



PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL ASIA AND PACIFIC NEWS

OCTOBER 2007

PROUD AND GREAT MOMENT OF 28TH PSI WORLD CONGRESS AND CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

This year is a historical moment for the Public Services International and its affiliated unions world-wide. The 28th Congress and centennial celebrations were held in Vienna, Austria. 1500 participants registered to this centennial congress (more than 40% of congress delegates were women).

The outgoing General Secretary Hans Engelberts said that the organisation has developed to meet new challenges during its hundred-year history. *"We are now a truly global federation with a mainly female membership and most of our affiliates in the South. We have also become a campaigning organisation working with others to build high quality public services, human rights and equality".*

QUALITY PUBLIC services (QPS) one of the big issues at the PSI congress, with the PSI Executive Board proposing that QPS

should continue to be the overarching element of all our work over the next five years. PSI believes quality public services are vital to all our objectives, including sectoral and regional work. It also says that creating quality public services, accessible and affordable for everybody, is an essential part of the fight against poverty and inequality.



Ylva Thörn, President of the Public Services International

PSI President, Ylva Thörn, *emphasized that we need to know the past to plan for the future. She hoped that PSI would be able to continue the fight for quality public services over the next hundred years.*

TRIBUTE AND GOODBYE TO A GOOD MAN



The Congress participants said farewell to the outgoing General Secretary Hans Engelberts.

Hans Engelberts was been General Secretary of PSI since 1981 before that he was a

national officer with the Dutch union Abvakabo, where he led negotiations in the post and telecommunication sector.

President Ylva Thörn said *"he would be badly missed by all. "Hans has a very big heart. He also has his feet on the ground and understands the needs of union members and PSI affiliates. He has never forgotten why he joined the union movement as a young worker".*

The outgoing General Secretary, Hans Engelberts, will remain in the PSI office for this transition period. We paid our tribute and thanked for his relentless and tremendous work for the PSI.

PETER WALDORFF ELECTED AS NEW LEADER OF PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL



Peter Waldorff has been elected as general secretary of Public Services International. After the election, he called for unity and a renewed focus on PSI's future challenges.

He said, *we will not be the victims of yesterday's agenda. We will set tomorrow's agenda.* From today we stay united. I reach out two hands to all of you. We will go forward in friendship, solidarity and success in our future cooperation. He paid tribute to Keith Sonnet, who also ran for the post. *"Keith, I thank you for the contest, which was a friendly one. We have both shown deep re-*

spect for PSI and its affiliates. He confirmed that he would officially take up the position on 1st January 2008, after working with Hans Engelberts on a smooth transition.

He is looking forward to the planned organizational review and says a closer look might be needed to see if PSI's current structure suits the needs of unions. *"We might need to adapt to provide new answers to new challenges. At the same time we must also become attractive to new unions and continue to be of value for our current members. I would like to see inclusive decision-making that leads to better policies. **Communications with our affiliates is key**".* For detail please click PSI Congress Website: www.psi100.org

CONGRESS BRIEF REPORT BY AP REGIONAL SECRETARY

PSI was born on 27 August 1907 in Stuttgart, Germany with 44,500 members of public sector workers in Denmark, Netherlands, Germany, Hungary, Sweden and Switzerland. This year the centennial anniversary Congress was held on 24-28 September in Vienna, Austria with the delegates representing 20 million members of 154 countries. The delegates participated in the Founding Conference in 1907 was 17 and 1500 in the Centennial Congress this year.

The program of the Congress was largely different from they have been in the past. Most of the sessions were done in workshop style. 23 resolutions and 2 urgent resolutions on Iraq and Burma were adopted. The controversial reso-

lutions on China and Hong Kong were adopted together with other resolutions with the Executive Board recommendations to refer them to the incoming Executive Board (EB).

Lots of events and meetings were held in advance and during the Congress, viz. EI/PSI LGBT sexual diversity forum, young workers' meeting, centennial celebrations, centennial reception, pay equity walk, self-organized workshops and so on. But the event that drew all of the participants' attention was the election of the new PSI General Secretary because it was the first election in 26 years after Hans Engelberts was elected to the General Secretary in 1981. PSI Centennial Congress elected Peter

Waldorff to the new PSI General Secretary.

Ylva Thorn was elected to the President for the second straight term. The members of APREC, EB and World Women's Committee (WOC) for 2008-2012 were also elected. As the newly added member of APREC and EB, Tan Swe Wei (AUPE, Singapore) was elected to represent young workers. Kuini Lutua (FNA, Fiji) is proposed to be elected to the Chair of WOC at its next meeting in May 2008.

At the very end of the Congress, President Ylva Thorn gave a very touching speech to praise the distinguished services of Hans Engelberts. Tears gushed from his eyes and it moved all the participants to tears. Detail of the report, please contact the Regional Secretary through email: katsuhiko.sato@worldpsi.org



PSI NOMINATES ANNIE ENRIQUEZ GERON, GENERAL SECRETARY OF PSLINK FOR THE FEBE ELIZABETH VELASQUEZ AWARD 2007



PSI is nominating Annie Geron, PSLINK General Secretary, on account of her enormous commitment and valour in exposing government corruption

and abuse in the Philippines at great personal risk and sacrifice over a period of 4 years.

