



Asia Pacific Young Workers Network (APYN)

Thailand Young Workers' Organising Workshop Bangkok, Thailand: 9 April 2015

Why organise young workers? Unions believe that young workers are very important for the organisation movement in the future. Trade unions are powerful organisations and have a key role to play in shaping the present and future of the global economy. However, the traditional role of trade unions to promote unionism and encourage young people to join a union often limits unions in reaching young people. The age gap in relation to taking up the issues and negative perceptions of trade unions are also factors that contribute to the young workers and their perceptions about joining a trade union. To them, trade unions are only for seniors.

Why are unions important? Millions of young women and men work in vulnerable conditions. In the public sector there is a growing trend for casualisation, or the contracting out of services. We believe that many youth have less knowledge of their rights and have less ability to defend themselves. They also know very little about unions when they enter the labour market.

What can unions do to encourage young workers to join and be active in the trade union movement? Young workers still believe in unions as an agent for change, but unions must change the way they manage and organise themselves in the current situation and for the future. Young workers want unions to go beyond their traditional roles, they want modern, strong, vibrant public sector unions that can play a role and have an influence in the political and economic spheres.

Organising young workers in the union movement is not just a matter of merely giving them activities but it is also giving them a strategic position (institutionalised) under the trade union structure. This gives them channels through which to address and voice their issues and interests.

Objectives of the Thailand Young Workers' Organising Workshop

This is an introductory workshop for locally based young workers attending a PSI meeting for the first time. The purpose is to give them an understanding of who PSI is and how they operate in

their sub region/region, as well as asking them how we can engage with youth and what we can do to be more effective. The intent is to create a relaxed and informal environment where the youth can learn and impart information in a fun, interactive way.

When youth leave the workshop they will have a basic understanding of PSI and its purpose, as well as experience participating in a group activity and presenting to a large group. The aim is to identify possible young leaders to take the reins into the future, particularly in the development of organising work for young workers in Thailand. Also noting that APRECON and World Congress are coming up and we need viable replacements for our youth on EB.

Program		
09.00	Welcome and Introduction	Mr Fandi Setia, SEA Youth Network Coordinator Mr. Ian Mariano, SEA Sub-regional Secretary
09.30	PSI and Young Workers: Organising and Growth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSI Thai and organising young workers • Sub-regional and regional development – full participation of affiliates 	Mr. Ian Mariano, SEA Sub-regional Secretary
10.30	Coffee/Tea Break	
11.00	Strengthening the network – river of life activity	Ms. Katie Rowsell, APYN Coordinator
12.30	Summary, recommendation Closing	