

Asia Pacific Regional Organisation

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Stop nursing personnel turnover: Improve working conditions



JICHIRO, the All-Japan Prefectural and Municipal Workers Union, has launched a petition campaign to improve working conditions, reduce turnover, and reduce a serious nursing shortage. Turnover among nurses is currently at 12.4% a year, partly as a result of deteriorating working conditions and deregulation of night shift hours. The campaign aims to collect three million signatures and significantly increase the number of nurses in Japan. Please see: <http://tinyurl.com/7fk5at4> (Japanese)

Unions take action to meet shortage of blood for transfusions



Initiated by New South Wales Nurses Association (NSWNA) and endorsed by Unions New South Wales, Australia, a new blood donation campaign aims to encourage unionists to give blood to meet the increased need during public holiday periods. The Red Cross Blood Service is concerned that donor numbers drop as people take holidays, at the same time as the need for blood rises in response to road accidents over the holiday period.

“Blood donations, as everyone knows, are all about saving lives. Over 400,000 blood donations would be needed over the next year in NSW alone,” NSW Nurses Association general secretary, Brett Holmes, said at the campaign launch on 2 April at Unions NSW in Sydney, Australia. Please watch their video:

<http://tinyurl.com/7ncvqta>

Global unions hold silent protest over Asian Development Bank's inaction on calls to respect the rights of workers



Members of the global unions led a silent protest on Friday, May 4, at the opening of the Annual Meeting of the Governors of the Asian Development Bank, calling attention to the ADB's continued inaction on their calls to protect and promote workers' rights in all ADB projects. Wearing head bands and carrying placards with messages such as “ADB: Respect workers' rights,” “ADB, promote pro-poor, pro-worker growth” and “Fight poverty, protect our dignity,” around 70 union delegates silently trooped in front of the Philippine International Convention Centre

(PICC) just as the Governors' Annual Meeting was about to start in Manila. Read more at:

<http://tinyurl.com/7k8hmmm>

MAY DAY RALLY 2012



KGEU, a PSI affiliate in Korea, put forward five demands during a May Day Rally in Seoul: better wages; union recognition; win 10.20 general assembly; free university education; reinstatement of dismissed/disciplined workers.



Simon Hutasoit, president of Jakarta Water Union (SP PDAM Jakarta) leads the union's protest against privatisation of water services in Jakarta. Privatisation has led to a deterioration of working conditions and water quality. The protest was held from 1-2 May.



PSI affiliates in Nepal held a May Day Rally at Martyrs Gate in Kathmandu.



Tamil Nadu Government Officials Union (TNGOU) May Day Rally in Chennai.



The Korean Health & Medical Workers' Union (KHMU) campaigned on May Day against commercialisation of hospital, and demanded quality health care for all.



PSI affiliate the Cambodia Independent Civil Servants' Association (CICA) took part in a May Day rally in Phnom Penh.

Association President Mr. Phung Sovan holds a placard saying, "Increase the minimum wage in order to guarantee decent living standards and at least USD 131 per-month for employees and USD 200 for civil-servants and other benefits."



PSI affiliates in Philippines joined a May Day Rally in Manila. Unions demanded wage hikes, and end of contracting out. PSLINK participants called on the government to ratify ILO Convention 151 on public services.



Global Week of Action for fair taxation



In May, unions and activists in more than 30 countries campaigned in support of a financial transactions tax and quality public services. The Global Week of Action on the FTT recognized that this is a critical time to push for fair taxation of the large transnational institutions whose reckless actions led to a global financial meltdown, rising unemployment, and deep cuts in services to people. To read more, please see: <http://tinyurl.com/7bqehet>

The Next Generation: A Handbook for Mentoring Future Union Leaders

The Berger-Marks Foundation and the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) have just released "The Next Generation: A Handbook for Mentoring Future Union Leaders." The handbook provides hands-on advice and concrete tools for unions and other organisations to develop and implement mentoring program for members and staff. To download the handbook (almost 4 MB), please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/7pxbb88>

India: Trade union rights for government employees



From left: Mr. Hideaki Tokunaga, PSI APREC Co-Chair, Mr. Peter Waldorff, PSI General Secretary and Mr. L. Byrappa, President of KSGEU.

