



# Youth to Youth

## Public Services International

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YOUTH TO YOUTH is the Asia Pacific Electronic news bulletin for young members in the region. It is published every two months by the Public Services International Asia and Pacific Regional Organisation (PSI APRO). PSI is an officially recognised non-government organisation for the public sector within the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and has consultative status with ECOSOC and observer status with other UN Bodies such as UNCTAD and UNESCO.

PSI APRO welcomes your views and comments. Please send news and information on young workers in your union to: [indah.budiarti@world-psi.org](mailto:indah.budiarti@world-psi.org)



From left (behind): Ms. Annie Geron, PSI APREC Co-chair; Ms. V. Lakshmi, PSI AP Regional Secretary; and Mr. Peter Waldorff, PSI General Secretary. From left (front): Mr. Hideaki Tokunaga, PSI APREC Co-chair and Ms. Tan Sze Wei, APYN Coordinator

## Earthquake and tsunami: APYN solidarity with unions in Japan

The Asia and Pacific Youth Network has sent messages of **solidarity and sympathy**, and made a donation of SGD 650 to contribute to the earthquake and tsunami relief fund of PSI affiliates in Japan. APYN Coordinator, Ms. Tan Sze Wei, handed over the money to Mr. Hideaki Tokunaga, President of JICHIRO, during the PSI APREC Meeting in Singapore on 31 March. APYN stresses the importance of the involvement of young people in this initiative.



Photo by JICHIRO:

<http://www.jichiro.gr.jp/disaster/04/0408/110408.html>

## Japan earthquake: young workers help to clear debris

The 11 March earthquake and tsunami destroyed many buildings in Japan, and municipal workers have been busy working with the communities to clean up the large amount of debris. Young workers, members of JICHIRO, joined the volunteer rescue team made up of union members and organised by RENGO to support the disaster victims in Japan. JICHIRO has been actively supporting the victims in Kamaishi City, Ohfunabashi City, Rikuzen Takada City in the Towa District area of Iwate Prefecture as well as Kesen-numa City of Miyagi Prefecture. Please contact East Asia Sub-regional Secretary for more information: [inagaki@jichiro.gr.jp](mailto:inagaki@jichiro.gr.jp)

## Shaping globalisation: youth agenda for climate change



Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) released a report on the international youth project (September – November 2010) **“Shaping Globalisation! A young agenda on climate protection, sustainable growth and development, and global governance”**

The report recognises the fact that climate change has already begun to devastate communities and deepen the effects of poverty and hunger. This situation complicates the challenges that youth face. However, young people are increasingly adding their voices to the call for action on climate change. Read more about the youth agenda on climate change [here](#).

While images of protests in the Arab region go around the world, it is timely to look at the reasons that brought these mostly young people on to the streets. An extremely high youth unemployment rate of 23.4 per cent in 2010, is one major reason but not the only cause for these popular uprisings, says Dorothea Schmidt, senior employment expert in the ILO office in Cairo.

On 21 March, the ILO's Governing Body held a special session dedicated to ensuring a more equitable future in the Arab world, with the respect of fundamental rights at work, employment and social protection as a basis for sustainable growth. The panel presentations before the Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization of the ILO Governing Body were followed by a lively discussion on employment and social policies, strategies and measures to ensure a more sustainable social and economic development in the region.

The discussion identified youth unemployment in the Arab world as part of a wider problem featuring weak labour markets with too few and too poor employment opportunities. Participants also said that the situation was compounded by a poor overall investment climate and lack of growth, together with a quite limited and tightly controlled private sector. "With respect to the employment situation, the extremely high youth unemployment rates in the region averaging more than 23 per cent, are most worrying", explains Dorothea Schmidt, adding that "for young women, the average unemployment rate of 31.5 percent is even worse – besides the fact that their labour market participation is already much lower than anywhere else in the world". According to the ILO expert, even if young people have jobs, working conditions are often very poor: low wages, little social protection, lack of secure contracts and career prospects, and weak or lacking trade unions to give them a voice. "So it is no wonder that many young people are angry", she says. Read more of this report [here](#).



### Unions launch jobs pact for young workers

The international trade union movement is launching a new worldwide jobs pact for young people at a special G20 employment meeting in Paris. "Of all the pressing employment and social issues in the continuing global economic crisis, youth unemployment is the most urgent.

Our Youth Jobs Pact aims to get governments to create employment for young people, boost investment in education and training, improve job placement and protect youth wages and working conditions. The seriousness of this problem, and the different experiences in the various G20 countries, provide another reason why the G20 needs to set up a Working Group on Employment to move this and other such issues forward throughout the G20," said ITUC General Secretary Sharan Burrow. Read the ITUC/TUAC statement to the Paris meeting [here](#).

### Nepal May Day 2011: social security for all workers



Social security for all workers was the banner for this year May Day rally of unions in Nepal. Chiranjibi Guragain, Deputy Secretary General of Nepal Film Workers Union and South Asia Youth Network Coordinator reported that hundreds of workers carrying placards and chanting slogans for workers' welfare moved towards Basantapur Darbar Square on 1<sup>st</sup> May. The union emphasized that the labour law can be strengthened to give all workers access to a minimum social security system.

The unions also urged the government to ratify ILO Convention No. 87 as an important tool for exercising freedom of association for all workers in Nepal. For more information, please contact: [chirangb@gmail.com](mailto:chirangb@gmail.com)

## Preparing for the PSI's World Congress in 2011



Together with PSI standing orders committee members, Tan Sze Wei joined a solidarity rally at Place des Nations in Geneva on 4 April 2011. This was in response to Wisconsin and other American states' plans to abolish collective bargaining rights for school, health care, child care, home care and other public sector workers. Photo by Tan Sze Wei.

