

Highlight Statement: End war on Women Workers; End Free Trade Regime

The conference on “The Undeclared War on Women: Women Workers Rights in Conflict and Suppression” was held on 20th of September in Bangkok. The participants of the conference released a statement after sharing their experiences and discussion. The participants called for an end to state violence and repression in the pursuit of globalisation and free trade. Freedom of association should be respected and protected at all times. The governments should protect the rights of migrant women and their families including the rights to mobility and to work with dignity.

The report of the conference will be available at CAW’s website soon.

[Download the statement here.](#)

Day of Action on International Day of Peace



The event was covered by the Bangkok Post and several Thai local media.

[More Details](#)

The Committee for Asian Women, Thai Labour Campaign and Triumph (International) Labour Union Thailand staged a protest in front of the UN ESCAP building in Bangkok on the International Day of Peace, 21st September 2009. The public action aimed at raising awareness on women workers’ situation and struggle in conflict and suppression. It was participated by over a hundred women workers and activists from local and regional organisations in Thailand, Burma, Pakistan, the Philippines, China, South Korea and Nepal. The participants organised and performed a street drama on “Labour Trafficking and VAW”.

NEW CAW PUBLICATIONS



Domestic Workers are Workers: Decent Work for All
Regional Conference on Domestic Workers 2008
Committee for Asian Women



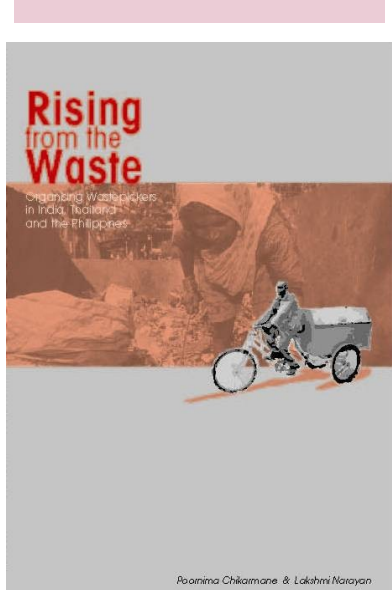
Domestic Workers are Workers: Decent Work for All

Regional Conference on Domestic Workers 2008

Domestic workers continue to be among the most vulnerable to abuse and exploitation because of the nature of their work, mostly in the privacy of a household. One of the most fundamental issues that need to be addressed is the invisibility of domestic workers.

The conference emphasised the need for domestic workers themselves to be at the forefront of the campaign for decent work.

[Download Here](#)



Rising from the Waste

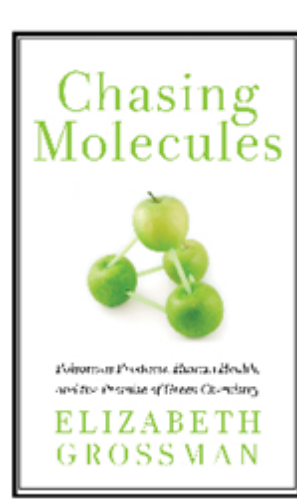
Organising Wastepickers in India, Thailand and the Philippines

This report focuses on the situation and struggle of wastepickers. Many wastepickers work extremely long hours, exposed to severe UV radiation and toxic fumes, carrying heavy objects and walking by foot. They face various health and safety risks such as sharp objects, hazardous chemicals, and contagious medical wastes.

Wastepickers need to be able to augment their capacities and conditions of work in a formal and legally protected way. It is essential to create a set of standards for waste handling systems that include full participation and consultation with the waste collection sector.

[Download Here](#)

BOOK RELEASE



Chasing Molecules

[By Elizabeth Grossman](#)

Author Elizabeth Grossman tackles the hazards of ordinary consumer products. She shows that for the sake of convenience, efficiency, and short-term safety, we have created synthetic chemicals that fundamentally change, at a molecular level, the way our bodies work. The consequences range from diabetes to cancer, reproductive and neurological disorders.

A scientific revolution is introducing products that are “benign by design,” developing manufacturing processes that consider health impacts at every stage, and is creating new compounds that mimic rather than disrupt natural systems. Through interviews with leading researchers, Grossman gives us a first look at this radical transformation.

[Order this book and read reviews online](#)

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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TRADE AND LABOUR

India: CPM Forms Human Chain over FTA with ASEAN

CPM activists formed a 550 km human chain to register their protest against the India-ASEAN free trade agreement scheduled to be effective from January, 2010. A large number of party workers including men, women, children and carter participated in the human chain formed from Kasargod to Thiruvananthapuram for pressuring the government to scrap FTA in the larger interests of the state. The party lamented that free trade pact would have adverse impact on state’s agriculture, fishery and traditional industry over State’s economy in a long run. CPI (M) State secretary also called to boycott the imported products in Kerala.

