



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

Young people: *Future Ready, Public Services*



Young workers took full advantage of the opportunity to meet several times before the Asia Pacific Regional Conference (APRECON) from 16-19 October 2011. Thirty-four young people under the age of 35 registered and participated in the youth conference. They represented twelve countries from four PSI sub-regions. The meetings were held at the CPSU (PSI affiliate) offices and at the Building and Dockside Convention Centre with the theme of “**Future Ready, Public Services.**” The Asia Pacific Youth Network (APYN) also hosted a workshop on 18 October 2011 on the topic “**Equal Rights for Decent Work - Outsourced or Contracted Out: Rights for All.**” The members made a moving true-to-life presentation on the issues facing young workers in India and New Zealand. In addition, a video from Japan highlighted the struggles of young workers trying to balance work and family life.

The workshop also defined decent work and examined why young workers are vulnerable to precarious employment. Youth tend to be vulnerable as they may not have information about their basic employment rights nor the assistance unions can provide. They may also be subject to lower youth rates of pay in some countries, and in some cases lack the life experience to defend themselves against questionable work practices. Young workers in the private sector are particularly susceptible as union density is low.

The participants in the workshop called on trade unions to pay attention to what decent work really means and how negatively outsourcing and contract work can impact young workers. At the APYN meeting on 19 October 2011, participants acknowledged the positive steps that past and present Regional Secretaries have taken to support their network. PSI has given support and encouragement and this is a very determined and focussed group of young workers. The Regional Conference endorsed an APYN resolution calling for “full involvement of young workers in a youth committee institutionalised into PSI structure.” It is hoped that this youth committee structure will lead to more **youth organising youth**, and help create additional union leaders and activists for the future. So, we are ready now for quality public services!

India: Strengthening the national youth network



Twenty-seven young members from PSI affiliated unions in India took part in a two day workshop on 12-13 August 2011 at Hyderabad. Organized under an LO TCO/ SEKO supported project, it had the objective of strengthening the youth network at the national level. The workshop, jointly facilitated by brother Adil Shariff, APYN member from South Asia and brother Karthik Shekhar, General Secretary of Union for Information Technology Enabled Services (UNITES) was a mix of fun and serious work. The importance of unions to young members was shared through videos and group activities. The challenges of involving young workers in the labour movement and how they can become leaders incorporating their hopes and concerns were also addressed.

A session on precarious work and contract workers highlighted that a high percentage of young workers find themselves in the precarious jobs where they have no right even to join a union and bargain collectively with their employer. Some are formally excluded because basic rights are denied in law. Others have rights but are reluctant to exercise these rights for fear of losing their jobs. The participants adopted strategies to bring to their unions a plan to organise these workers and to bring them out of precarious work.



Sister V. Lakshmi, PSI AP Regional Secretary made a presentation on the PSI *Quality Public Services- Action Now!* campaign and the role of the young workers in promoting quality services. Sister Usha of AIAIASP addressed the issue of empowering young women workers. There was a group discussion on how young women are affected differently than young men in India, and what actions could be taken to change things for the better. Some of the suggestions were to jointly fight for women's rights at work, work life balance, information/education/ training for women. During an exercise, each participant made a personal commitment to promote youth issues in their union.

Brother Adil Shariff made a presentation on '*Driving force for Youth to join Trade Union.*' He addressed the barriers for youth in joining unions, how to attract young people to join trade unions, the objectives of PSI-APYN network and its role.

Brother Kannan, Sub-Regional Secretary, PSI South Asia, briefed the participants about the trade union rights situation in the country, core labour standards and the ratification of those standards in India, the awareness building and advocacy that is going on to get legal rights to form unions for government employees, and the role young members could play in strengthening the rights of workers and their unions.

Looking at the composition of the National Youth committee, everyone felt the need to revamp it and make it more active. To implement this call to action, each affiliate in India was asked to nominate a representative to network with youth leaders in each union to ensure that the voice of young workers is heard. For further information, please contact Mr. Adil Shariff adilshariff_2003@yahoo.com or Mr. R.Kannan raman.kannan@world-psi.org

Young people and disaster management: The important role of public services



When the Great East Japanese earthquake destroyed many buildings and disrupted public utilities this year on 11 March, public sector workers were the first responders to the crisis. Emergency services, health care, water and energy workers risked their health and lives on the frontlines in the service of their neighbours and their communities. Ready to do their share, young workers in the public sector – members of PSI Japan Council – actively joined the volunteer rescue teams to support the victims of this horrible disaster.

