

Asia Pacific Regional Organisation

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Delhi to privatise water supply – residents to pay nine times more than in Mumbai



On 3 July, Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit confirmed that the state government has decided to privatise water treatment plants in the national capital, following its earlier privatisation of power distribution. The Planning Commission has given its approval to the proposal.

However, privatisation will make water in the national capital more expensive. The chief minister has already advocated a water fee hike. With a monthly fee of around Rs 960, the population of Delhi will be paying nine times more than residents of Mumbai (Rs 160) for water. For more information, please click [here](#).

President of Cambodia union launches hunger strike

Phuong Sovan, the President of Cambodia's Independent Civil Servants Association (CICA), went on a one-day hunger strike on 23 June - World Public Services Day.

He took the action to demand improved working conditions and salaries of civil servants. He also demanded a guarantee of freedom of association. For more, click [here](#).



Korean health care workers demand quality health care for all



The Korean Health & Medical Workers' Union (KHMU) rallied on 28 June to demand improved health care. The main issues of the campaign are adequate staffing levels and opposition to hospital commercialization: "Life before money, Patient before profit" and "Health care for all." For more information on the campaign, please contact: Kang Yeon Bae, Education and Information head: khmu@naver.com

Solomon Islands ratifies six International Labour Organization Conventions



Following several years of cooperation between Solomon Islands and the ILO, the government of Solomon Islands has decided to ratify six fundamental conventions, including those on freedom of association, collective bargaining, discrimination and child labour. The ratifications were registered on 13 April 2012 in ILO headquarters. Please visit, ILO website for more information, click [here](#).

Pakistan: government agrees not to privatise electricity



The Pakistani union of electricity workers (WAPDA) signed an important agreement with the government in June. The government agreed that it will not privatise power.

In addition, the 140,000 workers won significant improvements in pay – up to 100 per cent for some workers – as well as improvements in health and safety provisions. For more information, please click [here](#)

Union protests water privatisation and deterioration of working conditions



The Jakarta Water Union (SP PDAM Jakarta) and their members staged two days of demonstrations 18 and 19 July in Jakarta to protest the refusal of employers – PT. Aetra and PT. PAM Lyonnaise Jaya – to grant wage increases and improve working conditions. The water supply service of Jakarta, capital city of Indonesia, was privatised in 1998. Privatisation has led to a deterioration of working conditions and water quality. The workers have not received a salary increase since 2003. The basic wage is USD 140 for workers with 25 – 32 years seniority. This is a serial protest the union has conducted since 2010. In good faith, the union has attempted to begin negotiations several times but the efforts have failed to result in meaningful talks with both PT Aetra and PT Palyja. For more information and support, please contact: sppdamjakarta@yahoo.co.id

India: Pledge on Public Services Day



The Karnataka State Government Employees Association organized a meeting on the Public Services Day to highlight the need for a fair taxation policy by the government and the need for a strong public sector. Prabhakar Prasad, Vice President of KSGEA, spoke on the need for a responsible public service to support national development.

He cited the example of water privatization in Mysore City and other towns in Karnataka and how the citizens are affected by it. The investment by the government in the public sector has been decreasing over the years. He urged the government to increase public investment, as the over-reliance on private investment in public services is not beneficial to citizens. He said a fair and equitable taxation policy would generate the funds to make more public investments. For more information, please contact: nagesha.ccc@gmail.com



Japan: 3 million have signed a petition demanding action to improve working conditions, reduce turnover, and reduce a serious shortage of nurses. For more, click [here](#).



170,000 people from unions and civil society organisations protest nuclear power in Tokyo. For more, click [here](#).



Global union federation representatives, including from PSI affiliates, visited worksites of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation on 5 July 2012.

