

UPDATE FROM THE LABOUR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH NETWORK (LEARN) 15th GENERAL CONFERENCE, PHILIPPINES

3 February 2010

LEARN's 15th General Conference started with an update by Aya Fabros from Focus on the Global South on the current economic situation of the Philippines in relation to the labour market, as well as the global economy. The second topic discussed was the study by SALIGAN (Alternative Law Center) pertaining to the decisions of the Supreme Court. The study found that cases which involved less than 5 workers, most often won at the labour courts while cases involving unions were most often were decided against the workers. This study will be used to motivate for legislative reforms in the implementation of labour justice.

The second part was the General Conference proper. Aside from the usual reporting on LEARN accomplishments, the conference also adopted three (3) resolutions, namely: (1) acceptance of individual associate members who would not have any voting powers but would be invited, informed and sent publications and works by the LEARN. They would also have to pay associate members dues amounting to \$100 dollars or its peso equivalent; (2) support for the electoral campaign of Akbayan in the party list elections as well as the candidacy of Akbayan Representative Risa Hontiveros in her bid to become a senator and (3) reiterating the resolution on the unity agenda among affiliated and partner organizations of LEARN to form a unified labour centre.

LEARN GOALS FOR YEARS 2010-2012

The Conference adopted the following twelve strategic goals for the years 2010-2012:

1. Strengthening the organizational development of LEARN member-organizations, and partner trade unions, workers' associations and women groups.
2. Consolidation of gains in "labour unity agenda.
3. Continue enhancing the trade union financial management education module of LEARN and encourage member and partner organizations to improve their dues collection and implementation of a percentage dues system.

4. Strengthening of labour membership in AKBAYAN and participation for the 2010 elections.
5. Continuing support for participation of workers and women in national political activities.
6. Scaling up support for union women committees and other women workers' groups.
7. Continue gender sensitivity program for women and men, including mainstreaming of gender education.
8. Maintaining strong international connections and cooperation with IFWEA, Global Network, GUF's and other similar fraternal organizations.
9. Continue publication of KILOS along with other trade union related articles to broaden existing trade union literature.
10. Strengthening of the LEARN's research component, development of research agenda including gender disaggregated analysis.
11. Institutional capacity building for LEARN and its affiliated and partner organizations.
12. Increasing the income generating capacities of LEARN.