



## Public Services International

### **Culmination Conference of the PSI Project on Decent Work and Social Protection for Migrant Workers in the Public Services**

**28-30 November 2016  
B Hotel, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines**

#### **I. Background**

International migration is an enduring feature of globalization. People move for various reasons, but most of them migrate to access decent work and to improve their living conditions. In 2015, the United Nations estimates that there were around 244 million international migrants, of whom over 150 million (62%) are migrant workers, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO). While labour migration can positively contribute to the economic and social development of countries, it also comes as a consequence of the asymmetries in development between rich and poor countries, with workers struggling to find work elsewhere. While PSI continues to defend the human rights of all migrants in the migration process, it is also working to address the root causes and to improve economic and social policies, so that migration becomes an option, and not the only choice.

The **PSI Project on Decent Work and Social Protection for Migrant Workers in the Public Services**, is a three-year project (2014-2016) of the PSI involving trade union affiliates in the pilot countries, namely: Philippines, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa and Sierra Leone, which aims to promote access to decent work and social protection for migrant workers in the public services by working towards the following results:

#### Expected Results

1. Migrant workers in the public services have access to decent work and social protection with the support of the unions.
2. Unions contribute to reforming the labour recruitment industry through the promotion of ethical recruitment and compliance with UN and ILO standards.
3. Unions embark on innovative ways to reach out to and organise migrant workers.
4. Unions contribute to improving the global governance of labour migration through the promotion of rights-based labour migration policies, decent work and access to quality public services for all.

In implementing the project, affiliates set up National Working Groups (NWG), formulated country work plans and carried out project activities. The conference serves as the culminating activity of the project, where representatives of the national working groups come together to:

1. Showcase PSI's project achievements carried out at the national, regional and global levels in promoting decent work and social protection for migrant workers;
2. Identify current and future challenges;
3. Work towards building PSI's next programme of action on migration and refugees.

Given the increasing displacement phenomenon that is occurring worldwide, with 65 million people forcibly displaced in 2015, PSI's future migration work will expand to include refugee and displacement issues, both human-made and climate-induced displacement.

The conference will also launch key campaigns of the project, culminating the work over the last three years, and paving the way to the future work of the PSI on migration and refugees. These campaigns are the following:

1. PSI No Recruitment Fees Campaign
2. PSI Study on the Privatisation of Migration and Refugee Services
3. PSI Migrant Information Kits

## II. Programme

27<sup>th</sup> November, Sunday, Arrival of participants

1<sup>st</sup> December, Thursday, Departure of international participants

Day One - Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Symposium on "Decent Work and Social Protection for Migrant Workers in the Public Services"
<b>8:00-9:00</b>	<b>Registration and Coffee</b>
<b>9:00-10:00</b>	<p><b>Opening Programme</b></p> <p>Welcome and Introductions by <b>Ms. Annie Geron</b>, PSI Vice-President, Asia Pacific / PSLINK President</p> <p>Welcome Message from <b>Ms. Rosa Pavenelli</b>, PSI General Secretary (video)</p> <p>Keynote Address by <b>Mr. Leoncio "Jun" Evasco Jr.</b>, Cabinet Secretary of the Republic of the Philippines (tbc)</p>
<b>10:00-11:30</b>	<p><b>Panel 1 – Setting the Scene: "Current Trends on Labour Mobility, Forced Displacement and Refugee Flows"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Khalid Hassan</b>, Country Director, International Labour Office, Philippines (ILO Philippines), <i>Current Trends and the ILO Strategic Priorities</i></li> <li>• <b>Ms. Genevieve Gencianos</b>, PSI Migration Programme Coordinator, <i>PSI Programme of Action on Migration and Refugees</i></li> <li>• Perspectives and Trade Union Actions from Africa: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Ms. Joyce Bondzie-Asmah</b>, Health Services Workers Union, Ghana, <i>Experience from Ghana and the West Africa Health Sector Union Network</i></li> <li>– <b>Ms. Rachel Puleng Mphaga</b>, National Union of Public Service and Allied Workers, South Africa, <i>Unions Fighting Racism and Xenophobia and Empowering Migrant Workers</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mr. Ayegba Ojonugwa</b>, Medical and Health Workers' Union of Nigeria, <i>Access to Information and Migrant Workers' Rights in Nigeria</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Ms. Lakshmi Vaidhiyanathan</b>, Regional Secretary for Asia Pacific, Public Services International</p>
<b>11:30-12:30</b>	<b>Launch of PSI's No Recruitment Fees Campaign Press Conference</b>
<b>12:30-2:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>2:00 – 3:30</b>	<p><b>Panel 2 – Perspective from the Philippines: “ Realizing Fair and Ethical Recruitment of Migrant Workers”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Susan Ople</b>, President, Blas Ople Labour Policy and Training Centre, <i>Trends, Policy and Practices in the Recruitment of Overseas Filipino Workers</i></li> <li>• <b>Ms. Liberty Casco</b>, Deputy Administrator, Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA), <i>Lessons from the Germany-Philippines Bilateral Labour Agreement on Health Workers</i></li> <li>• <i>Realizing Fair and Ethical Recruitment:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mr. Rene Cristobal</b>, Employers' Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP)</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Lito B. Soriano</b>, President, LBS Manpower Agency</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Mr. Aniceto John Bertiz III</b>, Congressional Representative, ACTS-OFW Partylist, <i>Shifting Practices and Improving Policy Towards Fair and Ethical Recruitment</i></li> <li>• <b>Ms. Jillian Roque</b>, Research and Advocacy Officer, PSLINK, <i>Trade Union Strategies and Action on Fair and Ethical Recruitment</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Mr Hussein Macarambon</b>, National Project Coordinator, ILO Integrated Programme on Fair Recruitment (FAIR), Philippines Country Office</p>
<b>3:30-4:00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>4:00-5:30</b>	<p><b>Panel 3 – Perspectives from the PSI and Civil Society Allies: “Countering the Rhetoric of Privatisation in Migration and Refugee Services”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Jane Lethbridge</b>, Public Services International Research Unit (PSIRU), <i>Presentation of the PSI Research Study on the Privatisation of Migration and Refugee Services</i></li> <li>• <b>Mr. William Gois</b>, Regional Coordinator, Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), <i>Perspective from the migrant civil society</i></li> <li>• <b>Mr. Joshua Mata</b>, General Secretary, SENTRO, <i>Perspective from the Philippine Labour Movement</i></li> </ul>

