



# AP News

December/2009

## Inside this issue:

Tonga: Steadfast for CEDAW Ratification	1
India: Health Workers and Occupational Health Safety	1
There is a shortage of health workers across the globe today	2
PSI delegation in the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen	2
South Korea: Government crackdown on public sector trade unions intensifies	3
PSI Japan Council: International solidarity	3
PSI Statement on World Aids Day 2009	3
New Zealand Ministry of Justice workers strike over wage freeze	4
Around 200000 women could win 30% pay rise	4
Violence is NOT part of the job	4
Season's Greeting, message of PSI General Secretary	5



The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is the international human rights treaty that is exclusively to gender equality. The Convention requires all States to commit and to undertake a series of measures to end discrimination against women.

To urge the Tongan government, Mele Amanaki, General Sec-

## Tonga: 'Steadfast' for CEDAW Ratification

retary of the Tonga Public Services Association (PSA) and President of the Tongan Women National Congress, along with 800 members have been fasting for one day a week since October 12. She said, this non-violent action is to pressurize the Tongan Government to ratify the CEDAW. The convention sets a universal standard as the most comprehensive international treaty to address women's equality in the political, civil, economic, cultural and social arena. She further said that the

convention is a powerful tool for women advocates once the government ratifies it. Far more, it would give the Tongan government leverage and credibility in the international community regarding women's rights issues. She also believes that the convention will support economic growth and increasing democratic rule of the country. For more information, please contact Sister Mele Amanaki: [psa\\_secretary@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:psa_secretary@yahoo.co.nz)



The Indian health trade union members met the Parliament members of the Indian Parliament on 16 November 2009 in New Delhi, India and gave them a memorandum

## India: Health Workers and Occupational Health Safety

for discussion in the Parliament. They also met the National Centre President of INTUC Mr. Sanjiva Reddy and appraised him of the issues at hand for the health workers. The Occupational and Health and safety of health workers need priority in order for them to get

protection and decent working conditions. The MP has agreed to put key questions in the parliament on the health workers issues.

Please contact V. Lakshmi for more information: [psisouthasia@airtelmail.in](mailto:psisouthasia@airtelmail.in)



## PSI Campaign for Migrant Workers' Rights

December 18 is International Migrants Day!

 Join the Campaign for the Ethical Recruitment of Health Workers

# There is a shortage of health workers across the globe today

There is a shortage of health workers across the globe today. Low and unequal pay, heavy workloads, poor working conditions

and a lack of opportunities have pressured many health workers, a majority of them women, to leave their jobs in the health care sector to find other employment opportunities or to migrate abroad. The situation is true in both developing and industrialized countries. What is most alarming is the massive migration

of health workers from developing countries where the public health situation is already critical. We need a global Code of Practice to address these issues. Now is the time for your union to get involved in the Campaign for the Ethical Recruitment of Health Workers. Your union must lobby your government, particularly the Minister of health, to support the

adoption of the WHO Code of Practices.

To join the campaign, please check it out through our website: <http://www.worldpsi.org/TemplateEn.cfm?Section=Migrant%20workers2&CONTENTID=24081&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm>



UNITED NATIONS  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
DEC 7-DEC 18  
2009

The **PSI delegation in Copenhagen** brings together about 20 trade union leaders from 13 countries, both developing and developed, and from various sectors such as energy and water utilities and municipal services.

Within the ITUC delegation and through their contacts with government delegations, PSI affiliates promoted an ambitious climate change agreement that commit governments to **strengthen public services** and undertake **massive investments** in environmental friendly infrastructure. Such investments are key to reduce countries' vulnerability to climate change and put them in a low-carbon development path way.

PSI is also advocating for **right-based agreement**, recognising the right to water and energy, as well as the rights of climate migrant workers.

In various meetings with delegates, PSI

# A well represented PSI delegation in the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen

has also reiterated its opposition to the reliance on **market instruments** such as carbon markets and off settings mechanisms to solve the climate crisis.

PSI fully supports ITUC's key demand for a "**Just Transition**" provision to be included in the text of the agreement. The Just transition clause refer to the need to accompany the transition to a low carbon economy with social and employment policies ensuring green, quality jobs are created and workers who might be negatively affected are supported. A major achievement has been reached as Argentina, the EU, some developing countries and, to a lesser extent the USA, are now officially supporting this provision. PSI delegates took part in the **Climate March** on the 12th of December together with 5000 trade unionists.

