

ASIA PACIFIC NEWS

PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL

July 2013

PSI signs Global Framework Agreement to improve workers' rights with Enel

On 14 June 2013 in Rome, Italy, the global unions [Public Services International](#) and [IndustriALL](#) signed a Global Framework Agreement with the multinational enterprise Enel, which operates in more than 40 countries.



The agreement is based on international principles of human and labour rights, and defines the guidelines for social dialogue as a way to deal with industrial relations through the constitution of a Global Works Council and of Multilateral Committees. PSI General Secretary Rosa Pavanelli underlined the importance of the founding principles and the objectives of the new joint worker-management model for dialogue, declaring that the coherent application of these principles will be now the real challenge. Please see the final signed agreement in [English](#) - [Spanish](#) - [Italian](#)

Korean education support workers hold massive rally in Seoul



Education support workers in Korea held a successful march and rally in Seoul on 22 June. Solidarity messages from PSI affiliates were very much appreciated and contributed to the success of the rally. The KPTU Education Workers Solidarity Division (KPTU EdSol) began with a rally at Independence Park in Seoul, where thousands of members attended.

The solidarity statements sent from PSI affiliates around the world were announced on stage. The union also introduced the PSI education support affiliates' network, and displayed photos of [American Federation of Teachers](#) members holding solidarity signs and staging a solidarity protest in front of the Korean Embassy in Washington D.C. KPTU EdSol members marched to Seoul Station Plaza where they met with other education support workers' unions. Over 10,000 education support workers gathered at the Plaza, with the rally literally spilling out on to the streets. Read more [here](#).

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

[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



Put public first and provide healthcare for all

The [Korean Health & Medical Workers' Union \(KHMU\)](#) is continuing its fight for public healthcare and anti-privatisation campaign of healthcare. From February 26 through today, the union is protesting against the shutdown of Jinju Medical Center. The medical center is one of 34 public medical centers which have played a key role of public healthcare in Korea. Jinju Medical Center was established in 1910 and operates 470 beds as a general hospital, located in Jinju city of South Gyeongsang province. It is a public healthcare provider run by South Gyeongsang Provincial government. KHMU President Yoo Ji-hyun stressed, "This struggle is one of the most important struggles in KHMU history. It is the struggle against social forces who believe healthcare as profit-maker and against the privatization of public services, valuing life before money." Please support KHMU's struggle - contact: khmu@naver.com.

Jakarta water union on stage protest over privatisation and welfare

Jakarta Water Employees Union (SP PDAM Jakarta) staged protest on 10 June contending that the private water operators' contract hampered the clean water provision for low-income households and burdened the city with debts. The union also alleged that the private operators, PT PAM Lyonnaise Jaya (Palyja) and PT Aetra Air Jakarta, did not pay its second-level employees properly – city-owned water company PAM Jaya workers who were assigned to work with the operators –and had suspended wage increases for the last 10 years.

It has been mentioned on the news that Deputy Governor of Jakarta Basuki Tjahaja Purnama said that the city administration would take its own steps to cancel the contract. Prior to the protest, on 7 June, the union had called on the Governor of Jakarta, Joko Widodo, to meet to discuss the history of water privatisation in Jakarta.



Ms. Nurhayati, SP PDAM Jakarta senior leader addressed the issues that has been faced by the workers

Unions win superannuation increases for over 300,000 public sector workers



Australia: The Unions New South Wales (Unions NSW) applauded the decision by the Industrial Relations Commission which guarantees public sector workers will not have superannuation increases absorbed into their basic wages.

The State's peak union council has called on the State Government to rule out thousands of job cuts to fund the superannuation increase.

Unions NSW and public sector unions took a joint application to the Commission to ensure public sector workers get both their pay rise and the quarter per cent superannuation increase to which they are entitled.

Finally the Commission ruled in favour of the union movement - a victory for public sector workers. Read more [here](#).



Money lost through corruption could fund public services

Every year an estimated \$2.6 trillion is stolen through corruption. This money could be used to fund decent public services and help developing countries. Public Services International (PSI) held a workshop on 13 June 2013 in Geneva on the subject of corruption and why unions should support anti-corruption measures.

PSI leader Rosa Pavanelli told the forum that “Corruption is one of the sicknesses of our society. We believe that one of the best alternatives to austerity and cuts to public spending is to seriously fight against corruption. We also link this new PSI campaign against corruption to the fight for global tax justice.”

Participants discussed how corruption undermines public services and democracy. Policies which favour privatisation of public services create the conditions which are most favourable to corruption. At the end of the forum, PSI delegates presented an [anti-corruption resolution](#) to the attention of the ILO Director General and the Director of ILO Standards Department. Read full report [here](#) and listen to the RadioLabour report [here](#).



