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Indonesian water union obtains salary increase for workers in private water companies



After years of struggle, private water companies in Jakarta, Indonesia have agreed to raise the basic salary of public utility Pam Jaya's workers seconded to their companies. President directors from Pam Jaya, Palyja and Aetra (the two private operators) signed an agreement stating that the private companies will pay an increased basic salary to every seconded employee starting from 1 November. The union is keeping a close eye on the companies so that they do not simply adjust salaries on paper, leaving them with an unchanged take home pay. For more information and support their struggle, please contact: sppdamjakarta@yahoo.co.id

Australia: Nurses and midwives oppose attack on wages



On 8 October 2012, New South Wales [Nurses & Midwives Association \(NSWNMA\)](#) members around the State, especially many of the 1200 working in the disability sector, joined a protest against the latest Liberal and National Coalition's attack on NSW public sector employees' rights at work. NSWNMA general secretary, Brett Holmes (photo: second on the left), said the State Government, through its application to vary the Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Award, is clearly trying to reduce the incomes of vital employees such as nurses and midwives and their support staff. For more information, please click [here](#)

Burmese union leader Maung Maung returns from exile



The international union movement has welcomed the imminent return to Burma of several trade union leaders after the government decided to remove some 2,000 people from a black-list of over 6,000 banned from entering the country. Among those taken off the blacklist is Maung Maung, General Secretary of the ITUC-affiliated Federation of Trade Unions of Burma (FTUB). PSI Asia Pacific Regional Secretary, Ms. V. Lakshmi, met Maung Maung (photo: 2nd from right) on 11 May 2012 in Thailand. They were able to discuss the current development of trade union rights and democracy in Burma. For more information, please click [here](#)

ILO mission to Fiji aborted



The Fijian government has stopped the International Labour Organization (ILO) from carrying out a mission to verify complaints over the lack of freedom of association made by local trade unions, the ILO said in a [statement issued on 19 September](#). The government had initially agreed to the ILO mission, but then called it short during the first meeting on Monday 17 September.

The Office of the Prime Minister presented the mission with entirely new terms of reference, which the ILO found unacceptable. As a result, the ILO mission was asked to leave Fiji immediately. The ILO mission was mandated by the ILO Governing Body Committee on Freedom of Association and the unanimously adopted Resolution on Fiji adopted at the ILO's Asia and Pacific Regional Meeting in December 2011. The ILO Director-General strongly condemned the Government's unilateral decision "which puts a greater spotlight on the critical situation of freedom of association in Fiji". For more information, click [here](#)

Australia: We need to talk about pregnancy discrimination



The union movement has been at the forefront of many successful campaigns addressing the rights of women in the workplace, and paid and unpaid maternity leave are key conditions in union collective agreements. The Australian union movement has recently campaigned around the country to achieve paid parental leave for all Australians. During 2012, the Fair Work Ombudsman has run four matters relating to pregnancy discrimination in Australia. The Fair Work Act supports numerous commonwealth and state legislation on anti-discrimination. For example, under [section 351\(1\) of the Fair Work Act](#), an employer must not take adverse action against a person who is an employee, or prospective employee, of the employer because of the person's race, colour, sex, sexual preference, age, physical or mental disability, marital status, family or carer's responsibilities, pregnancy, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin. For more information, please click [here](#)

New Zealand: Cuts biting



In New Zealand, more than 5000 jobs have been lost in the public sector and the effects on services are starting to be felt. In the [September edition of the PSA Journal Working Life](#), the [New Zealand Public Services Association](#) notes that many of the cuts target low-paid and vulnerable citizens.

For example, the **Inland Revenue** workforce has been slashed in several regional sites. Tens of thousands of taxpayer calls to the Inland Revenue went unanswered during the period between 25 June and 5 July as the job cuts took their toll.

Staff shortages in **district health boards** are compromising patient services, with lab results taking longer to come through, lengthy waiting lists for physio-treatment and few treatment sessions for patients such as stroke victims.

State-housing tenants now have to go through a call centre instead of to their neighbourhood **Housing NZ office** for advice. A number of offices have been closed and a centralised call centre has been set up, with the loss of 70 positions. The call centre has been swamped and struggles to cope.