PSI and the Karnataka State Government Employees Association (KSGEA) held a joint press conference in Bengalore, India on 17 April to emphasize the need to improve trade union rights for government employees. Both unions strongly urged the Indian government to ratify ILO Conventions No. 87 and 98.

At the press conference, KSGEA highlighted the global *Quality Public Services – Action Now!* Campaign, and said there must be more awareness of the role of quality public services in the equitable development of the nation.

PSI and the Rio+20 Summit



The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (known as the Rio+20 Earth Summit) will take place during three days, from 20 to 22 June 2012. World leaders are asked to 'revitalise commitments' on sustainability. They will discuss issues such as the green economy, the institutional framework for sustainable development as well as issues such as employment, food and energy among others.

PSI members will participate in the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) delegation at the Rio +20 Summit, with a focus on the need for quality public services to ensure development is both sustainable and equitable. For more information, please see: <http://tinyurl.com/c3q8hb9>

How will public sector cuts affect you?



Community and Public Sector Union National Secretary Nadine Flood (*photo: far left*) recently discussed the impact of Australian federal budget cuts on staff and citizens. There's a common misconception that most public servants are Canberra-based, well-paid and under-worked. But two thirds of the public sector actually work outside of the national capital and are on average or below average wages. Ms. Flood tells 3Q TV that the public will notice the difference when over 4,000 cuts are made to the public sector this year. Please watch the video: <http://tinyurl.com/7qfsoms>

Equal Pay campaign, the victory

The Australian Services Union (ASU), which represents the rights of community workers, has won a victory in its long campaign for equal pay for its members. "After many years of appalling pay, this decision (by Fair Work Australia) finally gives them the recognition they deserve. These workers do crucial work in our communities and yet up until now they have been paid more than 30 percent less than those performing comparable work in other sectors. The decision, a crucial step forward in closing the 18 per cent pay gap between men and women, would not have been possible without the support of the federal government," said Ms. Linda White, ASU National Secretary. The decision will have an impact on about 150,000 workers, 80% of them women. Please watch the video that dedicated to celebrating the campaign and its victory: <http://tinyurl.com/ccp3d9c>

Confused about the financial crisis? A TUAC seminar

TUAC is the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD - the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. The OECD is an international organisation of 34 economically richer countries which was created to stimulate economic progress and world trade. As the body which acts as the link for unions with the OECD, TUAC has gained substantial expertise in analyzing economic matters from a union point of view. Fifty-nine national labour centres are affiliated to TUAC. John Evans is TUAC's General Secretary. More than 60 ministers of finance, foreign affairs and trade from OECD countries are meeting in Paris, May 23-24 to discuss the global economy. To help unionists around the world better understand the issues being discussed TUAC and RadioLabour have partnered to produce a series of audiocasts. To access, please see: <http://radiolabour.net/tuac.html>

Global Unions/FNV Workshop on Core Labour Standards



The Asian Development Bank has an accountability mechanism in place which provides an opportunity to monitor and take up cases of Core Labour Standards violations. However, several trade unions have yet to make appropriate use of this tool, perhaps because of a lack of clear understanding of Core Labour Standards and the process of their implementation. To ensure that trade unionists and activists are fully informed, a three day workshop on Core Labor Standards Awareness was held in Delhi, India, from 10 - 12 May, 2012.

Twenty five activists representing global union members in India participated. The global union officers were represented in the panel. The panelists agreed that there is a very strong need to collectively work towards securing core labour standards in ADB projects. The need is significant for India, as it is one of the largest shareholders and borrowers from the bank. The workshop ended with commitments that global unions shall take concrete steps to ensure that the decent work agenda is carried forth and that Core Labor Standards does not remain a mere verbal assurance but is practically implemented at the grassroots level.



Seven studies are being planned as a part of a joint global union project will be the first step towards achieving these goals. For information, please contact Mr. Manorajan Pegu, Project Coordinator: manorajan.pegu@world-psi.org



PSI World Congress Website

PSI's Congress is held every five years. PSI's 29th World Congress will be held in Durban, South Africa on 27-30 November 2012. For details of the draft programme and related events, please see: <http://congress.world-psi.org/>