

Congress News

ISSUE #3

WEDNESDAY

20 JUNE 2012

IndustriALL Founding Congress begins

More than 1,000 delegates from more than 350 unions across the globe were welcomed by the Lord Mayor of Copenhagen Frank Jensen, President of Nordic-IN Arve Bakke, Bertold Huber, Senzeni Zokwana and Hisanobu Shimada.

All the welcoming speakers shared an intention to create a counterweight to the power of the global capital and fight for decent work and a sustainable future.



While Arve Bakke talked about the welfare state model of the Nordic countries and its exemplary success, Bertold Huber emphasized the global nature of modern supply chains and the need for the unions to act effectively on a global scale. Senzeni Zokwana presented a passionate plea for the united struggle against the atrocious practices of employers who disregard workers' safety, and

Hisanobu Shimada underlined the immense importance of creating the new global union federation, IndustriALL.

"Whenever the workers are feeling the pain, the unions are there to fight," said Senzeni, to a unanimous applause, catching perfectly the mood of the union leaders gathered at this historic event.

WEDNESDAY

08:30 – 12:30
**INDUSTRIALL
FOUNDING CONGRESS
CONTINUES**
12:30
**LUNCH SERVED IN
HALL B3**
14:00 – 16:00
**INDUSTRIALL GLOBAL
UNION EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEETING**

Dorje Khatri, who conquered the highest mountain in the world and set an IndustriALL Global Union flag on top, was awarded 1,000 Swiss Francs at the IndustriALL Founding Congress to support progressive gender activities of his union.



TWEET OF THE DAY

Oliver Burkhard @oburkhard

Delegation of #igmetall is ready to form #industriall Global Union and to win euro2012.

Thanks to our fabulous hosts, the Danish colleagues.

Giant German union IG Metall sends on its best wishes and gets it priorities right: unions first, then football.

Selected by Eric Lee, LabourStart

Find Out More

 To find out more
about Congress
go to:

www.building-power.org


OUR RIGHTS, OUR ACTION, OUR UNION!

Take action in support of workers' rights around the world and read the latest news on the IndustriALL Global Union website.

The website is now online and features headline news on trade union rights in IndustriALL's sectors, ways to take action in support of campaigns, a calendar of IndustriALL events and much more.

www.industrial-union.org

SUPPORT SPANISH MINERS

10,000 coal miners in Spain are on the front-line of the European austerity debate as their workplaces are shutdown by national budget cuts, to pay for the debts of the banks.

An underground sit-in at a coal mine in northern Spain has won dramatic support. The workers involved in the sit-in are 600 metres underground, where temperatures reach 25°C with an 85% humidity rate.

Local and regional governments, aware of the devastating effect of massive job losses on their towns have come out in support of the workers and their unions, the UGT and the CC.OO.

The dispute has gone on for more than a month but the conservative Government of

Prime Minister Mariano Roy is not listening to the workers and is imposing an austerity drive at the behest of the EU.

At the founding congress of the IndustriALL Global Union the two Spanish unions have called on the help of their sisters and brothers, so a LabourStart campaign demanding the Spanish government meet with the union was launched yesterday.

You too can help by going to:
www.labourstartcampaigns.net/spain



PRECARIOUS WORK IN INDIA

IndustriALL Global Union released a new report today on Precarious Work in India. The 12 page report provides important case studies in the chemical, cement, mining and textile and garment industries, which can be the basis of strong effective union campaigns that will get the global solidarity of all IndustriALL Global Union affiliates.

IndustriALL Global Union, will be supporting its seven big Indian union affiliates in a campaign to fight the spread of precarious work. Around the world IndustriALL Global Union is campaign to STOP Precarious Work.

Workers in precarious jobs have little chance to join a union or to bargain collectively and unions everywhere are experiencing the negative impacts of the rise of precarious work.

IndustriALL Global Union calls on unions around the world to take action on 7 October, the World Day for Decent Work, mobilizing members in the global fight against precarious work.

VOX POPS

We asked Congress delegates: How best can IndustriALL support workers in your country?

1 NOHORA TOVAR, Fetramecol, Colombia

The best way that IndustriALL can support Colombia is with solidarity and by taking action, as set out in the plan of work we have presented to this Founding Congress. In general terms, we believe that unity will strengthen us here in Colombia and also the work carried out by IndustriALL in Colombia.

2 G. SANJEEVA REDDY, INMF, India

The new federation can help Indian trade unions to organize workers in various industries by training members in order for unions to be strengthened and organized. There are a number of industries that are not organized they will need some strong support from the global union federation.



3 GENNADY FEDYNICH, REPAM, Belarus

The creation of IndustriALL is a big scale event. The most important thing for everyone to remember is that the majority is not always right. There are small organizations, and there are workers who always need to be supported. Workers that belong to small and large organizations should be treated equally.

4 THORN ATH, CCAWDU, Cambodia

I think that IndustriALL Global Union is stronger now and can help workers in my country to improve working conditions and also to improve freedom of association in Cambodia.