



### SEA Young Trade Unionists: Leadership and Capacity Building Training Workshop

Twenty seven East Asia.

selected young unionists from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines,

Singapore and Thailand actively participated in an interactive training workshop on leadership and capacity building. The training workshop was held in Puncak, West Java, Indonesia from 18 to 22 July 2009. Sharing, learning and active participation were the theme to reflect diversities of languages, cultures and experiences. The intensive five days training workshop incorporated a balanced program which involved social, physical and mental activities at the training camp. The training workshop was designed to develop creative thinking, leadership skills, broaden perspectives and strengthen the young workers network in South

East Asia. It was not just simply activity but activity that will help the participants from the affiliates union of PSI to develop learning skills and capabilities to strengthen their capacity building and for their unions. The participants developed country recommendations from the network action program to be implemented by their local unions. It was seen as a successful program that identified new leaders that further developed and strengthened the network and improved the young workers representatives' capacity.

Please read complete report on our website: <http://www.psiapayouthnetwork.org/2009/07/27/sea-young-trade-unionists-leadership-and-capacity-building-training-workshop/> or contact Indah Budiarti: [indah.budiarti@world-psi.org](mailto:indah.budiarti@world-psi.org)

### UMGSU Youth Training: young workers to keep the union dynamic

University of Malaya General Staff Union (UMGSU), Malaysia Youth Committee organised a training workshop from 27 May to 30 May 2009 at Gunung Ledang Resort, Johor Bahru, Malaysia. The training workshop was a team building effort which developed awareness and organizational skills of young members on unionism. The training workshop was also designed with the wide range of physical activities. These physical activities help the participants to build self-confidence and earn the trust of

their peers as they work together through the challenges. Mazmir Mohd Amin, UMGSU Youth Chair, reported that it was the first training workshop for the UMGSU young members to aim being to make the union: a dynamic, youthful and responsive organisation, it was an important opportunity to gain youth support by improving their skills and knowledge on unionism. He again said that UMGSU is proud to acknowledge the importance of young members as the future leaders for the union movement. For more information please contact him at: [mazmir@um.edu.my](mailto:mazmir@um.edu.my)



## Fagforbundet Summer Youth Conference, 19-21 June 2009

The 4th Fagforbundet Youth Summer Conference was held in Stavern, Norway from 19-21 June. Over 160 young participants joined in the attractive and interactive programme of this summer conference. They travelled from around Norway, and two guest participants were from Denmark. Under the overriding theme of youth empowerment, the participants explored new ways of learning,



discussed current issues affecting young people, made new friends, created new networks, and had a lot fun. They had a wide choice of panel seminars, panel debates, guest speakers and outdoor activities. The conference began with the opening speech of the Fagforbundet Youth Chair,

Linn Elisabeth Hemmingsen (who is also chair of the PSI European Youth Forum), and the President of Fagforbundet, Jan Davidsen. It was a family friendly conference, to which young couples could bring their children. The participants discussed the problem of housing costs that are seriously af-

fecting young people, both singles and couples as well as families with young children. Housing expenses have risen considerably, while income has reduced. In her opening remarks, Linn Hemmingsen expressed the need for a strong policy to overcome the problem and help young people. Indah Budiarti, PSI Asia and Pacific Organising and Communication Coordinator, shared her presentation on the power of youth for

the trade union movement and society. Read complete the article, click on this address: [http://world-psi.org/TemplateEn.cfm?Session=Young\\_workers1&CONTENTID=22982&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm](http://world-psi.org/TemplateEn.cfm?Session=Young_workers1&CONTENTID=22982&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm)



## Summer Patrol protects young workers in Norway

The summer break is the ideal opportunity for many young people to have their first work experience. A summer job allows them to earn some extra cash, as well as learning new skills and experience for the future. However, unscrupulous employers may take advantage of young peoples' lack of experience to exploit them. It is to avoid this that LO, the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions, has set up its "Summer Patrol" (Sommerpatrulje in Norwegian), involving trade union

youth officers and volunteers. PSI affiliate Fagforbundet is active in the Summer Patrol. Linn Hemmingsen, Chair of Fagforbundet Youth, said that it was important that young people know their rights and entitlements as employees in order to make the most of their summer jobs in the best possible circumstances. Read complete article, click this address: [http://world-psi.org/TemplateEn.cfm?Session=Young\\_workers1&CONTENTID=22998&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm](http://world-psi.org/TemplateEn.cfm?Session=Young_workers1&CONTENTID=22998&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm)



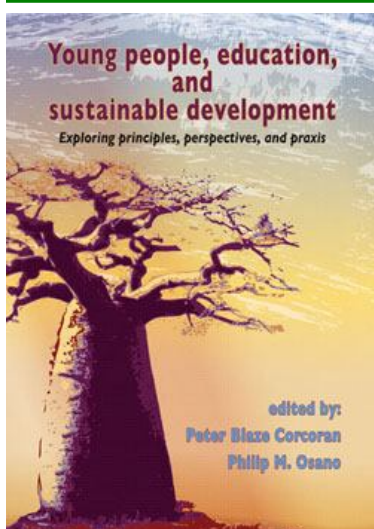
To protect our future and the future of our generation, we should say **NO to nuclear weapons!**. The ITUC has launches a Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons! We need you and your organisations to support the campaign to end nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Please sign the petition and get as many people as possible to sign it. For more information, please click this address: <http://www.ituc-csi.org/peace>

