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Relief to Peru earthquake victims



On 15 August an earthquake hit Peru, causing over 550 deaths and many injured. PSI is calling upon its affiliates to provide solidarity contributions to assist the victims of the earthquake and in the reconstruction of damaged buildings. The solidarity fund will be used to assist in the reconstruction of union offices and to provide humanitarian relief to the victims of the

earthquake and their families. Please send contributions to:

Account No. 298 630 31.06.90-0 or IBAN CH72 0844 0298 6303 1069 0

Internationale des Services Publics

Banque Coop

CP 3828

CH-1211 Geneva 3

Switzerland

Swift code: COOPCHBB

Please quote "Peru" on bank transfers to help us identify the intended use of funds. Thank you.

Congress information



PSI's World Congress will be held in Vienna, Austria, 24-28 September. Participants to the Congress have already received documents, hotel information and visa letters. Congress documents can also be downloaded from the PSI Congress website www.psi100.org. There have been some recent changes to the Workshops: remember you can pre-register for workshops on the website.

We advise participants that we will not be able to take account of any further requests for an exhibition stand. However, if participants wish to bring just a union poster or banner, without needing a stand, simply leave it at the PSI Information Desk at the Congress centre and PSI staff will put it up. Participants will be responsible for recuperating their material at the end of Congress.

We look forward to meeting participants in Vienna!

PSI Finance Officer 12-month consultancy

PSI is seeking a consultant for one year to replace our Finance Officer on parental leave until 30th September 2008. Applications are invited from suitable candidates who have previous experience as a senior accountant, preferably in a non-profit international organisation and who have good English language skills. The position is based at the PSI Secretariat in Ferney-Voltaire, near to Geneva. As this is a consultancy position, we are unable to provide relocation costs. For more information, see www.world-psi.org.



Global Labour University – deadlines approaching

The deadlines for applications to the GLU courses in Brazil and South Africa are fast approaching. In Brazil, the Master on "Social Economy and Labour" at the University of Campinas focuses in a comparative perspective on development economics, the role of multinational

corporations in the global south and labour strategies against inequality and poverty. Final deadline for applications is 1 October. Contact: glu.brazil@eco.unicamp.br.

The programme at the University of the Witwatersrand has a special focus on "Labour and Development" and the role of labour as an active agent of economic and political transformation. Final deadline for applications is the 15 September. Contact: Mandy.Moussouris@wits.ac.za.

PSI is offering one scholarship for a unionist from a PSI affiliate. Therefore, any unionist from an affiliate that has the support of her/his union and is applying for this course should copy the application to PSI so that we can draw up a shortlist of whom we want to sponsor. Such applications should be copied to Nora.Wintour@world-psi.org before the deadlines shown above.

Please note that applicants must be able to follow the course in English. For more details about the GLU and the courses, go to www.global-labour-university.org.

Health Sector Network in English speaking West Africa



In October, the first union-funded West Africa Health Sector Conference is to be hosted by PSI Nigerian affiliates. Not all unions have the resources to attend, so representatives from Sierra Leone will be funded by the Ghana unions and Nigeria will fund representatives from Liberia. The neo-liberal agenda for health services impacts negatively on workers, unions and health

negatively on workers, unions and health service users, especially in the areas of migration, HIV/AIDS and sector restructuring. Sub-regional union networking is seen as an effective tool to counteract government policy.

The Nigerian Medical and Health Workers Union and the Health Service Workers Union of Ghana began cooperation through discussions and exchanges on health sector issues, but by 2005 knew that the network could only be effective if all health sector unions were involved. The same year, unions drafted a memorandum of understanding at a workshop supported by the PSI Sub-regional Office. It recognised the importance of understanding the reforms and formulating alternatives to negotiate with government, form alliances with civil society, learn from each other and work collectively. Following this, the FNV sub regional project activities provided a forum to continue discussions and plans to expand and strengthen the network. PSI will support the network with information and data and link it with the PSI International Health Task Force. For further information, contact Khadija Mohamed, PSI Sub-regional Secretary khadija.mohamed@psi-africa.org or Jorge Mancillas, PSI Health and Municipal Services officer jorge.mancillas@world-psi.org.

PSI Oceania Young Workers' Conference



On 6th and 7th August, in Nadi Fiji, the PSI Oceania sub-region convened a meeting of young workers from across the Pacific.