Ms. Tan Sze Wei, APYN Youth Coordinator, and a youth member of the PSI standing orders committee, reported on her participation at the meeting that was held in Geneva on 4-5 April 2011. She said that Public Services International is preparing to hold its next World Congress in Durban, South Africa from 27-30 November 2012, with an estimated 1200 participants. The committee discussed the possible agenda, themes and format of the Congress, and agreed on the need to focus on key priorities and generate resources to sustain campaigns and initiatives. For more information, please contact: [TAN Sze Wei@nea.gov.sg](mailto:TAN_Sze_Wei@nea.gov.sg)

## Singapore: Young AUPE at May Day Rally 2011



Young AUPE at national centre's May Day Rally with their union flag, from left: Surianah Sufarman, Valli Samugam, Chin Li Li, Bijal Chandrakant, Tan Sze Wei, and Jumadi bin Salleh. Photo by Tan Sze Wei

Some 8,500 unionists joined the May Day Rally in Singapore where the unions also celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Singapore National Trades Union Congress and pledged to work together to protect workers from exploitation in the workplace, help them to have better jobs, better wages and better lives. The contributions made by past union leaders were recognised, especially that of the late Mr Devan Nair, founder of the NTUC, who led the modernisation of the labour movement. Six Young AUPE (YAUPE) members took part in the rally as flag bearers holding their union flag, symbol of the AUPE logo. They marched together with 61 unions and associations affiliated to NTUC at the opening of the rally. For more information, please contact: YAUPE Chairman, Ms. Surianah Sufarman: [Surianah\\_SUFARMAN@nea.gov.sg](mailto:Surianah_SUFARMAN@nea.gov.sg)



YOUNG WORKERS UNITE!  
RIGHTS FOR ALL

ITF: young workers' blog

This website features young workers' activities around the world for the unions affiliated to the International Transport Federation (ITF). The website posts articles on workplace problems that young workers in the transport sector are facing and how the unions identify the strategic action to deal with these issues. The website also works with APYN by regularly sharing our bimonthly bulletin, Youth to Youth, to their young workers. For further information, please see [here](#).



## Young workers meet at the 2<sup>nd</sup> ITUC-Asia Pacific Regional Conference

Unions across Asia and Pacific gathered in Singapore from 11 to 13 May 2011 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ITUC-Asia Pacific Regional Conference.

Young unionists from the region were able to get together during the Conference under the slogan of "Unity – The Way Forward". Prior to the conference, a meeting for young people organised by the youth committee discussed the 6<sup>th</sup> ITUC-AP Youth Committee meeting agenda which focussed on the review of the ITUC-AP Youth Charter and the drafting special resolutions on youth employment. They also had an open talk on youth and climate change and discussed youth participation in trade unions. There was an exhibition that introduced ITUC-AP activities via video messages by young people. The Youth Committee was newly formed for the period of 2011-2015. For further information, please contact the ITUC-AP secretariat: [gs@ituc-ap.org](mailto:gs@ituc-ap.org)

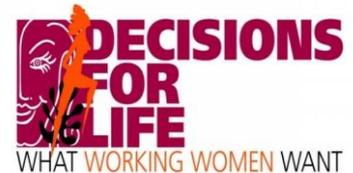


## Young working women from around the world at the Decision for Life Conference

Over 100 young women from 23 countries gathered in Amsterdam, Netherlands to plan the next stage of an international campaign aimed at reaching out to young women workers, and making sure international decision makers hear about the issues that affect young

Brought together by the international trade union movement, the young women met from 9 May to 11 May 2011.

The Decisions for Life campaign has been run in 14 countries, and has reached out to hundreds of thousands of young women through unions across the world. The Decisions for Life campaign is already making a difference.



Many thousands of young women are joining their union through this campaign because they see that being in a union improves your chances of having a better income, getting better working conditions and achieving work-life balance,” the General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation, Sharan Burrow, said. For more information, [click here](#).

## 12<sup>th</sup> PSI Asia Pacific Regional Conference (APRECON)



The 12<sup>th</sup> PSI Asia Pacific Regional Conference (APRECON) will be held from 17 to 21 October 2011 in Sydney, Australia. The conference is the highest-level regional body, which meets once every five years. “**People First, Quality Public Services are Key!**” is the theme for the conference.

Prior to the conference, there will be sectoral and trade union workshops. The workshops will set strategic objectives “to build the global strength of public sector trade unions, to advance the rights and interests of working people and to promote quality public services as essential in building a fair and inclusive society”.

More than 200 people are expected to participate from affiliates in the Asia Pacific region with equal representation between women and men in their delegation, and 30% of young workers in each delegation. We encourage many young people to participate in the conference, so make sure you discuss your attendance with your union. Please contact: [indah.budiarti@world-psi.org](mailto:indah.budiarti@world-psi.org) for more information.



## EI/PSI Sexual Diversity Forum: Cape Town, South Africa, 18-19 July 2011

Education International and Public Services International are pleased to announce that the third EI/PSI Sexual Diversity Forum will take place in Cape Town, South Africa, from 18 to 19 July 2011, prior to the EI World Congress. The venue for the forum is the Cape Town International Conference Centre, see [here](#).

The Forum provides guidance to global unions, and the PSI and Executive Boards and Steering Committees, in undertaking the activities proposed by member unions represented at the Sexual Diversity Forum. The Forum provides an important opportunity to improve areas of work and ways of working, in the current changing scenario. The outcomes and recommendations will be delivered to the EI Congress by the co-chairs for consideration at the next EI and PSI executive meetings.

Participants include trade union representatives, civil society and labour organisations from all regions. We make a special request to PSI unions to ensure gender balance among local and international delegations. For more information and an invitation letter, please see [here](#).