## PLURAL + Video Festival

Between June 1st 2009 – September 30th 2009, youth from around the world will be able to create and submit videos to the PLURAL + Video Festival, on the themes of migration, diversity, and identity. The festival is the brainchild of the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and is the product of



collaboration with a number of other important partners. The Festival aims to promote youth involvement and dialogue in the areas of migration and diversity. UNAOC and IOM plan to bring selected videos to the attention of policy makers providing an opportunity for young people's opinions on the successes or deficiencies of present migration policies to be heard both by the public and policy-makers in their respective countries and abroad. Check this website for more information: <http://www.unaoc.org/content/view/346/257/lang,en/>



Young people have an enormous stake in the present and future state of our Earth. Almost half of the current global human population of more than six billion is comprised of young people under the age of 25, with approximately 1.3 billion youth, mostly in developing countries, between the ages of 12 and 25. If young people's resources

of energy, time, and knowledge are misdirected towards violence, terrorism, socially-isolating technologies, and unsustainable consumption, civilization risks destabilization. Yet there is a powerful opportunity for society if young people can participate positively in all aspects of life, including governance, culture, commerce, and environment to promote sustainable development. In order to do so, young people need education, political support, resources, skills, and hope. **This book** is designed to create awareness amongst educators, policy makers, non-governmental organizations, business leaders, politicians, and the general public as to the critical importance of informed youth participation in sustainable development. Read more about this book on: <http://www.wageningenacademic.com/youngpeople>



## Millions of children are at work instead of school

12 June was the World Day Against Child Labour. Millions of children are at work instead of school. The global financial crisis could push an increasing number of children, particularly girls, into child labour. Today is the World Day Against Child Labour. Most child labour is rooted in poverty, often associated with multiple dis-

advantage.

Socio-economic inequalities based on language, race, disability and rural-urban differences remain deeply entrenched. Girls can face particular disadvantages due to discrimination and practices which allocate certain forms of work to girls. Many girls take on unpaid household work for their families, usually more so than boys.

Around the world, an estimated 100 million girls are involved in child labour. Many of these girls undertake similar types of work as boys, but often also endure additional hardships and face extra risks. Moreover, girls are all too often exposed to some of the worst forms of child labour, often in hidden work situations. Read more, click this address: <http://www.psiapyouthnetwork.org/2009/06/12/million-children-are-at-work-instead-of-school/>

**YOUTH TO YOUTH** is 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). PSI is an official recognised non-government organisation for the public sector within the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and has consultative status with ECOSOC and observer status with other UN Bodies as UNCTAD and UNESCO. 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)

APYN Website: <http://www.psiapyouthnetwork.org/>



## Are You Working Naked?

By Indah Budiarti, PSI AP Organising and Communication Coordinator ([indah.budiarti@world-psi.org](mailto:indah.budiarti@world-psi.org))

As you may be aware, the current global economic crisis has affected just about everyone around the world, with massive layoffs and increasing unemployment. Young people are the most affected by this crisis not only in developing countries but also in developed countries. ILO predicted that global unemployment could increase to 239 million in this year, it is estimated around 100 million people are in Asia.

On the global economic crisis, young people were 2.8 times as likely to be unemployed than adults at the global level. For an example in Indonesia with over 38.4 million young women and men are between the ages of 15 and 24 years. Youth are five times more likely to be unemployed than their adult counterparts. In Timor Leste, about 48% of the population is youth, the ages from 15 – 29 (2004, population Census). Due to violence and political turmoil, there has been an increase in poverty and illiteracy resulting in a huge informal sector which accounts for over 80 per cent of the working population.

The global financial crisis could push an increasing number of children, particularly girls, out of education into child labour. Young women and girls, in Asia particularly, drop out from school because of parents giving preference of education to boys. Young women face twin challenges, being female and being young. Cultural norms put them as “ a second class person” who are assigned to caring and being responsible for the reproductive role instead to accessing education.

**Most of the young people are in working poverty, vulnerable jobs and are migrating for better-paying jobs overseas.** In Japan, Karōshi or literally translated *death from overworks*. Means many young workers suffer from stress night and day due to working from 65 to 70 hours every week. There is a growing trend for casualisation or contracting the public services bringing young people into the workforce as part-time or contract workers with less social security, low wages, vulnerable employment contracts and occupational hazards. For new labour market entrants, young workers face a mismatch between the supply of

skills they are able to offer and demand for skills and expertise required by the employers. Many of them lack knowledge about their rights and ability to defend themselves. It is also not easy attracting young workers to enter the labour and union movement, their unwillingness to join unions causes lower union density in Asia particularly. Negative perceptions of the trade union movement has contributed to young workers not joining: *Unions seems too traditional and too bureaucratic*. The unions seem to only struggle for their traditional role: wages and working condition.

How can unions encourage young workers to join and be active in union? Young workers still believe in unions as agents for change; the quality of public services, improve the quality of workers work life, but unions must change how the way they manage and organise themselves in the current situation and in future developments. Young workers want the union to go beyond their traditional roles: a strong and vibrant public sector union that can influence politically and economically. Why trade unions? An interesting video on the opinion of people and a group of students investigated by Team Video Productions, why there are trade unions in the workplace: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8CNZLQKwcU>. Union makes you more powerful by standing together and in solidarity, we are all in one: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0vXcqckjwA&feature=related>. We will get more benefits when we are in the union: better contracts/agreements, better working conditions that will improve the lives of working families. And most importantly that you are protected against bad employers. If you are not in the trade union, it's like being naked at the workplace!

Jobber du naked (or in English: Are you working naked?)? <http://old.fagforbundet.no/jobberdunaken/> An interesting campaign aimed specifically for young people to know their rights at the workplace and why it is good for them to join a union. Fagforbundet youth has set up this awareness campaign to promote workers rights and by joining the union young workers will be protected.

It is true that workers who joining the union earn more money, have better benefits and have a voice at work. Why do not you join the union? if you are already in the union, be active and be participate!