



NEWSLETTER

Japan International Labour Foundation <http://www.jilaf.or.jp/English-jilaf>
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Pakistan National Centers Merge — Founding Congress of Pakistan Workers' Federation Held —

On September 7, 2005, three national centers -the All-Pakistan Federation of Trade Unions (APFTU), All-Pakistan Federation of Labour (APFOL), and Pakistan National Federation of Trade Unions (PNFTU) -joined together to form a new organization, the Pakistan Workers' Federation (PWF), at a Founding Congress in Islamabad, attended on behalf of JILAF by President Teruhito Tokumoto and Field Project Department Group Leader Tomotaka Inoue.

The Founding Congress was held in a solemn atmosphere following the teachings of Islam. Guests included ICFTU General Secretary Guy Ryder, ICFTU-APRO General Secretary Noriyuki Suzuki, former ICFTU-APRO General Secretary (currently JILAF Advisor) Takashi Izumi, ILO Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific Shinichi Hasegawa, and representatives from a number of national centers, mainly in South Asia.

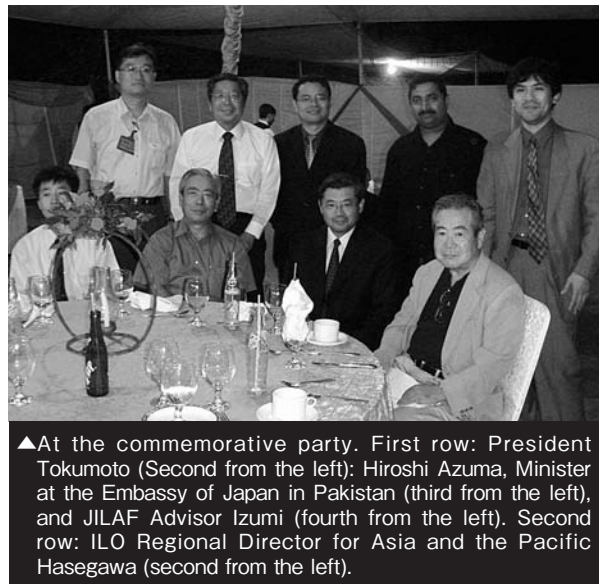
First, JILAF President Tokumoto, in his address to the Congress, introduced JILAF's organization and activities in Pakistan. He then expressed his hope that PWF would contribute to improving the

quality of life of workers and to sound social and economic development, and would become a model of unification for other countries where national centers are divided.

PWF General Secretary Kurshid Ahmed then expressed his appreciation for the ILO's support, saying, "the unity of workers is important, so with this unification as a starting point, we will work to protect workers' rights and take good care of our families." Finally, ICFTU General Secretary Guy Ryder praised the long efforts made in Pakistan toward unification, and expressed his expectation

that the PWF would maintain free and democratic unionism, expand its membership and improve its capabilities. He also expressed his determination to successfully carry out the Founding Congress of the New Trade Union International, which is scheduled for 2006 to unify the ICFTU and World Confederation of Labour. The PWF Congress was completed with no problems.

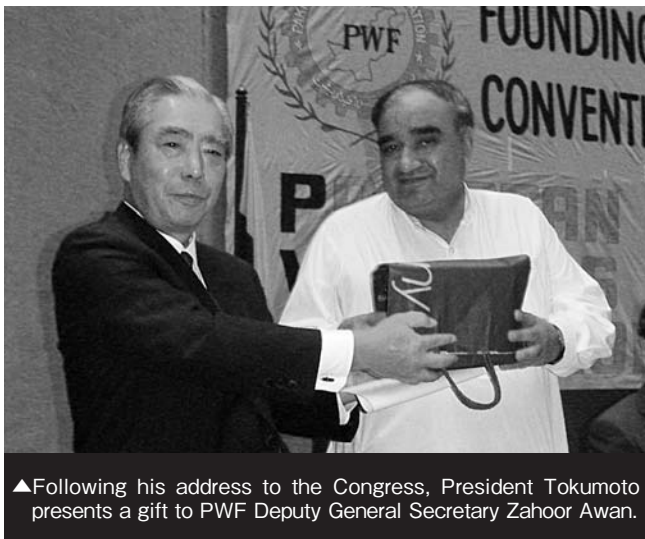
The POSITIVE (Participation-Oriented Safety Improvements by Trade Union Initiative) project, one of JILAF's key programs, was originally launched in 1994 in Pakistan. JILAF has since continued to assist the three organizations mentioned above as well as the ICFTU-PC, a council for those national centers, which in a sense was a predecessor of the PWF. We have carried



