

Highlight Protecting Job and Wage Security in Time of Financial Crisis



Above: Jitra Cotshadet, former president of Triumph union of Thailand

This conference provided a shared platform for the trade unions that have different background as textiles, garment, electronics to formulate a common vision which is a struggle against neo-liberal capitalist policies and responding to the challenges posed by globalisation and financial crisis. The presence of Triumph Union Philippines helped the trade unions in exploring the possibility of working at the international level, and building relationships with trade unions abroad which could conceivably lead to mobilisation, such as an international retailer campaign.

In response to the Trade Unions, the Ministry of Labour representative stated that the Ministry is implementing six measures to cope up with current crisis situation.

Below: Participants of the conference



[More Details](#)

National Advocacy Training for Domestic Workers in Indonesia

More than 50 domestic workers groups and supporters from 10 districts gathered in Bogor, Indonesia to participate in a national training on advocacy organised by JALA PRT (National Network of Domestic Workers Advocacy) and supported by CAW. The training aimed to increase the capacity of Indonesian domestic workers groups and their supporters to campaign and promote domestic workers' rights and welfare. Sharing of local strategies and approaches, intersected with learnings from regional and international experiences. The training focused on the draft legislation for domestic workers, policy reform, domestic workers organising and the campaign seeking an ILO Convention on Domestic Work by 2011.

[More Details](#)

TRADE AND LABOUR

Statement against India-ASEAN FTA

The Polit Bureau of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) issued a statement against the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement in Goods. This FTA would gradually eliminate tariff in 80% of the trading goods. Such across the board elimination of customs duties would be harmful for domestic industries, agriculture and fisheries, which have already been adversely affected by the economic slow-down. The sharp cuts in import duties in the future would affect the livelihood of a very large number of people in the country. The Government of India should immediately take appropriate measures to protect the interests of those who will be affected by this agreement.

[More Details](#)

FORMAL ECONOMY

KCTU: Ssangyong Reached Agreement But Workers Struggle Continues

KMWU Ssangyong Motors Branch brought a 77-day sit-in strike to an end on 6 August as an agreement was reached between workers and the management. Ninety six strikers were arrested and the union will face massive legal fees. KCTU respected the decision of the union while condemned the inhuman attack of the police to the workers. KCTU warned that the struggle against unjust dismissals can re-spark if innocent workers continue to be made to bear the brunt of economic crisis. The government must revise its economic and labour policies, and the factory management must also stop union busting and recognise trade unions as their dialogue partner.

[More Details](#)

Cambodia: Fourteen Laid-off Union Leaders Face Criminal Charges

NagaWorld Casino workers gathered at Phnom Penh Municipal Court on 11st August to support fourteen unionized ex-workers who face criminal charges in connection with wage protests. Fourteen laid-off union leaders appeared at the Court on the morning of 11st August to answer questions in relation to four criminal charges filed against them following protests for increased pay at the casino and entertainment complex. They have been charged with incitement to discrimination, defamation, perjury and incitement to the commission of a felony or misdemeanor, but rejected all the allegations. The NagaWorld had fired the unionized employees and brought charges against them because it did not want any demands for increased annual salaries, suitable working conditions and other incentives to cut into the company's bottom line. Legal charges were being used to 'silence the voices' of the union representatives and undermine their claims for higher wages.

[More Details](#)

INFORMAL ECONOMY

Abuse Case Highlights Need for Stricter Laws in Malaysia

Siti Hajar fled her employer's house and sought shelter at the Indonesian embassy in Kuala Lumpur in June. She had been abused by her female employer over a 34-month period. After the story made the headlines recently, Indonesian government decided to temporarily suspend sending domestic workers to Malaysia until the two governments have reached a new agreement that entitles domestic workers to basic rights such as days off and periodic salary increases, and allows them to retain their passports. About two million Indonesians are working in Malaysia, many as domestic helpers and plantation labourers. Indonesian migrant workers sent home US\$8.2 billion in 2008.

[More Details](#)

MIGRATION AND LABOUR

Migrants and HIV/AIDS Programme under Threat

The migrants that are left out of the current stimulus packages and HIV/AIDS programmes are under threat. Inevitably the adverse impact of the financial crisis on health and migration is likely to expand, as currency devaluations lead to higher medicine prices, donor funding declines, and the government programmes are cut. There are also increasing concerns that female migrants who lose their jobs may move into sex work to survive. The UN representatives advocate with the governments and donors not to cut resources on migrant HIV programmes. The countries and countries of origin need to establish protective mechanisms to help migrants returning home or to relocate on site and engage with civil society organisations to improve health services for migrants.

[More Details](#)

RIGHTS IN CONFLICT AND SUPPRESSION

China: Another Privatisation Halted Due to Protests

Thousands of workers of the Linzhou Iron and Steel Company, a state-owned steel plant in Puyang, Henan province ended a five-day protest, after the local authority announced its suspension of the privatisation and will give workers subsidy until the production resumes. In July 2009, Linzhou Steel was sold to Fengbao Iron & Steel Co Ltd, a private firm, at about 64 million Yuan less than the initial bid without the workers' consent. Workers and their families had pushed for suspension since then. During the protest, the workers detained a deputy director of the local state-owned assets supervision and administration (SASAC), who was later released after the protest ended. It was the second time in less than a month that protesting workers stopped the privatisation of state-owned steel plants in China.

