



**IndustriALL Global Union
Asia and Pacific Regional Conference
May 15-16, 2014
Bangkok, Thailand**

Bangkok Declaration

On May 15-16, 2014, the first Asia and Pacific Regional Conference since the forming of the IndustriALL Global Union was held in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Asia-Pacific region is comprised of countries with rich cultural, social and political diversity. And it is the dynamism generated by this diversity that serves as the source of growth for the region, which, as the “world’s growth center,” is expected to drive the global economy forward.

However, at the same time, the region’s rapid economic development has also resulted in an accumulation of some very serious challenges, including rights violations against workers and trade unions, insufficient workplace health and safety, and unfair working conditions. A fair allocation of results is only first obtained after union activities have been secured. However, for many countries in the Asia-Pacific region, such as Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, basic trade union rights have not been guaranteed. Additionally, the allocation of results commensurate with economic development is insufficient, resulting in a widening gap between the minimum wage and a living wage. As such, in many countries such as Cambodia, the fight to increase the minimum wage continues. With excessive priority being placed on economic outcomes, attention to safety is being neglected. A prime example of such neglect was the collapse of the Rana Plaza factory building in Bangladesh on April 24, 2013. More than 1,100 garment workers lost their lives in this tragic incident, and we must not forget that this loss was due to neglect on the health and safety fronts.

IndustriALL was founded in 2012, and we, the affiliates of the Asia-Pacific region, while working to achieve solidarity between organizations both at home and abroad in cooperation with the head office, are strongly promoting actions geared toward solving these challenges, however, there are still many issues that need to be addressed.

Against such a backdrop, and based on IndustriALL basic strategies and goals to be achieved by 2016, we confirm anew at this conference that we will focus on the activities listed below as we share regional priorities and clarify priority actions in preparation for the 2nd Congress of IndustriALL in 2016.

1. Build union power and expand our organizing efforts

2. Respond to multinationals - including through strengthening our GFA capacity and union networks and our capacity for joint action
3. Advocate worker rights
4. Fight against precarious work
5. Ensure employment related to sustainable industry
6. Strengthen the leadership and participation of women
7. Ensure that the structures of IndustriALL are truly representative of the diversity of our unions and regions.

We condemn the persecution and imprisonment of trade union and democratic activists in the Asia, Pacific and beyond.

IndustriALL stands with the trade unions of Cambodia in their struggle for a living wage and the right to organize and condemn the oppression of garment unions and leaders by the government of Cambodia.

We will act together to strategically confront global capital and its strategies to reduce worker's rights and unionization through increasing outsourcing, contract labor, and precarious work.

We condemn companies and brands such as Ansell in Sri Lanka and Samsung in Korea which do not ensure a living wage, healthy and safe working conditions, and resist union organizing and collective bargaining.

During this conference, we have again paused to remember those workers who have lost their lives through industrial homicide such as Rana Plaza in Bangladesh and tragically as we met at the Soma Mine in Turkey.

We pledge our ongoing efforts to hold companies and brands responsible for the conditions of workers in their supply chains and consequences of their actions.

We call on the brands manufacturing in Bangladesh to fully contribute to the compensation fund for killed and injured workers.

IndustriALL will cooperate with the ITUC in taking a strong union position on the ASEAN Economic Community, FTAs and other bilateral trade agreements.

Based on the results of active and democratic discussions at this conference, we, all of the regional affiliates, will work together as one to overcome the challenges faced in the region, while also building a new economic and social model that prioritizes people based on a foundation of democracy and societal and economic justice in order to secure decent working conditions.

Furthermore, based on the inherent history and tradition of the Asia-Pacific region, we, while enhancing solidarity among affiliates in the region and promoting the organization of workers, will continue to work towards the healthy development and strengthening of the union.

Constantly moving forward with the organization of workers and the promotion of their solidarity, will open up a bright path for our future.

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