

This newsletter can also be viewed online at www.world-psi.org/monthlynews

The PSI Secretariat will be closed from 22 December to 2 January 2008. You can still send messages to PSI via fax (33.450.40.71.20) or email (psi@world-psi.org).

Message from Hans Engelberts



"I wish you all strength and success in the coming year to put all our Congress decisions into practice. Since this will be the last PSI World News that will be sent while I am still Acting General Secretary, I want to thank you for all the support and friendship I have received over the years. I am sure Peter Waldorff can count on that same support when he starts on 2 January and I wish him the same satisfaction as I have had, in serving you, our affiliates. On behalf of all the staff and elected members I also send you our season's greetings with the firm conviction that together we can work for a better world with more equality and social justice."



US unions still fighting for bargaining rights

The denial of the right to bargain collectively in the states of North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia (USA) is a violation of International Human Rights Principles. The United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America (UE) demands that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), an agency of the Organization of American States (OAS), make an investigation into the case. The UE has been fighting for these workers' rights for more than a year now, and in March 2007, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) found North Carolina's ban on collective bargaining to be

in violation of international labor standards and called for its repeal. This strong request is co-signed by PSI and more than fifty other labour and human rights organisations.

[Read the UE Press Release here](#)

[List of co-signing organisations](#)

For more information, see http://www.ueunion.org/polact_iwj.html

BEAT THE HEAT

Public Sector key in policies for Climate Change



PSI delegation in Bali: Svend Robinson (PSI Public Services Advocacy Officer) and F.X. Supiarso (PSI Indonesia project coordinator)

Strengthening public services should be at the heart of the global response to climate change. This is PSI's message at the UN climate change conference in Bali, Indonesia. PSI is ready to do everything in its power to build and strengthen Quality Public Services and to support those public sector workers who are on the front lines of climate change. Among the actions PSI calls for are:

- A major global commitment to building and rebuilding of public infrastructure
- Public-public partnerships for technology transfer in the utilities sector and other key sectors
- Change of international patent rules to allow for transfer of new and existing climate change technologies to developing countries.

Read the full PSI statement [here](#).

European youth focuses on migration and climate change



The PSI European Youth Forum held its latest meeting in Bucharest, Romania, on 19-20 November. Their plans for 2008 were high on the agenda, and the forum decided to especially concentrate on the topics of migration and climate change. The members of the forum felt that those issues are important for young workers and trade unions all over Europe.

They discussed the different projects for young trade unionists that will be held in Romania, Ukraine, Russia, Croatia and Kyrgyzstan. One of the forum's objectives is to increase the number of affiliated unions

with a youth structure and a dedicated youth budget, giving young union representatives a voice in decision-making bodies. This is important because young workers are the future of the trade unions; they are the leaders of tomorrow.

If you have any questions about the forum or youth work in general, please contact the chair of the forum: Linn Hemmingsen from Norway. She can be reached on the following e-mail address: linn.hemmingsen@fagforbundet.no

World Social Forum (WSF) Global Day of Action



For several years PSI has been involved in the World Social Forum (WSF) which brings together many civil society organisations and networks under the slogan "Another World Is Possible". The 2007 meeting was held in Nairobi, Kenya (see www.world-psi.org/wsf2007).

The "open space" character of the WSF offers the opportunity for trade unions to communicate their positions, exchange ideas and find convergence with other organisations and networks sharing our values and objectives.

For 2008, the International Committee (IC) of the WSF has decided to organise a Global Day of Mobilisation and Action, in place of one global meeting. It will be held on **26 January 2008**. The objective of the WSF Global Day of Action is for each member of the WSF to interact with friendly organisations, networks and movements, leaving it up to each actor to decide on the topic and the form of their mobilisation.

PSI encourages all its affiliates to take part in the WSF Global Day and to share your actions with allied organisations and networks. You will find more information on the WSF web pages:

<http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br> and <http://www.wsf2008.net>

Peter Waldorff: Let's build alliances for quality public services



Left to right: Anne-Marie Perret, EPSU President; Peter Waldorff, PSI General Secretary; Gérard Noguès, FO Fonctionnaires General Secretary; and Jean-Claude Mailly, FO General Secretary

During the Congress of French affiliate the Health and Public Services Union

(FO), held in early November in Marseille, new PSI General Secretary Peter Waldorff outlined his ambitions for PSI. The union had submitted a resolution on pensions to the PSI World Congress, which Peter Waldorff presented as an example of the common struggle for trade unionists the world over. He expressed his commitment to develop PSI into a stronger global federation with a truly international commitment to defend the public sector. "While governments are investing enormously in the fight against terrorism, we are witnessing attacks on public sector workers' fundamental rights," he said. "Giving them the right to organise, to bargain and to go on strike when necessary is the best way to defend democracy." He also emphasised the importance of building alliances between public sector workers and users of the services in order to create public services of high quality. He thanked the union for their international commitment and assured them of PSI's support for the November strike action.

