

# 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).



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## In the people's interest: Youth perspective

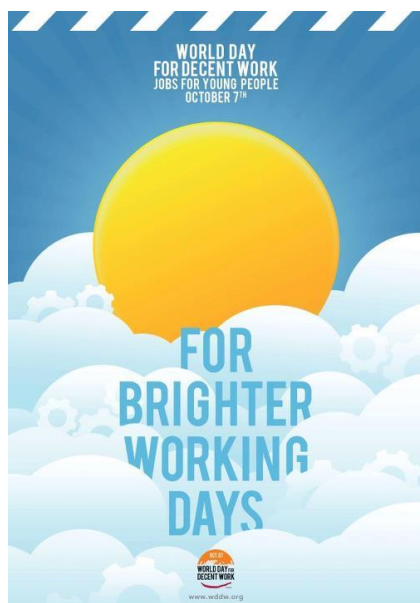


In the People's Interest  
**WORLD 2012  
CONGRESS  
D U R B A N**

Leading into the PSI World Congress, a Young Workers' Meeting will be held on 24 November 2012 at 14.00–17.30 at the convention centre in Durban, South Africa. This meeting is a space for young people members of PSI to discuss current challenges, and how the PSI's policies and five year action program can help address those challenges.

We believe that young workers are very important for the PSI movement. More support given to strengthen their voices and bring youth closer together in solidarity, and look at new ways to actively involve young people in public sector unions. Through this meeting, PSI's will bring a group of dynamic young members around the world to the PSI 29<sup>th</sup> World Congress. Detail of the meeting and program, please see: <http://congress.world-psi.org/young-workers-meeting> or contact: [indah.budiarti@world-psi.org](mailto:indah.budiarti@world-psi.org)

## World Day for Decent Work, October 7 – Jobs for young people



Trade unions around the world will organise mobilisations, events and activities on **October 7** to demand decent jobs and full respect for workers' rights. With the global economic crisis still hitting working people hard in every part of the world, trade unions around the world will organise mobilisations, events and activities on October 7 to demand decent jobs and full respect for workers' rights.

This year, the crisis in youth employment be a prominent feature of the activities through the World day for decent work. Official figures show that 75 million young people are without jobs across the world, many millions more are trapped in informal or precarious work, and tens of millions of new job seekers have no prospect of finding work, or education and training to equip them for work in the future. Youth unemployment is as high as 60% in some countries, and a whole generation of young people faces exclusion from the labour market. This is a social and economic time-bomb. Activities and the focus on different Decent Work issues will vary from country to country. Read the letter of ITUC General Secretary on WDDW 2012, click [here](#) and visit the website: <http://2012.wddw.org/>

## PSAY's message on the International Youth Day 2012



The [Public Service Association Youth Network \(PSAY\)](#) celebrated International Youth Day by collecting photos of young people (aged 35 and under), each holding up a sign on which they had written an issue important to them. **'Better start wages! Young should not equal poor!'**, **'Human beings need community!'**, **'Gender equity at work and play!'**, **'Social and environmental justice!'**, and **'We support same-sex marriage!'** are only a few of the concerns raised by young people living in New Zealand. This fun and creative activity helped to spread the message about considering youth and issues important to young people. The activity has gone international, with our counterparts at [CPSU Next Generation](#) in Australia and [PSI collecting photos](#) too.

This activity has been so successful that PSAY doesn't want to limit it to just International Youth Day and is continuing to collect photos. In the end it is crucial to listen to young people all year round and not just on International Youth Day! For more information, check out the [PSAY Facebook page](#).

## Excuse me, are you trade unionists?



By [Ms. Tan Sze Wei](#), PSI Asia Pacific Youth Network Coordinator/[AUPE](#) Assistant General Secretary

It has been ten years since I joined the union. They have been among the most interesting and meaningful years of my life. I wasn't always a trade union activist. Indeed, I have no history of unionists in my family. Most of my friends and family members knew me as an individual who always followed rules and seldom questioned the establishment or authority. Many friends and family were very surprised when they learned that I joined the union, not just as a member but as an activist.

Trade unionism first caught my interest when I joined the Singapore public service in 2002 as an environmental health officer. I was posted to an Environmental District Office under the National Environment Agency, and one of my colleagues, a member of the Union Staff Branch Committee persuaded me to join our union. What first got me interested was my need to understand the workplace rights of an employee, the role of the Union Staff Branch Committee, and how it could help members like me. As a result of my interest, I was soon invited to stand for election to the Branch Committee and later to the Executive Council of the [Amalgamated Union of Public Employees](#) (AUPE). Serving as a union activist was certainly an eye opener for me. I was able to understand what is happening in the Labour movement and the union's important role in improving the lives of workers. Read more of her article, click [here](#)

## Internships: Head start or labour trap?



Internships are often considered a great way for young people to gather valuable work experience and get a foothold in the labour market. Their importance has risen as graduates find it increasingly difficult to land a job. But widely reported abuses have led to vocal criticism of internships as a source of cheap, and often free, labour. An article published by ILO News looks at the benefits and drawbacks of internships, read the article, click [here](#)

## Young people not in employment, education or training in New Zealand



By Andrea Fromm, [National Youth Convenor](#) – [New Zealand Public Services Association \(PSA\)](#) / Te Pukenga Here Tikanga Mahi

**Young people struggle to live in dignity:** They have always struggled to move from education to work, to find decent work that provides a minimum amount of social security and protection from unfair dismissal. They have always struggled to make their voices heard within the trade unions and thereby win the opportunity to improve their situation collectively.