Recognising the importance of public services and the role of public sector workers at each stage from disaster prevention to emergency response, recovery and restoration, young workers submitted an emergency resolution to the 12th Asia Pacific Regional Conference (APRECON) in Sydney, Australia on 21 October 2011 on the need for strong public services to respond to disasters. The resolution was adopted.

Video: short interviews with young people



A series of short video interviews from APRECON 2011 are posted on the PSI Asia Pacific Youth Channel on YouTube: <http://tinyurl.com/bqhz4lv>. To hear the views of young participants on unions, why they joined and are proud to be unionists, the importance of quality public services and why is it important to belong to Public Services International, please check the links below:

Ms. Katie Rowsell: APYN Co-coordinator/CPSU Organiser - http://youtu.be/VMb0pK_oxHk

Ms. Sunghee Oh: East Asia Youth Network Coordinator/KGEU International Director - <http://youtu.be/tS8aRh-PV6g>

Ms. Jerrina Jacob: Youth Contact CWC Sri Lanka - <http://youtu.be/juBLrUqQ3-M>

Mr. Benedict Ferguson: PSA (New Zealand) Youth Convenor - http://youtu.be/XmlzC6s_RFY



CPSU Community and Public Sector Union

In your corner... safeguarding your rights

Why you should join a union as early as possible

Community and Public Services Union (CPSU), a PSI affiliate in Australia, says it's important for young people to join a union as early as possible. By joining a union, you gain access to all the information you need to know about your workplace – including terms and conditions of employment and your rights at work. Read more, please see: <http://tinyurl.com/79klhk2>

2500 young people newly infected with HIV every day, says new report

Every day, an estimated 2500 young people are newly infected with HIV, according to a recently released global report on HIV prevention. While HIV prevalence has declined slightly among young people, young women and adolescent girls face a disproportionately high risk of infection due to biological vulnerability, social inequality and exclusion. According to the report, people aged 15-24 accounted for 41 per cent of new infections among adults over the age of 15 in 2009. Worldwide, an estimated 5 million (4.3 million to 5.9 million) young people in that age group were living with HIV in 2009. Among the 10 to 19 year age group, new data shows, an estimated 2 million adolescents (1.8 million to 2.4 million) are living with HIV. The report is available at <http://tinyurl.com/7gn52jo>



PSI new website! New logo!

Check out our PSI website's fresh new look and user-friendly features. The new website features new ways to stay connected, including new tools that allow you to read the news and information in your selected language. **Link the new PSI website on your union site:** simply [download the new PSI logo](#) and link it to <http://www.world-psi.org>. **RSS news feeds:** Please [send us](#) your union's RSS news feed so we can promote it on the PSI site [homepage](#). Our new website is also integrated with social media so you can stay connected with us through *Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, Vimeo and YouTube*. Take a minute to explore the new site today!

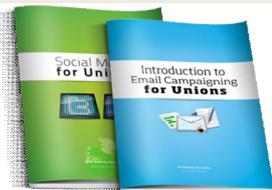
Stop violence and sexual harassment at work



25 November 2011: To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the International Trade Union Confederation is mobilising across the globe to say *stop violence, impunity and sexual harassment at work*. "The trade union movement feels particularly concerned by violence against women, be it in the private or public sphere or at work," said ITUC General Secretary Sharan Burrow. "Trade unions have a key role to play, starting with denouncing the facts and breaking the silence." Women in precarious jobs are particularly vulnerable. For example, domestic workers – a largely undervalued, widely exploited group – are generally unprotected by labour laws. Migrant women are also highly exposed to the risk of violence at work. To read more, please see: <http://tiny.cc/vyn9q>

Poster extracted from <http://saynotoviolence.org/>. Say NO – UNITE to End Violence against Women is a social mobilization platform on ending violence against women and girls, contributing towards UN Secretary General's system-wide campaign, UNITE to End Violence against Women

Unions: How to use online strategies and social media effectively



Why unions should embrace social media? According to **Alex White** social media are very powerful. They allow unions to have personal conversations with hundreds, if not thousands of members, potential members and supporters. Cheap, free and fast! Social media give your union access to unmediated communication and dialogue across vast distances, and at any time of the day or night. It's a fast growing trend for unions to use Facebook and Twitter as organising and campaign tools. However these and other popular tools must be used properly. If your union is going to start using social media, it must be prepared to invest time and (human) resources to do so properly says Alex White in his booklet, "**Social Media For Unions.**" White is a communications, campaigns and public policy professional working in the trade union movement. You can check out his website and download his e-books at <http://alexwhite.org/>