

# 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).



No.8/YTY/July/2012

Public Services International (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.

Asia and Pacific Regional Organisation  
295 Upper Paya Lebar Road, Singapore 534929  
Tel: +65 62823219 Fax: +65 62804918  
Regional Secretary: Ms. V. Lakshmi  
E-mail: lakshmi.vaidhiyanathan@world-psi.org

## Young people hit hard by continuing economic crisis and extreme austerity measures

The global crisis has hit young people hard – they are nearly three times more likely than older workers to be unemployed, according to the latest report of the ILO on Global Employment Trends. At the same time, government cuts are making it more difficult for youth to get a good education.

The ILO reports that 75 million young people aged 15 to 24 were unemployed in 2011, an increase of more than 4 million since the pre-financial crisis levels of 2007. In addition, an estimated 6.4 million have given up hope of finding a job and dropped out of the labour market altogether. Young people who are employed are increasingly likely to find themselves working part-time, and often on temporary contracts. In developing countries, youth are disproportionately among the working poor. World-wide, 150 million young people are out of work or trapped in low-paid work. On the present course, the ILO finds there is little hope for short-term improvement. See the full report [here](#).



## Political commitment and innovative approaches are needed to create jobs and opportunities for young people around the world

Youth employment was the major theme at the 101<sup>st</sup> International Labour Conference held in Geneva from 30 May to 14 June 2012. The Conference [adopted a resolution](#) calling for vigorous action on a comprehensive menu of policy options in response to the challenges faced by young people today. We need innovative approaches and a political commitment to invest in youth, or risk scarring the lives of a generation.

The [ILO Asia Pacific Youth Employment Network \(APYouthNet\)](#) team organised a debate on youth employment at the ILC with five young participants (see picture). In the debate, the participants stressed the need to more systematically involve young people in decision making processes and to mainstream youth issues in the discussion of wider social policy and economic development issues. Watch the video debate [here](#).



## Aung San Suu Kyi highlights youth issues in landmark visit to the ILO



Aung San Suu Kyi, Burmese democracy icon and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, highlighted youth issues during her landmark speech to a packed assembly hall at the 101<sup>st</sup> International Labour Conference.

Aung San Suu Kyi appealed for investment to create jobs for young people.

“Unemployed youth lose confidence in the society that has failed to give them the chance to realise their potential,” she said. “It is not so much joblessness as hopelessness that threatens our future.”

Video highlights of Aung San Suu Kyi’s address to the International Labour Conference are available [here](#).

## Organising young workers in the public sector to improve lives and renew trade unions

Just as unions can help young people improve their lives, the active participation of young people is essential to the future of trade unions. The European Trade Union Institute organised a joint seminar with the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) on organising young workers in the public sector.

The goals of the seminar, held 8 to 10 June in Belgium, were to:

- Raise awareness of the role of a European trade union in social dialogue and to improve understanding of decision-making processes on national youth policies;
- Study different recruitment and training initiatives to support trade union renewal;
- Discuss the role of young and precariously-employed workers in the public sector and the steps that trade unions can take to help ensure young workers are not the losers in such situations;
- Provide participants with practical knowledge and understanding of the functioning of a European trade union federation and the whole of the EU decision making process; and,
- Build capacity to strengthen training and recruitment drives in different countries.

For more information, please click [here](#)



## Want better health? Join a union



A new study released by [Duke University](#) in the United States of America has found there are many benefits to union membership. Unionised workers are paid better, have better benefits and working conditions, and they have stronger voices in what goes on at their workplaces, as well as in off-the-job political activities.

The Duke University study also suggests that labour unions are good for your health. The research found that more unionised workers consider themselves healthy than do their non-union counterparts – unions are good for the body as well as the pay-check.

One more reason for you to join a union and be active!