The meeting included participants from the Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and Fiji. The meeting identified a number of issues for young workers across the Pacific which will be included in a new Pasifika Young Workers charter. The charter will outline

the need for respect for young workers, equal employment opportunities, training and development, and decent working conditions. The migration of young workers continues to be an issue across the Pacific, many of them being pushed to migrate to find decent working conditions and fair pay. The young workers who attended the meeting recommended that the Pasifika network be funded to meet on an annual basis so that they continue to develop and grow, and to address the issues for young workers across the Pacific nations. For more details, [click here](#).

ORIT and CLAT continue the merger process in the Americas



The trade union merging process is continuing in the American hemisphere: the two main trade union confederations in the region (ORIT/CIOSL and CLAT/CMT) will hold their unification congress in March 2008. Some issues have already been agreed. The headquarters of the

new organisation will be in Sao Paulo, and its president will be Linda Chavez Thompson from AFSCME/AFL-CIO. Other issues are still being discussed, for example the name of the new confederation and the number of seats which each of the two confederations will have in the new Executive Committee.

In the public sector in the Americas, there are three public sector international trade union federations: PSI, CLATE and CLATSEP. In May, the three organisations met and issued a statement of joint cooperation and mutual recognition. Among the items in the statement are the fight against neo-liberal policies, the defence of trade union rights, quality public services and international solidarity. A further meeting is planned for 2008. For further information, contact the PSI Inter-American Regional Office ispamericas@verizon.net.



PSI joins the Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative

PSI has recently been integrated into Steering Committee the Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative (HWAI), formerly known as the GHWA Advocacy Working Group. The Global Health Workforce Alliance is a partnership dedicated to identifying and implementing solutions to the health workforce crisis. As a member of the HWAI Steering Committee, PSI can raise awareness of the health workforce crisis and advocate for effective solutions. PSI health care affiliates will be better enabled to participate in coordinated international initiatives that give frontline health workers a real voice. Another goal of the HWAI is to make further progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): those relating to health are significantly off-track (see table). To download some of the HWAI's recent documents, go to www.healthworkforce.info/advocacy/. For more information about the GHWA, go to www.who.int/workforcealliance. For a longer version of this article, [click here](#).



Stand Up and Speak Out against poverty and inequality

Following last year's successful event, when a record-breaking number of people stood up against poverty, the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) is organising the 2007 event on 17 October. GCAP members and

supporters are united by the use of a white band which is the symbol for people all over the world to show their support and keep the anti-poverty message highly visible. You can find more details on GCAP and on your national platform at: www.whiteband.org. You are invited to become actively involved in this global mobilisation by organising activities for this years' White Band Day on Wednesday 17 October. For more information, including downloadable event materials, go to www.standagainstpoverty.org. Please keep us informed of your union's events: send details to nora.wintour@world-psi.org.

Think outside the bottle!

The United Nations warns us that by 2025, two-thirds of the world's population – more than five billion people – will lack access to water.



How is it possible that the water crisis could explode within a single generation? There are many causes – such as pollution and overuse – and corporations have contributed to them all. Now, in the face of this crisis, corporations are seeking to gain control by turning water into a profit-driven commodity. One of the most visible examples of corporate control of water is bottled water. Throughout the world, some of the most powerful corporations are privatizing our public water systems and resources, reducing our right to water into simply another opportunity to profit. Bottled water corporations have sold people a bill of goods — positioning bottled water as healthy, when in reality it threatens our health and our ecosystems, costs thousands of times what tap water costs, and undermines local democratic control over a common resource.

The Think outside the bottle campaign aims to educate water consumers and encourage them to drink municipal tap water, rejecting bottled water. The campaign recently exposed Pepsi, who was selling bottled tap water under its brand name Aquafina. For more on the campaign, go to www.thinkoutsidethebottle.org.

Worst EU lobbying awards 2007



The 'Worst EU Lobbying' Award is to be given to the lobbyist, company or lobby group that in 2007 has employed the most deceptive, misleading, or otherwise problematic lobbying tactics in their attempts to influence EU decision-making. This year's event also includes a special 'Worst EU Greenwash' Award for the company whose advertising, PR and lobbying lingo is most at odds with the real environmental impacts of their core business activities. Nominations are open until 15 September, and voting will happen between 15 October and 24 November. For more details, including a nomination form, see <http://www.worstlobby.eu/2007>.

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