Domestic Workers News Update from Indonesia

On 31 May 2012, KOY—Yogyakarta Domestic Workers Union performed a Domestic Work Theater in Jakarta. The performance told a story about the dream of domestic workers to have a decent life, different with reality.

KOY said that theater becomes one of the effective tools to organize domestic workers and give education to them about their rights as workers. It also used by KOY to share experiences and give advocacy to help each other.

At the international level, KSBSI also shared its experiences between continent of Asia, Latin America, Africa & Europe during the WSM International Workshop in Brussels on June 22, 2012.

After Uruguay, expectedly Philippines will be the next country to ratify the ILO Convention 189 on Domestic Workers. Good news coming from Belgium when the Government also indicated that they may ratify this convention.

On July 16-17, 2012, ITUC, Jala PRT (Indonesia Domestic Workers Network), & the 3 Confederations; KSBSI, KSPI & KSPSI, organized National Consultancy on the National Law on Domestic Workers and ILO Convention 189 on Domestic Work. The Consultancy participated by Marieke from ITUC, Haridason from ITUC AP and Elizabeth Tang from IDWN Hongkong. Marieke explained about the progress of ITUC 12 by 12 Campaign and Elizabeth shared experiences about the best practices on organizing Domestic Workers and protection of migrant domestic workers e.g. in Hongkong.

Mudhofir, KSBSI President, underlined the importance of organizing domestic workers to eliminate discrimination and stigmatization of domestic workers.

On the 2nd day, the National Consultancy had group discussion to improve the draft of National Bill on Domestic Workers which proposed by Civil Society Group to the Parliament.

The group discussions improved articles on Employment Contract, Working hour, Labor inspection & dispute settlement and Wages.

The workshop also confirmed the set up of KA PRT (Action Committee on Domestic Workers) in form of Presidium lead by KSBSI, KSPSI, KSPI & Jala PRT. The Committee has 4 Working Team; Legislation & Lobbying, Drafting of National Bill, Campaign & Publication, and Mobilization of Domestic Workers. During the closing remarks, Sulistri (KSBSI) said that our struggle for Domestic Workers is very strategic because it will give impact to the struggle of other workers in informal sector and the rest of women workers.

From 23-25 May 2012, KSBSI conducted National Meeting attended by All 11 affiliates Federations and 30 Regional Coordinators throughout Indonesia. The National Meeting gave focus on KSBSI role on Domestic Workers. Lita from Jala PRT thanked to KSBSI support to the network and reminded that the struggle is not finish until the National law adopted and ILO Convention 189 ratified. Mudhofir, KSBSI President, said that National Meeting has decided that Domestic Workers is one of the main program of KSBSI. It means that all Federations & Regional Coordinators agreed to gives their full support to this program. Jeroen from World Solidarity said that KSBSI has played important role not only at National but also International level. Indonesia Labor Minister, Muhain Iskandar, during his speech promised to KSBSI to push Parliament members to continue discussion on the draft to be adopted this year.