UNI and Japan—UNI-LCJapan

UNI affiliates in each country are encouraged to establish a national liaison council to realise the UNI philosophy in the national context, to promote solidarity and to effectively participate in UNI activities.

UNI-LCJapan (UNI Liaison Council Japan) is the national coordinating body that brings together UNI affiliates in Japan. It provides a forum for affiliates to discuss their involvement in UNI and to coordinate their activities and policies. UNI-LCJapan was launched together with UNI in January 2000 and has 12 affiliates with a total of 1,032,200 members as of February 2013. UNI-LCJapan works closely with UNI and UNI Apro.

UNI-LCJapan holds an annual general meeting in February to agree on a programme of activities and a budget. Officers are elected for two years and there is a 23-member management committee to ensure that things run smoothly.

Japanese affiliates hold key positions in UNI and UNI Apro. They are involved in the decision-making processes of UNI and promote UNI activities in the Asia Pacific region. Seminars have been held in India, Mongolia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam with the cooperation of UNI and UNI Apro and the network of national liaison councils.

UNI global union

UNI is the Global Union for skills and services. We represent 900 trade unions and 20 million workers worldwide.

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UNI global union

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New age of UNI—Let’s get it started for Cape Town 2014

UNI Global Union has more than 900 affiliates and represents 20 million workers in the services industry worldwide. UNI was formed in January 2000, with the aim to put a human face on globalisation.

Since its formation, UNI has made big leaps forward by signing Global Framework Agreements (GFAs) with multinational companies, un-ionising workers in emerging economies including India and Indonesia, building relationships and strengthening its presence in international organisations such as ILO, EU and ASEAN. UNI recently has also made a positive commitment to the Arab Spring. As an innovative and creative global union, UNI has consistently been at the forefront, breaking through with new ideas and methods and responding to global challenges.

UNI held its 3rd World Congress in Nagasaki in November 2010. A record number of 2,063 participants from 335 unions in 87 countries took part in the Congress under the theme “Breaking Through.” UNI adopted new Breakthrough strategies in the era of globalisation, liberalisation of the markets and the widening of the income disparity. This proactive planning aims to grow the influence globally to represent the members in the global labour market. UNI also set a new goal to ensure 40% women’s representation in all its decision-making structures. All participants had a week of reawakening to the dangers posed by nuclear weapons in Nagasaki, a city which is known for its dedication to peace.

UNI will work toward the success of the 4th UNI World Congress in Cape Town in 2014 while strengthening further global solidarity.

Breaking Through

Nagasaki to Cape Town
UNI’s structure-Regions, Sectors and Interprofessional Groups

The highest decision-making body of UNI is the World Congress, which is held once every four years. At the World Congress, the platform for UNI activities and its basic policy are decided. At the same time, members of the world executive board, president, general secretary and other officials are elected. The 1st World Congress was held in Berlin in September 2001, where about 100 delegates participated from Japan followed by the 2nd World Congress held in Chicago in August 2005. The 3rd World Congress held in Nagasaki in November 2010 in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of UNI gathered more than 2,000 participants from around the world. The 4th World Congress will take place in Cape Town in 2014.

The meeting of the World Executive Board held once a year, acts as a decision-making body between the Congresses. The members of the Executive Board are elected by region so that each region in the world has its representatives. UNI General Secretary is in charge of implementing the decisions made at the World Congress and the World Executive Board and is also responsible to overall operations at the head office in Nyon, Switzerland.

UNI has three organisational structures, namely, (1) four Regional Organisations including UNIA & Pacific, (2) Sectors, and (3) Inter-professional Groups such as Women, Youth, Professional & Managerial Staff.

Each UNI affiliate participates in one of the UNI regions, depending on the country in which it primarily conducts its union activities, and at the same time is a member of the UNI Sectors where it is primarily involved. In addition, many of the problems faced by women, young workers and professional and managerial staff are not limited to specific occupations, but are cross sectoral and three inter-professional groups have been set up to discuss and resolve these issues.

UNI in Asia Pacific Region—UNI Apro

UNI has its Asia Pacific regional HQ in Singapore and the Tokyo Office reports to Singapore. Notwithstanding the economic growth of the Asia Pacific, the region is equally confronted with the challenge of also ensuring a sustainable and balanced development including for the working people and their families. Hence, it is critical that trade unions are present and involved in the shaping of the processes of regional economic integration such as within APEC and ASEAN. In particular, the Japanese affiliates with its strong and exemplary tradition in the union movement, have much to contribute and support the activities of UNI Apro in the establishment of genuine labour-management partnership relations within the Asia Pacific region. Finally, UNI Apro works closely with other Global Union Federations to utilise the platform of ASEAN Service Employees’ Trade Unions Council to develop an institutional social dialogue with the ASEAN.

UNI–LCJJapan adopted a new Action Plan!

UNI-LCJ Japan (UNI-LCJ Japan) gathers more than one million membership and to date has achieved a membership of 1,092,200. The conclusion of the first Japanese Global Framework Agreement with Takashimaya in 2008 set a new benchmark for Japanese labour movement. UNI-LCJ Japan has held the Youth English Camps where over 300 unionists participated since 2006. UNI-LCJ Japan showed a new form of international labour movement and gained international recognition. It could be said that UNI-LCJ Japan has entered a new phase with the successful completion of the 3rd UNI World Congress in Nagasaki. UNI-LCJ Japan adopted a new action plan for 2011-2014 in order to grow UNI’s movement and set up three mid-term goals as follows: 1. To promote the partnership industrial relations in the Asia Pacific region. 2. To organise more members. 3. To cultivate the next generation who will lead the future international labour movement.

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