

# Media kit

**Women Workers Summit 2009**

**Women Workers at the Front Line of Sustainable Solutions**

In this kit:

- Introduction of Committee for Asian Women
- Programme of Women Workers Summit
- List of participants available for interview
- Bio of speakers in the conference

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[www.cawinfo.org](http://www.cawinfo.org)  
[www.womenworkerssummit.org](http://www.womenworkerssummit.org)



Committee for Asian Women

## ***Committee for Asian Women (CAW)***

### **Who is CAW**

Committee for Asian Women (CAW) is a regional network of 46 women workers member groups in 14 Asian countries which aims to empower women workers to protect, advocate, and advance their rights. CAW is part of the global movement advocating workers' rights for over 30 years.

### **Her Vision**

CAW envisions a world where all people are free to develop their potential without any form of domination and exploitation based on class, gender, colour and religious belief. This is a world where the common wealth is used for the common good, workers enjoy the fruits of their labour, women prevail against patriarchy, and women workers determine their own destinies.

### **Her Mission**

The mission of CAW is to support the self-empowerment of Asian women workers and the formation of their movements. CAW shall provide a platform for Asian women workers to claim their space, time and voice, to struggle against global capitalism and patriarchy, and to advance their rights. Essential to all this is the ongoing challenge of redefining work to encompass reproductive and domestic labour, and work in the informal economy, in addition to paid work.

## ***The Women Workers Summit 2009 consists of three events, they are:***

***Press conference – 8<sup>th</sup> December***

***The Summit – 9<sup>th</sup> December to 10<sup>th</sup> December morning***

***Launch of International Women’s Day 100 Years – 10<sup>th</sup> December afternoon***

### **Background briefing:**

Working people in Asia have suffered great hardship from a chronic economic slowdown that started as early as 1997. The acute financial crisis in 2009 hit Asia hard as local economies reliant on the export market and financial investment collapsed. If the situation deteriorates, at least 87 million people in Asia will be unemployed and over 832 million will become working poor<sup>1</sup>. The majority of these workers will be women, who make up 80% of the work force at the lowest and unskilled level of the economy. The serious impact on women will influence Asian society as a whole, as women are the primary food providers and care givers in the family. Decrease in women’s income has long-term negative effects on health, education and economy.

The predominant government response to the crisis has been stimulus packages focused on physical infrastructure, creating stop-gap employment and refinancing bad loans. Governments have not targeted women, although the burden of the financial crisis has fallen heavily on them.

The Women Workers Summit will discuss the various policy orientations including a comprehensive social security system, sustainable agriculture and employment in rural areas, government investments in social infrastructures such as education, health and other public services, trade agreements with labour and gender perspectives, and labour protection for migrant workers.

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<sup>1</sup> International Labour Organisation (ILO), *Global Employment Trend*, 2009

# Press Conference

## Women Workers Summit 2009: Women Workers at the Front Line of Sustainable Solutions

*Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand*

**19.30-20.30 (dinner provided), 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009**



It is estimated that at least 87 million people in Asia will be unemployed and over 832 million will become working poor as the aftermath of the financial crisis. The majority of these workers will be women, who make up 80% of the work force at the lowest and unskilled level of the economy. The serious impact on women will influence Asian society as a whole, as women are the primary food providers and care givers in the family. Decrease in women's income has long-term negative effects on health, education and the economy. However, the predominant government

responses to the crisis have not targeted women, thus do not encourage sustainable revival of the economy. This press conference is to launch the first **Asian Women Workers Summit** organised by Committee for Asian Women (CAW), which will bring together over 100 women workers from 20 countries in Asia to discuss their livelihood and working conditions as impacted by the financial crisis and propose sustainable solutions. The panel of the press conference will present a testimonial on how women workers and their unions are affected by the financial crisis, and how to address the impact on women.

### **The panellists:**

**Angkachat Yuangchan** is among the 1930 unionised workers that had been laid off by Triumph International (Thailand) in 2009. She is now 54 years old and had worked in the factory for over 32 years. Being an unemployed middle age woman taking care of her 79-year-old mother all by her own, she has a sad story to tell.

