



# ASIA PACIFIC NEWS

## PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL

January 2012

### Asia Pacific Regional Organisation

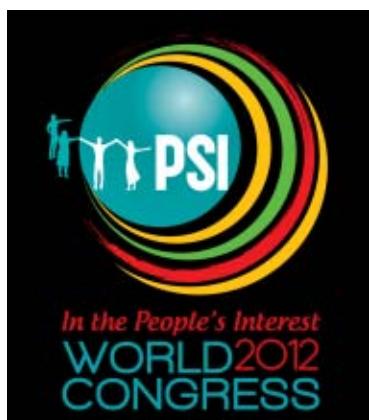
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## New PSI website! New logo!

Check out our PSI website's fresh new look and user-friendly features. The new website features new ways to stay connected, including new tools that allow you to read the news and information in your selected language.

**Link the new PSI website on your union site:** simply download the new PSI logo and link it to [www.world-psi.org](http://www.world-psi.org). **RSS news feeds:** Please send us your union's RSS news feed so we can promote it on the PSI site homepage. Our new website is also integrated with social media so you can stay connected with us through *Facebook*, *Twitter*, *Flickr*, *Vimeo* and *YouTube*. Take a minute to explore the new site today!



## PSI 29<sup>th</sup> WORLD CONGRESS In the People's Interest

Another busy year is ahead of us in 2012: the **29th PSI World Congress** will take place in Durban, South Africa, from 27–30 November 2012. PSI and our affiliates are looking forward to this major event where discussion and decisions will strengthen our activities and organising ability through an engaging participatory format. Congress 2012 will focus on: building an effective Programme of Action for 2013–2017; creating a more agile and sustainable organisation; Constitutional changes; sharing challenges and best practices across sectors and regions. For more information: [www.world-psi.org/en/psi-29th-world-congress](http://www.world-psi.org/en/psi-29th-world-congress).



## PSI FOCUS 2011

The latest edition of FOCUS magazine contains 32 pages of news about PSI and our affiliates, from austerity measures in the North to revolutions throughout the Arab world. "Public and private sector unions have united as never before to defend and advance democracy and quality public services," says Peter Waldorff, PSI general secretary in his editorial message. The magazine is now available digitally on the PSI website or at this link: [www.world-psi.org/en/psi-focus-2011](http://www.world-psi.org/en/psi-focus-2011).

## Global Forum demands leadership on Migration and Development

PSI activists, including from Asia and Pacific, took part in the Fifth Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), held in Geneva from 29 November to 2 December 2011. The theme of the forum was Taking Action on Labour Migration, Development and the Protection of Migrant Workers and their Families. PSI, together with the ITUC and the Global Union Federations, joined forces with civil society organizations to question governments about their lack of leadership in addressing the exodus of migrants from North Africa, rising xenophobia, and their failure to apply the rights-based normative framework embodied in UN and ILO Conventions to deal with migration flows. The groups demonstrated in front of the UN Building in Geneva chanting, "Migration rights! Human rights!" and each group's representative made a short speech.

Please see: [www.world-psi.org/en/fifth-global-forum-migration-and-development](http://www.world-psi.org/en/fifth-global-forum-migration-and-development).



## Please complete this short PSI membership survey

Public Services International is collecting and updating contact information on our current affiliates to ensure that we are communicating well with our members. Please take the time to complete the survey and return it soon! Find the **English version** at this link: [tiny.cc/nnugx](http://tiny.cc/nnugx) and the **Japanese version** at: [tiny.cc/2f9lg](http://tiny.cc/2f9lg). Please note that this form is designed to be filled in electronically; it should not be printed out. If you have any problems or questions please contact: [membership@world-psi.org](mailto:membership@world-psi.org)

### JAPAN

## Say NO to nuclear power plant

The crisis that hit the Fukushima nuclear power plant as a result of a terrible earthquake and tsunami has led to significant protests against nuclear power. Participants say the disaster at Fukushima has made it absolutely clear that nuclear energy can irreparably damage the environment, ruin agriculture and fisheries, accelerate the food crisis and thereby threaten the human survival. On December 10, 2011 an event titled "GOOD BYE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT" was held. Many Japanese citizens gathered to support an effort to collect 10 million signatures on a petition. See more news at: [www.jichiro.gr.jp/news/2011/12/111221.html](http://www.jichiro.gr.jp/news/2011/12/111221.html)



