



Global Labour University (GLU)

www.global-labour-university.org

Newsletter No. 2, February 2007

In short

Recent developments

- The second intake of the Masters programme “Labour Policies & Globalisation” (LPG) studying in Kassel & Berlin (Germany) successfully finished their studies at the end of September 2006. A number of research papers completed by the students are published on www.global-labour-university.org
- The third group of LPG students from 15 countries started in Kassel in mid-September, 2006 and are currently doing their internships with a wide range of national and international trade union organisations.
- The GLU became even more global with the start of a Masters programme on Labour and Development at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa in January 2007.
- ILIAS is the growing electronic platform designed to share information, curriculum outlines and reading material within the GLU network. ILIAS also offers an Alumni database to facilitate communication between former GLU students. For details contact Harald Kröck at harald.kroeck@global-labour-university.org.

... upcoming events

- To strengthen the Asian presence of the GLU, consultative meetings will be held with Indian trade unions and universities in February 2007.
- The GLU annual conference on “Labour and Development” will take place in Johannesburg from the 1-3rd of April 2007.
- The GLU council will hold its annual meeting on April 4th, 2007 in Johannesburg.
- A GLU workshop on “Multinational Enterprises and Trade Union Strategies” will be organised in cooperation with international trade union experts at the Training centre of the IG Metall in Berlin on May 3rd/4th, 2007.
- The first summer school for GLU Alumni will be organised by the University of Kassel from the 10th to the 21st of September, 2007.
- A joint comparative research project with the ILO and the Global Union Research Network on “Strategies to strengthen trade union representation in small enterprises” will start in March 2007.
- A new GLU programme will start in Brazil in 2008.
- For the upcoming courses the deadlines for applications are 1st April 2007 for Germany and 1st September 2007 for South Africa.



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Graduation of the 2006 GLU course in Kassel/Berlin



The second intake of students in the Masters in Labour policies and Globalisation successfully finished their studies at the end of September 2006 in Berlin (Germany). The graduation ceremony took place at the Berlin School of Economics.



Heidemarie Wiczorek-Zeul, the German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, was the key note speaker at this event.

In her speech about “Decent Work and Fair Globalisation as objectives of German Development Cooperation” the minister emphasised the need for a fair *economic* shaping of Globalisation. This meant injustices in trade structures, unfair subsidies etc. had to be overcome and *social rules* in the globalisation process as a whole were required to move from a race-to-the-bottom towards a race-to-the-top, with full respect for labour standards and more equity. The minister said equity included the challenge of shaping globalisation in an *ecological and sustainable* way and therefore it was imperative for highly industrialised countries like Germany to take effective action against global climate change as soon as possible and also to make this an integrated part of cooperation with developing countries. She said these challenges demanded first and foremost intensified efforts to shape the globalisation process *politically*. The minister finished her speech by emphasising the importance of trade unions as a global voice for workers and expressing her support for the concept of the GLU, and in particular its extension to South Africa, as an innovative contribution to building global labour knowledge networks.



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The Global Labour University in South Africa

In January 2007 the GLU Masters programme with a focus on Labour and Development started at the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS), Johannesburg, South Africa. The core courses are:

Labour and Development

This course analyses the role of labour in economic development, both historically and in the current time of globalisation, with a focus on Southern Africa and the Global South. The course will look at the role of labour as an active agent of economic and political transformation.

Economic Policy, Globalisation and Labour

The aim of this course will be to understand different approaches to macroeconomics and their implications for trade unions. The role of wages in different economic paradigms will be examined as well as the role of incomes policy, macroeconomic co-operation and labour market institutions.

Coupled with an internship programme with South African trade unions, the core and elective courses will ensure that graduates have acquired wide ranging skills when they return to their unions. In addition, and linked to the overall GLU programme, there will be global workshops, educational outings, conferences, publications and internet working groups.

These will facilitate genuine global dialogue and sustainable international networks between participants and stakeholders in the programme.

For more information see www.global-labour-university.org or contact Mandy Moussouris at Mandy.moussouris@wits.ac.za



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GLU CONFERENCE 1 - 3 APRIL 2007

**“Labour and the Challenges of
Development”**

**University of the Witwatersrand,
Johannesburg, South Africa**



Two major topics will be the focus of the discussion:

- *Labour, growth and development* – what kind of state-society linkages are necessary to avoid ‘enclave’, ‘uneconomic’ growth and development?
- *Labour, development and trade* – what role does trade play in undermining or enhancing inclusive development?

