



# IFWEA Bulletin

## IFWEA / IVA / FIAET

### February 2007

Dear Friends

Welcome to the February edition of the IFWEA Bulletin, the first for 2007!

## The Future of IFWEA

As reported in the last bulletin, we are currently preparing for the forthcoming General Conference, to be held in Ahmedabad, India from the 28 November – 2 December 2007.

When founded in 1947 we were primarily a meeting place of European workers' education organisations supporting the reconstruction of democratic workers' movements in Europe in the aftermath of the Second World War. 60 years later, we face entirely new circumstances. We are now a worldwide organisation, with diverse organisational and educational challenges. Do we still have a role? How can we be a truly global workers education movement, representative and relevant to worker educators in the North, South, East and West?

This General Conference will answer these and other questions. It will play a key role in determining our future. Your input and contributions in this process are important. You can contribute either through providing feedback on the draft conference programme (a copy is attached) or by facilitating a discussion in your affiliate or region on the future of IFWEA.

For further information on the Conference please e-mail [dave.spooner@ifwea.org](mailto:dave.spooner@ifwea.org)

## An International Seminar on Workers' Education in the Informal Economy

As part of the General Conference we will also be hosting an international seminar to explore a worker education agenda for organising in the informal economy. The seminar will provide an opportunity to share experiences in the design and delivery of education materials, methodologies and programmes in support of organisation of informal economy workers; understand the policies, priorities and the impact of agencies and organisations supporting programmes and projects to assist the organising efforts of informal economy workers; and consider future IFWEA action to support workers' education in the informal economy.

A seminar programme will be circulated with the next Bulletin.

Meanwhile, for further information please e-mail [dave.spooner@ifwea.org](mailto:dave.spooner@ifwea.org)

## Project Updates

Please refer to earlier bulletins for project background.

### **Organising the Informal Economy in Eastern & Southern Africa**

*(Coordinated by the Secretariat, United Kingdom and the Zambia Workers' Education Association, Zambia)*

Over the last two months the project has been occupied with meeting financial reporting and accounting requirements for our funders. Not an easy task across countries and continents!

During the next period partners in Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe are planning to host the second national partner meetings aimed at considering the outcome of the pilot programme and preparing for the delivery of the full local programme. Plans to include Angola, Botswana, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Uganda and Swaziland in the project are underway. The manual is currently being translated into Portuguese and contacts with relevant educators in each of these countries are being sought.

Further information from [crystal.dicks@ifwea.org](mailto:crystal.dicks@ifwea.org) or [mikechungu@yahoo.com](mailto:mikechungu@yahoo.com)

### **Education on Informal Economy Workers' Rights**

*(Coordinated by the Secretariat, United Kingdom)*

Over the last period we concluded further meetings with key project partners as well as the third Project Management Committee meeting. We have now agreed the dates and broad approaches to the training of trainer's event, the six-week education pilot and thematic seminars. We have also agreed to shift the 10-day study visit to Zambia into the latter part of the year to allow for longer lead in time for recruitment.

Look out for a 'brochure' of activities which is currently being developed to build greater interest in project activities. The key event for the next period is the training of trainer's workshop which is planned for the 26-27 April 2007 in the UK.

Further information from [crystal.dicks@ifwea](mailto:crystal.dicks@ifwea)

### **International Programme on 'Organising in the Global Economy'**

*(Coordinated by the Secretariat, United Kingdom)*

Our work on launching an international organising programme towards the end of 2007 or early 2008 continues. Over the next six weeks we will convene a curriculum development workshop comprising a small group of researchers and educators.

Following the conclusion of the draft curriculum we will engage a broader group for content feedback and further programme development.

