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Women debate representation

IMF Women's Conference delegates discussed contributions women executive committee members have made since Congress 2005.



Guy Ryder

Guy Ryder, general secretary of the ITUC, will address Congress delegates this afternoon.

IMF WORLD CONGRESS OPENS

Over 800 delegates were officially welcomed to the 32nd IMF World Congress yesterday with a ceremony that highlighted both Swedish culture and the important issues to be debated over the next 3 days.

"We meet in a time when international trade union cooperation is more important than ever," said Cecilia Fahlberg, president of Unionen. "This gives us both responsibility and opportunities to make positive contributions to the current

economic situation."

Ulf Bengtsson, president of the Swedish Engineers, also welcomed delegates noting "industrialized countries must make restructuring decisions based on workers' rights."

Former Gothenburg Volvo worker and outgoing IMF General Secretary Marcello Malentacchi paid tribute to local veteran shop steward Mitcha Stevanovic and rank and file workers everywhere as the backbone of the union movement.

Nordic folk act, Daughters of the Wolf, sang traditional songs in historical Scandinavian costumes using instruments ranging from rinstick to a didgeridoo.

And in a fiery finale, scenes filmed at Outokumpu Steel in Avesta, Sweden formed the backdrop for tapdancing rhythm act Jeerk, who performed a specially choreographed metalworking inspired dance, complete with heat resistant suits and pyrotechnics.

Welcome delegates!





IMF EXECUTIVE PROPOSES CANDIDATES FOR CONGRESS 2009 ELECTIONS

Executive Committee members met in Gothenburg to discuss future cooperation with Global Union Federations and put forward candidates to be elected by IMF Congress delegates on Monday.

Executive Committee members of the International Metalworkers' Federation met in Gothenburg on 21 May to discuss building closer cooperation with Global Union Federations and proposed candidates to lead the IMF for the next four years.

Proposed rule changes, if adopted by Congress delegates on 25 May, will allow for the election of one or more IMF Assistant General Secretaries as well as an IMF Vice-President. Elections will also be held on Monday for the position of an IMF President and IMF General Secretary.

Committee members discussed

concrete steps for closer cooperation and coordination with Global Union Federations and all agreed such measures should be taken up by the new IMF leadership as a priority of future work.

Three unions were unanimously approved for affiliation to the IMF: the Vietnam National Union of Workers in Industry and Trade (VUIT) with a membership of 40,597; the Metals Industry Committee of Industrial Union of Serbia (ISS) representing 7,000 members; and the Mining and Metallurgy Trade Union of Kyrgyzstan (MMTUK) representing 7,200 workers.

Marcello Malentacchi, IMF general secretary, delivered the secretariat report noting the many current struggles metalworkers are engaged in as Congress opens on Sunday and the need for strengthening our solidarity efforts in defence of labour rights around the world.

INFORMATION

Have something to say?

The following are some basic guidelines for speaking at Congress.

To inform the Chair that you wish to speak, fill out the orange "Request to Speak" forms that are included in your Congress kits. Be sure to clearly mark which agenda item you wish to speak to.

Delegates can only submit a request to speak after the relevant agenda point or resolution has been opened for discussion. For example, once the item on the Action Programme has been opened, you may notify your



intention to speak during the debate, even if this may not be until later in the afternoon or even the next day. In the case of the Action Programme, please indicate which section of the AP you plan to address.

Speaking time is at the discretion of the Congress Chairperson, and limited to a maximum of 10 minutes.



We should be a strong trade union voice for jobs and welfare. This Congress should show our strength and capability to fight for workers' rights and collective agreements and for secure jobs and a secure future, that is our theme during the Congress days.

Stefan Löfven, IF Metall President

We asked delegates at the IMF Women's Conference: Why should precarious workers join



To protect the working conditions of the unprotected.

Yuko Tomitaka
JEIU, IMF-JC, Japan



By joining unions precarious workers can get training to know their rights and stand up together to fight for equal employment through collective bargaining.

