

PSI 29th World Congress elects Rosa Pavanelli as new general secretary



Italian trade unionist Rosa Pavanelli has been elected as the new leader of Public Services International. Pavanelli says her vision is founded on “giving PSI new energy, and standing up for justice, solidarity, equality, a fairer and more sustainable world.” Pavanelli has been the leader of Italy’s Federation of Public Employees (Federazione Lavoratori Funzione Pubblica FP-CGIL) and also served as PSI Vice President for the European Region. “Thanks to the solidarity of delegates and PSI affiliate unions around the world, we share the possibility to change PSI together,” Pavanelli says, calling for all PSI affiliates to come together to advance PSI’s vital programme of action in coming months and years. “Now it is time to work in organising and fighting together we can succeed,” she says.

For further information, please follow these links:

- (1) A message to affiliates from PSI’s new general secretary, please click [here](#)
- (2) PSI 29th World Congress news, please see <http://congress.world-psi.org/>

2012 Public Service Trade Union Award



The 2012 Public Service Trade Union Award was given to the All-Japan Prefectural and Municipal Workers Union ([JICHIRO](#)) in recognition of the union’s remarkable leadership, courage and commitment in coming to the aid of citizens following the Great East Japan earthquake, and subsequent tsunami and nuclear disaster of March 11, 2011. The members of JICHIRO, through their continuing efforts in Japan and solidarity work throughout the world, have shown the key role that public service workers play in times of disaster.

The award was accepted by JICHIRO Vice-President Hiroaki Aragane (right). He noted that there is still much work to be done, and that the clean-up of Fukushima continues to be of critical concern. However, he said, “We are pleased that our resolution on building a disaster resilient society through quality public services was resoundingly adopted by Congress. The people who participated in the relief efforts will feel inspired by this recognition.”

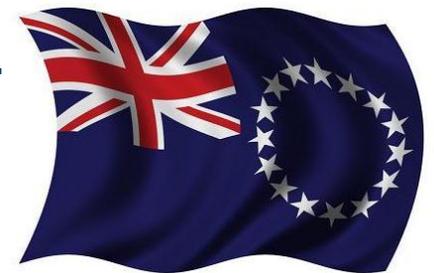


Arthur Svensson International Prize for trade union rights

The annual Arthur Svensson Prize is awarded to a person or organisation that has worked to promote trade union rights or to strengthen trade union organisations. Nominations for the 2013 prize can be made until 31 January 2013, in Norwegian, English, French or Spanish. You can nominate your candidate online here <http://www.svenssonprize.com/nomination/> Or you can send nominations to the Committee Secretary Espen Løken by email: espen.loken@industrienergi.no or by fax: +47 22 03 22 30

Cook Islands workers celebrate new labour legislation

A major milestone has been achieved in the Cook Islands with the enactment in mid-December 2012 of the Cook Islands Employment Relations Act 2012. This milestone legislation affects both public and private sector employees and offers stronger clauses on the: Freedom of Association rights for employees and employers; collective agreements and individual agreements; discrimination, sexual and racial harassments and duress; termination and redundancy; dispute resolution process and government-funded paid maternity leave based on the minimum wage of six weeks for women in the private sector. (Public sector workers are already covered).



The Cook Islands Workers' Association managed to secure funding through the PSI Asia Pacific Fund to implement wider community consultation on the Bill before its enactment. This achievement by the CIWA National Executive raises awareness among its members on the mainland Rarotonga and in the outer islands. The CIWA President Mr Anthony Turua, its National Executive and members extended their appreciation and gratitude to PSI for support in providing funding for achieving the enactment of this new legislation, with special thanks to PSI Oceania Sub-regional Office for providing advice over the years, and to all affiliates in the region.



Indonesia: Union leader reinstated after five year struggle

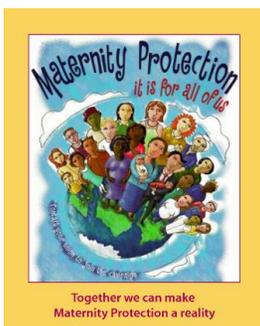
Arif Islam was dismissed after a strike in May 2008. Since then, his union, along with PSI, has fought continuously to have him reinstated. The case of Arif Islam is a longstanding case of trade union rights violation in Indonesia. The judges re-examined the case and concluded that the union strike in 2008 was legal, and that the workers' right to take industrial action must be recognised. The court ordered the company to reinstate Arif Islam and to pay all of his salary and benefits in arrears. The company will face a fine of IDR 700,000 (US\$75) per day if it doesn't comply with the court decision. For further information, please click [here](#).

National Action on 18 December 2012 by Indian United Trade Union Front

In the national convention of workers held on 4 September 2012 at New Delhi, the national trade union centres in India presented a 10 point charter of demands to the government, calling for strict enforcement of labour laws, universal social security cover for workers, stoppage of disinvestment, NO to contractualisation of permanent work, assured pensions, compulsory registration of trade unions within 45 days and ratification of ILO core conventions No.87 and 98.