**Lucia Victor Jayaseelan** is the executive coordinator of Committee for Asian Women (CAW), a regional labour network of 46 NGOs and trade unions in different sectors focus on women. She has monitored the impact of globalisation on women for over 30 years. During the financial crisis in 2009, she proposed a number of alternative solutions for policy orientation to Asian governments.

**Jurgette Honculada** has been a feminist labour activist since early 70s. She has written numerous articles on women workers, feminist theology, and gender mainstreaming in the Philippine bureaucracy. She is general secretary of the National Federation of Labor, the Philippines.

**Menaha Kandasamy** is a Sri Lankan trade unionist. She is the president of Red Flag Women's Movement and work with tea plantation workers and domestic workers in Kandy.

**8<sup>th</sup> December 2009, Press Conference at Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand (FCCT)  
19.30-20.30**

Address of FCCT:

**The Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand**

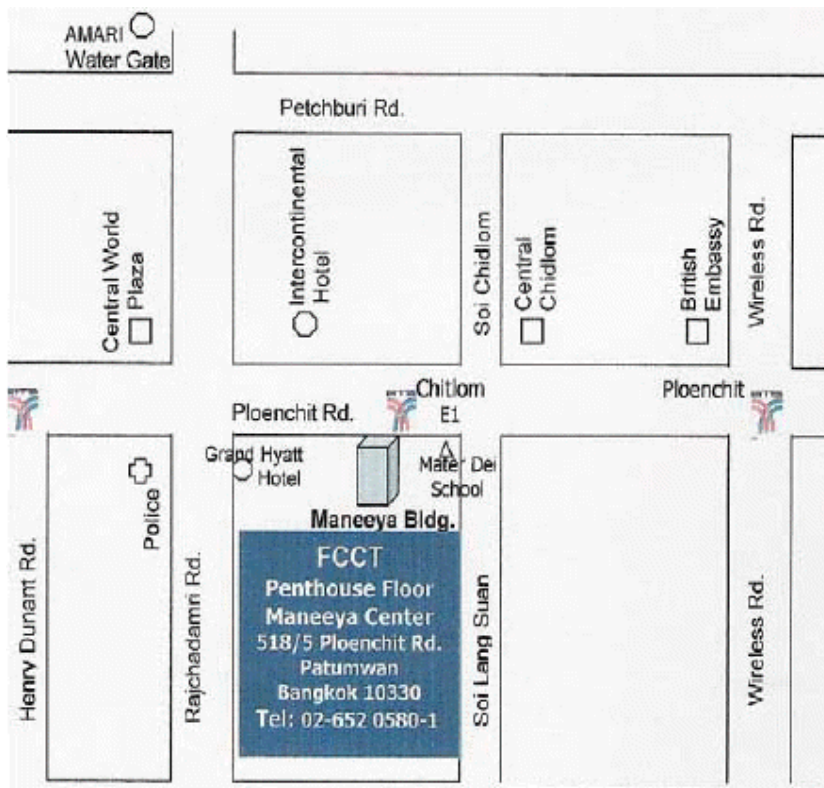
The Penthouse, Maneeya Center  
518/5 Ploenchit Road  
Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330

+66 02-652-0580/1 (office)

+66 02-652-0582 (fax)

E-mail: info@fccthai.com

The club is conveniently located. It is connected to the BTS Skytrain Chit Lom station by Skybridge and is accessible from both the Skytrain and Ploenchit Road.