Today, four years into the global economic and financial crisis, young people struggle more than ever before. According to recent publications from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) young people are hardest hit by the crisis. Young people are commonly the first to lose their jobs and the last to regain employment. This is due to many factors, such as a lack of opportunities to (re)train, lack of experience and skills, and weak labour-market information and services.

Young people who have lost their jobs struggle to find new work. They often work in precarious employment without knowing what the future holds for them. Young people's disadvantages, disengagement, and underutilisation in the labour market might have devastating effects for societies, economies, political systems and social security schemes. Worldwide, we risk losing a whole generation to the crisis.

Is such a 'lost generation' an inevitable legacy of the current worldwide crisis? The answer is a clear no. However we need to concentrate our efforts on young people, whether they are employed or unemployed. We need to focus on giving them opportunities to participate in our union no matter if they are employed or not. If we ignore young people and their specific issues there will be an inevitable consequence: an unstable foundation for the economies and societies of today and tomorrow. One particular group of young people symbolises the growing concern about a lost youth generation – those who are not in employment, education or training (NEET). A high proportion of NEET is effectively detached from the labour market and at significant risk of long-term labour market and social exclusion. Read Andrea's article in detail, click [here](#) (in PDF)

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



By Indah Budiarti, Organising and Communication Coordinator, PSI Asia and Pacific  
**Unemployment and lost hope**

The continuing global economic crisis has hit young people especially hard. The ILO's report on [Global Employment Trends for Youth 2012](#) demonstrates increasing uncertainty in the labour market for young people. There are 75 million youth aged 15 to 24 who are unemployed, an increase of 4 million since 2007. In addition, the economic crisis has caused another 6.4 million young people to withdraw from the labour force, giving up the struggle to find jobs that don't exist.

This trend is particularly pronounced in the developed economies and the European Union. For many, the only jobs they can find are in precarious conditions, with little job security and low pay. More than 150 million young people are living on less than \$1.25 a day.

Indeed, the economic crisis has wiped out the opportunity for young people to make gains in employment, not just now but in years ahead. Long term unemployment affects both their skills and their future earning potential. Political commitment and innovative approaches are needed to address the youth unemployment and jobs crisis. Read full article, click [here](#)

## Organising young workers: Young people need union and unions need young people



Young members of PSI affiliates from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka gathered in Colombo on September 1-3 to reiterate the facts that young people need union and unions need young people.

The participants called upon the leaders to make efforts in organising young workers and doing mentoring program for union sustainability. *“To build strong unions now and in the future, it is crucial that the labour movement should reach out and organising young workers. Empower the youth and increasingly include them in the process of decision making,”* said Ayomi Wanninayaka, Sri Lanka’s youth coordinator, on her sharing presentation.

The dynamic and interactive workshop has facilitated the participants to discuss and sharing various subjects like the right to organise and collective bargaining, precarious work and its impacts on jobs, social security, growth & productivity and on empowering women members. This helped the participants to build strategy of actions in strengthening young workers network in South Asia. For further information, please contact Mr. Raman Kannan, South Asia Sub-regional Secretary: [kannan.raman@world-psi.org](mailto:kannan.raman@world-psi.org)

## Youth unemployment getting even worse



An ILO paper shows that the impact of the euro crisis is spreading as far afield as East Asia and Latin America, worsening the situation for many young jobseekers. Jobless rates among young people will get even worse globally as the spill over of the euro crisis spreads from advanced to emerging economies, according to an ILO paper titled [“Global Employment Outlook: Bleak Labour Market Prospects for Youth”](#)

The new forecasts show the youth unemployment rate in developed economies dropping gradually, from 17.5 per cent this year to 15.6 per cent in 2017. This is still far higher than the rate of 12.5 per cent registered in 2007, before the crisis struck. Much of this decline in the jobless rate is not due to improvements in the labour market, but rather to large numbers of young people dropping out of the labour force altogether due to discouragement. These discouraged youth are not counted among the unemployed. Click [here](#) for the report

PSI APRO welcomes your views and comments. Please send news and information on young workers in your union to: [indah.budiarti@world-psi.org](mailto:indah.budiarti@world-psi.org)