



Global Unions GCAP Newsletter

October, 2005 Issue #4

Updates on the GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION AGAINST POVERTY **GCAP**
FROM A TRADE UNION PERSPECTIVE

In this newsletter:

1. **Get involved in White Band Day III: 5 – 11 December**
2. **GCAP trade union events around the world - recap of White Band Day II**

GCAP is calling for:

- ▶ More and better aid
- ▶ Trade justice
- ▶ Debt cancellation
- ▶ Governments to live up to their promises to eliminate poverty
- ▶ The creation of decent jobs as the only way to ensure a sustainable way out of poverty.

To sign up for
Global Unions Newsletters on GCAP,
e-mail: GCAP@icftu.org

The ICFTU welcomes information
about unions' and GUFs' involvement
and action in the campaign.

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1. Get involved in White Band Day III week of activities - 5 TO 11 DECEMBER

White Band Day III is planned for December 10, which is just before the **6th World Trade Organisation Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong** (13-18 December) and the same day as **International Human Rights Day**. Your involvement in the week of activities around this day can help convince governments to support the call for decent work and trade justice so that millions of people can have the chance to break the poverty cycle.

We encourage all national centres and trade unions to get involved in activities. The theme of WBIII is "Spotlight on trade injustice". Mobilise your trade union members to:

- ▶ **Wear white bands**
- ▶ **Distribute white bands and leaflets to workers at or near the workplace**
- ▶ **Organise/ take part in GCAP rallies and marches calling for decent work for all workers, trade justice and union rights for all**
- ▶ **Cover significant buildings and trade union offices in your city with white bands.**

Many actions are already planned for the week of December 5 to 11. You can find out what your national coalition is going to do by visiting www.whiteband.org. An action tool kit will be available from the same website to help you organise and participate in actions.

Global Unions (which includes ICFTU) have produced a **statement** which you can use to **lobby officials in trade delegations & trade ministries**.

<http://www.icftu.org/www/pdf/wtohkstatement.pdf>

More tips and tools:

- ▶ **Form a campaign group and join the campaign coalition in your country** (see www.whiteband.org for contacts) or contact the ICFTU. Email: gcap@icftu.org
- ▶ Organise GCAP information sessions for trade union members, committees (e.g. women- and youth committees) and executive boards. To help with your presentation you can download the ICFTU's power point presentation on GCAP at <http://www.icftu.org/www/pdf/GCAPpwtEn.ppt#17>
- ▶ Distribute action cards, collect petition signatures or pass a resolution (for examples, check out the TUC's UK website *Vote for trade justice* <http://www.tuc.org.uk/international/tuc-10630-f0.cfm>)
- ▶ Send a trade union delegation to lobby key politicians to deliver the GCAP message and statement,
- ▶ Publicise the campaign to workers, your community and the media (Download Global Unions GCAP materials here <http://www.icftu.org/focus.asp?Issue=GCAPCampMat&Language=EN>)
- ▶ Make a link between your union home page/ website and the ICFTU GCAP website: <http://www.icftu.org/focus.asp?Issue=GCAPcampaign&Language=EN>

Useful Tools:

- ▶ **ICFTU's GCAP webpages:** newsletters, press releases, statements, fact sheets, power point presentation and more <http://www.icftu.org/focus.asp?Issue=GCAPcampaign&Language=EN>
- ▶ **A WTO Action guide for trade unionists:** useful tips on lobbying your national government representatives and trade negotiators, raising the issue in the public eye, tips for getting good media, joining in international action and more <http://www.icftu.org/www/PDF/WTOGuide2.pdf>

2. GCAP trade union actions around the world - White Band Day II



White band projected on the UN General Assembly

Total actions taken by GCAP have risen from just over 12 million to: 13,936,545

During the lead up to the UN Millennium + 5 Summit, held in New York, trade unions throughout the world joined with civil society campaigners to send a clear message to governments that urgent action poverty was what their citizens expected from the Summit. The outcomes of the summit, however, were mixed with some strong language in the document but few commitments. In his reaction to the outcomes, Guy Ryder, General Secretary of the ICFTU stated: "This summit did not deliver enough on poverty, security, United Nations reform, or the reaffirmation of the UN as the core of the multilateral system. But that is not a reason to give up hope. On the contrary, we should redouble our efforts to reclaim lost ground, ensure that the promises are kept, and that the unfinished agenda is completed." For more details on the Summit's outcome see the ICFTU's media release <http://www.icftu.org/displaydocument.asp?Index=991222813&Language=EN> and the Summit Evaluation document at <http://www.icftu.org/www/pdf/icftuevaluationunsummit.pdf>

Guy Ryder addressed the United Nations General Assembly on behalf of the world's workers and the GCAP coalition. To read his speech go to <http://www.icftu.org/www/PDF/Guy-speech.final.pdf>. You can also watch his speech by streaming video from <http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ga/summit2005/worldsummit050916pm.rm?start=%2206:20:55%22&end=%2206:27:18%22>

