

# ASIA PACIFIC NEWS

PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL

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[Public Services International](#) is a global union federation representing 20 million members in 150 countries. **Asia Pacific News** is published and electronically distributed by Public Services International Asia Pacific Regional Organisation (PSI APRO). Please send comments and contributions to: [indah.budiarti@world-psi.org](mailto:indah.budiarti@world-psi.org) and [mike.ingpen@psa.org.nz](mailto:mike.ingpen@psa.org.nz)

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## Global Unions send clear message to new ADB President



**Around 70 representatives of Global Union Federations met the new ADB President, Takehiko Nakao, during the Civil Society Program at [the 46th Asian Development Bank Annual Governors' Meeting](#) in Greater Noida, India.**

PSI Regional Secretary, V. Lakshmi sent a clear message to the new ADB Chief about the ongoing dialogue between the Global Unions and the Bank on the number of issues related to ILO Core Labour Standards in the ADB's lending operations. "It is our responsibility to brief you on these issues and to inform you about the gaps in the project implementations and their effects, and their impact on the workers' lives," said Lakshmi.

The trade unions raised the issues of recognition, social protection strategy of ADB and precarious work. JICHIRO International Secretary, Mr. Katsuhiko Sato, presented a traditional handmade fan to the ADB Chief to remind him of the ongoing privatisation of the power sector in the Asia Pacific region. The unions are concerned that electricity will no longer be available for the poor and they will be forced to use a traditional fan to keep cool. It is also symbolic of the labour movement's struggle for a better life for the workers of the world.

Global Unions have published a communiqué. Download the [Global Unions communiqué](#) and click [here](#) for photos of the meeting.

## Trade unions delegates meet with Nordic representatives



Nordic representatives set up a meeting at the Civil Society Centre on 4 May 2013 at [the 46th Asian Development Bank Annual Governors' Meeting](#) in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India. The meeting was dominated by the trade union delegates. The dialogue provided an opportunity to exchange experiences on working with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and its project implementation on issues related to social safeguards, labour standards, and the environment. The trade unions quoted of research that demonstrated that workers' rights were not sufficiently protected in ADB projects. For a full report of the meeting, please contact: [ian.mariano@world-psi.org](mailto:ian.mariano@world-psi.org) and [Manoranjan.pegu@world-psi.org](mailto:Manoranjan.pegu@world-psi.org)

## Pension funds: towards socially responsible investments



Public Services International and Global Unions organised a panel discussion on "[Pension funds: Towards socially responsible investments](#)" at the 46th Annual Board of Governors Meeting of the Asian Development Bank in Greater Noida, India on 3 May 2013.

Responsible investment of pension funds is an important concern for workers as social protection in later years of life is generally dependent on the level of pension. The panel discussion explored a possible framework for socially responsible investment of funds, specifically the different models prevailing in Asia including the Philippines, Japan and India, in the context of workers' rights and social security.

Pension funds are touted as one of the mainstays of burgeoning fund needs in coming years. The presentations concentrated on the care to be exercised in investment of pension funds and addressing existing gaps. The ILO representative demonstrated the link between socially responsible investment, decent work and pension funds. The panellists comprised of (photo from left to right): Mr. Mario B. Aguja, Mr. Vasantkumar N. Hittanagi, Dr. Pravin Sinha (Moderator), Mr. Yutaka Seki, Mr. Markus Ruck, and Mr. Bart W. Edes. For full report of this panel discussion, please contact: [ian.mariano@world-psi.org](mailto:ian.mariano@world-psi.org) and [Manoranjan.pegu@world-psi.org](mailto:Manoranjan.pegu@world-psi.org)

## Australia: New figures confirm public services under pressure



The union representing federal public sector workers in Australia is warning that essential services will suffer if the government cuts public sector budgets, with latest figures showing the public service has already shed more than 2500 jobs in the second half of 2012.

CPSU National Secretary Nadine Flood said that any further cuts would only heap more pressure on many services that are already stretched. "Public sector workers are telling us they are already working harder than ever to deliver the services that Australians rely upon every day. Cutting their budgets might help balance the government's books but in the end the losers will be the public who rely on these services every day." Read more, click [here](#)

## East Asia affiliates met with Delhi Electricity Workers Union



PSI affiliates from Japan and Mongolia visited Delhi State Electricity Workers' Union (DSEWU) office on 30 April to learn about the privatisation of Delhi's electricity sector.

Following the privatisation of Delhi's power sector and unbundling of the Delhi Vidyut Board in July 2002, the business of power distribution in the National capital was transferred to two private operators under the Reliance and TATA group.

The entry of private distributors has meant more precarious jobs and violations of labour laws. Workers are exploited and living under threats of forged vigilance cases or transfer to a distant place, contractualisation of workers with low wages (below minimum wage) and precarious working conditions. Though the power supply situation has improved, the residents of Delhi have been faced with a huge increase of tariff, explained Bro. Kuldeep Kumar, DSEWU General Secretary. For further information contact Mr. R. Kannan, PSI South Asia Sub-regional Secretary:

[kannan.raman@world-psi.org](mailto:kannan.raman@world-psi.org) or Ms. Yoshiko Inagaki, East Asia Sub-regional Secretary: [inagaki@jichiro.gr.jp](mailto:inagaki@jichiro.gr.jp)



## New Zealand PSA celebrates 100th anniversary

This year the [Public Services Association \(PSA\)](#) celebrates its centenary. It's a huge milestone for the union and a year-long programme of events has been organised across New Zealand.

