

TWARO 13th Regional Conference

December 7-8, 2006

Bangkok (Thailand)



The Thirteenth Regional Conference of TWARO, the Asian and Pacific Regional Organisation of ITGLWF, was held in Bangkok at the Siam City Hotel on 7-8 December 2006.



Mr. N. Suzuki
GS of ICFTU-APRO



Mr. Neil Kearney
GS of ITGLWF



Mr. T. Takagi
President of RENGO
and
Former President
of TWARO

It was participated by about 70 delegates and observers from 33 affiliated organizations and two friendly unions in 20 Asian and Pacific countries. In addition to the delegates and observers, Mr. Neil Kearney (ITGLWF General Secretary), Mr. N. Suzuki (General Secretary of ICFTU-APRO), Mr. T. Takagi (President of RENGO and Former President of TWARO), Mr. T. Izumi (Former Secretary of TWARO) and Ms. Kimiyo Takagi (Former Secretary of TWARO) also participated in the Conference.



Mr. T. Izumi Ms. Kimiyo Takagi
Former Secretaries of TWARO

The Opening Ceremony of the Conference was held on 7 December 2006 from 09:00 am to 10:00 am. Among the speakers who addressed the Opening Ceremony were Mr. H. Shimada, President of TWARO; Mr. Sia Chumpathong, President of the Textile Garment and Leather Workers' Federation of Thailand (TWFT); and Mr. Kearney, General Secretary of ITGLWF.



Mr. Sia Chumpathong
President of TWFT, Thailand

At the commencement of the Opening Ceremony, just before the Presidential Address, TWARO President Shimada led all the distinguished guests, delegates and observers to observe a one-minute silence to pay our respect to a number of TWARO trade union colleagues who had passed away since the 12th TWARO Regional Conference in 2002.



Mr. H. Shimada
President of TWARO

On 8 December 2006 just before the business session was resumed, the Conference welcomed Brother Takagi, President of RENGO as well as the Former President of TWARO, and Brother Suzuki, General Secretary of ICFTU-APRO, who both addressed and conveyed greetings on behalf of their respective organizations.

In its review of activities carried out since the 12th TWARO Regional Conference held in Okayama, Japan, in 2002, it was noted with satisfaction that the activities of TWARO had not only been greatly enhanced but the membership of TWARO has also been substantially expanded.



During the 2-day Conference, the whole afternoon of the first day was devoted to reports and discussion from affiliated organizations on the following themes:-

- (a) Organising the unorganized
- (b) Protecting Employment and Workers Rights in Post MFA
- (c) Occupational Health and Safety
- (d) Women Workers
- (e) Migrant Labour
- (f) Improving Wages and Working Condition
- (g) Strengthening Affiliated Unions



The Conference endorsed a substantial future programme of activities for the next five years in strengthening the free and democratic trade union movement in our industries. The major priority areas to be addressed by TWARO over the next five years are, among others : (1) Establishment and promotion of fundamental trade union rights, (2) Organizing the unorganised, (3) CSR activities: Dialogue with Brands with the aim to organise multinational companies at Asian and Pacific level, (4) Collective Bargaining and Security of Employment, (5) Research on the future of textiles and clothing industries, (6) Women Workers, (7) Child Labour, (8)

Health and safety, (9) Migrant Workers, (10) Education and training for young leaders and consolidation of unions for self-sufficiency, (11) Trade and core labour standards, (12) Information and research, and (13) Promotion of cooperation with ITUC-APRO and other GUFs' Asian and Pacific regional organisations.

The Conference also unanimously adopted the following 5 resolutions :- (1) Resolution on Burma; (2) Resolution on China; (3) Resolution to Promote more active Youth Participation in TWARO, (4) Resolution on Fiji, and (5) Emergency Resolution on Thailand.

Regarding the proposed changes to the TWARO Constitution, the Conference approved an amendment concerning “representation at the Regional Conference” so as to truly reflect the changes in membership of the majority of our affiliates. The second amendment to the TWARO Constitution approved by the Conference was to lengthen the duration between two TWARO regional conferences from 4 years to 5 years so as to be in line with ITGLWF Rules.



The Conference elected a new 13-member Executive Committee for the next five years (2006~2011) whose members are as follows:

Mr. Tony Woolgar	~ Australia (TCFUA)
Mr. Jen Chen Tsung	~ Rep. of China Textile Committee
Mr. V. R. Jaganathan	~ India (INGLWF)
Mr. H. Shimada	~ Japan (UI ZENSEN)
Mr. Fathalla Al Omrani	~ Jordan (JTUWTGCI)
Mr. Kenneth Stephen Perkins	~ Malaysia (Penang Textile and Garment Workers Union)
Mr. B. Batchuluun	~ Mongolia (MITUF)
Mr. Zaheer Ahmed Taj	~ Pakistan (PNTLGGWF)

Mr. Norberto Alensuela	~ Philippines (PDMP)
Ms. Noorlaila Aslah	~Malaysia(NUWSMI) Female EC Member from Developing Countries
Ms. Kaoru Akimoto	~ Japan (UI ZENSEN) Female EC Member from Industrialised Countries
Ms. Annie Adviento	~ Chairperson of TWARO Women's Committee
Ms. Akiko Gono	~ TWARO Secretary



Newly Elected TWARO EC Members

At the subsequent 52nd TWARO Executive Committee Meeting which was held on 8 December 2006 during the afternoon coffee-break of the Conference, Mr. H. Shimada of Japan-UI ZENSEN was re-elected as the President of TWARO and Mr. Kenneth Stephen Perkins of Malaysia-Penang Textile and Garment Workers Union was re-elected as the Vice-President of TWARO. On the recommendation of the 52nd TWARO Executive Committee Meeting, the Conference re-appointed Mr. H. Ikeda of Japan-UI Zensen and Ms. Cheung Lai Ha of Hongkong-Clothing Industry, Clerical and Retail Trade Employees General Union as the two Auditors of TWARO for the next five years.



Mr. Leong Fook Kee
Assistant Secretary of TWARO

The 13th TWARO Regional Conference was also marked by the retirement of Mr. T. Takagi as the President of TWARO following his election in October 2005 as the President of RENGO (Japanese Trade Union Confederation) after having served as TWARO President from 1994 to September 2005. Also retiring after the 13th Regional Conference is Brother Leong who had served TWARO for the past 35 years,

first as the TWARO Organiser based in Hongkong and later as the TWARO Assistant Secretary based in TWARO Headquarters in Tokyo.