Further information from [crystal.dicks@ifwea](mailto:crystal.dicks@ifwea)

### **Building Capacity in the Arab Countries**

*(Coordinated by the IFWEA Arab Region, Palestine)*

We concluded this Unison supported project with a two-day workshop attended by participants from Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, Morocco and Palestine. This workshop focused on the working conditions of migrant workers in the Arab countries and mechanisms for protection of their rights. The workshop recommendations included developing a report about the situation of migrant workers and the role of trade unions. It also agreed to launch a pressure campaign at the regional and international levels to implement migrant workers' rights conventions and to amend national legislation to ensure equal rights to migrant workers in the Arab Countries.

The region is currently wrapping up project activities and planning for reporting.

Further information from Hasan Barghouthi [extr@dwrc.org](mailto:extr@dwrc.org)

### **The Global Network**

*(Coordinated by affiliates in Africa, Asia and Latin America)*

Activities of the Global Network continues in Africa, Asia and Latin America. At the time of producing this bulletin we were unable to obtain activity updates, but please do make contact directly with the regional coordinators.

Africa	<a href="mailto:saliem@lrs.org.za">saliem@lrs.org.za</a>
Asia-Pacific	<a href="mailto:rey.rasing@learn.org.ph">rey.rasing@learn.org.ph</a>
Latin America	<a href="mailto:jcvargas@plades.org.pe">jcvargas@plades.org.pe</a>

### **Establishing an International Labour Media Network**

*(Coordinated by Workers World Radio Productions, South Africa)*

Plans towards the launch of an International Labour Media Network in 2008 continue. Processes are currently underway for drafting the technical and organisational feasibility of such a Network. It is envisaged that drafts of these documents will be ready for circulation and feedback by the end of March 2007.

A meeting of the Project Preparatory Committee is also scheduled for the 24th and 25th April 2007. This meeting will take place in New York to coincide with the Labor Voices Conference.

Further information from [martin@wwrp.org.za](mailto:martin@wwrp.org.za)

## **Within affiliates and partner organisations**

### **Unison International Development Fund - A call for expressions of interest!**

Unison is calling on trade unions or other organisations involved in promoting workers rights in developing countries to apply for funding from the UNISON International Development Fund. The UIDF aims to promote the growth of trade unions in developing countries and in situations where trade unions face severe threats to workers rights, conflict or severe natural phenomena. If you would like to apply for funding please read the "Guidance for Applicants" and then submit a completed "Expression of Interest Form" before 28 February 2007. Both these documents are available from the Unison website: <http://www.unison.org.uk/uidf>

For further information please contact [P.Hulme@unison.co.uk](mailto:P.Hulme@unison.co.uk)

**Wellington WEA organises lunchtime sessions on contemporary issues in the world of work.** Starting on March 5<sup>th</sup> 2007 and ending on May 14<sup>th</sup> 2007 the Wellington WEA will be hosting a series of lunchtime forums every Monday between 12h10 and 13h00. These include sessions on labour and civil democracy, the gender pay gap and Maori's on the dole.

For further information e-mail [patb@nzctu.org.nz](mailto:patb@nzctu.org.nz)

**Sawt El-Amel produces a new report on the history of Arab Labour in pre-1948 Palestine and Israel.** The report titled 'Separate and Unequal' provides an alternative view on labour history in pre-1948 Palestine and Israel as well as an assessment of the current situation of the Arab labour force in Israel. The full report is available in French and English on the Sawt El-Amel website [www.laborers-voice.org](http://www.laborers-voice.org).

For further information e-mail Marie Badarne on [laborers@laborers-voice.org](mailto:laborers@laborers-voice.org)

**Support for the CTUWS.** A group of Egyptian Civil Society and Human Rights Organizations have announced their support and solidarity to our Egyptian affiliate, the Center for Trade Union and Workers Services (CTUWS). The CTUWS has recently been faced with extensive media assault and attacks from the Egyptian Trade Union Federation over their defence of Egyptian workers' right to strike.

For a full copy of the statement and solidarity support please e-mail [ctuws@link.net](mailto:ctuws@link.net)

**ITF Education Strategy Conference.** The ITF hosted their first education conference in Vienna, Austria from the 28-30 November 2006. Through a combination of traditional conference plenary sessions, group work, case studies and panel discussions, delegates representing 55 unions from 39 countries discussed ways of developing education as a tool to build membership participation, democracy and political awareness.