The Trade Union Statement to the 2005 World Summit of the UN General Assembly, New York, 14-16 September, 2005 - argues that creating decent jobs at fair wages, providing skills and respecting workers' rights are vital to the objective of eliminating world poverty
<http://www.icftu.org/displaydocument.asp?Index=991222158&Language=EN>

A selection of GCAP trade union actions around 10 September 2005

New York, US GCAP trade union activists and members marched together with 250,000 New York City workers in the annual **Labour Day Parade**



Nepal: The national coalition (including trade unions) gathered in major regional cities (Biratnagar, Kathmandu, Butwal, Nepalgunj and Dhangdi) and ended with a short public mass meeting. People's demands were written on banners and placards carried on the rally

Bangladesh: A rally in the capital city of Dhaka took place where thousands of men, women and children from various NGOs, trade unions, teacher's unions, the Working Women's Association and other civil society organizations participated

Bogota, Colombia – around 20,000 action cards were handed over to the Congress of the Republic, requesting a repeal of the labour regulations that have undermined working conditions, particularly for women working in Export Processing Zones, textile and garment factories, and banana and flower industries



London, UK: Union leaders (from the TUC) presented to Prime Minister Tony Blair and International Development Secretary Hillary Benn the Global Unions [submission](#) to the United Nations before their departure for the UN Summit.

Download ("pdf"): Trade Union Statement to the 2005 World Summit of the UN General Assembly, New York, 14-16 September, 2005.

<http://www.icftu.org/www/pdf/tradeunionstatementunenglish.pdf>

Senegal: The ICFTU and ILO-ACTRAV presented a White Band to the Minister of Labour of Senegal and urged his government to take action against poverty.



Bulgaria: The ICFTU affiliated CITUB presented 'make poverty history' protest letters to the Prime-minister and other high level politicians



Brazil: The national coalition joined other social movements to celebrate the National Day of Independence. As usual on this day demonstrations took place in support of marginalized people and those excluded from political and social processes. The banners carried slogans such as 'Grito Pela Inclusao' or 'Cry for Inclusion'. White Bands and flyers were handed out in Brasilia, Sao Paulo and Aparecida do Norte.



Chile: Trade unionists joined others in marching through the streets of Santiago carrying 8 bands of different colours, each one 1 metre wide and 2 metres long, each representing one of the Millennium Development Goal.



Netherlands: FNV President Agnes Jongerius and others sent text messages to the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Dr. Jan Peter Balkenende, demanding that his government take action to end poverty.



Latvia: Trade unions (LBAS) organized a manifestation against poverty on the 1st October, 2005, in the Dome Square of Riga.

http://www.lbas.lv/En/akcijas_vestules_en.doc

Italy: CISL and CGIL took part in the annual March for Peach on 11 September which focused on the millennium development goals. Giant white bands were formed by hundreds of thousands participants wearing white t-shirts and by a special 100 meter long white band. In the middle of the 25 km long rally was a special square against poverty.



Peru: The coalition mobilised citizens for a Peru 'without poverty and corruption, for a fair and democratic world order' on September 8 at Plaza 2 de Mayo, Lima. During this week they also organised a concert, workshops and many other activities.

Canada: Trade unionists participated in events across Canada including mobilising students in more than 25 Universities.



US, Chicago 24 August: 1000 delegates at the **UNI World Congress** held a rally addressing world poverty as well poverty in the United States. Delegates from more than 100 countries heartily endorsed calls for governments to go further and faster in eradicating poverty.



Japan: On 4th October, just before its biennial convention, JTUC-RENGO held a GCAP Symposium, sub-titled “A Trade Union Role in Eradicating Poverty”. This symposium was co-hosted by JTUC-RENGO and the NGO-Trade Union Forum for International Collaboration on MDGs, with the support of ILO. (The Forum was established by JTUC-RENGO, some RENGU Affiliates and NGO groups for the purpose of achievement of MDGs, as well as enhancing the related issues to MDGs.)

In the first half of the symposium, Mr. Sasamori, a former president of JTUC, Mr. Hasegara, Director of Regional Office of Asia and Pacific, International Labour Organization (ILO), Mr. Takahashi, Research fellow of Japan International Volunteer Center (JVC), and Mr. Guy Ryder, General Secretary of ICFTU delivered speeches on related issues to GCAP from their respective positions.

In the latter half, there was a panel discussion, facilitated by Ms. Yuge, Director of UNDP Tokyo Office,

with the panelists. The panelists, such as Mr. Alip, Chairman of Center for Agriculture and Rural Development, Philippines, Mr. Odah, General Secretary of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC), Mr. Nishimuro, Advisor to the Board, Toshiba Corporation and Mr. Guy Ryder discussed the role trade unions play in achieving MDGs, as well as eradicating poverty which is caused by the process of unregulated globalisation.

At the last of the symposium, an appeal was adopted by 400 participants in the symposium, calling for workers’ solidarity to tackle this challenge through the GCAP movement.