PSI campaigns for migrant workers' rights

PSI Campaign on Migrant Workers Rights



10-18 December 2007

PSI is marking the week between International Human Rights Day on 10 December and International Migrants Day on 18 December by campaigning on migrant workers' rights. The focus of this year's campaign is the adoption of the World Health Organisation's draft Code of Practice for the Ethical Recruitment of International Health Personnel. PSI is calling on its affiliates to support the campaign for migrant workers' rights by lobbying their governments and raising public awareness on the issue of international standards for the ethical recruitment of health workers. All public sector trade unions, particularly those with members in the health sector, are invited to organise activities to put pressure on governments to develop guidelines in advance of the World Health Assembly meeting that will be held in May 2008. For more details, [click here](#). Please inform us of your activities: contact rights@world-psi.org.



Trade union rights in Japan

During the PSI Centennial World Congress held in Vienna, 24-28 September 2007, delegates voted on a resolution pushing for trade union rights for fire-fighters and ambulance workers in Japan. These workers do not have the right to organise, and stress has led to several suicides. Congress felt that trade union representation was important for these workers and might avoid these tragedies. PSI has written to the Japanese Prime Minister, urging the government to these workers rights to organise in compliance with ILO Convention 87. Read the letter [here](#). Read the resolution [here](#).



Trade union rights in Guyana

Public sector workers in **Guyana** are consistently denied the right to free collective bargaining and the government has not honoured its obligations concerning negotiations on conditions of service. 60% of public service workers in the country are living below the poverty line. A resolution on this matter was adopted by the Congress. As a follow-up to that resolution PSI has written to the President of Guyana, urging him to honour the country's commitments as a member of the United Nations and ILO, as well as regional organisations, and to fulfil its existing obligations with the Guyana Public Service Union, which it has recognised as the certified bargaining agent for public workers. Read the letter [here](#). Read the resolution [here](#).



Climate change in Canada

The PSI Congress adopted a resolution on climate change, submitted by NUPGE. It urged PSI to write to the Canadian Prime Minister to underscore concerns about the current policies of the Canadian government on climate change. PSI has urged the Canadian government to commit to take steps to achieve and exceed the targets and timelines for emissions and pollution reduction as set out by Canada's international obligations under the Kyoto Protocol. PSI also called for a "Just Transition Strategy" for workers and communities that may be affected by meeting Kyoto targets. Read the letter [here](#). Read the resolution [here](#).

Asia-Pacific Water Summit



The UNSGAB delegation

Under the leadership of Japan, governments in the Asia Pacific region have agreed to convene a series of Water Summits. It is hoped that this initiative may lead to the creation of an Asia Pacific Ministers' Council on Water, similar to the one created in Africa in 2005.

The first meeting was held in Beppu, Japan, 2-4 December 2007. PSI affiliates in Japan organised a meeting prior to the summit where they discussed the Japanese Water

Law and PSI priorities for the region. Unions from Korea (KPTU) and the Philippines (AGWWAS) attended, as did PSIRU staff from Manila. Public-public partnerships and labour-management cooperation featured high on the agenda, and an input from KPTU focused on the dangers of the continued push for privatisation.

Jichiro and Zensuido work with a coalition of NGOs in the sector and participated in their session, which was related to finance and capacity building. PSI advocated using transparency, accountability and participation (TAP) in decision-making.

David Boys, PSI Utilities Officer and member of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB), greeted new members of the Board, including His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince of Japan, Honorary President of UNSGAB, and Seung-soo Han, President of Korea Water Forum/ Former Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea. David Boys outlined the problems faced by workers and unions in the sector and reiterated the importance of TAP.



World Bank conditionalities

A recent report from the European network on debt and development (Eurodad) finds that the World Bank continues to impose privatisation and liberalisation conditionalities in its loans and grants, even as the Bank professes to reduce these conditionalities.

See the report: <http://www.eurodad.org/whatsnew/reports.aspx?id=1804>

Human development report 2007/2008



The United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report 2007/2008 has warned that the world should focus on the development impact of climate change that could bring unprecedented reversals in poverty reduction, nutrition, health and education.

The report, **Fighting climate change: Human solidarity in a divided world**, provides a stark account of the threat posed by global warming. It argues that the world is drifting towards a "tipping point" that could lock the world's poorest countries and their poorest citizens in a downward spiral, leaving hundreds of millions facing malnutrition, water scarcity, ecological threats, and a loss of livelihoods. "Ultimately, climate change is a threat to humanity as a whole. But it is the poor, a constituency with no responsibility for the ecological debt we are

running up, who face the immediate and most severe human costs," commented UNDP Administrator Kemal Derviş.

Read the report here: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2007-2008/>



Check out the MDG Monitor

The MDG Monitor shows how countries are progressing in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). With the 2015 target date fast approaching, it is more important than ever to understand where the goals are on track, and where additional efforts and support are needed, both globally and at the country level. The MDG Monitor is designed as a tool for policymakers, development practitioners, journalists, students and others to:

TRACK progress through interactive maps and country-specific profiles;
LEARN about countries' challenges and achievements and get the latest news;

SUPPORT organizations working on the MDGs around the world.

<http://www.mdgmonitor.org>

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