

Congress News

ISSUE #1

MONDAY

18 JUNE 2012



CONGRESS KICKS OFF IN COPENHAGEN

Each of the three Global Union Federations that will come together, to form IndustriALL Global Union, conduct their final congresses today, 18 June. These historic meetings will celebrate the long legacies of struggle and victories of each organization, and establish the foundation for tomorrow's founding congress of IndustriALL.

The International Metalworkers' Federation (IMF) congress begins proceedings at 8.30am,

followed by the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Federation (ICEM), and the International Textiles Garment & Leather Workers' Federation (ITGLWF).

Under the banner "Building Power", over 1,400 trade union delegates have travelled to Copenhagen, Denmark, for three days of meetings that will create the new united global family, 50 million workers strong.

The new force to be born, IndustriALL, is attracting excited attention from trade unionists around the world, from activists on social media, and also the attention of multinational companies.

Here's to a lively and historic three days, bearing testament to the three proud international organizations, IMF, ICEM, ITGLWF, and celebrating the birth of IndustriALL Global Union.

MONDAY

08:00
REGISTRATION OPENS

08:30
IMF CONGRESS

10:30
ICEM CONGRESS

12:30
LUNCH SERVED IN
HALL B3

14:00
ITGLWF EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEETING &
CONGRESS

16:30
ASIA PACIFIC
REGIONAL
CONFERENCE

17:30
NORTH AMERICA
REGIONAL
CONFERENCE



INDUSTRIALL ON TWITTER

If you are on Twitter, follow **@IndustriALL_GU** and promote the hashtag **#IndustriALL** to your followers to enable them to get involved and hear about the IndustriALL Global Union Founding Congress. By using Facebook and Twitter we can quickly tell our supporters that we are an important new presence in the global labour world.

CONGRESS PARTY

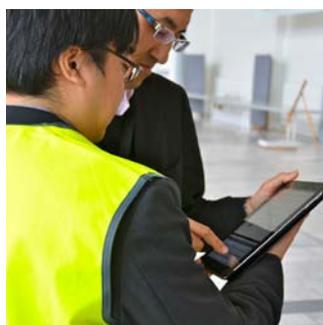
Nordic-IN and CO-industri invite you to a party at the Bella Centre Tuesday 19 June 2012 from 18:15 to celebrate the founding of IndustriALL Global Union.



Find Out More

To find out more about Congress go to:

www.building-power.org



CONGRESS SURVEY

Tell us about trade union rights violations in your country and sign up for **ACT NOW** email alerts. Please answer the Congress Survey by speaking with one of the survey volunteers or at:

www.building-power.org/survey

UNIONS DEBATE HOW BEST TO BARGAIN FOR LIVING WAGE

130 representatives of textile, garment and leather unions from around the world met in Copenhagen yesterday to reflect on the 'Bargaining for a Living Wage Campaign'.

The campaign focuses on campaigning for trade union rights, educating affiliates, creating public awareness, and engaging with Government, employers and multinational companies to promote the living wage.

Unions from all regions shared their experiences in campaigning for improvements to the poverty wages prevalent in the sectors.

Catherine Aneno, General Secretary of the Ugandan Textile Garment Leather &

Allied Workers' Union, detailed the efforts that resulted in the minimum wage in a key manufacturing region being doubled. Niaz Khan from Pakistan spoke about a national campaign that has led to an agreement that will see wages in the carpet industry increased from Rs.7000 (59Euros) to Rs.8000 (67Euros) on 1 July.

Unions agreed that the struggle for a living wage begins with organizing and depends on a strong, united trade union movement engaged in collective bargaining. The conference is continuing today.



Unionized labour produces IndustriALL Congress t-shirts and bags

Workers organized by the South African Clothing and Textile Workers Union (SACTWU) and employed at a Mazpah clothing factory in Cape Town have produced the t-shirts and bags for IndustriALL's founding Congress.

The factory is entirely unionized and was chosen because the working hours had been reduced due to low orders. The factory was able to give the workers an extra three weeks work because of the order. This order also enabled the union to organize workers at the TAO Inc printing company, which put the logos on the t-shirts.

The President of SACTWU Themba Khumalo, speaking in Copenhagen said, "It is important to note that South Africa is a high quality producer of clothing, and we as SACTWU are very proud to be given this opportunity to produce the t-shirts for this historic event."

VOX POPS

We asked Congress delegates: How best do unions work together to confront globalization?

1 EUNICE CABRAL, SCTIV SPO, Brazil.

This international merger of three sectors is important because it can confront all the problems related to globalization. The more organized and unified these sectors are at the international level, the more able we will be to confront globalization, especially at a time of approaching world crisis like today.

2 ROY RAMESH CHANDRA, Bangladesh National Council of the ITGWLF

To reverse the inhuman behavior of globalization, trade unions need to think globally, act regionally and nationally. We need to fight against globalization for a better world, for a redistribution of wealth, and to make workers' lives better.



3 HAROUNA YALI, SNTIN, Niger

Yes, globalization is a good thing for trade unions. It allows for a structure that unites our efforts. Then our fight is a common fight, with common objectives. And the fight will be much more efficient because, as we say, together we can achieve more.

4 AALTO RIKU, ML, Finland

I think that we have to do more together because we are struggling against multinationals and that's why we need to do more together. I hope this merger will give us more power and more muscle to battle against these global firms.