

YOUTH TO YOUTH

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).



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Public Services International is the global trade union federation representing 20 million working women and men who deliver vital public services in 160 countries. PSI champions human rights, advocates for social justice and promotes universal access to quality public services.

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Oceania Youth Network calls for full involvement of young workers



Four young members attended the Oceania Sub-regional Advisory Committee (OSRAC) Meeting in Sydney, Australia, 9 March 2012. Ms. Katie Rowsel, Oceania Youth Network Coordinator, brought before the meeting a resolution endorsed during APRECON 2011.

OSRAC reconfirmed its endorsement of full involvement of young workers, in an institutionalised youth committee within the PSI structure. They will refer this resolution to the APREC to endorse for consideration at the PSI World Congress.

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The Southeast Asia Youth Network is “future ready”



Eighteen young members representing six countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Singapore) attended the fifth Southeast Asia Youth Network (SEAYN) meeting in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 15 March 2012. Prior to the meeting, SEAYN organised a seminar to discuss various issues to related young workers, including trade unionism, organising, and climate change. During the meeting, the network coordinators raised a serious call for discussion on strengthening the network. Their goals are to ensure there is an active network of young trade unionists in public services, that youth issues are mainstreamed within PSI, and that concrete actions are taken on youth policies.

The SEAYN needs to identify more active young trade unionists who are keen to participate in and contribute to the APYN (Asia Pacific Youth Network). The participants discussed the PSI 29th World Congress in Durban, South Africa: 27-30 November 2012. SEAYN very much appreciated and welcomed that a Youth Meeting will be held prior to the Congress on 24 November 2012. Indeed, PSI will provide a big space, a big opportunity, for young workers world-wide to meet and discuss significant issues facing young workers over next five years, and to bring their conclusions to Congress for decision.

The SEAYN also proposed a significant recommendation that 30% of Congress delegates should be young workers, in order to ensure that the number of young delegates is appropriate and significant. SEAYN also endorsed the APYN APRECON 2011 Resolution on “**Institutionalise the youth structure in PSI**” and will bring this resolution to Congress. The participants nominated, for endorsement by SEASRAC, two Network Coordinators for 2012-2017: **Ms. Tan Sze Wei of AUPE, Singapore and Mr. Fandi Setia of PP IP, Indonesia.** The SEAYN thanked to Mr. Eross Ocampo, SEAYN Coordinator of 2007-2012 for his leadership with Ms. Tan Sze Wei.

Further information, please see: <http://tiny.cc/r496cw>

South Asia Youth Network: Invest in youth today for a brighter tomorrow



At the fifth South Asia Youth Network (SAYN) meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal on 23 March 2012, the participants discussed challenges facing young workers in their sub-region and ways to promote the full engagement of young members in their unions and PSI. SAYN forwarded several recommendations to South Asia Sub-regional Advisory Committee (SASRAC) for endorsement and possible consideration at the PSI World Congress agenda. Participants also endorsed the call for full involvement of young workers in an institutionalised youth committee within the PSI structure.

This resolution is intended to give young public sector workers the space and resources they need to strongly engage in their structures and to contribute to strengthening the labour movement. Therefore, all young members of PSI in this sub-region are looking forward to PSI's 29th World Congress in Durban, South Africa on 27 November to 30 November 2012. Further information, please see: <http://tiny.cc/yfa7cw>

East Asia Youth Network: Participation of young workers in trade union activities is important



The PSI East Asia Sub-regional Youth Network (EAYN) meeting was held on 11 March 2012 and was attended by 16 participants from four countries in the East Asian sub-region.

The meeting opened with a minute of silence for the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami, which occurred exactly one year previously at 14.26, Japan time, killing large numbers of citizens including public service workers. Then it was decided that Brother Shin Sasaki, Chief of JICHIRO's Youth Division, and Sister Soo-Jung Hong, from KNEWU, would be the joint coordinators for the East Asia Sub-regional Youth Network for the year of 2012.