She and her husband have both been dismissed on false grounds as a result of PSLINK's trade union work to expose corruption and have been subjected to attacks and threats. Her resolve is all the more impressive, given the current serious situation of violation of human rights in the Philippines, including extrajudicial killings, many targeting trade union

leaders.

PSLINK, through the office of the General Secretary, filed a complaint against the Technical Education and Skills Development Office (TESDA) Director General, Dante V. Liban before the Presidential Anti Graft Commission and the Philippines government Ombudsman. This complaint was filed in February 2003.

The complaint gave evidence of how the TESDA Director had used the powers entrusted to him to unlawfully issue licenses on behalf of bogus entertainment companies to allow young Filipina women to be sent abroad to work in brothels and how there had been embezzlement of public funds. PSLINK had documentary evidence of these matters. Annie Geron worked at the TESDA women's training centre.

PSI has just heard that on September 10, 2007, that the Philippines Civil Service Commission has declared invalid the proceedings against Annie Geron and 5 other trade union leaders and has ordered TESDA Director, Augusto Syjuco, to reinstate her with full back pay and benefits. This is a victory for the PSLINK, which will have important repercussion in the Philippines and may encourage others to speak out against corruption and abuse

Detail information please click PSI Website:

<http://www.world-psi.org/TemplateEn.cfm?Section=Home&CONTENTID=18541&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm>

STAND UP AND SPEAK UP AGAINST POVERTY AND INEQUALITY



Following last year's successful event, when a record-breaking number of people stood up against poverty, the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) has organised the 2007 event on 17 October. GCAP members and supporters were united by the use of a white band which is the

symbol for people all over the world to show their support and keep the anti-poverty message highly visible.

Click this below addresses for the detail and report

of activities:

- ◆ ASU Website for their participation to global campaign: http://www.asu.asn.au/media/gen-eral/20071005_poverty.html

- ◆ The PSI affiliates in different cities in India with the support of the PSI South Asia Sub-regional Office: <http://www.world-psi.org/TemplateEn.cfm?Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=18634>
- ◆ The Indonesian affiliates with the support of PSI Indonesia Project Office: <http://www.world-psi.org/TemplateEn.cfm?Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=18638>

- ◆ Please contact Brother Adhikari Jayartne, Sri Lanka NCC Chairperson: copsitu@sltnet.lk for their letter to the His Excellency President of Sri Lanka

5000 PROTESTS IN MACAU

Some 5000 protesters on foot and riding bikes gathered on October 1 in Macau, to slowly protest their way to government headquarters, where they handed in a petition. The protest focused on issues such as wide spread corruption within the higher levels of gov-

ernment, imported labour, inflation, and the recently introduced traffic law. **"Macau public and private workers suffer daily exploitation by unscrupulous employers there is an urgent need for laws to protect from discrimination in the workplace"** says President of the Civil

Servants Association.

For detail please contact Brother José Coutinho at: jcoutinho@atfpm.org.mo or check PSI Website: http://www.world-psi.org/TemplateEn.cfm?Section=Asia_and_Pacific&CONTENTID=18560&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm

SUPPORT FOR AIRPORT UNION INDONESIA



PSI has written a letter to His Excellency Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono,

President of Indonesia, in support of its affiliate in the country the Airport Services Workers Union of PT (Serikat Pekerja PT. (PERSERO) Angkasa Pura I (SP. AP 1)). PSI has been informed that the Management of Angkasa Pura 1 is taking action to intimidate union leaders and prevent staff from joining the union. These actions are in direct violation of international labour standards, in particular ILO Conventions 87 and 98 on Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining both of which Indonesia

has ratified. PSI calls upon the Indonesian government to respect international labour standards and provide fair and decent working conditions for the public sector workers of Angkasa Pura 1.

For detail please click PSI Website: http://www.world-psi.org/TemplateEn.cfm?Section=Asia_and_Pacific&CONTENTID=18404&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm

Founding Congress of the Sindikatu Funsau Publiku Timor Leste



Timor-Leste is the world's newest nation, with independence declared in May 20, 2002. Freedom of association is the fundamental right of the working people as stipulated by the Timor Leste's Constitution and Law. The public sector workers are the largest numbers of workers in Timor Leste, working in various ministries and districts, public utilities,

Presidential Palace and the office of Prime Minister. Total public sector workers are about 12,000, among them 300 have organised themselves and created an umbrella organisation.

The new organisation under the name of **Sindikatu Funsau Publiku Timor Leste - SFPTL** (Public Sector Union of Timor Leste) has been created, with the founding congress taking place in Dili on 28th and 29th September 2007. The SFPTL Congress elected *Brother Liborio Pereira* as its President, *Brother Edgar Sequeira Martins* as General Secretary, and *Sister Ana Mota* as Treasurer. The Congress adopted the SFPTL Constitution and

the union Resolutions/ Recommendation for Action Programme. PSI APRO took part for this founding congress and spread the international solidarity message on behalf of world-wide public sector unions. Public Services International have a strong commitment to **"assist in developing public services unions as democratic and independent organizations, it aim is for all union members to play a full role in the determination of matters which affect their unions, their work and their life and for the high delivery of quality public services"**. For detail of this report please contact Indah Budiarti: indah.budiarti@world-psi.org

The AP News will be circulated electronically every two months to all affiliates in Asia and Pacific, if you have any comments or contribution please contact the regional office: mike.ingpen@psa.org.nz or indah.budiarti@world-psi.org

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