Economic Briefings series

ITUC CSI IGB

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) Economic Briefings series presents regular outlooks on the global economy and current trends and issues to help unions with their advocacy efforts to shift public policy from austerity to job creation. Download the briefing [here](#).

Unemployed by region, 2007, 2012, 2013 and 2015 (million)

Region	2007	2012	2013	2015
WORLD	169.7	195.4	201.5	207.8
Advanced economies	29.1	44.0	45.5	45.3
Central and South-Eastern Europe (non-EU) and CIS	14.3	15.0	15.0	14.9
East Asia	31.6	38.4	39.5	40.8
South-East Asia and the Pacific	16.4	14.0	14.3	14.8
South Asia	25.1	24.8	25.7	27.1
Latin America and the Caribbean	18.3	17.9	18.9	20.2
Middle East	6.4	8.0	8.3	8.8
North Africa	6.2	7.4	7.6	8.0
Sub-Saharan Africa	22.2	25.9	26.6	28.0

World of Work Report 2013: Uneven job recovery poses challenges to most countries

The latest edition of the ILO’s World of Work report shows encouraging, but still-fragile signs of improvement in emerging and developing economies, while many advanced economies continue to face high or even rising unemployment and increasing inequalities. The gap between rich and poor in most low and middle-income countries remains wide. Many families who have managed to rise above the poverty line are at risk of lapsing back. By contrast, income inequalities have increased in advanced economies over the past two years, against the backdrop of increasing global unemployment – predicted to rise from the current 200 million to nearly 208 million by 2015. The study analyses the global employment situation five years after the start of the global financial crisis. It looks at labour market performance and projections both at the global and regional levels (see the figure above) with situation of long-term unemployment, weakening job quality and workers dropping out of the labour market altogether. Download the full report [here](#).

PSIRU

Public Services International Research Unit

Renewable energy depends on the public not private sector

This report presents empirical evidence on the central role of the public sector in investing in renewable energy, and the limitations and problems of expecting private sector investment in renewable energy. Download the report [here](#).

Thailand's water union visits Singapore



Singapore has earned international recognition as model city for water management. PSI's affiliate the Labour Union of the Metropolitan Waterworks Authority of Thailand (LUMWA) visited Singapore as part of their study tour to the Singapore's National Water Agency, Public Utilities Board (PUB), at the Marina Barrage diversified salt and freshwater project.

After the visit, PSI's affiliate in Singapore, Public Utilities Board Employees' Union (PUBEU), welcomed and hosted lunch for 32 delegates from the LUMWA. PUBEU's President Ken Tan told the delegates that the study visit could offer benchmarking exchange of best practices. Both unions enjoyed this visit and made a toast with *Newater*, a Singapore brand of recycled water using advanced membrane technologies.

Australia: NSW Nurses and Midwives Association fight for patient ratios



[NSW Nurses and Midwives Association \(NSWNMA\)](#) is currently campaigning for expanded and legally enforceable nursing hours/equivalent ratios in the public health system. The purpose of this campaign is to put patient safety first in all New South Wales hospitals. Both country and metro hospitals and some specialties in the public health system are in need of improved nurse-to-patient ratios. The number of patients presenting to Emergency Departments are rising and many NSW hospitals remain underfunded and understaffed. Nurses are faced with high workloads and stressful work environments on a daily basis and are often forced to make up for ratios in numbers for staff on sick leave, often due to work related stress. Visit the campaign [here](#).

Asia and Pacific: Challenges and opportunities for unions



At the 102nd Session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, Noriyuki Suzuki, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation for Asia and Pacific (ITUC-AP), spoke with ACTRAV Info. In this interview, Mr. Suzuki gave his views on employment and social protection in the new demographic context in the Asia and Pacific. On workers' priorities in this region, he stressed "building stronger labour market institutions through organising and unity." Read the article [here](#).

Water: An essential element of life



On 7 June a symposium on water safety was held by All Japan Water Supply Workers' Union (ZENSUIDO) in commemoration of the establishment of "Water Plaza" in the ZENSUIDO Hall, Tokyo, Japan. The "Water Plaza" shows that it is essential for people's lives to provide safe drinking water and adequate sewage facilities now and in the future. Water is an essential element for life. In different parts of the world, many people must confront daily the situation of an inadequate supply of safe water and the serious consequences.

Japan should take a lead role in technological transfer for everyone to have access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities. The "Water Plaza" continues to raise water and environment-related questions on a global scale, and to disseminate reliable information. It also plans various educational activities on water and environment, including hosting lecture sessions.