

Highlight 44% Bangladeshi Migrant Workers Returned Home in Coffins

Around 44 percent of the Bangladeshi migrant workers who returned home in coffins between 1 January and 9 May this year. Among the total of 904 bodies returned home, 391 died of cardiac arrests, 268 in workplace accidents, 62 in road accidents, 115 of other sicknesses, and the remaining died due to various other reasons, according to official sources. Among the deaths by cardiac arrests, 119 were in Saudi Arabia, 82 in Malaysia and 72 in the United Arab Emirates. Labour rights activists are emphatic that mental tension caused by low income, debts, and lack of medical care abroad lead to such deaths.

[More Details](#)

TRADE AND LABOUR

UNCTAD: Trade Liberalisation Affects Women Most

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said new jobs created by trade liberalisation do not benefit women. It is much more difficult for women to develop new skills these new jobs required, as they are usually less mobile and have many more tasks in the household than their male counterparts. Trade liberalisation also increases migration. Around 50 percent of international migrants are women. But in the host countries they end up doing jobs for which they are overqualified because they face a double disadvantage as women and migrants. Trade liberalisation is good for cash crops, such as coffee and cacao. But these crops are usually harvested by men, whereas women work in subsistence agriculture. The liberalisation of agricultural markets is not beneficial for women.

[More Details](#)

FORMAL ECONOMY

Massive layoff in Triumph International

Triumph International Thailand (Body Fashion) planed to lay off half of its workforce starting from August, nearly 2000 workers, who are mostly union members participated in the strike last year. The action prompted over 1,000 workers to stage a protest. In the Philippines, about 1,600 workers will be affected by the closure of two Triumph factories. The company said global crisis had resulted in a drop of demand and thus the profit. Workers are planning to take action against the layoff.

[More Details](#)

India: Hyundai Workers Gained Victory

Workers of Hyundai Motor India Limited and members of the Hyundai Motor India Employees' Union (HMIEU) ended their hunger strike after management agreed to a number of their demands. The management will recognise the union and response to its Charter of Demands, jailed strikers are released and will return to work, and disciplinary suspension of 20 strike organisers is withdrawn. The strike started on 20 April 2009. Over 1,300 workers demanded on wages, working conditions, labour rights, recognition of HMIEU and collective bargaining.

[More Details](#)

INFORMAL ECONOMY

Waste Pickers Challenge International Climate Change Meet

Bonn, Germany- 9 June 2009 Waste Pickers from India and Latin America together with their global supporters have challenged delegates to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to recognise the role of waste collectors in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fighting off dangerous climate changes. In a statement circulated among their networks, the Global Alliance of Alternatives to Incineration (GAIA) and members of the Global Articulation of Wastepickers stressed the critical importance of the work of waste collectors in recycling and reducing waste. The groups called on the UNFCCC to "Recognise the critical and productive role that the informal recycling sector contributes to climate change mitigation, and invest in resource recovery programs that ensure decent livelihoods for all workers and traders in the recycling economy."

[More Details](#)

Indonesia: 31 Mineworkers Died in Gas Explosion

A massive methane gas explosion in a coal mine in the West Sumatra province of Indonesia killed 31 mineworkers earlier in June. The mine was not under the regulation of the government, neither has it a worker's union. It has had a smaller accident in 2007 killing three workers. But the company was able to get the license back. Indonesia is the Asia-Pacific's second largest coal. It is estimated that there are some 77,000 illegal mines in the country, employing 465,000 workers. The informal mining sector exploits ten times the number of miners than that of the formal sector.

[More Details](#)

MIGRATION AND LABOUR

Time to Take Action for Vulnerable Burmese Migrants

Drawing on over 150 interviews with the villagers in rural Burma and those from Burma who have sought employment abroad, the report "Abuse, Poverty and Migration: Investigating migrants' motivations to leave home in Burma" by Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG) identifies the exploitative abuse underpinning poverty and livelihoods vulnerability in Burma which are major factors motivating individuals to leave home and seek work abroad. A time to take action to assist vulnerable populations from Burma now working abroad!

