

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Cambodia

Coalition of Cambodian Apparel Workers Democratic Unions (C.CAWDU) is an independent and democratic federation which seeks to improve to the working conditions of workers in the textile and garment sectors through training of both members and leaders on labour law, union principles, collective bargaining, negotiation skills and leadership. C.CAWDU also researches labour-related material to strengthen unions in regards to the principles of democracy, freedom, and gender equity. Bronh Sopheana was a Project Officer of C.CAWDU from 2010 to 2012 and was the contributor for the chapter on Cambodia.

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Cambodian Labour Confederation (CLC) is a democratic and independent confederation with 63,880 members from seven associations and unions, including the Coalition of Cambodian Apparel Workers Democratic Union (CCAWDU), Cambodian Tourism and Service Workers Federation (CTSWF), Independent Democracy of Informal Economy Association (IDEA), Farmers Association for Peace and Development (FAPD), Cambodian Food and Service Workers Federation (CFSWF), Cambodian Independent Civil-servant Association (CICA), Building and Wood Workers Trade Union Federation of Cambodia (BWTUC) and others. The mission of CLC is to integrate all unions into a unique voice, uphold democracy, train and research members in social economics, advocate to employers and the government and finally promote equality between men and women. Choerng Theany, is the Youth Committee coordinator for Cambodian Labour Confederation (CLC). His work involves both technical and political work within the Youth department.

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China

Labour Education and Service Network (LESN) is an independent NGO established in Hong Kong since October 2001. It is composed of experienced union organizers, women workers organizers and labour researchers in Hong Kong. The major activities are collaborating with mainland partners to provide a variety of services through a framework of “Labour Community Service Center” - para-legal assistance and OSH issues legal aid; labour education to consciousness raising; various activities to workers’ empowerment. We focus on crisis intervention to improve labour’s rights and encourage mutual aid and solidarity among workers, establish networks with labour rights concerned organizations and individuals in Mainland China.

LESN also provided in-factory training programmes on labour law, and organized conferences with academic institutions, lawyer’s associations and other groups to exchange experiences and opinions on labour issues. Becky Fung is the China officer with LESN.

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Worker Empowerment (WE) is a Hong Kong-based labour organisation with the vision of promoting labour rights and labour organisations in mainland China. WE developed multi-dimensional intervention strategies to reach out to workers, in particular migrant workers in mainland China and to organise them through crisis intervention at the workplace and labour rights’ awareness raising programmes so that self-organisation of workers is achieved in rights-defending processes. Francine Chan is the China officer at Worker Empowerment.

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India

Occupational and Environmental Health Network of India (OEHNI) is a unique solidarity group comprising victims’ groups, trade unions and civil society groups. The basic role of the network is to work for overall improvement of health and safety at the workplace. It particularly it focuses on the unorganised sector. OEHNI and its members provide support to workers through worker education, medical diagnosis and help in the filing of compensation claims,

and policy advocacy at state and national level. Jagdish Patel is Director of the Peoples Training and Research Centre (PTRC). PTRC is member of OEHNI network. Mohit Gupta is the Coordinator at OEHNI.

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Indonesia

The Local Initiative for OSH Network (LION) is a non-profit organization whose vision is for all Indonesians to work without fear of injury or illness in their jobs. LION's mission is to identify unsafe working conditions and increase awareness of workers, the public, and the government about occupational health and safety issues in Indonesia. LION was launched in Bandung, West Java Launched in 2009 by trade unionists, lawyers and labour activists who became the founders and board members of the organisation. Since 2010 Muchamad Darisman has been the Executive Director of LION. LION and leads the networks' activities such as educating and training on OSH, investigating worksites, organizing the victims and public awareness campaigns on workplace hazards and occupational diseases

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Philippines

Institution for Occupational Health and Safety Development (IOHSAD) is a non-profit independent institution primarily engaged in assisting Filipino workers in the development of comprehensive and self-reliant occupational and environmental health and safety programs. Specifically IOHSAD is a resource center in the field of occupational and environmental health and safety issues and concerns affecting workers in various industries. It provides technical, material and moral support to the trade unions and their safety committees, to workers' dependents and to health programs in workers' communities. Noel Colina is the current Executive Director of IOHSAD and has been promoting workers' rights for more than a decade.

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Thailand

The Council of Work and Environment Related Patient's Network of Thailand (WEPT) provides legal aid to injured workers as well as providing OHS information and training. It also pursues OHS reform through the setting up of an independent OHS institute. Mrs. Somboon Sriksamdoka, the current president of WEPT, is a byssinosis patient herself and since 1974 has been helping injured workers organize for better compensation and workplace conditions. Her organisation has also been active in organising workers as well as communities affected by industrial hazards. Dr. Voravidh Charoenloet is an advisor of WEPT. At present, he is a member of the Faculty of Economics at Chiang Mai University.

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- ***Workplace poisoning killing millions of Asians each year, says new report***

Workplace poisoning killing millions of Asians each year, says new report
Illnesses contracted in factories in Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand 'ignored and unreported'

The Guardian, 26 April 2012

- ***Asia facing 'epidemic' of worker deaths, report warns***

A report released ahead of this year's International Workers' Memorial Day on April 28, found similar problems in all countries; a lack of official data on the number of cases, partly due to a reluctance to diagnose work-related illness for fear of the financial cost.

"The problem is there is no data, absolutely no data. You can get quarterly data for economic statistics, but you can't get any data about the workers... what is their health, how are they faring? There is no data on that," Pandita said.

CNN, 28 April, 2012

- ***Asian factories among the least safe, group says***

Asia is home to some of the most dangerous workplaces in the world, a Hong Kong-based labour rights centre says in a damning report.

Exploitative conditions expose workers to health threats such as toxic-metal poisoning even as they and their families struggle to gain recognition, compensation and justice, the Asia Monitor Resource Centre says in its report on six countries, including China.

South China Morning Post, 29 April 2012



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