

International Trade Union Confederation – Asia Pacific

Regional Strategies on Trade Union Engagement

**Trade Union Development Cooperation Network
Asia Pacific Meeting
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Challenges

Diversity

- Level of Development – donor countries, emerging economies, developing countries, fragile states
- Political structure
- Different attitudes towards coalition building with CSOs



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Challenges

Union density

- Dismal union penetration rate – in some countries as low as 2-4%
- Unions confined predominantly to formal sectors
- Poor gender participation
- Union fragmentation



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Informalisation

- Overwhelming majority in IE in South Asia over 85 %
- Growing precarious work, contract labour, migrant labour
- Ignoring these basic facts will be at its own peril



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Establishment of AP TUDCN

First Asia Pacific Meeting

held in Bangkok in December 2014

Recommends to set up AP TUDCN

Asia Pacific Caucus meeting in
Bangkok in April this year



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Establishment of AP TUDCN

ITUC-AP General Council in Oct.2015
Decides to establish AP TUDCN

ITUC-AP TUDCN established

First meeting in Bangkok in
September 2016



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Engagement with National governments

Advocacy with governments

ITUC-AP undertakes advocacy with national governments on implementation of Sustained Developed Goals



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Engagement with regional Groupings

ASEAN

- Ten-member grouping
 - Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Singapore, Vietnam, Laos and Brunei
- Asean Trade Union Council



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Engagement with regional Groupings

ASEAN

Significant achievement

- First Social Charter
- Migrant labour charter



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Engagement with regional groupings

SAARC

- Eight-member grouping
 - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives
- South Asian Trade Union Council



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Engagement with regional Groupings

SARTUC

- Space for dialogue
- Possibility of recognition
- Inclusion of migrant labour in the final communique
- Efforts for a migrant labour charter
- **Inclusion of migrant labour in the SAARC summit later this year**



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Consultation meeting with TUSSOs and GUFs

- Participants: TUSSOs, GUFs, ILO, sub-regional t.u. structures, ITUC and ITUC-AP
- Objectives: exchange information, activities, identify areas of joint activities
- **A useful annual exercise**



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Engagement with ADB

- Engagement with ADB periodically at different levels
- Takes up trade union concern and tries to influence policies
- Implementation of development agenda
- Achievement: Recognition of CLS labour standards in its development cooperation with countries



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Engagement with national t.u.s

Engagement in global fora

Policy Forum on Development (PFD)

- A multi-stake holder space for dialogue
- Focus on European development policies and global development agenda
- At present only one seat

Regional PFD meets



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2030 Development Agenda

- Participates in the UN debate
- Trade unions bring workers concerns
- Goals expanded from 12 to 17
- Decent work included



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Sustainable Development Goals

- Participates in the UN debate
- Involvement in National dialogue –
India, Nepal, Indonesia
- Trade unions bring workers concerns



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Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation(GPEDC)

- Follow up structure of Busan event on development effectiveness
- Meeting in Mexico, April 2014
- Meeting in Nairobi



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CSO Partnership for development effectiveness (CPDE)

- Coordinate all CSO positions and strategies towards the GPDEC



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Engagements with other global engagements

- ITUC AP participate with ITUC in the following engagements
 - > OECD-DAC
 - > Annual meeting with World Bank/IMF
 - > APEC-APLN
 - > G-20 LC
 - > Labour meet before G-8



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CSO Partnership for development effectiveness (CPDE)

- Coordinate all CSO positions and strategies towards the GPDEC



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What is to be considered

- Shift from donor driven to need based priorities
- Wider participation
- Changes in the t.u structures
- Ownership
- Evaluation based on membership growth
- Encourage self-reliance
- Reduce procedural requirements



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What is to be Considered

- Reduce procedural requirements
- Monitoring and evaluation should be agreed by partners
- Involvement in the national development debates
- Recognise and assert unique distinct identity - membership based organisation



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What is to be considered

- Regional dimension recognised, greater involvement of regions
- Need for labour voice heard in forums
- Joint approach on common themes
- Avoid requirement for tedious cumbersome reporting procedures



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