

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY LEVY NETWORK

ASIA PACIFIC NETWORK BULLETIN

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PSI leader joins thousands of union members in FTT rally in Washington

Nearly 2,000 people, including PSI affiliates from across the Inter-Americas, gathered in Washington on 20 April to demand President Obama's government support a financial transactions tax on Wall Street, commonly referred to as a "Robin Hood Tax."

The events, organised by PSI affiliate [National Nurses United](#) and other civil society groups, included a march around downtown Washington with stops in front of the White House and the US Treasury. Rally-goers wearing green Robin Hood hats chanted, held up banners chiding the treasury as an instrument of big banks, and waved



It's time for the financiers to pay and "It's time for all of us, for the 99% to collect our fair share!" PSI leader Rosa Pavanelli joins thousands of members of National Nurses United and allies in rally for a USA Robin Hood Tax (Washington DC, 20 April 2013).

massive puppets of wealthy Wall Street bankers. Rosa Pavanelli, General Secretary of Public Services International, spoke at the rally ([see video at 37:30](#)) and explained how PSI

has been mobilising with European affiliates and allies, and lobbying national governments and the European Union to introduce a Financial Transactions Tax. Read more [here](#).

World Public Service Day: The need for global tax justice



On 23 June, World Public Services Day, PSI stood with the world's largest labour and non-governmental organisations in "putting world leaders on notice - members of civil society are uniting for tax justice everywhere." Public Services International leader Rosa Pavanelli said, "We are proud to be working at the forefront of the rapidly growing global movement to demand tax justice and accountability in public spending for the common good. Redistributing the wealth that workers help to create is not an option, it is an imperative." For more details, please click [here](#) or listen to RadioLabour's interview [here](#).

International Symposium on African Development, International Solidarity Levies, and the Financial Transactions Tax



The NGO Forum for International Solidarity Levies (FISL) presented A Partnership Project of the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development V (TICAD V). The **“International Symposium on African Development, International Solidarity Levies, and the Financial Transactions Tax”** event was held on 30 May 2013 in Kanagawa Prefectural Civic Hall, Yokohama, Japan.

PSI’s Regional Secretary, Ms. V. Lakshmi attended this forum.

She reported that the forum examined the scorecard of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and discussed the role of innovative financing mechanisms (international solidarity levies, financial transactions taxes) to achieve the MDGs in Africa and contribute to the implementation strategy of the post-2015 development agenda. This included learning about the importance of ownership regarding financing for development from Nigeria (current President of the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development) and other African countries that have introduced international air ticket levies; and the six-year experience of UNITAID operated mainly through revenues from IAT.

Considering the current work of the United Nations on the agenda for development, it is particularly timely to engage in a discussion on the status of the MDGs in Africa before TICAD V. The NGO Forum for International Solidarity Levies hosted this event with the conclusion of recommendations from the global leaders on securing innovative financing including UNITAID for achieving MDGs. Please see the program [here](#) and for more info, please contact PSI’s Regional Secretary: lakshmi.vaidhiyanathan@world-psi.org

Tax havens and global impoverishment



People of the world are uniting to end the tax theft at the heart of global inequality and poverty

An unusual sight met London commuters on May: a subvertising campaign launched on phone boxes across the city, bringing a distinct message on the causes of global inequality. Bearing a striking graphic of the City of London as an "urban island paradise", at first glance the adverts look like a tourist promotion for the capital, but they are in fact a campaign encouraging Londoners to take a new look at their city: **"Visit the City of London - The Tax Haven Capital of the World."** Read more of this article linked [here](#).

Third annual meeting of the NGO Forum for International Solidarity Levies



Mr. Tetsuji Tanaka, Representative Director of the Forum, explained past and planned activities. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Katsuhiko Sato, General Secretary of PSI-JC and PSI AP ISL Coordinator

On 23 June 2013, the third annual meeting of the NGO Forum for International Solidarity Levies (ISL) was held in Tokyo, Japan. An overview of ISL-related developments across the world, especially the recent European initiative to introduce a Financial Transactions Tax (FTT), was reported by Mr. Tetsuji Tanaka, Representative Director of the Forum.

Then he introduced the Forum's main activities for the past year. Last June, the Forum lobbied the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry just before the 2012 G-20 Mexico Summit. Last October, it co-organized an ISL international symposium as a public side event of 2012 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

On 30 May 2013, it also co-organized another international symposium on African Development, International Solidarity Levies, and Financial Transactions Tax. PSI's Regional Secretary, Ms. V. Lakshmi attended both symposiums. Planned activities for the next one year were presented and unanimously approved:

1. Convening an international symposium at the time of the 2013 High-Level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
2. Strengthening activities for the 2014 Tax System Revision (lobbying and continued deliberation on ISL policy options)
3. Renewed efforts for the tax haven/tax-avoidance issue, targeting the 2013 G-20 Russia Summit
4. Active participation in formation of the post 2015 MDGs Agenda



Speaker: Mr. Sakura Shiga, Tax Lawyer

Following the annual meeting, a commemorative lecture on the tax haven/tax-avoidance issue was held. The lecturer, Mr. Sakura Shiga, is a lawyer with long experience in the field; he worked at the Ministry of Finance for over thirty years and held such position as Head of Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of the Financial Services Agency (FSA). He stressed the need for the international community to step up their efforts to tackle the issue of BEPS (Base Erosion and Profit Shifting). For more information and full report please contact ISL Coordinator, Mr. Katsuhiko Sato at satok@jichiro.gr.jp