▲At the commemorative party. First row: President Tokumoto (Second from the left): Hiroshi Azuma, Minister at the Embassy of Japan in Pakistan (third from the left), and JILAF Advisor Izumi (fourth from the left). Second row: ILO Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific Hasegawa (second from the left).

out several projects, including POSITIVE, organizational strengthening, and the management of clinics. Pakistan is among the countries in which JILAF has been the most closely involved. Additionally, the unification has great significance for us, as it is the fruit of a major undertaking in which JILAF Advisor Izumi was involved during his tenure as APRO General Secretary.

During his stay in Pakistan, President Tokumoto, as a member of the international delegation, met with Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, and he and Advisor Izumi had the opportunity to exchange views with the administrative vice minister of labor. They were also invited to a luncheon hosted by Ambassador to Pakistan Nobuaki Tanaka, and discussed various issues such as the need to strengthen occupational health and safety and the necessity for agricultural land reform. This short three-day trip, which included visits to a variety of organizations, thus achieved substantial results.



▲Following his address to the Congress, President Tokumoto presents a gift to PWF Deputy General Secretary Zahoor Awan.

Labor-Management Relations Seminar Held in Vietnam



◆Sixty Trade Union Leaders Participate

JILAF, along with the Vietnam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL), held a seminar on labor-management relations in Danang from September 19-21, 2005. A total of 60 trade union leaders and workplace representatives from the city attended the seminar. JILAF Executive Director Motoo Hayashi gave a lecture on the trade union movement in Japan, focusing primarily on collective bargaining and labor-management consultations, and on Japanese

labor and social legislation in general.

◆Further Cooperation

JILAF is now carrying out two projects in Vietnam. One is the POSITIVE program, which is designed to develop core trainers to improve workplace conditions. The first POSITIVE seminar was held in Ho Chi Minh and Hanoi in November 2004. In the future, the seminar will be offered around once a year. The other project is the labor-management relations seminar, which was first held in 2002. It has been held yearly since then, so the 2005 seminar was the fourth.

◆Awareness of the Importance of Labor-Management Relations

VGCL informed JILAF that it would like to make collective bargaining and labor-management consultation the subjects of the 2005 seminar. This is because both VGCL officials and the government have begun to realize the importance of collective bargaining and labor-management consultations, as the adoption of market principles has been accompanied by a major influx of foreign companies into the country. Labor-management disputes have become common in recent years at those companies.

10th JILAF Training Program for Young Japanese Trade Union Leaders Begins — Six Trainees Complete the 9th Program —



The aim of this program is to nurture young Japanese trade union leaders who can play an active future role in the international labor arena. To this end, the program is designed to help trainees improve their English proficiency, which is a basic requisite for international activities, receive practical training on field projects, and acquire knowledge concerning the national and international trade union movement. The one-year course includes English-language training using special materials developed for the program, labor-related lectures, and visits to Global Union Federations (GUFs).

National and International Networks on Child Labor

ACE, as a non-profit organization, has been deeply involved in forming and operating national and international networks established to tackle the issue of child labor.

Thanks to the efforts made by ACE since 2003, the Child Labour Network Japan was established in September 2004 to connect NGOs, trade unions, international organizations, businesses, management associations, scholars and individuals toward the elimination of child labor. On the World Day Against Child Labor, on June 12, 2005, 150 people walked along Omotesando avenue, which was jammed with shoppers, to draw public attention to child labor. We plan to invite a lecturer from the private sector to hold a study meeting in January 2006, under the theme of child labor and corporate social responsibility. We are working with the International Labor Organization to prepare for the World Day 2006 program, and very much hope that trade unions will also be involved in this activity.

