



Asia Pacific Regional Report

**PSI Executive Board
14-15th November 2018
Geneva, Switzerland**



Political Developments in the Region

- Tolerance of authoritarian neoliberalism and crony capitalism continues to grow—backed by ongoing US-China power struggle
- TPP11 – most neoliberal trade deal ever, finalised
- Belt and Road Initiative – new debt and privatization
- Unprecedented frequency of natural disasters in the region means emergency service workers of increasing importance





Mixed Election Results

- Cambodia effectively becomes a one-party state
- Malaysia provides opportunities for labour and economic reforms
- Pakistani affiliates prepare for fights against potential privatization
- New Zealand and Nepal: potential for increased support in some areas



Trade Union Rights: Philippines



- PSI NCC working to ensure the rights guaranteed by ILO Convention 151 are backed by legislation. Provides potential for consensus across unions to enable sector, rather than workplace bargaining.
- Duterte govt. has continued crackdowns on critics—including union leaders.



Trade Union Rights: Indonesia

- Idris Idham, President of PSI affiliated Health Workers Union, Farkes, was dismissed.
- PSI has written to the Govt. demanding reinstatement.





Trade Union Rights: South Korea

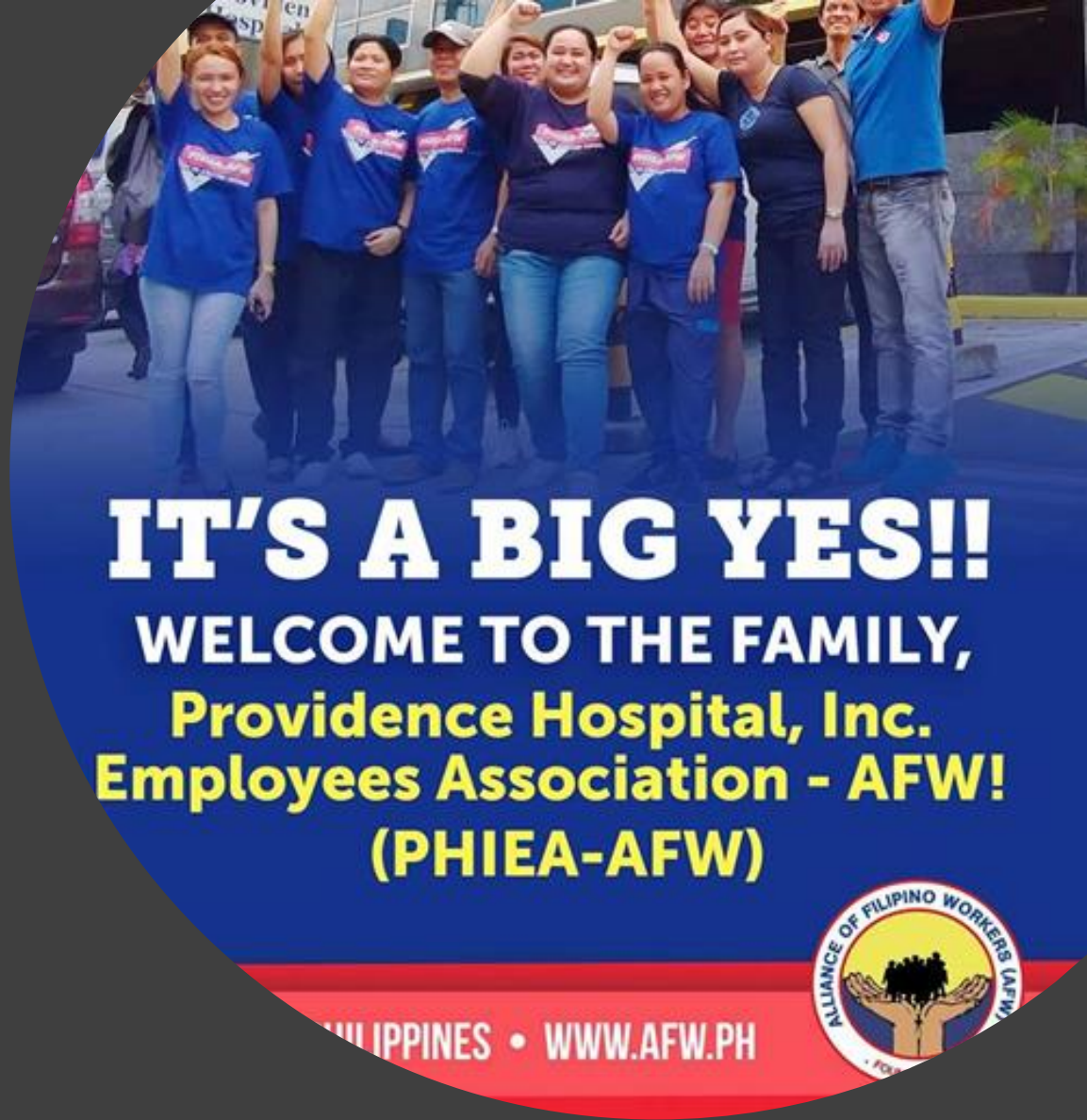
Former KCTU president Han Sang-gyun released from prison following a sustained campaign (including from PSI)