For further information contact [dave\\_alana@itf.org.uk](mailto:dave_alana@itf.org.uk)

**StreetNet at the World Social Forum (WSF).** StreetNet has produced a comprehensive report on their participation in the 2007 WSF. This includes an outline of events convened by StreetNet at the WSF as well as detail of StreetNet's participation in other WSF events. StreetNet feels that they have been successful in placing the issues of street vendors and informal workers on the civil society agenda.

To find out more please e-mail [stnet@iafrica.com](mailto:stnet@iafrica.com)

**Global Labour University (GLU) offers two international courses.** The GLU continues in the delivery of their international programmes. They are offering spaces to trade unionist in two different courses on Labour Policies and Globalization and Labour and Development in Germany and South Africa. The deadline is the 1st of April 2007 for the German Programme and the 1st of September 2007 for the South African Programme. For application forms please visit the GLU website at <http://www.global-labour-university.org/>

The GLU has also produced the second edition of their newsletter which maps out recent developments and a number of upcoming events. For copies of the newsletter please visit <http://www.global-labour-university.org/news.htm>

**Two new International Labour Organization (ILO) publications.** In supporting researchers, policy-makers and practitioners in work around the informal economy the ILO has generated a library of resources around the informal economy. See <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/library/>

The ILO and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has produced a first-ever joint study, "Trade and Employment: Challenges for Policy Research". For comments from the International Trade Union Confederation (ITCU) please see <http://www.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?article749>

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## Forthcoming events

Deadline for applications to Unison's International Development Fund	28 February 2007	N/A
International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco & Allied Workers' Associations (IUF) Women's Conference	16-17 March 2007	Geneva
IUF Congress	19-22 March 2007	Geneva
GLU Conference: 'Labour and the Challenges of Development'	1 - 3 April 2007	Johannesburg
Curriculum Development Workshop for Global Organising Programme	11-13 April 2007	TBD
Educators Workshop for the IFWEA Development Awareness Project	26-27 April 2007	Eastbourne
Management Committee Meeting on the IFWEA Development Awareness Project	May 2007	London
Labor's Voices 3 Conference : ' Media for a New Workers' Movement'	26-28 April 2007	New York
GLU Workshop on Multinational Enterprises and Trade Union Strategies	3- 4 May 2007	Berlin
Labor Assembly on Climate Crisis: Building a Global Movement for Clean Energy	7-8 May 2007	New York
Conclusion of DVD for the IFWEA Development Awareness Project	10 May 2007	N/A
96 <sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference	19 May-14 June 2007	Geneva
Union Education Pilot Programmes for the IFWEA Development Awareness Project	June-September 2007	Various, UK
<b>IFWEA Executive Meeting</b>	<b>4-6 June 2007</b>	<b>Geneva</b>
Education International Congress	22-26 July 2007	Berlin
Pre-Study Visit Briefing for the IFWEA Development Awareness Project	7 September 2007	London
Study Visit for the IFWEA Development Awareness Project	14- 25 September 2007	Zambia
Public Services International Congress	24-28 September 2007	Vienna
Seminar on Transport Workers in the Informal Economy for the IFWEA Development Awareness Project	1-5 October 2007	London
Seminar on Women Workers in the Informal Economy for the IFWEA Development Awareness Project	29-31 October 2007	Eastbourne
International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions Congress	22-24 November 2007	Bangkok
<b>IFWEA General Conference</b>	<b>28 Nov-2 December 2007</b>	<b>Ahmedabad</b>
Seminar on Workers' Education in the Informal Economy for the IFWEA Development Awareness Project	16-18 January 2008	TBD

This Monthly Bulletin is produced from the IFWEA Secretariat. Contributions and news from affiliates and fraternal organisations are most welcome.

Please send all items to [crystal.dicks@ifwea.org](mailto:crystal.dicks@ifwea.org)