Dear Asia Pacific Industrial Relations Net members and readers,

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

- Two featured publications: Labour and Social Trends in Indonesia 2014 - 2015: Strengthening competitiveness and productivity through decent work; Measuring informality: A statistical manual on the informal sector and informal employment;
- 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 and Social Trends in Indonesia 2014 - 2015: Strengthening competitiveness and productivity through decent work**

Publishing Year 2015

The ILO’s Jakarta Office’s seventh issue of the Labour and Social Trends in Indonesia focuses on strengthening competitiveness and productivity through decent work. Decent work plays an important role in strengthening the competitiveness and productivity of a nation.
Measuring informality: A statistical manual on the informal sector and informal employment

This manual is intended for national statistical offices and other producers of statistics planning programmes to produce statistics on the informal sector and informal employment. The manual provides technical guidance on implementing international standards, presenting alternative measurement methodologies along with examples based on national experience, and includes guidelines for the dissemination of statistics on the informal sector and informal employment.

News Highlights

Myanmar: New minimum wage sees workers sacked and struggling

Myanmar Times, 31 Aug 2015 - After almost two years of arguments and negotiations, Myanmar has set its first minimum wage at K3600 (US$2.80) per day. The milestone was met with ambivalence by factory owners, and trepidation by garment workers, who fear many jobs will be axed to afford the move.

Bangladesh: Trade union registration boosts after Rana Plaza tragedy

Dhaka Tribune, 31 Aug 2015 - Trade union registration in the RMG sector has seen a sharp rise in recent years due to international pressures after the Rana Plaza collapse that shocked general consciences and strengthened a demand for workers’ rights.

Vietnam: Vietnam labor productivity still far behind ASEAN countries: ministry

The Thanhnien News, 27 Aug 2015 - Vietnam's labor productivity has managed to narrow its gaps with other Southeast Asian countries, but it will be decades long before the country can catch up with them, the Ministry of Planning and Investment said.

China: China chemical safety problems highlighted before Tianjin blasts

Reuters, 23 Aug 2015 - Several warnings preceded the deadly blasts at the Chinese port of Tianjin, including a state-backed research paper highlighting the risk of “grave accidents and casualties” in the chemicals sector and an explosion in another city blamed on lax safety controls.

Indonesia: Thousands of workers holding rallies for anti-corruption, worker safety and social security reform at three locations today

Coconuts Jakarta, 10 Aug 2015 - Thousands of workers from the Greater Jakarta area will hold rallies in three locations throughout the capital today, so plan your routes accordingly.

Asia: Unions in Asia, Gulf Sign Migrant Worker Agreement

Solidarity Center, 8 Aug 2015 - Trade unions from across Asia and in Arab Gulf countries signed a landmark memorandum of understanding (MOU) this week that promotes joint action to create a safe and rights-based environment for migrant workers. The first-ever such cross-regional agreement also outlines steps for coordination among unions in organizing and supporting migrant workers.

Korea: Minimum wage declared despite resistance

The Korea Herald, 5 Aug 2015 - The South Korean government Wednesday announced next year’s minimum wage at 6,030 won ($5.14) per hour, up 8.1 percent from this year – despite the ongoing opposition from labor unions and management - vowing to strengthen the enforcement to prevent fallout.

Japan: New law to require stress checks for workers
The Japan Times, 2 Aug 2015 - The government plans to introduce stress checks for its workers, as the number of staff on leave due to mental illness remains high, according to sources.