	<p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Mr. Ian Mariano</b>, Southeast Asia Sub-Regional Secretary, Public Services International</p>
5:30	<b>End of Day One</b>

<b>Day Two - Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Workshop on “Decent Work and Social Protection for Migrant Workers in the Public Services”</b>
8:30-9:00	<b>Registration</b>
9:00-10:30	<p><b>Panel 4 – “Building Strong and Well-Funded Public Services in Crisis Response, Mobility and Inclusion”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Paulyn Ubial</b>, Secretary, Philippine Department of Health, <i>Building Strong Public Health Services in Crisis Preparedness</i></li> <li>• <b>Ms. Joffi Villena</b>, Alternative Budget Initiative, Philippines, <i>Peoples’ Movement Towards Funding for Quality Public Health Services</i></li> <li>• <b>Mr. Eze Samson Ikenna</b>, National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives, <i>PSI Trade Union Response in Combatting the Ebola Virus Disease and Promoting Inclusion, Case Study from Nigeria</i></li> <li>• <b>Ms. Judy Taguiwalo, Secretary</b>, Philippine Department of Social Welfare and Development, <i>Promoting Access and Inclusion in Disaster Preparedness</i></li> <li>• <b>Mr. Hans Leo Cacdac</b>, Administrator, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Philippine Department of Labour and Employment, <i>Social protection programmes and services for returning migrant workers and their families</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Ms. Ritta Thandeka Msibi</b> (Democratic Nursing Organisation of South Africa), Vice-President for Africa and Arab Countries, Public Services International</p>
10:30-11:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
11:00–12:30	<b>PSI Project Partners’ Workshop: Building PSI’s Programme of Action on Migration and Refugees (2017-2021)</b>
12:30-1:00	<p><b>Briefing for Participants</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Mike Maga</b>, Secretary General, Philippine Independent Public Sector Employees’ Association (PIPSEA), <i>Overview on the Labour Migration Policy and Framework of the Philippines</i></li> </ul>
1:00-2:00	<b>Lunch</b>

<b>2:00-5:00</b>	<b>Participants' Study Visit to the Philippines Overseas Employment Administration (POEA)</b> Field Visit
<b>5:00-5:30</b>	<b>Briefing on the Next Day's Rally</b>
<b>7:00-9:00</b>	<b>Solidarity Dinner</b>
<b>9:00</b>	<b>Return to Hotel</b>

<b>Day Three - Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Workers' Rally Against Contractualization – National Commemoration of Bonifacio Day (Philippine National Hero)</b>
<b>8:30-1:00</b>	<b>Workers' Rally Against Contractualization and Visibility March on PSI's No Recruitment Fees Campaign</b>
<b>1:00-2:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>2:30-6:30</b>	<b>Cultural Activity</b>
<b>7:00-9:00</b>	<b>Dinner</b>