Workplace visit: ADB funded project in India

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation – funded by the Asian Development Bank, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Indian government – is being lauded as a model project. The anticipated benefits include reduced road congestion, less pollution, and a safer, faster, fuel-saving public transport system for the city. Working conditions are a different story. Global union federation representatives, who spoke with many of the workers at the site, concluded that the conditions faced by workers at the project sites is far from ideal and called for increased intervention by trade unionists. For more information on their report, please contact: Manoranjan Pegu, Project Coordinator, GUF's project on Core ILO Standards in ADB Projects in India: manoranjan.pegu@world-psi.org

Workplace visit: Indonesia power plant

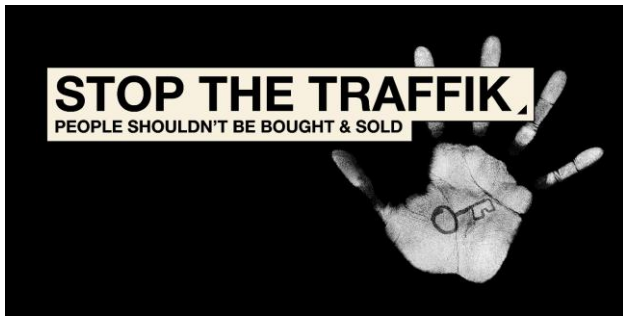
PSI recently toured the Indonesia Power plant in Bali. The PSI affiliates in the energy sector in Indonesia are consulting the workers of the Indonesia Power plant as part of an assessment of the Java-Bali Asian Development Bank Power Projects. The local union, with around 240 workers, may be affected if the project is implemented. On 17 July 2012, a formal dialogue with management and workers was arranged to discuss the future impact of the transmission project. For more info, please contact: ian.mariano@world-psi.org



Right-to-know campaigners seek your support



Trade unions and citizens' groups in the Philippines are calling on organizations around the world to help them win a Freedom of Information law. Such a bill would enable people of the Philippines to hold the government to account through access to information. To send messages of support for the *Right-to-Know, Right Now* coalition's appeal to President Aquino to get the Act passed before the end of 2015, please follow the link on [this page](#).



Campaign against human trafficking greets visitors to the 2012 Olympics in London

Visitors thronging London for the Olympics might come across huge, brightly coloured gift boxes that promise passers-by a better life, only to reveal the harsh realities of human trafficking on the inside. The art installations are part of the Gift Box campaign that aims to raise awareness about human trafficking, a crime which affects every country in the world in one way or another.

On the outside, the boxes are brightly coloured and full of promises such as “Earn more money and support your family.” The inside is black and white and displays the faces of victims and their stories, as well as information about human trafficking. For more information about this action, click [here](#). To follow the campaign and learn more about the Gift Boxes, visit www.stopthetraffik.org.

Firefighters must have the right to organise and bargain collectively



Daisuke Sako, ZENSYOKYO President, spoke in a recent TV interview about the health, safety and performance of every working firefighter at all operations in Japan, and the need for firefighters to have the right to organise and bargain collectively. Sako pointed out that firefighters work under very challenging conditions. During the Great East Japan earthquake, some of them lost their lives while working to protect others. To watch the interview, click [here](#) (Japanese)

Obituary – former PSI Deputy General Secretary Harry Batchelor



Harry Batchelor (May 1926 - July 2012) was a familiar figure at PSI for many years. A committed trade unionist, Harry was a former PSI deputy general secretary who retired in 1991. He was very involved in PSI's international activities. He was responsible for relations with the ILO when conventions on the public services were going through ILO procedures, and made many friends in the process. He initiated PSI education activities in developing countries and conducted many seminars in Asia and Africa. Harry affiliated many new unions to PSI and travelled often to Asia, a region that he knew well, and where he also had many acquaintances and friends. When PSI relocated to the Geneva area from London in August 1983, Harry and his wife, Dorothy, moved to the area where they bought a house and enjoyed many years of life in France.

He retired from PSI in May 1991. Harry passed away on 23 July 2012. He is survived by his wife, two children and three grandchildren to whom we at PSI extend our sincere condolences.

PSI World Congress updates

An estimated 1,000 union leaders from around the world will gather at the 29th World Congress of Public Services International in Durban, South Africa from 27-30 November 2012. Under the banner “Working in the people’s interest,” PSI members will set policy and develop action plans on key issues such as promoting trade union rights and advancing public services for the common good. For registration (non-sponsored participants), please click [here](#). Registration will close on 1st September. Please visit the [congress website](#) for the details of [Congress events](#) and [side events](#). Affiliates are invited to reserve space (table and wall space) in the exhibition hall of the Durban Conference Centre to display leaflets, publications and other union campaign materials. If you have already registered, you can send a request for display space by email to congress@world-psi.org



Public Services International is a global union federation representing 20 million members in 150 countries.

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