Photo: [www.jichiro.gr.jp](http://www.jichiro.gr.jp)

### PAKISTAN

## Mobilisation against privatisation of the electricity sector

Public Services International sent a letter to Pakistani trade unions on 20 December 2011 strongly supporting the national mobilisation against privatisation of the electricity sector. Experience shows that electricity privatisation is a disaster for almost all involved, except perhaps the elite few who squeeze profits from rising tariffs, reduced wages, increased outsourcing, precarious labour, and other unethical practices. Please see this letter: [www.world-psi.org/en/pakistan-mobilisation-against-privatisation-electricity-sector](http://www.world-psi.org/en/pakistan-mobilisation-against-privatisation-electricity-sector).

## KOREA

# Government must ensure labour rights for public employees

Public Services International Korean Council (PSI-KC) had been meeting to plan and develop an effective campaign to push the government to ratify the ILO Core Conventions. A strategic planning workshop was held on 14-15 November 2011 in Seoul, Korea. This planning session was a follow-up to a workshop on ILO Mechanisms organised by PSI APRO and ILO Bangkok Office in July. The ILO has repeatedly recommended to the Korean government that it should ratify ILO Conventions Nos. 87 and 98 and ensure labour rights for workers in both the public and private sectors.



Despite joining the ILO in 1991, the Korean government has not yet ratified the ILO Core conventions. Indeed, the government has significantly limited the rights of workers to organise and bargain collectively through the controversial Public Officials' Trade Union Act. In an opening address to the workshop, the Korean Government Employees Union (KGEU) said, "The Korean government made illegal the biggest public servants' union of 130,000 union members, which is KGEU. A joint campaign involving the PSI and the PSI Korean Council on ratification of conventions is needed for effective pressure nationally and internationally."

The PSI-KC decided to launch such a campaign, based on the strategies and campaign materials discussed by participants in the workshop. For more information, please contact Ms. Sunghee Oh, KGEU International Relations: [sunghhee@msn.com](mailto:sunghhee@msn.com)

## 99% to the 1%: We are the alternative!

Every 13<sup>th</sup> November, KCTU (Korean Confederation of Trade Unions) holds a National Workers' Rally to honour the memory of martyr Jeon Taeil who burned himself shouting out, "Obey basic labour rights" in 1970. In 2011, PSI APRO together with Korean affiliates and more than 40,000 workers took part this annual rally.

Prior to this rally, 13,000 public sector workers gathered to publicise their demands for just treatment of workers and a civil society. They demanded an end to privatisation/advancement of public enterprises, reinstatement of all dismissed and disciplined workers, fair labour laws, guarantees of political rights, and full labour rights for public employees. See the KGEU website for more photos: [tiny.cc/c9mp4](http://tiny.cc/c9mp4).





## Decent work issues in ADB-funded projects in Bihar, India

A research project commissioned by the ILO and undertaken by PSI in March-November 2011 has revealed serious issues with some projects funded by the Asian Development Bank. In New Delhi on 16 December 2011, two cases of involving Core Labour Standards (CLS) and decent work issues at ADB projects in Bihar were presented.

In the study, trade unions raised concerns about the lack of implementation and monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance with CLS in ADB-financed projects. Several problems were encountered in the field, including violation of the rights of workers and trade unions at ADB project sites; the absence of a labour participation strategy; a failure to consult with and involve workers' organisations/unions; a lack of timely disclosure of relevant information to workers organisations/unions; lack of adequate mitigation measures agreeable to affected workers; and a lack of grievance and monitoring mechanisms. For more information, please contact Mr. R. Kannan, Sub-regional Secretary for South Asia: [psisouthasia1@airtelmail.in](mailto:psisouthasia1@airtelmail.in)

## Workshop on Asian Development Bank (ADB) Campaigns



Representatives of PSI affiliated unions from five countries gathered for a two day workshop in Delhi, India, in December. The unions, whose members work in energy and water, took stock of progress to date in efforts to strengthen dialogue with the Asian Development Bank, and to identify key areas of future intervention by unions on ADB financed projects. Over the years, unions in these five countries have consistently raised serious concerns with ADB projects that neglect labour issues and called for the implementation of core labour standards. Through the workshop, participants identified strategies and tactics to influence the bank's decisions and strengthen the rights of workers and their unions.

