

ASIA PACIFIC NEWS



Public Services International is a global union federation representing 20 million members in 150 countries. Asia Pacific News is published and electronically distributed every two months by Public Services International Asia Pacific Regional Organisation (PSI APRO). Please send comments and contributions to: indah.budiarti@world-psi and mike.ingpen@psa.org.nz

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Public Services International Asia Pacific Regional Organisation
Regional Secretary: Ms. V. Lakshmi

Wisma AUPE, 295 Upper Paya Lebar Road Singapore 534929
Tel: +65.6282.3219 Fax +65.6280.4919 E-mail: lakshmi.vaidhiyanathan@world-psi.org



ROSA PAVANELLI: NEW LEADERSHIP, A NEW VISION FOR PSI

Rosa Pavanelli has made it her life work to relentlessly strive for the dream of the better world that we can build together, in solidarity. Rosa – elected General Secretary with a resounding 72% of votes at the November 2012 World Congress of Public Services International – has held many local, national and international leadership positions in the labour movement. She was an activist in the labour movement from an early age.

“Being a unionist is genetic for me,” says Rosa with a smile, noting that her father was a prominent trade union leader with the Italian General Confederation of Labour (CGIL). She, herself, later worked full time for CGIL, becoming regional General Secretary in 1999, and later President of the public sector branch of CGIL. She has also served as Vice President of the European Public Service Union Federation in 2009, and PSI Vice President for the European Region. If union activism is in her genes, it’s clearly also in her heart. Rosa has also been active in international solidarity

work with unions in Brazil, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Uruguay. In India, Rosa has long supported the Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) which is a registered trade union. In Italy, Rosa was a leader in the struggle to win collective bargaining rights for public service workers – a campaign that was also marred by violent attacks against trade unionists and allies.

After her first months as General Secretary of Public Services International, Rosa says there is no doubt that the challenges facing public sector workers are getting more difficult. But she believes that our movement has a long and proud history of overcoming adversity, and winning against seemingly impossible odds.

“My personal style is to build through consensus, cooperation and solidarity,” says Rosa. “The PSI’s financial resources and staff are tiny compared with those of our opponents, but we must be ambitious. We must dare to increase our membership, build our power, and strengthen our influence at the local, national and international levels. Together we’re strong. Together we can improve the lives of our members and families, and help shape a world where the goal is advancing the common good, not catering to the greed of the few.” PSI’s General Secretary is looking forward to working with every PSI affiliate, in every corner of the world, to build strong and healthy communities, improve the quality of public services, and ensure that every worker is treated with respect. Please read this article in full on PSI’s website, click [here](#)



TONGA: PSA CAMPAIGNS FOR FITTER, HEALTHIER, QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES

Tonga's Public Services Association (PSA) has launched a year-long campaign to combat non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and to create happier workplaces and a "healthier quality public service for Tonga". The campaign was initiated by the PSA Women's Committee and is supported by the Hon. Minister of Health, Lord Tu'i'afitu

(photo). The Tongan population is at high risk of NCDs and the programme advocates self-discipline, healthy eating habits, a healthy environment and increased physical activity. It also supports the "End violence against women" campaign. The 12-month campaign draws attention to the factors fuelling NCDs, such as excessive use of alcohol, and inactivity, and highlights the fact that the consumption of alcohol and cigarettes means less money for families to buy healthy food. The PSA is calling for an alcohol limit at official functions, and the provision of tea rooms and 15-minute tea breaks in the public service. The campaign has received backing from the Tonga Health Department and is part of the Quality Public Services campaign. For further information, contact PSA General Secretary Ms. Mele Amanaki: tpasa_secretary@yahoo.com

END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN NOW! INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 8 MARCH 2013



[Public Services International](#) joined members across the globe in celebrating the social, political and economic achievements of women on 8th March. PSI promotes the work of women trade unionists and stands united with our sisters who place themselves on the frontline to deliver vital public services. But there is still much to be done. Violence against women exists in all countries and in all societies. One out of every three girls today will face some form of violence in her lifetime. PSI General Secretary Rosa Pavanelli says, "We received the terrible news that ten PSI member nurses in Nigeria were brutally shot to death while they were giving an immunization clinic on 8 February. We remember them and will not rest until justice is served in their name." Violence against women and girls can be physical, sexual, psychological or economic. It happens in private and public places, and in physical as well as virtual online spaces. Violence is often driven by a deep-seated belief that a woman is not equal to a man. Pavanelli emphasizes that: "Public sector workers are well-placed to promote and enforce laws and rules that advance gender equality and protection against violence and harassment. Quality public services are often the only shield and support for women in this situation. Violence against women creates inequality, affecting the well-being of current and future generations. Violence and the threat of it deprive women of their basic human rights. We must take action and end violence against women now." Watch the 2013 [International Women's Day video message to affiliates from PSI's leader, Rosa Pavanelli](#)

PROTEST IN TOKYO TO END NUCLEAR POWER



15,000 protesters marched in the Japanese capital on 9 March 2013 calling on the government to shun nuclear power. Members of PSI affiliate union JICHIRO took part in this protest, to commemorate the Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami that provoked the meltdown of Fukushima nuclear power two years ago. For more info, please click [here](#)

PROTECTING PUBLIC SECTOR JOBS AND SERVICES



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To meet the challenges of a changing economy and a growing population, Australia needs a strong, well-resourced public sector. The public sector is under threat from short-sighted plans to slash budgets and cut essential job and services.