Aghni Dhamayanti
FSPMI, Indonesia



It only takes one incident and precarious workers can be thrust out of a way to provide for their family. They need a union to give them protection.

Lauren Asplen
IUE-CWA, USA



So that they can get access to collective agreements, which are very important documents in terms of providing social protection, better wages and labour conditions.

Reneta Petrova
trade union "Metalicy", Bulgaria



WOMEN DEBATE REPRESENTATION

After four years of women's participation on the IMF Executive Committee, delegates of the IMF Women's Conference assess their contribution.

The IMF Women's Conference was held on 22 May in Gothenburg, Sweden. Opening the conference, Jurgen Peters, IMF President, and Marcello Malentacchi, IMF General Secretary, both spoke about women's participation on the Executive Committee over the past four years.

Conference participants spoke of the need for more women's participation and the importance of representing not only their own interests but those

of all metalworkers in every region.

They maintained that men should know about problems specific to women in order to achieve a balanced view of gender issues and that women union leaders should take responsibility for ensuring the welfare of all metalworkers and not only women workers.

They also emphasised that women executive committee members should continue to meet to discuss the problems they face, for example, precarious work.

Participants presented case studies of precarious work currently affecting

women. Representatives from trade unions in Germany, Italy, Brazil, Indonesia and Japan described the problems facing women workers, including: the impossibility of reconciling their work, family and trade union life; the lack of employment contracts; discrimination on the grounds of gender and race; and low pay.

Delegates stressed that women are the most affected by the financial crisis and concluded that the IMF must continue to promote greater access to secure and well paid jobs for women.

a union?



So they can have the same wages and working conditions as others. We don't want an "A- and a B-team".

Birgitta Lanér,
IF Metall, Sweden



To safeguard their rights, have an employment contract and enjoy the rights enshrined in the Labor Law."

Inocência Tembe
SINTIME, Mozambique



Because the union is the tool to have guaranteed salaries, social security, welfare and collective agreements.

Michele Ida Ciciliato
CNM-CUT, Brazil

MONDAY
25 MAY, 2009

9:30

Secretariat Report

IMF General Secretary Marcello Malentacchi reports on outcomes since Congress 2005.

12:15

Media briefing

The IMF invites the media to hear union leaders discuss the global economic crisis and the automotive industry. Congress Hall.

12:30

Special Event: Migrant Shipbreaking Workers

A special presentation on migrant shipbreaking workers will take place in room J1 of the Convention Centre. See page 4.

13:30

Guy Ryder, ITUC

Guy Ryder, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation, addresses Congress delegates.



Mari-Ann Krantz, former President of Sif, chairs today's afternoon session.

14:15

Changing IMF Rules

Proposed changes to the IMF Rules will be discussed and moved for adoption.

15:30

IMF Elections

Congress delegates will elect new IMF leadership and members of the Executive Committee and Auditing Committee for the next four years.

Programme Details

Please refer to your Congress Programme for full details and supporting documentation for all Congress events and meetings. Detailed information about Congress is also available online at: www.imfmetal.org/Congress2009

MIGRANT SHIPBREAKING WORKERS

Panel to discuss how union building has given workers a powerful voice in one of the world's most dangerous industries.

Shipbreaking is recognised as one of the world's most hazardous industries, but recently, organised workers in India have started to make a difference.

Congress delegates are invited to a panel discussion at 12.30 today in room J1 of the Convention Centre to learn more about shipbreakers' struggles to organise and collectively bargain in the worst conditions imaginable.