Wellington Rape Crisis has recently announced that it was cutting its services by 20 per cent and closing its doors on Fridays, due to a cut of \$55,000.

And there are significant delays in dealing with complaints to the **Ombudsman's Office** because of a lack of investigators. The office, which investigates complaints from the public about government agencies, has a huge backlog and 300 cases it can't investigate because there aren't enough staff.

Australia: Cuts Hurt campaign



The Cuts Hurt campaign is about protecting public sector jobs and services and demonstrating the value of the services Community and Public Sector Union members deliver to the Australian community. The more cuts are made from the public sector, the more difficult it becomes for public servants to deliver the services needed by families, communities, government and industry. Cuts hurt everyone. Find out more of the campaign at <http://cutshurt.com.au> . Watch the video campaign at <http://youtu.be/f0t3T60A61A>

Papua New Guinea: Former union leader is now Minister of Health and HIV-AIDS



Mr. Micheal Malabag, former union leader of Public Employees Association of Papua New Guinea (PEA) and former member of PSI Oceania Sub-regional Advisory Committee (OSRAC) has been elected as Minister for Health and HIV-AIDS under the cabinet of Prime Minister Peter O'Neill.

At a meeting with Health Department staff, the Minister vowed to improve the health delivery system in the country, one of his top of the agenda is to ensure life-saving equipment is made available in public health centres.

Another issue he intends to address is to level the wage gap between public health workers and church health workers to ensure church-run health workers are remunerated fairly. Click [here](#) to watch the video message

Publications: Trade union rights

The PSI trade union rights project has commissioned two analysis reports in the Philippines and Thailand. In the Philippines, the project launched a comparative analysis of selected collective labour negotiation-management agreements in the Philippines public services (download the full publication, click [here](#)). In Thailand, the project in cooperation with International Labour Organization (ILO) ACTRAV-Regional Office Bangkok, Thailand, released an analysis on the challenges and barriers confronting the freedom of association and collective bargaining of public sector unions in Thailand. For more information, please contact the Project Coordinator: norman.grecia@world-psi.org

“Equal Times”: News site officially launched



On 17 September 2012, **Equal Times** was officially launched. Equal Times is an internet platform for news, opinion, investigative reports and activism. [Equal Times](#) is sponsored by the ITUC but is a platform for the movement and our allies to expose injustice, host debate, galvanize opinion and take direct action. In contrast to mainstream media sources it will search for and value the stories of working people. On <http://www.equaltimes.org/> you can read Equal Times in English, French and Spanish, and subscribe to the fortnightly newsletter. Equal News is also on Twitter and [Facebook](#).

Arthur Svensson International Prize for trade union rights



The Arthur Svensson International Prize is presented to a person or organisation who has promoted union rights and/or strengthened unionisation. Trade unions all over the world are encouraged to nominate worthy candidates for the 2012 prize.

All nominations must be justified, and the deadline for nominations is 31 January 2013. For more information, please visit: <http://www.svenssonprize.com/>



For a world without nuclear threat “Wishes of Fukushima, Hiroshima and Nagasaki”. Read more (in Japanese): <http://www.jichiro.gr.jp/news/2012/08/120820.html>



National Forum on ILO Core Conventions & the Role of Public Sector Unions in Thailand, 25-26 Aug 2012, Pattaya, Thailand



The Confederation of Independent Unions in the Public Sector (CIU) and Philippine Government Employees Association (PGEA) conducted a LINGAP SA BARANGAY PROGRAM on 12 September 2012.

This included a feeding programme, distribution of medical kits, and culminated with blood donations on 25 September. Report and photo by Mr. Doodz Lakibul, President of CIU



A public forum organised by ANG NARS-PSLINK in the Philippines on 30 August 2012 exposed the truth about the nursing employment programmes under the current Aquino administration. Please click [here](#) for details



PSI and Japanese affiliates participated in an international symposium on innovative financing mechanisms (IFM) and the financial transactions tax (FTT). The symposium was held in Tokyo on October 11. For more information, please click [here](#)

