

Australia Asia Worker Links

Australia Asia Worker Links, established in Melbourne in 1978 is a labour movement solidarity organisation.

Australia Asia Worker Links works to build international solidarity links between workers as the best means to develop and strengthen workers' rights in the Asia Pacific region

The Philippines Project directly helps the workers' struggle in the Philippines by increasing union membership and organisation around improvements of wages, conditions, terms of employment and health and safety.

This project assists the strengthening of trade union and worker solidarity in the Asia Pacific region and internationally

The organisers of KMU and its federations deeply appreciate the financial support from the Australian trade union movement over the last 17 years.

We hope that this project supporting organisers will help build ever greater solidarity between our movements in the fight for justice for workers everywhere

Elmer Labog, Chairperson KMU Labor Center

Get involved!

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Contribute to the AAWL Philippines Project to support union organisers and campaigns for Occupational Health & Safety in the Philippines:

Commonwealth Bank BSB 063123

Account: 10034866 Ref: PHI

Australia Asia Worker Links



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AAWL 2005

Support Trade Union Organisers in the Philippines



Australia Asia Worker Links

Support Trade Union Organisers

Funds raised by this project pay the expenses of workers undertaking the KMU formal training program for trade union organisers

Kilusang Mayo Uno - KMU
(The May One Movement Labor Center) was launched on 1 May 1980, with 50,000 members, to advance genuine, democratic and patriotic trade unionism in the Philippines

Today KMU has over 400,000 members with effective Collective Bargaining Agreements, and is part of alliances with other progressive unions that have a combined rank and file membership of over 900,000 members.



The KMU played a major role in the People Power 2 movement which ousted corrupt President Estrada in January 2001

Trade Union Education Program

KMU Trade Union Education Program

Each organiser requires food, transport, materials, accommodation, teacher expenses, and family food support, totalling more than 40,000 Pesos (A\$1,200) per year

KMU Trade Union Organisers:

- organise local enterprise unions to win improved wages and conditions through Collective Bargaining negotiations
- organise broader union campaigns
- campaign to defend constitutional democratic rights
- oppose capitalist globalisation
- oppose foreign troops on Philippines territory
- build broader alliances with other sectors
- organisers do 1 day education per week for 1 year

The life of a worker in the Philippines

250 Pesos (\$6.75) is the legal daily minimum wage, unless workers are in an enterprise union and able to negotiate a Collective Bargaining Agreement. Non-unionised workers are mostly paid below the minimum wage

Becoming a Union Organiser

Employers often sack activists or the entire workforce in order to smash unions. Often employers use security guards, police or military to smash picket lines.

Some sacked activists become union organisers. Life for union organisers is hard and hectic, but sustained by comradeship and solidarity, including at the international level

Occupational Health & Safety in the Philippines

The Institution for Occupational Health and Safety and Development (IOHSAD) was established in 1982. Its credibility as a resource centre in the field of Occupational Health and Safety has been consistently maintained

IOHSAD supports campaigns to improve workers' health & safety with major labour federations in the Philippines, as well as local unions in the regions and provinces.

IOHSAD also has close links with health, women's and environmental organisations, academic and government agencies. IOHSAD provides training in Occupational Health & Safety to workers and unions, and has mobile medical and dental programs.

IOHSAD has conducted comprehensive research into the OHS hazards in agriculture, electronics, garments, textile, mining, steel, chemicals, paper, and retail industries



Part of the funds raised by this project support campaigns and training expenses for workers' occupational health & safety in the Philippines