

PSI World news 01-2004

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PSI AT THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM, MUMBAI

PSI is represented by a team of 15 people at the World Social Forum in Mumbai, India, including David Boys and Wendy Caird from Headquarters. The team will ensure representation of PSI at several meetings within the forum. David Boys also attended the People's World Water Forum in Delhi, 12-14 January. PSI has presented a Discussion Note on Water Finance to the meetings, written by Dave Hall, PSIRU. The Discussion Note is available on the PSI website www.world-psi.org. The Global Unions website has a special page on the WSF: www.global-unions.org/wsf.

PUBLIC SERVICES WORK!

PSI's publication Public Services Work! - Information, insights and ideas for our future is now available in print and an updated PDF version is available for download on the PSI website. The publication, commissioned by PSI and written by David Hall at the PSIRU, presents a wealth of information about the role of quality public services in building strong societies. It identifies the principles that underpin quality public services: the commitment to community and solidarity and the need for accountability and democracy. It offers concrete, documented examples of what works and why. A copy of the report will be sent to PSI affiliates shortly. The publication will also be available in French, Spanish, Japanese, Korean and Russian. For more information, contact the QPS campaign director, wendy.caird@world-psi.org.

JOB VACANCY: PSI COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

PSI has a vacancy for a full-time position of Communications Officer at the PSI Head Office. The job involves supporting the organisation in enhancing its visibility and promoting its activities by developing relationships with affiliates, the media and other organisations and advising on communication methods and strategy. The position requires fluent English, and knowledge of other PSI languages would be an asset. Full information including the job description, application form and skills requirements is available on www.world-psi.org. Applications should reach the PSI secretariat by 31 January.

GLOBAL UNIONS HIV/AIDS CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR

Clementine Dehwe has been selected as the Global Unions HIV/AIDS Campaign Coordinator. Clementine was previously HIV/AIDS coordinator for the ZCTU, Zimbabwe. She stresses the need for Global Unions to look harder at the quality of HIV/AIDS programming, taking into account factors such as the socio-economic impact of HIV/AIDS, cultural traditional and religious beliefs, and above all, sustainability. Partnership is likely to be a key to success and employers, NGOs, UNAIDS, ILO and other players can play a pivotal role in the fight against HIV and AIDS. See www.global-unions.org/hiv-aids.

MIGRANT WORKERS

The ILO/ACTRAV and the ICFTU organised a preparatory meeting for the ILO Conference General Discussion on Migrant Workers on December 15-16 at the UNI Headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland. Nora Wintour, Equality and Rights Officer and Kim Van Eyck PSI consultant on migration in the health sector, attended the meeting on behalf of PSI. The meeting was designed to develop a trade union position for the forthcoming discussion at the conference. Well attended by trade unionists from around the world, there was an interesting opportunity to hear how unions are taking up the challenges of protecting the rights of migrant workers. The issue of migration of health professionals and the impact of the brain drain on health services in developing countries was referred to in a number of presentations. The PSI presented a position paper calling for support for the adoption of ethical recruitment guidelines and compensation mechanisms to government health services in sending countries and increased participation of trade unions in health sector reform and planning. For more information and a copy of the position paper, contact equality@world-psi.org.

The PSI report on international migration in the health sector is now available in Spanish, Polish and Sinhalese. It can be downloaded from the PSI website - go to Publications, then Equality.

THE WORLD BANK AND LABOUR MARKETS - EXPERTISE NEEDED

PSI has been invited to take part in a World Bank (European Office) informal working group on labour market policy issues. While the European office is running this project, it will have spillovers to other regions and may involve some meetings in Washington as well as in Europe. The PSI secretariat does not have specific expertise on public sector labour market theory and policy. If one of our European affiliates has a staff member or activist with expertise who would be able to take part in this work and who could represent PSI at any future meetings (and

probably do a lot of homework in her/his 'spare' time!), please let Mike Waghorne know - Mike.Waghorne@world-psi.org - so that we can see whether the Bank is prepared to add that person to the working group. We need to have enough contact details to be able to reach the person concerned as well as some background on the person's experience.

LIBERALIZATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

The ILO has commissioned Rae-Anne Medforth (previously of CPSU and PSI) to write a background paper on the liberalization of public employment services. As part of this paper Rae-Anne wishes to include case studies illustrating the affects of such actions on workers and the services they supply. The key questions to be asked in the case studies are:

- What was the lever/s for the introduction of the liberalization of the public employment services e.g. government privatisation policies, World Bank, or International Monetary Fund directives, etc?
- Have the changes to the provision of employment services had an impact on the level of service and its availability to be community?
- What was the impact of the liberalization on the employees' salaries and other benefits such as health insurance, pensions etc?

Rae-Anne would appreciate hearing from affiliates who can provide information on this matter. She can be contacted by email at raeanne_medforth@worksight.com.au before 10 February 2004.

NEW RESOURCE ON DEALING WITH CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The OECD has just published Managing Conflict of Interest in the Public Service: OECD guidelines and country experiences (ISBN 92-64-01965-0, 42 2004 02 1 P). It should be available through government bookshops in OECD countries or you can send an e-mail message to SourceOECD@oecd.org to ask for price and delivery information. Whilst the book is of general interest to unions in OECD countries in holding governments to account in ensuring that their public services are seen to be dealing with (potential) conflicts of interest, it will be useful in all countries trying to deal with this and corruption-related issues. It will be of specific interest to unions in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, New Zealand, Poland and the USA since it is the experiences of these countries which provided the data and the recommendations in the book. PSI has been in touch with this project since its inception and its main authors have been helpful in seeing the links to our own quality public services campaign.

COMMENTS

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