For more information, please click [here](#)

## Outreach program: Young workers and social commitment

Young workers in the Philippines are taking action to demonstrate that working together builds better communities. On 2 June, the youth committee of the Alliance of Filipino Workers (AFW) cooperated with the local community in Caloocan City, Philippines for a fun and games programme designed to teach 150 children, aged 5 to 10, about the importance of personal hygiene and good hygiene habits. The programme also provided a simple healthy meal for the kids. For more information, contact Ms. Michelle Billena, AFW-YC: [mr\\_rubiales@yahoo.com](mailto:mr_rubiales@yahoo.com)



## Membership awareness meeting

Forty-five new young members of Indonesia Power Workers Union (PP IP) participated in a one day awareness programme in Jakarta, Indonesia on 3 July. The programme is intended to build capacity to help young workers deal with challenges in the workplace and to deepen workers' understanding of the value and importance of unions. For more information please contact Mr. Fandi Setia: [fandisetia@indonesiapower.co.id](mailto:fandisetia@indonesiapower.co.id)

## Leadership course for young nurses

The Malayan Nurses Union held a *Trade Unions and Young Workers Workshop* in Kuala Lumpur from 21 June to 22 June. Twenty-three young members (all female) from the nine branches of the union actively participated in the workshop.

Four senior members of the union joined the workshop to provide mentorship and support. The workshop covered basic trade unionism, leadership skills, organising, globalisation and trade union rights, outsourcing and contractualisation, and measures to address workplace violence.



## Young trade unionists say “End child labour”

June 12 was the *World Day Against Child Labour*. As this day marks the need to improve the lives of the children of the world, including Fijian children, the FTUC Youth Wing organised an afternoon programme attended by approximately 80 members. The Committee called upon the government to end child labour, to provide children with education, and to assist their families with training and employment opportunities that will contribute directly to creating decent work for adults. For more information, please contact Mr. Mohnish Dutt, FTUC Young Wing Secretary/Fiji Public Services Association Youth Committee (FPSA): [duttmohnish@yahoo.com.au](mailto:duttmohnish@yahoo.com.au)

## Talk-show: Young people and trade unions

Of the world's 75 million unemployed young people, 45 per cent are in the Asia-Pacific region. This unemployment rate plus an increasing drive towards casual, temporary work has made it very difficult for young people to organise or join unions. An ILO Talk-show on "Young People and Trade Unions" featured Mr. Josh Peak of Shop, Distributive & Allied Employees' Association, South Australia; Ms. Christine Nathan, ILO Regional Specialist in Workers' Activities; and Mr. Matthieu Cognac, ILO Youth Employment Specialist. In addition, Ms. Tan Sze Wei, PSI APYN Coordinator, explained why organising young people is important for trade unions. To watch the video, click [here](#).



## CPSU Next Gen: Social media at work

On 24 May, CPSU Next Gen in Melbourne, Australia hosted an information evening about *Social Media At Work*. Fifteen members and delegates attended to hear presentations from Community and Public Sector Union National Secretary Nadine Flood and the CPSU Communications Officer Jess Nelson. The presentations covered the appropriate use of social media at work; the impact of social media on modern workplaces; your rights as an employee; and using social media in workplace campaigns. After the presentations there was an open discussion where members shared their own stories about dealing with their agencies' social media policies. For further information, please contact Mr. Lucas Evans, CPSU Next Gen Coordinator: [lucas.evans@medibank.com.au](mailto:lucas.evans@medibank.com.au)

## Leadership training for future leaders

Sabah Medical Services Union (SMSU) youth organised a two day session on creating and developing youth leadership skills in Sabah Malaysia from 12-13 May. Twenty-three young health care workers, members of SMSU, actively participated. The seminar offered a platform for them to discuss and dialogue with their union leaders on the topics of trade unionism and how to integrate young members in the membership awareness programme and union development. For further information, please contact Ms. Bertha Eldo, SMSU Youth Contact: [bertha.eldo@yahoo.com](mailto:bertha.eldo@yahoo.com)



## Stand up for quality public services

On World Public Services Day, 23 June, the Asia Pacific Youth Network joined with brothers and sisters across the globe in taking action to stand up for quality public services! The young workers affirmed that improving public services makes a decisive contribution to the quality of life for everyone including young people.