The AP Regional Secretary, Sister Lakshmi attended and gave a report on activities at the world level and the Asia Pacific regional level. She emphasized the progress and significance of the youth network. The EAYN proposed priority issues for the 2012 youth activities that are (1) Demand that young workers make up 30% of participants in all PSI and affiliated union structures and activities including decision-making bodies and collective bargaining teams as well as training and education programs; (2) Improve communication between youth representatives in each country. At the meeting, it was also confirmed that EAYN would propose to EASRAC that the APYN resolution should become a World Congress resolution. Further information, please see: <http://tiny.cc/hxb7cw>

Trade unions on the move for Rio+20



The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development ([Rio+20](#)) will take place over three days, 20-22 June 2012. World Leaders are asked to 'revitalise commitments' around sustainability and will discuss issues such as the green economy, the institutional framework for sustainable development as well as issues such as employment, food and energy among others. Rio+20 will be surrounded by multiple events (the People's Summit, the Trade Union Assembly on Labour and Environment, etc).

Trade unions proposals will be put forward by a large national and international trade union delegation.

Why is Rio+20 important to trade unions? Rio+20 represents a major opportunity to ensure that our demands are heard by governments, to mobilise workers and trade unions around sustainable development, and to work with others in building an alternative economic model that benefits working people and protects the environment.

Further information, please see: <http://tiny.cc/ibc7cw>

ILO declares youth unemployment a global disaster

RadioLabour reports that the International Labour Organization – the ILO – has declared youth unemployment an international disaster. The ILO is the United Nations specialised agency which is responsible for matters of work in the world. In its report, the ILO points out that 40 per cent of the world's young people – some 75 million – are unemployed. Even for those who do have jobs the news is bad. Young people make up 24 per cent of the world's working poor – those who earn less than \$1.25 US a day. In response to the crisis, the ILO has put the matter of youth unemployment on the agenda for its annual conference of governments, employer organisations and labour unions to be held in Geneva, May 30 to June 15. As well, it will convene a special Youth Employment Forum on May 23-25. A hundred young people from around the world will attend.

To hear from some of the young people who will be attending the Forum, you can listen to the podcast at: <http://tiny.cc/rjc7cw> or watch the discussion on ILO TV: <http://tinyurl.com/6uph4x8>

Podcast: Youth employment and labour migration



In this podcast, you can hear Mr. Zarni Naing (a young Burmese migrant living and working in Thailand), Mr. Max Tunon (ILO Senior Programme Officer for labour migration) and Mr. Matthieu Cognac (ILO Regional Specialist on Youth Employment) discussing the issues involved in creating decent work for young migrant workers in our region. To listen to the discussion, please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/bwez4ya>



APYN proposing crucial resolution to PSI 29th World Congress

APYN is proposing a crucial resolution be forwarded the PSI World Congress by the PSI Asia Pacific Regional Executive Committee. Meeting in Bengaluru, India on 19 April 2012, APYN called for a Youth Committee to be integrated into the PSI structure. APYN noted that the future sustainability of unions depends on organizing young workers and addressing their interests and issues. This means young workers should be empowered to ensure a more future ready PSI. APYN said a youth committee must be given full recognition in the constitution, allowing young workers to participate in decision making processes, provide relevant recommendations and actively monitor the implementation of youth targeted policy. This will help the organisation become more participatory and more democratic in the way it functions and facilitate youth organising youth. It will create a pool of capable potential leaders for the sustainability of PSI.

The draft resolution is posted at: <http://tinyurl.com/cm9xl15>

Union-busting Playbook

When employees try to organise a union to improve their working conditions and job security, employers often fight back with union-busting tactics. Union-busting is any action by management to prevent employees from exercising their right to organise. Union busting attorneys train supervisors on what to say to persuade workers to vote down a union. The “script” doesn't change much. Whether you are a bus driver, a nurse, a tech, or a call centre worker, employers will hire union busters who will train supervisors in this anti-union script, or “playbook”. In this Union-Busting Playbook, you can find out about common union-busting strategies and read and hear real life examples from workers who have been through tough campaigns.

Explore the website, please see: <http://unionbustingplaybook.com/>

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