[More Details](#)

COMING EVENTS

The Undeclared War on Women: Women's Rights in Conflict and Suppression

20 September 2009, Student Christian Center, Bangkok

CAW is organising a conference on women workers' rights in conflict and political suppression on 20 September at the Student Christian Center (SCC), Bangkok. The conference aims at enhancing skills and developing a network for women workers to support their organising efforts for peace building and democracy. It will bring activists and women workers from various sectors together to discuss the issue of fundamentalism, war on terror, migration, internally displaced persons, violence against women and suppression of freedom of association. CAW will present the primary findings of its research on women workers' current situations in conflict and political suppression areas in Asia.

For more information contact CAW Programme Officer Suvechha Adhikari at suvechha@cawinfo.org

Day of Action on International Day of Peace

9am- 11am, 21 September 2009, In front of UN building, Bangkok

CAW is organising a Day of Action on the International Day of Peace on 21st September. This public action aims at raising public attention to the livelihood and struggle of women workers living in conflict and suppression towards sustainable peace building.

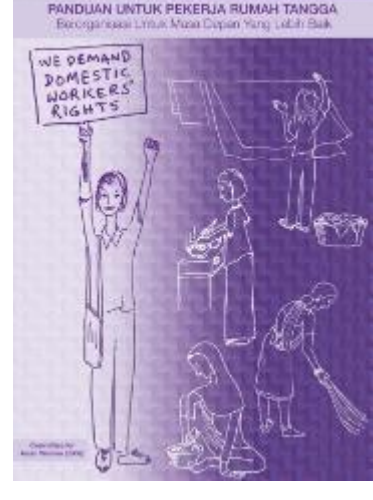
We would appreciate your participation from a distance through a solidarity message sent to us on this day. Please refer to the background note and programme of the Day of Action attached below. Kindly send us your solidarity messages not later than 20th September.

For more information contact CAW ICM Officer Juliette Li at juliette@cawinfo.org

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at awwn@cawinfo.org

NEW CAW PUBLICATIONS



Panduan Untuk Pekerja Rumah Tangga

Berorganisasi Untuk Masa Depan Yang Lebih Baik

Manual ini ditujukan untuk membantu para pemimpin kelompok PRT dan PRT keluar dari situasi tak berdaya melalui penguatan organisasi atau serikat PRT. Hal ini merupakan proses pemberdayaan agar mereka terlibat dalam perjuangan organisasi atau serikatnya untuk mendapatkan pengakuan atas kontribusi ekonomi mereka. Situasi PRT dapat berubah dengan membangun solidaritas dan penguatan kapabilitas organisasi atau serikat mereka.

(This manual is the Bahasa Indonesia translation of the English version)

[Download Here](#)

BROCHURE AVAILABLE



ปฐมนิเทศด้วยมาตรฐานค่าจ้างในภูมิภาคเอเชีย

(Introduction of Asia Floor Wage)

Translated to Thai Language by CAW

ทวีปเอเชียเป็นเครือข่ายการผลิต

เส้นสี่เหลี่ยมมุมแหลมที่สำคัญใน

ระบบเศรษฐกิจโลก คิดเป็นร้อยละ 60

จากผลผลิตสี่เหลี่ยม เครื่องนุ่งห่มทั่วโลก

และจ้างงานคนงานมากกว่า

100 ล้านคนในภูมิภาคเอเชีย

ซึ่งส่วนใหญ่เป็นแรงงานสตรี แม้ว่าแรงงาน

เหล่านั้นเป็นแกนกลางสำคัญของภาคอุตสาหกรรม

ทอกรรมดังกล่าว แต่คนงานเหล่านั้นไม่ได้รับ

ส่วนแบ่งที่ยุติธรรมเมื่อเทียบกับมูลค่าที่พวกเขาผลิต

ทุกวันนี้พวกเขาได้รับค่าตอบแทน

เพียงครึ่งหนึ่งจากระดับรายได้ที่ควรจะได้รับ

สำหรับครอบครัวที่ใช้จ่ายที่จำเป็นของพวกเขา

พวกเขาและครอบครัว

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PUBLICATIONS ABOUT WOMEN

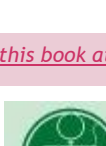


Mining and Women in Asia

Published by Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Laws and Development (APWLD)

Experiences of Women Protecting their Communities and Human Rights Against Corporate Mining is a product of the Food Over Gold campaign launched in 2005 as part of APWLD's food sovereignty programme. The book contains the results of mining fact-finding missions, fora where the issue of women and mining is discussed and an Asia study session on women and mining conducted by APWLD's Women and the Environment Task Force (WEN TF).

[Get 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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Apologies for the late delivery of this issue due to the upgrade of our website.