Dear Asia Pacific Industrial Relations Net members and readers,

We are happy to bring the latest news for this July issue. The highlights and new features on this AP-IRNet newsletter include:

- Two featured publications: Labour in the Global South: Challenges and alternatives for workers; Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture;
- As well as updated news on industrial relations issues in the region.

To ensure that you receive our community updates in the future, please register as an AP Industrial Relations Net member. You can also view more news, resources and events on industrial relations issues in Asia and the Pacific by clicking here.

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**Featured Publications**

**Labour in the Global South: Challenges and alternatives for workers**
Edited by Sarah Mosoetsa and Michelle Williams
Publishing Year 2009
The twenty-first century has posed serious challenges to workers – formal and informal, organized and unorganized – around the world. It has also brought to the fore extraordinarily creative responses, forcing us to think beyond our common understandings of “labour”, effective trade union strategies and forms of power. Challenging the global North’s dominance in the literature, Labour in the Global South presents alternative approaches as well as creative responses to the challenges facing labour in the global South, in countries such as Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, India, South Africa and Uruguay. The volume devotes particular attention to areas often neglected by organized labour: the relationship between ecology, climate change and jobs; unionizing service work; the dynamics of trade union–political party alliances; gender; and new forms of solidarity. It brings together a group of distinguished labour scholars and practitioners who make an important advance with their rich empirical case studies.

Download from here.

Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture
Author/Editor: International Labour Office, Geneva
Publishing Year 2014

This publication, Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture (Second Edition), is a significant step forward from the Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture (2002) in that it provides, for the first time, direct measures of informal employment inside and outside informal enterprises for 47 countries. The publication also presents statistics on the composition and contribution of the informal economy as well as on specific groups of urban informal workers. Non-technical language and clear, simple statistical tables will make the information easy to understand by a large and varied audience. This publication is intended to respond to the needs of different users, including researchers, statisticians, policymakers, employers’ and workers’ organizations, including organizations of informal workers.

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News Highlights

China: Wage growth for China’s lowest-paid workers continues to lag behind
ChinaLabourBulletin, 30 June 2015 - Wage growth for China’s lowest-paid workers continued to slow in the first half of this year with less than a third of the 32 regions with the authority to set their own minimum wage levels announcing an increase.

India: ILO arm against union restrictions for outsiders
Business Standard, 29 June 2015 - The labour wing of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on Monday raised concerns over the Centre’s proposal to restrict outsiders in trade unions.
Myanmar: New labour force survey addresses data gap

ILO, 26 June 2015 - Reaching high coverage, the first labour force survey in Myanmar in a quarter century will provide results in October that will shape the country's employment policy.

Vietnam: Vietnam amends unpopular social-insurance law

BangkokPost, 23 June 2015 - Vietnam's National Assembly has backtracked on a controversial social-insurance law that sparked massive protests earlier this year.

Bangladesh: A Rana Plaza Win

New Internationalist, 19 June 2015 - In light of a hard-won compensation scheme, Ilona Kelly looks at the human cost behind the garment industry disaster.

Cambodia: Alarm grows over trade union law in Cambodia

IndustriALL, 11 June 2015 - The Cambodian government is in the process of drafting a new labour law but has not consulted any social partners since October last year. Union busting and violence against workers have increased and the new law threatens to curtail the rights of some of the ILO conventions the country has ratified.

Nepal: Unions ready to rebuild Nepal

IndustriALL, 8 June 2015 - On 8 June the Joint Trade Union Coordination Centre of Nepal (JTUCC) organized a special Nepal Forum in support of Nepalese unions during the International Labour Conference in Geneva.

Maldives: Maldives resort workers press government to legislate rights, standards in tourism

IUF, 2 June 2015 - The IUF-affiliated Tourism Employees Association of Maldives (TEAM) rallied tourism workers on May 30 in the Maldives capital Male, capping their petition campaign to raise standards in the tourism sector. More than 7,000 workers from 80 resorts signed the petition calling on the government to establish a legal framework for collective bargaining and take measures to improve the situation of the country's resort workers.

For more news on industrial relations issues in Asia and the Pacific, please click here.