



# KILUSANG MAYO UNO

(May First Movement Labor Center)

**TAGAPAMANDILA NG TUNAY NA UNYONISMO**

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*KMU is a founding member of the International League of Peoples' Struggle*

Draft

## 24<sup>th</sup> KMU-INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AFFAIR

**Theme: Workers Solidarity against Economic and Political Repression in the Philippines  
and against Imperialist Plunder**

**29 April - 9 May 2008**

**Manila, Philippines**

### Background:

This year's International Solidarity Affair (ISA) marks the 24<sup>th</sup> holding of this annual affair that gathers trade unionists and labour advocates being hosted by the Kilusang Mayo Uno Labor Center (KMU).

Since its first holding in 1984, the ISA continues to be an important venue in forging workers' resistance, solidarity and support on issues affecting the workers and people. Through a 3-day conference, delegates are able to exchange enriching experiences of common issues and struggles and come up with a platform of workers' unity. Moreover, the ISA has become an anti-imperialist solidarity gathering where workers and labour advocates exchange views on how to effectively resist the rapacity of imperialist onslaught.

The ISA has played and continues to play an important role in the solidarity work for trade unionists and informal workers in the Philippines who are among the victims of state-sponsored economic and political terrorism. From the 1980s under the Marcos dictatorship on to the present corrupt and highly-questioned government of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, the ISA has rendered direct and indirect support to the struggle of the Filipino workers. It has seen the fall of two anti-people Philippine presidents in 1986 and 2001 respectively. Clearly, ISA has stood the test of time.

At present, the Filipino workers continue to face relentless attacks in defense of their legitimate economic and political rights. Among others, they are faced with unemployment, wage freeze, labor law reforms, diminution of benefits and attacks on legitimate workers rights. Some 78 workers and labour advocates have been killed and hundreds became victims of abduction, harassment and grave intimidation under the US-supported Gloria Macapagal Arroyo regime.

Within this context, this year's ISA will concentrate on exposures in different regions in the Philippines to investigate the continuing violation of trade union and political rights in the country. This is aimed at getting updates and additional facts which will help supplement a case submitted to the International Labor Organization against trade union and workers rights violations committed by the Arroyo regime.

The theme for the 24<sup>th</sup> ISA is: **“Workers Solidarity against Economic and Political Repression in the Philippines and against Imperialist Plunder”**

We hold the 24<sup>th</sup> ISA this year looking forward in preparation to the 25<sup>th</sup> celebration of our victories in the anti-imperialist workers solidarity.

### **May Day and Exposure Program**

Delegates are expected to arrive on **April 29, 2008** to be able to join the discussion on the Philippine national and trade union situation, an orientation on the regional exposures and a briefing about the May Day activities. A speaker from among the foreign ISA delegates will address the May Day rally in Manila.

Exposure programs in the regions will be from **May 2 - 5, 2008**. Delegates will visit workplaces, workers communities and mining and agricultural areas. A Canadian Trade Union Mission in the Philippines (CTUMP) will also take place at the same period of the ISA. Thus in some areas which the CTUMP will visit, ISA delegates may join the mission activities. The CTUMP is being organized by the Workers Assistance Center (WAC), the National Coalition for the Protection of Workers Rights - Southern Tagalog (NCPWR-ST) and the Center for Trade Union and Human Rights (CTUHR) in cooperation with Canadian unions. The fact-finding mission aims to bring to the attention of the trade unions in Canada the continuing state terrorism that comes in the form of extra-judicial killings, enforced disappearances, harassment and intimidation, picketline dispersals, union-busting and many other forms of political and trade union repression committed by the Arroyo government. At the same time, it aims to build stronger ties between Canadian and Filipino workers. On a general level, the mission is seen to add its voice to the international pressure on the Arroyo government to stop violating human rights and peoples' rights with impunity and to stop the killings of unionists, labour advocates and other activists in the Philippines.

Delegates are expected to be back in Manila on **May 6, 2008** for data consolidation, team reporting and preparation for the public presentation of the results of the regional exposure.

**24<sup>th</sup> KMU ISA schedule:** (a detailed program will be sent later).

<b>April 29</b>	Arrival of delegates
<b>April 30</b>	National and Trade union situation Orientation on the regional exposures Briefing on the May Day activities
<b>May 1</b>	May Day march and rally in Manila
<b>May 2 - 5</b>	Regional Exposure
<b>May 6</b>	Arrival of delegates in Manila from the regions
<b>May 7</b>	Data consolidation and team reporting
<b>May 8 10am</b>	Press Conference: Public presentation of the results of exposure and fact-finding mission
<b>1-5pm</b>	Visit to historical places in Manila
<b>7-9pm</b>	Solidarity Night
<b>May 9</b>	Departure

**Registration Fee:** (covers food and accommodation, miscellaneous expenses excluding transportation to regional exposures/mission areas)

US\$ 35/day or US\$ 350 for 10 days

**Regional Exposure/Fact-finding Mission Transportation Expenses:**

National Capital Region - PhP 3,000.00

Central Luzon - PhP 3,500.00

Southern Tagalog - PhP 3,500.00

Southern Mindanao (Davao and Compostela Valley) - PhP 5,000 (includes roundtrip plane ticket and internal transportation in areas)

