Equality2&Template=/VAW/EN_VAW_form.htm

Public Services International-Asian Development Bank Dialogue, 11th December 2007



Noting the Asia Development Bank's (ADB) commitment to poverty reduction and the Bank's role in key development programs in the Asia-Pacific region, the Asia-Pacific Regional Organisation

initiated a process of engagement and regular dialogue with Bank, started in September 2005.

At the 40th ADB Annual Meeting in Kyoto, Japan, (May 2007) PSI jointly organised a forum on *Supporting Core Labour Standard* with ADB's Civil Society Unit. The CLS forum was the first time a trade union organised a policy forum at the Bank's Annual Meeting; it was also the first time that a Bank Executive Director has agreed to act as

a resource speaker. During the Annual Meeting PSI reiterated its recommendation to the ADB's President, Haruhiko Kuroda, on creation of labour desk at the Bank and joint PSI-ADB research.

In this December 11, 2007 meeting PSI presented the following:

- the proposal on PSI-ADB research in selected ADB Projects in power, water and health. An estimate of 40 PSI affiliates in these sector or would likely be affected by ADB project
- Public-Public Partnerships (PUPs) in water sector;
- Specific ADB Projects in power, water and health, including CLS issues in the Philippines power sector restructuring program

For detail report please contact AP Regional Secretary: katsuhiko.sato@world-psi.org or Bobet Coral: lbcorral@pacific.net.ph

HERALDING QPS MISSION IN AP: PLAN - DO – SEE



73 delegates (among them was young workers) from a range of sectors covering electricity, water, health, municipal, and public administration assembled in Manila city from December 12 to December 14, 2007 to develop an action plan for the QPS in the Asia Pacific Region.

The delegates keenly listened to the background of QPS as the overarching campaign of PSI in its 100th year. In order to achieve QPS, global objectives and strategies devised and approved by the PSI Congress in September 2007. The QPS workshop is organised in Manila in conjunction with the ongoing PSI advocacy work with the ADB for the recognition and greater role of public sector trade unions and labour issues.

The QPS workshop for 3 days identified key issues and challenges in the Asia Pacific Region in the 4 essential sectors of PSI namely utilities and infrastructure, Health services, Municipal and related services, Public Administration. A wide range of challenges and issues related to the 4 sub regions and commonly summarized are the deterioration of

public services due to poor funding, lack of staff, working conditions, casualisation, contracting, young workers issues, gender issues and workers rights to organise.

The workshop identified areas of the commitments for the unions for a doable regional action plan with all the national, sub regional and regional level sequences. The proposal of the action plan 2008-2010 would be the focal discussions for the NCCs, SUBRACS, and APREC IN 2008 and to further decide on the structure and implementation of the plan.

For detail report please contact AP Regional Secretary: katsuhiko.sato@world-psi.org

Southeast Asia Sub-regional workshop on Trade Union Rights, November 26-28, 2007



21 active participants attended Southeast Asia Sub-regional Workshop on Trade Union Rights. The objective of the workshop was to enhance skills of

trade union leaders, network activists and project management committee of TURN: *learning the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Trade Union Rights, ILO Supervisory Mechanism and the reporting of violation of the trade union and workers rights.*

In this workshop, the participants were also learning the current situation in each country, especially the freedom of association for the public sector workers. In general situation, the right to form unions in four countries is not prohibiting but additional/special requirements are required for public sector

unions to enjoy the right to strike. This became the central issue during the workshop because without right to strike, the bargaining power of union is weak. In the perspective of human rights, the right to strike is recognized as a human right especially in the Economic-Social and Cultural Covenant. The covenants explicitly write in article eight *"the right to form and join trade unions and the right to strike"*. It is the only one of international laws which acknowledges the right to strike.

Sister Chidi King, PSI Equality and Rights Officer, and Surya Tjandra, Director of Trade Union Rights Centre (Indonesia) together with SEA TURN Project Coordinator, FX. Supiarso, facilitated the three days workshop from 26th to 28th November 2007 at Federal Hotel, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia.

Detail of the report, please contact FX. Supiarso, Project Coordinator: supiarso@gmail.com

Cook Islands: No collective bargaining, Sunday not a public holiday



A Cook Islands Chamber of Commerce on their meeting of about 50 people on October 22, 2007, was unanimous that collective bargaining must be re-

moved from the new employment relations bill. The meeting also agreed that Sunday should not be deemed a public holiday.

In a discussion on the bill, chamber members also agreed

that some issues such as leave, maternity leave and rest periods be at the discretion of the two parties, employer and employee. Any such agreement will be drafted into individual employment agreements, which the chamber strongly supports as opposed to a collective agreements.

Indeed, this news shows the difficulties of the employer in understanding good industrial relations. For more information contact Mike Ingpen, Oceania Sub-regional Secretary: mike.ingpen@psa.org.nz

World AIDS Day 2007: Keeping the Promise “Stop AIDS - Take the lead”



The World Aids Day 2007 campaign calls on us to focus on the role of leadership in keeping the promise to stop AIDS.

In the world of work, the epidemic HIV/

AIDS destruction of human lives and of families as well as the assault on fundamental rights - particularly discrimination against HIV positive workers and the threat of child labour - when parents fall victim to AIDS. The epidemic's deadly force strikes hardest on the economic in the productive adult population: lost productivity, loss of skilled workers and health cost care.

The trade unions, who have taken leadership in the workplace approach on HIV-AIDS in many countries, have found that devising the right response to AIDS often reveals another layer. By increasing prevention and access to AIDS treat-

ment, the years of neglect of health care systems and the deteriorating conditions for health care workers have been made all too clear. Strengthening health care systems is a priority challenge that must be taken up, but this is no time for band-aid solutions. One thing is certain-it makes little sense to offer solutions to the pandemic without improving the health care system including the conditions for its workers.

Click this website for further information: <http://www.unaids.org/en/MediaCentre/PressMaterials/Featur->



SEASONS GREETINGS

May this joyous season bring you Success, good times, happiness

Hope that we have more opportunities to work together and strengthen our solidarity

Happy New Year 2008

Regards,

Katsuhiko Sato, AP Regional Secretary