Take Action: Call for the release of Han Sang Gyun



Organising and Industrial Action: Health

- Alliance of Filipino Workers (AFW) won vote to unionize Providence Hospital with support of PSI & SEIU



Organising and Industrial Action: Health

- United Nurses Association, India, ran successful strikes gaining better pay, conditions & nurse/patient ratios and are continuing their 1 year strike for equal pay in a private hospital in Kerala.
- In Pakistan, the Lady Health Workers Union won their battle for legal registration, as well as right to minimum wages
- Nurses in NZ went on strike for the first time in 30 years



Trade Justice



UNIONS *for* **TRADE
JUSTICE**

AN ASIA-PACIFIC NETWORK

www.unionsfortradejustice.org

- PSI led the formation of “Unions for Trade Justice”
- Common agenda to combat neo-liberal trade. Workshops in India, Philippines, Indonesia to build national campaigns
- Dialogue with RCEP negotiators
- Australian Labour Party introduces Fair Trade Bill under pressure from unions
- Establishment of new Gender and Trade Coalition as 11 governments sign on to neo-TPP on International Women’s Day



Privatisation

- 9 unions participated in a 3 day fighting privatization workshop in Bali
- PSI is supporting affiliates in Fiji to fight the privatisation of 2 public hospitals
- Our Mongolian affiliate is preparing to campaign against utilities privatisation
- 5 Australian regional hospitals to be run publicly instead of as PPPs following campaigns from the NSWNMA & HSU
- Power sector unions in India preparing for national strike in January against deregulating electricity





Privatisation: Indonesia

- Indonesia government seeking review of Supreme Court decision to invalidate privatization of Jakarta Water – PSI brings together all water unions for the first time to sustain fight
- Indonesian affiliate SP PLN has fought off electricity privatization several times, yet suffers union busting. PSI brought together 5 energy unions for the first time to develop a consolidated plan to grow strength and stop privatisation



Young Workers

- PSI instigated an ASETUC young workers' camp for South East Asia in the Philippines along with other global unions (BWI and UNI)



Gender Equality

- Launching a toolkit and strategy on 25 Nov on ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment and on **Paid Domestic Violence Leave**
- Support to National Advocacy Strategies
- NZ joined Philippines as only countries with legislated paid domestic violence leave
- Philippines unions' joint campaign for expanded maternity leave (105 days) passed through parliament



'A huge win': New Zealand brings in paid domestic violence leave

MPs cheer after legislation passes to tackle what one called 'horrifying' rates of family violence



Tax Justice

- Reports commissioned by Australian affiliates from CICTAR researcher, Jason Ward, are having significant impact.
- Aged Care tax evasion led to a Senate inquiry within 2 weeks. Shaping Australian tax policy.
- Next report into labour hire / outsourcing in tax administration



Emergency Services and Climate Change

- Oceania subregion ran a workshop with Pacific Island affiliates on organising around climate change
- In Nepal PSI ran the first workshop on the new ILO Guidelines on Emergency Service Workers
- Philippines unions established first responders network



Contesting IFI Agenda

- Brought together affiliates and other GUFs during WB / IMF meeting in Bali inside and out to contest the WDR attack on labour and the PPP agenda
- ADB regional strategy remains focused on PPPs – union panel response at annual meeting
- ADB appointed staff member to address core labour standards, and PSI collaborated with other GUFs to hold side event at ADB meeting.



Planning

- AP affiliates were surveyed to determine what issues were priorities for the region, sub-region and country
 1. Young workers
 2. Trade union rights
 3. Privatisation
 4. Gender equality
 5. Tax & funding quality public services
 6. Trade agreements & corporate power



* **AP Solidarity Fund:** 11 proposals approved, mainly for joint activities with the National Coordinating Committees to stimulate affiliates' work across unions and strengthen NCCs

Planning

APRECON 2019

- 17 – 20 September, Bali, Indonesia
- Theme: “The Future of Workers, The Future of the Commons, The Future of Power”

Health Network Meeting

India, January

- Cross-border organizing
- Community Health Workers
- Right to Health

Unions defending public energy

- with Indian strike January
- Indonesia strategy

Young Workers' Academy and Organising Strategy 2019 - 2021



APRECON 2019

AP OFFICES



- PSI is now registered in Australia
- Registration in Philippines still pending
- Office in India has moved to Chennai, Tamil Nadu