On Monday, the 14th of December, PSI held a conference under the title 'Public services, key to getting us out of the climate crisis'. PSI General secretary Peter Waldorff, as well as a representative of ICLEI, the Local authorities for sustainable development, were among the speakers: <http://world-psi.org/TemplateEn.cfm?Section=Whats%20New&CONTENTID=24175&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm> or <http://www.world-psi.org/TemplateEn.cfm?Section=COP15&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=165&ContentID=23964>

## South Korea: Government crackdown on public sector trade unions intensifies

Since coming into power in February 2008, the Government of Lee Myung-Bak has pursued an agenda of downsizing the public sector and outsourcing public services. This has been marked by a sustained attack on the rights of public sector workers to organise and bargain collectively, including the unilateral suspension or cancellation of collective bargaining

agreements (CBAs). The Government is also proceeding with the implementation of laws that have been long dormant on the statute books, which would ban employers from paying full time union officials and force a single bargaining channel at enterprise level.

PSI has written to the Korean President, Mr Lee Myung-Bak, strongly condemning the recent violations of trade union rights

and is calling on affiliates and the trade union movement to send similar letters of protest to the Korean Government as well as to the Korean Embassies in their countries and to their Foreign Ministries. : [http://www.world-psi.org/TemplateEn.cfm?Section=Asia\\_and\\_Pacific&CONTENTID=24094&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm](http://www.world-psi.org/TemplateEn.cfm?Section=Asia_and_Pacific&CONTENTID=24094&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm)



The Public Services International Japan Council (PSI JC) delegation headed by JICHIRO Vice President Teruo Gunji visited South Korea on

### PSI Japan Council: international solidarity

5-9 November. The aims of the visit were to bring a message of solidarity and to strengthen their networking with PSI Korean Council (PSI KC).

The PSI JC participated in the National Conferences of the Federation of Korean Trade Union (FKTU) and the Korean Confederation of Trade Union (KCTU).

The conferences were under harsh circumstance as anti-

union repression continues in Korea. The public sector unions in Korea vowed to fight for workers' rights and not give in to this harsh suppression.

Through the conferences, PSI JC strongly sent their expression of solidarity, encouraging Japanese and Korean trade unions to work together in the fight for basic labor rights. Contact Brother Koichi Ito for further information: [itok@psi-jc.jp](mailto:itok@psi-jc.jp)

## PSI Statement on World Aids Day 2009



The 7 million health care workers in 154 countries represented by PSI, are keenly aware of the human impact of the AIDS epidemic. We are also aware of

the tremendous burden it places on the capacity of health systems where our members work. Our members are in the front-lines of the fight against AIDS, and we are therefore deeply vested in ensuring that efforts to deal with the epidemic are as

effective as they can be: [http://www.world-psi.org/TemplateEn.cfm?Section=Asia\\_and\\_Pacific&CONTENTID=24010&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm](http://www.world-psi.org/TemplateEn.cfm?Section=Asia_and_Pacific&CONTENTID=24010&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm)

## New Zealand Ministry of Justice workers strike over wage freeze

More than 1,700 members of PSI New Zealand affiliate Public Service Association (PSA) working for the New Zealand Ministry of Justice held a one hour strike on 27 October, followed by a further 24-hour action on 16 November. The industrial action began on October 14 with a work-to-rule. Workers held protest rallies outside courthouses in Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch, and

numerous smaller towns. The union has used coordinated action using texts and email in order to contact members quickly. After the latest action, court services across New Zealand were severely affected for 24 hours. The workers are protesting a government proposal to freeze wages and cut redundancy entitlements. The union has been in negotiations with the ministry since two previous collective agreements expired on 30 June. According to PSA National Sec-

retary Richard Wagstaff, the Ministry of Justice workers are paid on average 6.3 percent below the median pay rate for public servants and are denied the right to collectively negotiate their agreements. The ministry wants to freeze wages until July 2010 and then implement performance-based pay increases.

