

BWI Global Migration Conference
“Workers across Borders----Movements beyond Borders”
October 5 to 6, 2015
Bouw & Infra Park
Harderwijk, Netherlands

Background

In 2010 BWI launched a global campaign on migrant workers rights that implemented a strategy based on the three pillars of organizing, policy advocacy, and communication and provision of essential services. This global frame was adopted and implemented by BWI affiliates nationally making modifications according to the union’s capacity and the national context. The campaign was launched in several sub regions such as Central Asia, the Gulf region, Southeast Asia, Southeast Europe and the Mediterranean.

In the past three years through the campaign, the BWI and its affiliates were able to outreach to more than 10,000 migrant workers; however, the continuous organizing, maintenance and integration of migrant workers into trade unions still pose a challenge.

It is clear that the BWI affiliates need to focus on concrete strategies to address not only issues of employment but also the recruiting process and in some cases legislative policies that either prohibits or makes it difficult for migrant workers to join trade unions.

Due to the global economic crisis and a series of political transformations in a number of regions, the number of migrant workers is increasing at a rapid pace. Because of this BWI affiliates recognize that they need to strengthen their capacity to outreach to migrant workers and relay the relevance of trade unions in improving the working and living conditions of migrant workers. At the same time, BWI affiliates recognize that they need to address the rise in anti-migrant sentiments and xenophobia that is being fuelled by conservative and right wing parties in their respective countries.

Conference Objectives:

The objectives of the Global Migration Conference are the following:

- a. To assess the current political and economic situation and its impact on labour migration;
- b. To develop regional and global strategies in addressing the impact of labour migration in the BWI sectors;
- c. To evaluate, exchange, and highlight the work of BWI affiliates in organizing migrant workers into trade unions and promoting their rights;
- d. To strengthen and develop relationships with other stakeholders including governments, employers, migrant communities, and other civil society groups in ensuring the rights of migrant workers;

Conference Program (Draft---August, 2015)

Sunday, October 4, 2015

Arrival of Participants (Throughout the day)

18:00 **Welcome Dinner:** **Hotel Harderwijk op de Veluwe**

Monday, October 5, 2015

9:00 **Registration**
Bouw & Infra Park B.V., Ceintuurbaan 2 (building 20)

Note: The venue is five minute walking distance from the hotel. Participants staying at the hotel are to meet at the hotel lobby at 8:45 to walk to the venue site.

9:30 **Pre-Conference Events**

- Regional Preparatory Meetings
- Bouw & Infra Park Site Tour
- Training for (Polish) Migrant Workers
Facilitator Michiel AI, FNV-Netherlands Union Officer

11:00 **Official Conference Opening and Welcome**

- *Ruud Baars (FNV-Netherlands), Chair of the BWI Ad Hoc Working Group on Migration*
- *Ambet Yuson, General Secretary, BWI*

11:30 **Guest Speakers:**

- *Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, U.N. Special Rapporteur in Trafficking of Persons Especially Women and Children, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights*
- *Martin Wyss, Chief of Mission to the Netherlands, IOM*

Reactors: BWI representatives from the Region

12:30 **Lunch**

13:30 **Dialogue with Migrant Workers from Malaysia via skype**
Coordinated by TEUPM and UECl, Malaysia

14:00 **General Session: Focus on Rights of Migrant Workers**

- *Niklas Enstrom, Swedish Electricians-Sweden*
- *Habafanoe Jon Thomas Ketsise, NUM-South Africa*
- *Cem Klick, YOL-IS-Turkey*
- *Fatimah Mohammad, UEFS-Malaysia*
- *Wilma Roos, FNV-Mondiaal*

15:30 **Break**

16:00 **Breakout Networking Sessions:**

- **Session 1: Training for (Polish) Migrant Workers continued**
Lead organizer: Facilitator Michiel Al, FNV-Netherlands Union Officer

- **Session 2: Addressing Migrants in Distress**
Lead organizer: BWI
Discussants:
 - Ramachandra Khuntia, INBCWF-India
 - Jovana Krotic, ASTRA-Serbia
 - Mercedes Landolfi, FILLEA-CGIL (TBC)
 - Brigitte Schultz, GBH-Austria (TBC)

- **Session 3: Global Governance of Migration**
Lead organizer: Council of Global Unions Working Group on Migration
Discussants:
 - Chidi King, Director, Equality Department, ITUC
 - William Gois, Regional Coordinator, Migrant Forum in Asia
 - Victor Hugo Ricco, Senior Specialist, ILO ACTRAV (TBC)

18:00 **Harderwijk City Tour and Dinner**

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

9:00 **General Session: Focus on Organizing Migrant Workers**

- Antoun Antoun, GSTU-Lebanon
- Zamaney Menso, FNV
- Aoyatsho Muborakshoev, CCUBCWM-Tajikistan
- Adam Rogalewski, UNIA-Switzerland
- Gelson Santana, STICC-POA, Brazil

Moderator: Apolinar Tolentino, BWI-Asia-Pacific Region

10:15 **Dialogue with Refugees in Calabria, Italy via skype**
Coordinated by FILLEA-CGIL

10:30 **Break**

11:00 **Workshops Sessions focusing on Organizing and Campaigning**

- **Group 1: Training on Qatar App**
Lead: FNV-Netherlands and SPARK

- **Group 2: Social Media and Communications**
Lead: Ville Henrik Klemens, BWI and Byggnads-Sweden

- **Group 3: Council of Global Unions Working Group on Migration**

- **Group 4: Organizers Network**
Lead: BWI

- **Group 5: Training for FNV workers & FNV Shop Stewards**
Lead: FNV-Netherlands

- 12:30 **Lunch**
- 14:00 **General Session: Focus on BWI Qatar Project**
- *Ruud Baars FNV-Netherlands*
 - *Nisha Baniya, GEFONT-Nepal*
 - *Delfin JR Baquiran, NUBCW-Philippines*
 - *Kirsty Drew, TUAC*
 - *Ambet Yuson, BWI*
- Dialogue with migrant workers in Qatar via skype**
Led by BWI organizers in Qatar
- 15:30 **Break**
- 16:00 **Conclusion and Way Forward**
- 17:00 **Meeting of the BWI Ad Hoc Working Group on Migration**
- 19:00 **Dinner**

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

- Morning **Construction Site Visits**
Organized by FNV
- Afternoon: **Public Event on World Decent Work Day**
Focus: Decent Work for Migrant Workers and Right to Fair Migration