ACE has also acted as a member of the child labor group in the NGO-Trade Unions International Cooperation Forum,¹ which was established around the same time as CLNJ. During a study tour to Cambodia in July 2005, organized jointly by child labor and HIV/AIDS groups, trade union leaders visited project sites operated by Japanese NGOs, including SHARE, a non-profit voluntary organization helping to improve the health of people in need, and the Japan International Center for the Rights of the Child.

A resolution adopted at the 2004 ICFTU World Congress also confirmed the need for cooperation with Global March Against Child Labour,² an international NGO network, in order to end child labor. The Global March has carried out a vigorous movement for increasing awareness on child labor around the world, including campaigns pushing for the ratification of the ILO

PROFILE



Yuka Iwatsuki

Leader of Action against Child Exploitation (ACE).

Born in 1974. After establishing ACE in 1997, has made efforts to raise awareness on child labor, including through campaigns.

General Secretary, Japan International Center for the Rights of the Child Steering Committee member of Child Labour Network Japan

Project member of Trade Union International Cooperation Forum (tentative name)

URL: <http://acejapan.org>

Congress on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. It organized the Children's World Congress on Child Labor in 2004 and 2005, and has continued to convey the voices of working children all over the world.

Network-based activities, which can take advantage of individual resources and grow through cooperation, have great potential for resolving the problem of child labor.

1. This forum was established on September 1, 2004, to help resolve problems involving poverty, human rights, peace building, the environment and so on, as set out by the Millennium Development Goals, by promoting mutual understanding and cooperation between NGOs and trade unions.
2. See the website: <http://globalmarch.org>.

International Cooperation Efforts by Trade Unions – No.9 Renown Trade Union's RUSO Program

Hiroaki Tsuburaya

General Secretary

Renown Trade Union, UI Zensen

The Renown Union Support Oisca Program is the Renown Trade Union's own program, which was launched as one of the projects to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Union's founding. The RUSO Program provides assistance to residents in Abra, in the north of Luzon, the Philippines, to help them earn a living by agriculture, through the activities of OISCA, a Japanese NGO working mainly in Asia. In March 2001, the Renown Union provided financial assistance to OISCA to build a day care center (a kindergarten in the Japanese context), to enable parents to concentrate on earning a living without worrying about their children.

In August 2001, a mission composed of five union members made the initial visit to Abra. Since then, about five members have been sent each year. They participate in the Children's Forest Project undertaken by

OISCA - a movement designed to convey the importance of forests to children through planting trees - and interact with residents. They are also involved in a fundraising campaign and a flea market to raise money to restore forests in Abra, which gave disappeared due to the burning of fields and deforestation. General Secretary Hiroaki Tsuburaya said, "I hope local residents will remember that they planted trees in their childhood together with Japanese people. I hope that this experience will encourage them to continue to plant trees."

Initially, the aim of the program was to do something to draw union members' attention to philanthropy. Nowadays, however, many union members show interest in the program, said

Tsuburaya. It has become difficult to expand the program further, but the union never fails to send a mission and try to maintain activity at the current level. He continued, "It is important to continue the program, however small it may be." The RUSO Program has taught us again that it is critical to continue grass-roots activity.



▲Mission members sent to the day care center in 2005

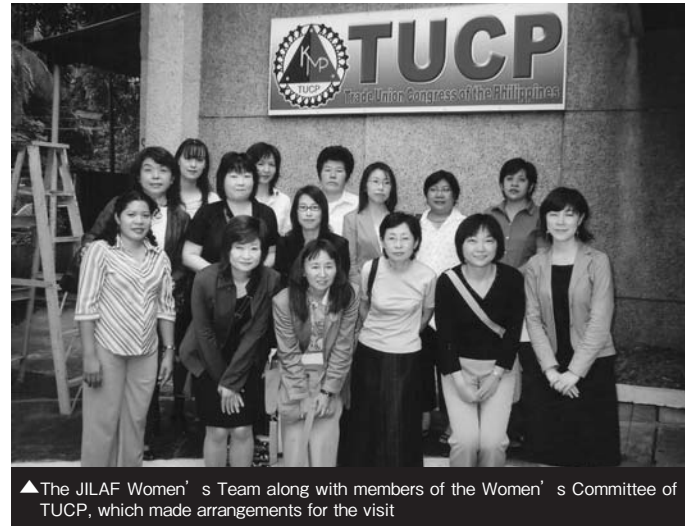
Women's International Exchange Team Visits the Philippines