[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. Find out more at <http://cutshurt.com.au>. Watch the video, click [here](#)



JAPAN: UNIONS SIGN MERGER AGREEMENT

President Hideaki Tokunaga of JICHIRO (All Japan Prefectural and Municipal Workers' Union) and President Toshio Takagi of TOSHIKO (All Japan Municipal Transport Workers' Union) signed a joint agreement at an organizational merger signing ceremony held at JICHIRO's building on 20th February 2013.

The agreement is based on decisions made by JICHIRO at its 85th Special Conference (31 January to 1 February 2013) and by TOSHIKO (with about 22, 000 members) at its 79th Special Conference on 15 February 2013. The merger of [JICHIRO](#) and [TOSHIKO](#) will take place on 1 June this year.



WATER, WORKERS AND OUR COMMUNITIES: COOPERATING FOR THE COMMON GOOD

World Water Day - 22 March 2013 - The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2013 the "International Year of Water Cooperation", following its endorsement of the Human Right to Water and Sanitation in 2010. Public Services International affiliates around the world are committed to advancing this right in this international year of cooperation, and beyond. Visit PSI's website for more information, click [here](#) and please see PSI General Secretary Rosa Pavanelli's full speech to the UN, click [here](#)



PSI RESOLUTIONS

The resolutions adopted at the 29th World Congress of Public Services International, held in Durban, South Africa, 27-30 November 2012 have been published in three volumes: (1) [Volume 1 - Resolution No. 1 \(Programme of Action\)](#); (2) [Volume 2 - Resolution No. 2 \(Constitution\)](#), and; (3) [Volume 3 - Resolutions No. 3 to 49](#).

Please visit PSI's website to access the documents: <http://www.world-psi.org/en/psi-congress-resolutions>

2013 ASIA PACIFIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (APREC) MEETING



The APREC meeting held in Singapore at Wisma AUPE on 5-6 April 2013 was opened with a warm welcome by Bro Ma We Cheng, AUPE General Secretary, on behalf of Singapore affiliates. ITUC-AP General Secretary Bro. Noriyuki Suzuki delivered his greetings to the members of APREC and gave an update on trade union development in the region, with emphasis on the situation in Burma, China and Afghanistan. PSI General Secretary, Rosa Pavanelli welcomed new APREC members for 2013-2017. She

expressed her thanks for the support of the region during last Congress in Durban, South Africa. In her presentation of Congress Resolutions, she stated that PSI needs to focus on the priority issues based on the POA, and bring together work priorities for 2013 to implement PSI's mandate in 2013 and beyond. PSI must become more effective at projecting union power and build up sectoral capacities. She also emphasized that PSI will put pressure on the development banks and donors who use public money to impose privatisation. Regarding young workers, PSI will explore how to integrate youth into PSI work and actions. After the general secretary's presentation on working for the alternative, there was a group discussion on implementing PSI mandate in this region. During the two-day meeting, APREC discussed growth and development of membership, International Labour Conference participation and related issues, particularly on the campaign for the ratification of ILO convention No. 151/1978, regional sectoral networks, confirmation of regional constitutional members 2013-2017, and preparation for PSI's 30th World Congress 2017 in Singapore.

AUSTRALIA: MALE-DOMINATED INDUSTRIES LEAD THE WAY ON PARENTAL LEAVE



The Workplace Gender Equality Agency has reported that their research shows many male-dominated industries are offering better-than-average conditions for parents. The Australian Services Union (ASU) is proud to say that industries where it is the major union, for example: electricity, water and waste services (ie. local government), have the highest rate of paid maternity and paid paternity leave in the country. The ASU recognises that work-life balance is a key issue for

its members, both male and female, and they ensure that bargaining and other activities retain a focus on parental leave, as well as other important issues. Read more, click [here](#)



WATER IS A HUMAN RIGHT

Korean Government Employees Union (KGEU) held a press conference on World Water Day, 22 March 2013, in Seoul, South Korea to urge the Korean government to promote water policy for all and to recognize water as human right. The union also called on the government to stop privatisation and commercialisation of water. Please contact Ms. Sunghee Oh, International Relations: kgeu.inter@gmail.com

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