## Say NO to electricity privatisation



PLN union members in Padang, South Sumatra demonstrated in front of the state electricity company office on 5 January 2012. The union and workers were holding a banner to reject a plan to privatise and download the public assets to local government (regionalised). The PLN union strongly opposes privatisation, knowing that this struggle is part and parcel of supporting and protecting the public interest by providing accessible and affordable electricity. Privatisation and regionalisation of PLN would directly affect the price of electricity, particularly in poorer provinces.

The PLN union and their members will continue to strongly and tirelessly oppose privatisation of the electricity sector in Indonesia. For more information, please contact Mr. Dodo Dwi Soekmono, PLN Union General Secretary: [plnunion.gs@gmail.com](mailto:plnunion.gs@gmail.com)

## PSIRU: Cuts Watch

The independent Public Services International Research Unit (PSIRU) monitors and publishes regular information on what is happening to public spending and public services around the world. The *Cuts Watch* reports look at each country under three broad headings: (1) Actual cuts – or expansion – of public spending and public services; (2) the impact on jobs and pay of public employees; (3) effects on public services – health care, state pensions, local services, and privatisation. The PSIRU Cuts Watch report series is commissioned by Public Services International. Affiliates are encouraged to post additional information, links and comments on their country. PSIRU welcomes information and comments on the contents of this website: [www.psiru.org/cutswatch](http://www.psiru.org/cutswatch).



## Global Labour University and the Kluncker-Wurf award

The Global Labour University (GLU) network is offering a series of Masters Programmes: *Labour Policies and Globalisation* (Germany), *Labour and Development, Economic Policy, Globalisation and Labour* (South Africa), *Social Economy and Labour* (Brazil) and *Globalisation and Labour* (India).

The programmes cover sustainable development, social justice, international labour standards and trade unions, economic policies and global institutions. These unique global programmes are jointly developed by universities and workers' organisations from around the world. They are aimed at candidates who have experience with labour and social movements, and who are willing to assist organisations in these fields to engage more effectively in social dialogue, public debate, and policy implementation.

Every year, Public Services International offers a scholarship, the Kluncker-Wurf award, to a young trade unionist, member of a PSI affiliate, financing their participation in the programme. For 2011-2012 the award has been presented to Margo Bannister from the National Union of Public Workers, Barbados. Margo is a student in the GLU Masters Programme at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. The Global Labour University is now accepting applications for the programmes in Germany and India. For more information, please see: [www.global-labour-university.org](http://www.global-labour-university.org).

## Have you signed the Quality Public Services Charter yet?

Quality  
Public  
Services

**ACTION NOW!**

Just a reminder: we encourage you to endorse and promote the **Geneva Charter for Quality Public Services**. These are vital principles that unions, governments and civil society allies can rally around. Please sign the QPS Charter at: [www.qpsactionnow.org](http://www.qpsactionnow.org).

## APRO: Major Meetings/Events in 2012

### Sub-regional Advisory Committees (SUBRACs) Meetings

Oceania Sub-regional Advisory Committee (OSRAC)  
East Asia Sub-regional Advisory Committee (EASRAC)  
Southeast Asia Sub-regional Advisory Committee (SEASRAC)  
South Asia Sub-regional Advisory Committee (SASRAC)

6-9 March in Sydney, Australia  
11-13 March in Tokyo, Japan  
15-17 March in Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
23-25 March in Kathmandu, Nepal

### Asia Pacific Regional Executive Committee (APREC) Meeting PSI 12<sup>th</sup> World Congress

17-19 April in Bangalore, India  
27-30 November in Durban, South Africa

For more information, please email Regional Secretary, Ms. V. Lakshmi at:  
lakshmi.vaidhiyanathan@world-psi.org