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) aims at the progressive elimination of all barriers to trade in goods and services. The imbalance of past agreements has led to severe implications for development in developing countries. While the advocates of neo-liberal globalisation argue that “free” trade enhances growth and reduces poverty, the experiences of many countries in the developing and developed world is that often this is not the case. Developing countries point to double standards by developed countries. They argue that, on the one hand, developed countries pressurize developing countries to open their markets, while on the other hand these same countries protect their own markets through non-tariff barriers and subsidised agriculture.

This prevents developing countries from building their trading capacity, increases their vulnerability, and would make many of them further dependent on aid, and thus more vulnerable to pressure by developed countries and agencies such as the WTO, World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF). In the current context, developing countries are particularly concerned about the developmental impact of concessions they are being asked to make in Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) negotiations and under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS); in addition, they are concerned about the impact on agricultural livelihoods if multinational agribusiness seizes all of the gains available through the Agriculture negotiations.

Participants will mainly be researchers and trade unionists from the developing world. Willie Madisha, President of COSATU and Prof Yunus Ballim, Deputy Vice-Chancellor University of the Witwatersrand, are the key note speaker at the opening session. The draft programme is published on www.global-labour-university.org.



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GLU Workshop 3 - 4 May 2007



Fachhochschule für
Wirtschaft Berlin
Berlin School of Economics

IMB Institute of Management Berlin

**“Multinational Enterprises and trade
unions strategies”**

**Berlin School of Economics, Free
University Berlin, IG Metall Training
Center Pichelsee**

Berlin, Germany



Multinational companies are key actors in the global economy. Capital mobility and free trade plus low transport and communication costs have strengthened their position vis-à-vis nationally organised trade unions tremendously. For the defence and advancement of workers' rights organised labour needs to become more global; to stop the race to the bottom and achieve effective international social and labour standards to rein in global market forces. The workshop will focus on key areas of international regulations and international campaigning and organizing.

Sharon Burrow, President of the ITUC, will be the keynote speaker. A number of experts from the Global Union Federations, national trade unions and NGOs will discuss their experiences with the students and the different approaches used by trade unions to engage with multinational companies. The workshop is also planned as an opportunity for the students to develop research ideas for their Master thesis that are of interest for trade unions.

The programme is available on www.global-labour-university.org.

**U N I K A S S E L
V E R S I T Ä T**

GLU

Alumni Summer School

10 – 21 September 2007



Fachhochschule für
Wirtschaft Berlin
Berlin School of Economics

IMB Institute of Management Berlin

In September 2007 the University of Kassel and the Berlin School of Economics will host the first summer school for GLU Alumni. Former GLU students will be invited to participate in a two week summer school that focuses on Labour and Development. The GLU summer school will bring together former and current GLU students

and professors and trade union experts from the GLU network. The summer school is intended to strengthen the network links between former GLU students and to explore possibilities for future research collaboration. For further information please contact Donna McGuire at assist-malpg@uni-kassel.de



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GLU

Research project

“Closing the representational gap”



International Labour Office

In cooperation with the GLU network the ILO will undertake a comparative study on policies and experiences of trade unions in different countries designed to improve the representation of workers in small enterprises. The focus will be on the institutional and legal conditions that ensure access to rights for workers in these enterprises and on different practical approaches

taken by trade unions to organize in these enterprises, within the formal and informal economy. The case studies will be discussed at a joint workshop designed to identify successful policies and organizing strategies for representing workers in small enterprises.

For further information contact Frank Hoffer at hoffer@ilo.org



**The Global Labour University
in Brazil**



In 2008, GLU students studying in either South Africa or Germany will have the opportunity to study one semester as a guest student at the Institute of Economics, State University of Campinas (Unicamp), in Brazil. Unicamp is one of the major universities in Brazil and is located in the city of Campinas, in the state of São Paulo. Unicamp has been a partner of the GLU project through the Institute of Economics since 2003. The Institute of Economics is well known for its study courses and applied research in different fields of economics. The Centre for Studies in Trade Unionism and Labour Economics (CESIT) was founded in the Institute of Economics in 1989.