[More Details](#)

FORMAL ECONOMY

Khanewal Action Committee Attacked by Unilever Lipton

Three Lipton tea factory workers of Khanewal Action Committee were attacked by the main labour contractor of Unilever Khanewal during the night shift on 31 August. The factory owned by Unilever is currently under the pressure of the global campaign against their using of casual labourers. Two workers were seriously injured and hospitalised, while one escaped with minor injuries. Apart from the attack, the management had encouraged the contractor to hire as many of their relatives as possible to oppose the campaign. The newly recruited casual workers have enabled management to cut down workdays and reallocate work from the members of Khanewal Action Committee. The management could resume the disposable jobs regime as the new workers are not organised to demand formal recognition of their rights.

[More Details](#)

MRF-UNITED Workers Union- Arakonam Reclaimed Union Rights

9th September 2009 marked the historical victory of workers fighting for the right of association in India. The court decided that the management of Madras Rubber Factory had to recognise the Madras Rubber Factory United Workers Union and should agree to adhere to the ILO recommendations. The workers had been on a strike since 9th May 2009 and caused the closure of the factory on 17th May. The campaign was supported by Tamil Nadu Women’s Forum (TNWF) and various international organisations. The union has a total of 1,400 permanent workers and 3,000 contract workers. During the strike, the management dismissed workers who are active in the trade union affairs, or suspended them or had them relocated. Their wages have been reduced and there have been complaints of physical violence and lodging of false criminal charges.

[More Details](#)

INFORMAL ECONOMY

Domestic Workers Strike for Better Conditions in Chennai

Over 400 domestic workers in Chennai, India stayed away from work protesting against the government’s inaction in protecting their rights and failure to fix minimum wages. Penn Thozhilalargal Sangam (PTS), an independent women workers’ union, organised the public action. Domestic workers formed a human chain, raised slogans and demanded that the government and employers must recognise their basic rights. PTS had given a detailed memorandum attested by over two thousand domestic workers demanding fixation of Rs 25 as a minimum wage in 2007. The Labour Department has taken two years to constitute an advisory committee to study the wages of domestic workers. PTS urged the government to set a deadline for announcing a fair wage for domestic workers. The union also lobby with the government for mandatory weekly holiday and annual bonus of one month’s salary.

[More Details](#)

Waste Pickers Won Rotary Club Vocational Excellence Award

Kagad Kach Patra Kashtakari Panchayat (KKPKP), was awarded the Rotary Vocational Excellence Award. The Award is given to KKPKP for its dedication and excellent work in organising waste pickers, which benefits to the community. Saru Waghmare, committee member of KKPKP said the live of waste pickers has already been changed after all these years of struggle. However, more work has to be done to change the view of the society on waste pickers.

[More Details](#)

MIGRATION AND LABOUR

Another Six Burmese Died of Leptospirosis in Detention in Malaysia

Another six Burmese migrants have died while in detention in Malaysia because of a suspected waterborne disease. It must be noted that this is not the first case of death by reason of Leptospirosis. Two Burmese migrants, died in the Malaysia’s Juru Immigration Detention Centre from Leptospirosis in May 2009. Leptospirosis is a disease caused by exposure to water contaminated with the urine of infected animals, and is very rarely propagated through contact with affected persons. NGO groups urge the Malaysian government to take immediate and proper steps to ensure that such disregard for life does not happen again.

[More Details](#)

RIGHTS IN CONFLICT AND SUPPRESSION

University Student Workers Attacked by Sub-contractors of Coca-Cola (China)

A university student worker was attacked and seriously injured by two officers of the labour-dispatched company of Coca Cola. He was later diagnosed with a ruptured eardrum, resulting in compromised hearing capacity. Two student workers were demanding their backpay salary upon their resignation. These students are members of Coke Concerned Student Group, the group published a report earlier this year revealing the labour rights violations in Coca Cola sub-contracting companies. The students worked at the Hangzhou-based bottling plant of Coca Cola to investigate and monitor the working condition in order to improve workers’ situation.

[More Details](#)

COMING EVENTS

Advancing a Peoples’ ASEAN: Continuing Dialogue



18-20 October 2009
Chaam, Thailand

For more information see APF website www.aseanpeoplesforum.net

Women Workers Leadership Training Programme

28 October to 3 November 2009
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

For more information click in [here](#).

The key objectives of the dialogue are to explore ASEAN’s options and limitations and identify potential solutions for the ASEAN to meet the demands and aspirations of its peoples; and foster governments-peoples cooperation in building a just, people-centred, and genuine ASEAN Community.

CAW members from the Southeast Asian region are participating in the forum to raise women workers’ voice in discussions along the political-security, economic and socio-cultural pillars of the ASEAN Charter.

The Women Workers Leadership Training Programme is organised by Committee for Asian Women to build a second echelon of women worker leaders, activists and organisers who are empowered, and are aware of and can identify with struggles at a national, regional and international levels.

Around 12 participants from CAW member groups and the secretariat will join the training.

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