SOCSKSARGEN (Cotabato) - PhP 5,000 (includes roundtrip plane ticket and internal transportation in areas)

**For more information about the conference, please contact:**

22<sup>nd</sup> KMU ISA Secretariat

c/o Tess Dioquino

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## **Annex 1**

### **Regional Exposure Areas:**

Delegates can choose any of the following areas for their regional exposure:

#### **1) Southern Tagalog (ST)**

The region's industrial hub is CALABARZON or the Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon Province. CALABARZON, the country's first regional industrial center (RIC), is home to a large number of industrial enclaves and export processing zones where a "no-union, no-strike" policy is implemented. Many TNCs in the electronics, automotive, garments and food manufacturing industry are found in this region. There is a very high incidence of human and trade union rights violations in the area.

Among the unions to be visited are those of Nestle, Nissan, Toyota and Han Jin Garments in Laguna; Phils-Joen and Chongwon in Cavite. Only recently, picketing workers of Han Jin workers were violently dispersed, injuring 21 of them. They are demanding for job regularization, reinstatement of 200 terminated workers and union recognition. All of the 1,000 workers in this Korean-owned company are contractuels, including those who have worked for 12 years in the plant.

The regional chapter of KMU - the Pagkakaisa ng Manggagawa sa Timog Katagalugan (PAMANTIK, Solidarity of Workers in Southern Tagalog) - will host your exposure-integration in the region.

#### **2) Central Luzon (CL)**

The region is home to former US military bases transformed into export processing zones located in Clark, Pampanga and Subic, Olongapo City. It is also host to the sprawling 6,000-hectare Hacienda Luisita owned by the family of former Philippine Pres. Corazon Cojuangco Aquino. Part of Hacienda Luisita was converted into an industrial enclave to escape the government's agrarian reform program. The plight of Hacienda Luisita workers and agricultural workers came into national and international prominence after their strike was violently dispersed on Nov 16, 2004 resulting in the massacre of at least seven (7) workers and wounded many strikers and supporters.

The Workers Alliance of Region III (WAR III), KMU's regional chapter in Central Luzon, will host your integration in the region.

#### **3) National Capital Region (NCR)**

This covers Metro Manila and adjacent cities and municipalities. Metro Manila is the seat of the country's power and home to a number of establishments in the manufacturing and service sectors.

Among the unions to be visited are Laws Textile and Far Eastern Garments. Both garment companies, employing more than 300 workers, are on the verge of closing down due to globalization. Other areas to be visited are workers communities in Payatas and Smokey Mountain.

Various labor federations under KMU, in coordination with the regional chapter in NCR, will host your exposure-integration in the region.

#### **4) Southern Mindanao Region**

Industrial and manufacturing plants can be found in Davao City while Compostela Valley and other parts of the region is home to banana and other agricultural plantations catering for export needs. Mining industry also thrives in the area. Compostela Valley is

home to Mt. Diwalwal, a mining community teeming with small-scale miners and foreign mining companies. Now a government-controlled area, the place has been the subject of much mining-related violence in the past years.

The KMU regional chapter - the Nagkahiusang Mamumuo sa Habagatang Mindanao (United Workers in Southern Mindanao) - will host your integration in the region.

#### 5) SOCSKSARGEN (Cotabato)

Cotabato is host to large agricultural tract of lands for banana and pineapple products. The US subsidiary Dole Philippines, the biggest pineapple plantation in the country, is located in this province. The union is actively fighting union-busting efforts of the management that comes in the form of illegal termination and false criminal charges. Only around half of the more than 10,000 workers in this company are regular workers and union members. Thus, a major fight of the union is job regularization for the contractual workers. In 2004, they successfully put 1,400 contractual workers into regular status thru their collective bargaining agreement.

The KMU SOCSKSARGEN will host your integration in the area.

**24<sup>th</sup> KMU International Solidarity Affairs  
REGISTRATION FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe your organization

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have translation needs? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have special food needs? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have health problems? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify the region you wish to go for the regional exposure/solidarity mission program:

- ☐ Central Luzon
- ☐ Southern Tagalog
- ☐ National Capital Region
- ☐ Southern Mindanao (Davao and Compostela Valley)
- ☐ SOCSKSARGEN (Cotabato)

Arrival date/Flight No./Time \_\_\_\_\_

Departure date/Flight No./Time \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form not later than April 15, 2008 to the 24<sup>th</sup> ISA Secretariat  
c/o Ms. Tess Dioquino or Ms. Sol Miranda  
KMU International Department  
G/F, Balai Obrero Foundation  
63 Narra St., Proj. 3, Quezon City, Philippines  
Email: [kmu.intl@gmail.com](mailto:kmu.intl@gmail.com)  
Telephones: 0063.2.421 1049 / 0063.2.421 0986 / 0063.2.421 0768  
Fax: 0063.2.421 0768

***IMPORTANT:*** The 24<sup>th</sup> ISA reception committee will be at the airport extension area to meet the delegates. They will be holding a paper with your name written on it. If you miss seeing them right away, please don't leave the area as they will be looking for you. Or you can also choose to go directly to the venue, the address of which will be forwarded to you in due time.