Read more on [www.psa.org.nz](http://www.psa.org.nz)



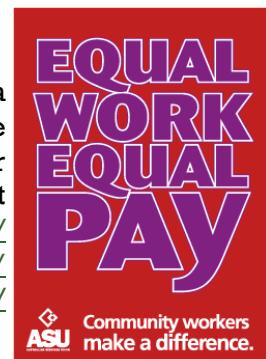
## Around 200000 women could win 30% pay rise

PSI affiliate, the Australian Services Union (ASU) and the Australian Government have reached an historic agreement which will see the social and community services sector as the test case for pay equity in

the new Federal Industrial Relations system.

Around two hundred thousand women who work in homeless and domestic violence shelters, aged care and other community

services may win a 30 per cent pay rise under this major gender equity test case. <http://www.asu.asn.au/media/>



## Violence is NOT part of the job

PSI along with the ITUC and other Global Union Federations have renewed its campaign on the occasion of the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25th November.

Violence against women, whether in the workplace, in the home or in the community is a trade union issue.

Sexual harassment and violence in the workplace are common and constant threats to working women's lives and livelihoods. Violence at work is not merely an

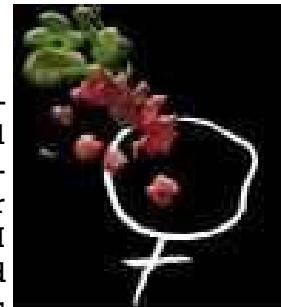
episodic, individual problem but a structural, strategic problem rooted in wider social, economic, organisational and cultural factors.

Violence at work is detrimental to the working environment and to the quality of services provided "There can be no equality between men and women when gender-based violence - be it physical, verbal, psychological or economic - continues to be such a prevalent, unchecked and almost accepted part of our workplaces, our homes and our

communities," said Kuini Lutua, Chair of the PSI World Women's

Committee, "Trade unions must be ready to play their part in ending this cycle of violence against women."

PSI encourages you to join this awareness campaign - send on a white ribbon or hold other activities. See [www.world-psi.org/VAW](http://www.world-psi.org/VAW)





## Season's Greetings

Dear Colleagues!

As 2009 draws to an end, we can look back on a year that has been dramatic in many ways.

As I write these lines, it is still unclear if the world's leaders will reach an ambitious agreement in Copenhagen to combat climate change.

But with or without an agreement, this year has clearly shown us that there is a huge engagement in environmental issues, and we in the PSI family have certainly realised how closely the fight against climate change is linked to our overall objective to deliver Quality Public Services.

For PSI, COP15 is not the end – rather the beginning!

This year also taught us a new abbreviation - H1N1. This new influenza pandemic gave PSI a new opportunity to strengthen cooperation with the WHO, with whom we have worked closely together in testing health manuals designed for the workplace. We take this as recognition of the perceived importance of the PSI's work in the Health Sector.

In 2009 we have continued to deal with the effects of the Global Economic Crisis. Together with the other Global Union Federations and the ITUC, we have developed constructive inputs for the leaders of the G20 countries.

It is encouraging to see that there is a growing commitment to change the international regulations of the financial sector that led the world into the worst crisis we have seen in our time. There is an increasing support for establishing a global tax on financial transactions - in the Asia Pacific region, PSI, together with BWI and UNI, launched a campaign for an International Solidarity Levy in August.

2009 was also the time when the internal Organisational Review was finalised. We have been through an examination of all parts of PSI and the Executive Board has approved a number of recommendations. Implementation of the review will start in 2010.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your strong commitment and your support for the work we do in PSI.

Next year we expect to see a growing pressure on the public services in many countries. The global economic crisis will leave its mark, as we already have seen in the countries hardest hit by the meltdown. We need to stand together to fight back and insist on the important role the public sector must play in getting the world back on its feet.

PSI continues to campaign for quality public services, be they in water, energy or health care. Together with the other Global Unions we will hold a big Quality Public Services conference next year – it will show the strength of the support is from the entire international trade union movement for the delivery of well-functioning public services to all people.

With these encouraging words, I would like to wish all of you a successful 2010.

Peter Waldorff  
PSI General Secretary

The **AP News** is published by Public Services International Asia and Pacific Regional Organisation (PSI APRO). This news will be circulated electronically every two months to all affiliates in Asia and Pacific, if you have any comments or contribution please contact regional office: [indah.budiarti@world-psi.org](mailto:indah.budiarti@world-psi.org) or [mike.ingpen@psa.org.nz](mailto:mike.ingpen@psa.org.nz)