The union has commissioned a centenary banner and published two books: an oral history of the PSA from 1984 to 2012, and a biography of one of the union's most influential leaders,

Dan Long, who was president (1958-60) and general secretary (1961-76). PSA has been a member of PSI since 1970, but its history dates back to 1913, when the Public Service Association (PSA) was formed from the remnants of a body known as the Civil Service Association. A [special interactive centenary website](#) documents the people and events that shaped the union's history. It has video and audio clips as well as online access to 100 years of the PSA Journal. Read more, click [here](#)

## Make garment factories in Bangladesh safe



The death toll following the collapse of a building last month in Bangladesh has crossed 800, becoming the country's worst-ever industrial disaster.

[Public Services International](#) General Secretary Rosa Pavanelli says, "As we mourn with the families of the workers who lost their lives in this tragedy – we also confirm our commitment to advance through international solidarity the struggle of textile workers for justice in their working conditions.

Workplace safety is a fundamental right of all workers, as spelled out in the International Labour Organization's Convention 155 on Occupational Safety and the Health Convention of 1981. Therefore, PSI calls on governments to apply social clauses to protect workers' rights in trade agreements, and to suspend agreements with countries that do not respect workers' rights, we also calls on governments and consumers everywhere who benefit from cheap clothing imports to insist on decent working conditions and to eliminate corruption at every step in the supply chain. Read PSI's statement [here](#).

Mid-May, over 35 retailers signed [a new agreement](#) drawn up by Global Unions UNI and IndustriALL, together with NGOs the Clean Clothes Campaign and the Worker Rights Consortium.

## Reclaiming public services: Resisting privatisation of essential services



[Public Services International](#) South Asia organised a forum meeting for utilities unions representing Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and Pakistan on 5 May 2013 on the topic "**Reclaiming Public Services – Resisting Privatisation of Water and Electricity**".

**Bangladesh** gave a presentation on the unbundled electricity system and the union's organising of corporate/private employees in the sector. **India** highlighted the impact of the electricity distribution privatisation on the workers and citizens of Delhi and the strategies to protect the interests of the workers and prevent precarious work.

Meanwhile in the water sector, Mr. Jammu Anand from the Nagpur Water Workers Union shared the experience on the ADB-funded 24X7 water supply project in Nagpur and its impact on workers. In Indonesia, the electricity workers' union of PLN (SP PLN) is challenging the privatisation with judicial review of the law to the constitutional court. Pakistan WAPDA Hydro Central Labour Union shared its long fight against the move of the government under pressure from the World Bank and ADB to privatise WAPDA and the assurance the union has received from the government of Pakistan, not to privatise the electricity sector. For more information about the report, please contact Mr. R. Kannan, PSI South Asia Sub-regional Secretary: [kannan.raman@world-psi.org](mailto:kannan.raman@world-psi.org)



## Your future is in public hands - quality public services for all!

The international labour movement celebrates 1 May in memory of the activists who were killed in the Haymarket massacre of 1886 while demonstrating for the eight-hour work day.

Today, using the pretext of the economic and financial crises, neo-liberal forces around the world are determined to eliminate workers' right to bargain collectively and hard-won social and labour rights. Workers and our communities are uniting to turn back the wave of measures being used to increase privatisation, claw back public spending, reduce the size and role of the state, and to attack social dialogue and collective bargaining in public sector workplaces.

Public investment in public services, infrastructure and industrial policy boosts sustainable development, stable growth and good and decent jobs. However, funding for the public sector is being reduced at an alarming speed. Taking effective action against tax fraud and putting in place progressive tax systems would provide the funds to build strong public services. [Read PSI's statement for 1st May 2013](#)

## Sit down strike for union recognition



Korean Government Employees' Union (KGEU) started another sit-in in front of the Ministry of Security and Public Administration from 1st of May 2013. This follows a month-long hunger strike by its President Kim Jungnam and KGEU leadership from January 2013 to urge the government and National Assembly to resolve urgent KGEU demands. Up to now, the recently installed Park Guenhye administration has not taken any action to deal with labour relations and working conditions of public sector workers or the reinstatement of 135 dismissed KGEU members, and refuses to recognize the KGEU.

Since the beginning of the year, twelve civil servants from general administration, social workers, court administration and education administration have committed suicide due to stress and their heavy work load. However, the government fails to recognise the detrimental impact of their lack of negotiation on working conditions and continues its anti-trade union policy. The KGEU will continue this sit-in until the end of June to urge the Korean government to take action to normalise labour relations, recognise the KGEU and reinstate dismissed workers. For more information, please contact Ms. Sunghee Oh, International Relations: [kgeu.inter@gmail.com](mailto:kgeu.inter@gmail.com) or visit the [PSI Website](#)

## ILC 2013 – PSI parallel event: Public finance control and anti-corruption strategies



Public Services International is organising a parallel event during the [102<sup>nd</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference](#) (ILC) "Public Finance Control and Anti-Corruption Strategies forum" on 13 June, 13:00–14:30 at the Palais des Nations (Room XII), Geneva. Taking effective measures against tax fraud and evasion by those who are the perpetrators of large-scale corruption would provide societies with thousands of billions stolen from citizens. At this forum, we want to present best practices of our affiliates and PSI strategy on corruption, making the link with tax justice and trade union rights - as an alternative to austerity and a shrinking public sector with precarious jobs. For further information, please contact Ms. Sandra Vermuyten, Equality and Rights Officer: [sandra.vermuyten@world-psi.org](mailto:sandra.vermuyten@world-psi.org) or click [here](#)