Composed of researchers with multiple academic backgrounds, CESIT has, since its creation, worked together with different government organs, trade unions, CUT and other institutions, establishing partnerships, producing studies, research and publications. Besides being a research centre, CESIT has been offering for 15 years a specialization course in labour economics for trade union leaders, trade unionists, magistrates, civil servants and members of NGOs. For more information please contact Camila Gripp at cgripp01@yahoo.com.



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The 2006 LPG course in review

The goal of the Master's programme is to support trade unions to substantially improve their intellectual profile by developing qualified trade union leaders and internal experts. Set out below are snapshots of what some graduates from 2006 are currently doing.

Clair Ruppert has returned to work at the International Relations Secretariat of the Central Única dos Trabalhadores (CUT), Brazil. Her task is to give assistance to international issues in the confederation. She recently participated in a conference with Latin American trade unions, NGOs and social movements in Bolivia to discuss an alternative to the neo-liberal model of regional integration. This reflects her thesis topic which had been on Regional Integration.

Naoko Otani changed positions upon her return to Japan after the Master's course, and now works in the Research Institute for Advancement of Living Standards (Rengo-RIALS), which is attached to the trade union national centre.

Compared to her previous work which had been focused on organising, she now works more in research and policy development, although her consultations with members and union officials continue to be an integral part of the policy development process. The skills she developed from the course are particularly useful for putting the experiences of union members into a theoretical framework.

Rajeswari Raman returned to her position with the Malaysian TUC, where she has just helped organise a regional workshop on Migration for the Asia Pacific, with participants from trade unions in Indonesia, Vietnam, India, Bangladesh, Nepal and the Philippines, as well the ILO. This conference was particularly relevant to Rajeswari as her Master's thesis had been on decent work for migrant workers and the role of the unions.

A taste of students' thesis papers in 2006

Edlira Xhafa: "Sustaining strategies addressing the human resources for health crisis through union participation"

This paper draws the connection between the governance debate on the human resources for health (HRH) crisis and the role of health workers and their trade unions. It shows that the absence of workers' voice has diminished the debate: unions have a more holistic and comprehensive approach to the health crisis, focusing on how ill health results

from income inequalities, poverty, exploitation and injustice. In this light, workers' and unions' involvement and participation is crucial to bring legitimacy to governance. The strategies and interventions will be sustainable, only if workers' involvement and participation is ensured. Unions must thus take action on the global level, mobilise financial and human resources at all levels and clearly articulate a grassroots-oriented and membership needs-based strategy.



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Charlene Aprill & Ramon Certeza: "Post Multifibre Agreement: A Preliminary Assessment of Cambodia and South Africa. A Comparative Analysis"

This paper examines the impact of the removal of quota restrictions under the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA) on South Africa and Cambodia. This study focuses on the details of trade agreements, particularly the implications for labour, monitoring and compliance. In assessing the short term impact of the phasing out of quotas it is apparent there are diverging factors affecting the textile and clothing industry. This paper conducts a comparative analysis and describes the impending challenges and opportunities for South Africa and Cambodia after the MFA era.

Melisa Serrano: "Enhancing construction unions' voice in multilateral institutions such as the ADB and the ASEAN: Challenges, Opportunities and Strategies"

This study looks into how unions in the construction industry could push for more "thickening" of union voice in the ADB and the ASEAN. In identifying a recent trend of greater openness and inclusiveness within these institutions, the paper shows how these offer unions substantial opportunities for participation in policy-making and program implementation. The paper examines those ADB and ASEAN policies and programs which impact strongly on union voice and how the response of unions is influenced by a range of factors: the extent of openness of the two institutions, the unions' relations with the state, union identity and structures, and the role of labour internationalism.

An analysis of how these factors come into play particularly in Malaysia and the Philippines provides evidence in support of the study's hypotheses. (download the full text of these papers from the GLU website)

**INTERNATIONAL
MASTER PROGRAMMES
FOR TRADE UNIONISTS**

**MEETING THE
CHALLENGE
OF GLOBALISATION**

Application
Germany
01 April 07
South Africa
01 Sept. 07

GERMANY ► KASSEL & BERLIN
Labour Policies and Globalisation at University of Kassel
and the Berlin School of Economics

SOUTH AFRICA ► JOHANNESBURG
Labour and Development at University of the Witwatersrand

Offered in cooperation with the ILO, Global Unions, national trade union centres and academic partner institutions throughout the world.

WWW.GLOBAL-LABOUR-UNIVERSITY.ORG