As a first step of the action plan, joint conventions were held in the states and districts in October and November 2012. On 18 December in all states, a Jail Bharao/Court arrest program was held to press the demands. At Hyderabad city, Bro. Adil Shariff, the Youth Coordinator of PSI affiliate Indian National Municipal and Local Bodies Workers' Federation and President of the Indian National Trade Union Congress, Hyderabad District, led a rally and courted arrest with a large number of union members. The national convention has decided to follow this up with a country-wide two day strike on 20-21 February. For further information, please contact: kannan.raman@world-psi.org

Maternity protection: Not just a personal issue



Many countries have ratified ILO conventions on maternity protection, but pregnant women still face workplace discrimination. Marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (November 25), the ILO publishes guidelines on how to implement maternity

protection policies. The aim of maternity protection is to preserve the health of the mother and her new baby and to provide economic security for the women and their families. This can be achieved through maternity leave, cash and medical benefits, health protection in the workplace, employment protection and non-discrimination, and breastfeeding at work. Download the guidelines [here](#)

International trade union movement warns Fiji: a military Constitution cannot be accepted

The International Trade Union Confederation has called for international condemnation of Commodore Bainimarama's rejection of Fiji's draft Constitution, a constitution which would restore rights and freedoms to the island nation.

Despite 7000 submissions and the drafting of a Bill of Rights that would restore democracy to Fiji, the military has starkly rejected the Ghai draft, despite international concern. The Constitution was an opportunity to overturn recent restrictions on rights and freedoms in the form of Decrees set forth in December 2012 which saw media censorship, increased military powers and imposition of heavy restrictions on the rights and freedoms of Fijians. For further information and detail, please click [here](#)

Japan: 2012 basic trade union survey

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) in Japan released the results of its 2012 Basic Survey of Trade Unions on December 18, 2012.

Number of trade unions and union members:

As of June 30, 2012, the number of "single" and "unit" unions in Japan was 25,775, and the total number of their members was 9,892,000. Compared to the previous year, the number of trade unions had decreased by 277 (down 1.1%), and their membership had dropped by 68,000 (down 0.7%).

Situation at the industrial level: Looking at the membership of "unit" unions by industry, the manufacturing industry had the largest membership with 2,695,000 (27.4% of the total), followed by the wholesale and retail industry with 1,210,000 (12.3% of the total) and the public sector with 929,000 (9.4% of the total).

Situation of part-time workers: The number of part-time workers who belonged to unions was 837,000, an increase of 61,000 (7.9%) over the previous year. Part-time workers accounted for 8.5% of all union members, and their estimated unionisation ratio was 6.3%. Both of these ratios were the highest ever. For more information, please click [here](#)

Leadership and capacity seminar for youth and LGBT trade unionists



Trade unions exist to improve the working lives of their members. Youth, lesbian, bisexual and transgender workers face harassment and discrimination in the workplace and society. In order to enhance and strengthening their skills and capacity in supporting each other, to identify and challenge discrimination, the Trade Union Right Project Philippines (TURP) conducted a one day seminar on “*Leadership and Capacity Building for Youth and LGBT Trade Unionists*” in EUROTEL North EDSA, Quezon City on January 5, 2013.

TURP is actively involved in the equal rights campaign for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people at work and in society. The seminar provided participants with a space for discussion in developing their leadership and advocacy skills to challenge continued prejudice and hostility, particularly for LGBT workers, and voicing their rights in the workplace and society. For further information, please contact Mr. Glen Pastorfide, TURP National Coordinator: glen_pastorfide@yahoo.com

Global Labour University



The Global Labour University (GLU) network is offering Masters Programmes on sustainable development, social justice, international labour standards and trade unions, economic policies and global institutions. These unique global programmes are jointly developed by universities and workers’ organisations from around the world and are aimed at candidates who have experience with labour and social movements and who are willing to assist organisations in these fields to engage more effectively in social dialogue, public debate, and policy implementation.

Participants will analyse and discuss in a multidisciplinary fashion the challenges of globalisation from a labour and trade union perspective. The programmes offer a multi-cultural and multi-regional environment with students and lecturers coming from developing, transition and industrialised countries. For further information and application deadlines for GLU programmes in Brazil, Germany, India and South Africa, please visit: <http://www.global-labour-university.org/>

Global wage report reveals relative reduction in wages

Workers have been getting a smaller share of national income, as a bigger slice has gone to profits in most countries. This is one of the main conclusions of the [Global Wage Report 2012-13](#) published by the International Labour Organization (ILO). The ILO goes on to argue that this has wide-ranging economic and social implications, causing public dissatisfaction and increasing the risk of social unrest. It has in many cases hurt the economy by suppressing demand or causing unsustainable household debts. Find news, video, graphics on the Global Wage Report 2012/2013 [here](#)



Schedule of 2013 SUBRACs, APREC and associated meetings

East Asia Sub-regional Advisory Committee (EASRAC) Meeting in Macau, China 22-24 February 2013
 Oceania Sub-regional Advisory Committee (OSRAC) Meeting in Auckland, New Zealand 5-8 March 2013
 Southeast Asia Sub-regional Advisory Committee (SEASRAC) Meeting in Malaka, Malaysia 14-16 March 2013
 South Asia Sub-regional Advisory Committee (SASRAC) Meeting in Lahore, Pakistan 21-23 March 2013
 Asia Pacific Regional Advisory Committee (APREC) Meeting in Singapore 4-6 April 2013