[More Details](#)

Groups call on Malaysian Government to Protect FDWs

Regional networks, domestic workers associations, trade unions, NGOs and community based organisations welcome the recent move by the Malaysian government to provide a mandatory paid day off for foreign domestic workers (FDWs). They call on the government to enforce the law and ensure the rights of FDWs. In addition, the government should incorporate a comprehensive mandatory standard contract for domestic worker stating clearly terms and condition of work. Moreover, it should develop mechanisms to protect FDWs from the violations of employers, recruitment agencies, brokers.

[More Details](#)

COMING EVENT

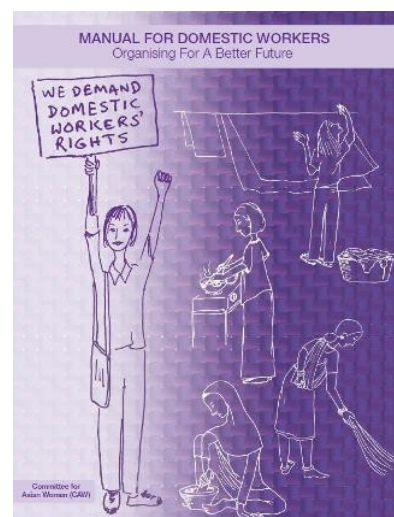
Training on Advocacy for Domestic Workers - Indonesia



The Committee for Asian Women and JALA-PRT, Yogyakarta-based domestic workers network will conduct a national training and consultation on the country's "domestic workers are workers" campaign on 25-27 July 2009. The training aims to strengthen capacities of groups working towards labour standards protection and recognition for Indonesian domestic workers. It will bring together domestic workers' unions, support NGOs, trade union representatives and labour support groups for a three-day intensive learning of advocacy skills and strategies from national and international representatives. The event hopes to prepare Indonesian domestic worker leaders to campaign for national legislation and advocate internationally for an ILO Convention on Domestic Work.

For more information contact CAW Programme Officer Niza Concepcion at niza@cawinfo.org

NEW CAW PUBLICATIONS

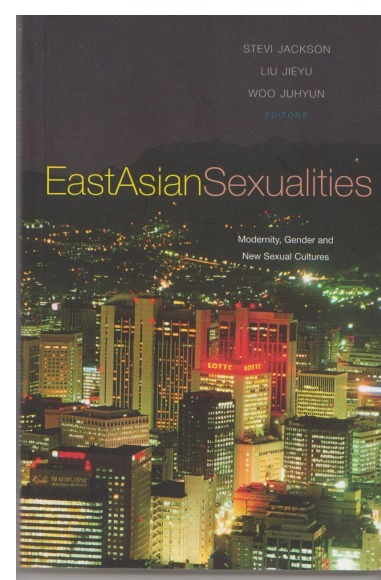


Manual For Domestic Workers

This manual aims to assist the leaders of domestic worker groups to come out of a powerless situation by embracing the strength of the domestic worker organisation or union. It is an empowering process to be involved in the union's or organisation's struggle for recognition of her contribution to the economy. The situation of domestic workers can be improved by building solidarity and strengthening the organisation's or union's capabilities.

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ARTICLE REVIEW



Article Review: "Sexualised Labour? 'White-Collar Beauties' in Provincial China" by Liu Jieyu

This article compared the gendered practice affected by gender politics of white-collar female workers with their counterparts in lower level service work, and how they deal with the growing sexual consumerism in China's transition to a market economic. The young, pretty and talented women had to manage the boundary between gender and sexuality while their male counterparts were not faced with such need inside the organisational setting. The study explored the socialising of those young women outside the organisational setting as well. The author intended to outline the new forms of gender inequality in the Chinese workplace, and aimed to illuminate the sexual politics inherent in the operations of commercial companies in China's new market economy and enhance knowledge of the position of professional women in the new labour market in East Asia.

[Buy this book at :](#)



ABOUT CAW

Committee for Asian Women (CAW) is a regional network of 46 women workers groups in 14 Asian countries that aims to empower women workers to protect, advocate, and advance their rights. CAW is part of the global movement advocating workers' rights for over 30 years.

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