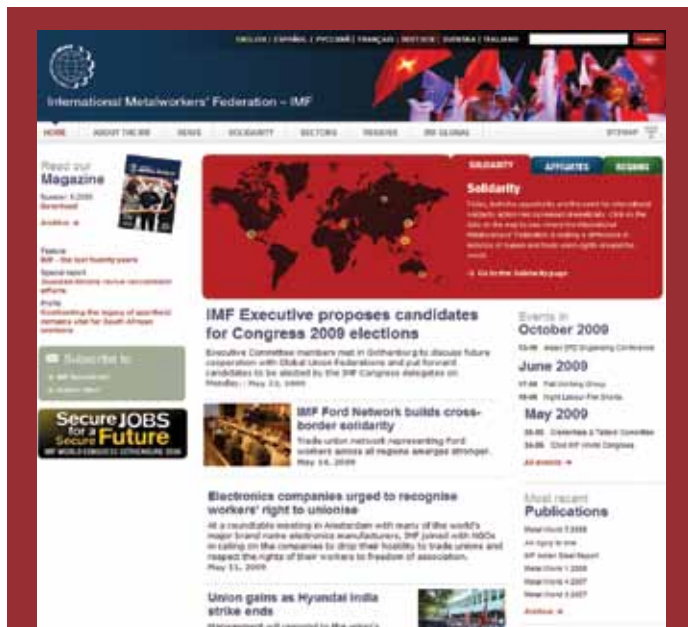
The panel will include V.V Rane,

General Secretary of the newly formed shipbreaking trade union in Alang, India, and Peter Scherrer, General Secretary of the European Metalworkers' Federation.

During the event, the IMF will launch its response to the European Commission's public consultation on the options for new initiatives regarding the dismantling of ships. The IMF is demanding an end to the exploitation and needless killing of workers in this industry by ensuring that any new international regulation addresses workers' concerns and raises global standards.



Workers at the Alang/Sosiva shipbreaking yard in India recently showed how collective action works when 20,000 workers downed tools in protest over an attempt by employers to reduce wages to less than €3.50 per day. Despite attempts to obtain injunctions to prevent union officials from entering the yards, the employers were forced to concede to worker demands.



IMF LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

On the eve of its 32nd World Congress, the International Metalworkers' Federation launches a new website at www.imfmetal.org.

The new IMF website, at www.imfmetal.org, leads with regular news reports on issues affecting metalworkers and their unions around the world and features solidarity issues. The site opens on a world map illustrating 'hot spots' where continuing repression of workers' rights are taking place in the metal sector.

The new structure of the website is easy to navigate and includes sections on IMF industrial departments and

regional offices. IMF Global reports on key areas of work including export processing zones, non-manual workers, and trade, employment and development.

IMF publications, such as the Auto Report and the quarterly journal *Metal World*, are available for download on the website. Users can also find information about the IMF, its history, structure and contact details for the head office and regional offices.

The website is published in English, French, Spanish and Russian, with some sections also available in German, Swedish and Italian.

IMF CONGRESS NEWS



IMF Congress News is produced jointly by the IMF and IF Metall Communications team.

The bulletin, distributed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, is published in English, Swedish, German and Spanish.

Deadline for this issue: Sunday, 24 May, 8pm
Editor: Kristyne Peter
Photos: Marie Ulnert
Printer: PR Offset

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congress LUNCH Options inside the Göteborg Convention Centre (GCC)

Estrad

Restaurant Estrad is situated on the second floor of the Convention Center. A lunch buffet is served from 12.00 to 14.00, offering three main courses, a meat dish, a fish dish, and a vegetarian alternative. No reservation necessary.

Heaven 23

A bar and restaurant with a fantastic view from the 23rd floor, is open from lunch to midnight, and later on weekends.

Incontro

An Italian restaurant, open from lunch to midnight, and later on weekends. Reservations can be made by calling +46 (0)31 750 88 05 or by sending an e-mail to restaurant.reservation@gothiatowers.com.

Accompanying Person's Excursion

Tomorrow, 26 May, accompanying persons can take in city views on a two-hour Paddan Boat Tour. Tour starts from the Swedish Exhibition Centre.

Congress WiFi

Free wireless internet access is available to delegates of the IMF

World Congress on the network: **IMF2009**. The password to the network is: **IMF2009%**.

32nd World Congress website

Complete Congress 2009 coverage, including news, speeches, amendments and resolutions, can be found at www.imfmetal.org/Congress2009.

Lobby Videos

All delegates will receive a double DVD pack on the third day of Congress including the four IMF films on show in the Congress lobby.