The JILAF Women's International Exchange Team is made up of female trade union leaders from Local RENGOs. Its objective is to interact with female workers in various parts of Asia. The visit to the Philippines was the first since this project began ten years ago. The current team, headed by RENGO Assistant General Secretary Yoko Yamaguchi, was comprised of 12 members, including representatives from regional blocs. They visited Manila and Cebu from October 31 to November 4.

With the full cooperation of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), the Team visited that national center's headquarters, the Department of Labor and Welfare's Bureau of Women & Young Workers, NGOs, a pharmaceutical company and other sites. The team members were given explanations of each of the organizations and exchanged views with them. TUCP seemed greatly troubled by the fact that they cannot form trade unions at Japanese enterprises in the Export Processing Zone.

One of the purposes of this visit was to learn about the serious worldwide problem of "child labor." The team visited NUWHRAIN (a trade union of hotels and restaurants) to learn about the reality of child labor in the Philippines and about trade unions' approaches to the problem. In 2001, NUWHRAIN conducted a survey of the actual state of child labor in the tourism industry, with financial assistance from RENGO. There are now 4 million children working in the country primarily because of poverty. Being approached by children asking for money made us realize the severity of the problem.

When visiting Asian countries, we are brought face to face with the problems they are confronting. Child labor is not familiar to Japanese citizens. Thus, the team members had the opportunity to become aware of the reality of child labor and the poverty underlying child labor, and further to consider what to do to deal with these challenges.



▲The JILAF Women's Team along with members of the Women's Committee of TUCP, which made arrangements for the visit

JILAF Calendar (September-November 2005)

1. Invitation Programs

- Middle East/North African Team
September 1-14
- Korea/Hong Kong/Vietnam Team
October 20-November 2
- French- and Portuguese-speaking African Team
November 10-23

2. Field Projects

- Vietnam POSITIVE Follow-up Seminar
September 4-19; Ho Chi Minh, Hanoi
- Pakistan ICFTU-PC Unification Congress, Bangladesh National Seminar
September 5-15; Islamabad, Lahore, Bangkok, Dhaka
- Vietnam VGCL Labor-Management Relations Seminar

September 17-23; Hanoi

- China ACFTU POSITIVE Seminar / JICA Monitoring
September 18-24; Jiangsu Province
- Nepal NTUC Seminar for Training POSITIVE Core Trainers
October 21-November 3; Katmandu
- India INTUC School Project
November 2-6
- ICFTU-APRO Coordination Meeting
November 7-11; Singapore
- China ACFTU POSITIVE Monitoring
November 14-19; Beijing and Nantong, Jiangsu Province

3. Others

- Overseas Field Survey on "Employment Creation by NPOs," Survey Team on Employment Measures

September 4-16, United States

- Social Asia Forum, "The Labor Market and Trade Unions in East Asia"
October 13-17; Taipei, Taiwan
- Overseas Field Survey on "Employment Creation by NPOs," Survey Team on Employment Measures
October 27 - November 8; Denmark, Germany
- Women's International Exchange Team
October 30 - November 4; Manila, the Philippines
- KILAF/JILAF Regular Exchange
November 14-18; Seoul, Korea
- 46th Board of Trustees/Board of Advisors Meeting
November 25; Tokyo, Japan

Inside Out

I am very pleased to be able to work for JILAF once again. When I worked here before, I always had a keen feeling that although JILAF was tackling very significant tasks, its budgetary scale was not adequate for the work. That seems true even now in spite of the efforts that have been made. I will try at least to get more funding, from the

Foreign Ministry, which I used to belong to, and its affiliated organization, JICA.

Yoshihiro Nakamura
Former Ambassador to Uruguay