# Women Workers' Summit 2009

Women workers at the frontline of sustainable solutions

9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> December 2009, Palazzo Hotel, Bangkok

## *Tentative programme*

### **DAY 1 (9<sup>th</sup> December)** Consolidating experiences and sharing strategies

- 8:30-9:00 am Registration of participants
- 9:00-9:15 am **Introduction and formal opening of the first Women Workers' Summit 2009**  
-- by Ms. Jurgette Honculada, CAW EXCO Chairperson
- 9:15-10:15 am **SESSION I: Impact of Financial Crises on Women Workers in Asia**
- Panel of testimonies:**
- Experience of unionist garment factory workers in Thailand  
-- by *Triumph International (Thailand) Labour Union*
- Experience of tea plantation workers in Sri Lanka  
-- by *Red Flag Women's Union, Sri Lanka*
- Experience of Indonesian migrant workers and their families  
-- by *YASANTI, Indonesia*
- Regional perspectives on the global financial crisis' impact on women workers**  
-- by Ms. Lucia Victor Jayaseelan, Executive Coordinator, CAW
- 10:15-11:30 am **SESSION II: Exploring sustainable alternatives- conceptualising**
- Policy orientation - Gender perspective in economic policies**  
-- by Ms. Naty Bernardino, Asia-Pacific Network on Food Sovereignty
- New initiative of trade unionism in the formal and informal economy**  
-- by Ms. Ananya Bhattacharjee, Asia Floor Wage
- Globalising Migrant Workers' Rights**  
-- by Ms. Soledad Almodovar Pillas, Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM)
- 11:30- 11:40 am **Discussion on session I & II**  
**Coffee break**
- 11:40-12:40 pm **SESSION III: Exploring sustainable alternatives: sharing strategies**

Sustainable agriculture towards food sovereignty  
-- by Ms. Marjo Busto-Quinto, Pesticide Action Network-Asia Pacific

Production mapping: an effective organising tool in free trade zones  
--by Ms. Franny Parren, Transnational Information Exchange- Netherlands

Production mapping in practice: Mexican experience  
-- by Coalición pro Justicia en las Maquiladoras

- 12:30-2:00 pm Discussion on session III  
**Lunch break**
- 2:00-3:30 pm **SESSION IV: Group Workshops**
- ❖ Gender perspective in economic policies
  - ❖ Alternative organising - New trade unionism
  - ❖ Migration and labour
  - ❖ Production mapping
  - ❖ Sustainable agriculture towards food sovereignty
- 3:30-3:40 pm **Tea break**
- 3:40-4:40 pm **SESSION IV continued: Feedback from the workshops**
- Discussion on session IV
- 4:40-5:00 pm Summary and closing of first day
- 5:30-7:00 pm Statement drafting committee meeting
- Steering Committee meeting

**DAY 2 (10<sup>th</sup> December) Women workers: the driving force of sustainable solutions**

- 8:30-10:00 am **Session VI: Organising in the FTZs**
- Panel discussion:
- Introduction to the session  
-- by Irene Xavier, Tie-Asia
- Overview on the FTZs/EPZs in Asia  
-- by Mr. Arunasalam P., International Metalworkers Federation
- Experiences in organizing in FTZs  
Experience in Bangladesh  
-- by Ms. Jassmin Begum, National Garment Workers Federation, Bangladesh
- Experience in the Philippines

-- by Ms. Venus Culili, Kilusan ng Manggagawang Kababaihan, the Philippines

**Experience in Mexico**

-- by Coalición pro Justicia en las Maquiladoras, Mexico

**Discussion on session VI**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 10:00-11:30 am | <b>Discussion on draft of Workers' Summit statement</b>   |
| 11:30-11:45 am | Coffee Break  |
| 11:45-12:00 am | <b>Finalising of the draft workers summit statement</b>   |
| 12:00-12:15 am | <b>Closing of Women Workers' Summit</b><br>-- by Lucia Victor Jayaseelan, CAW Executive Coordinator |
| 12:15-1:30 pm  | <b>Lunch</b>  |
| 1:30-2:00 pm   | Preparation for the IWD 100 Launch's public action  |
| 2:00-3:00 pm   | Travel to venue of IWD 100 Launching site   |
| 3:00-6:00 pm   | Launch of 100 years of IWD (1911-2011)  |

9<sup>th</sup> December to 10<sup>th</sup> December (till 13.30)

## Women Workers Summit 2009: Women Workers at the Front Line of Sustainable Solutions

Conference at the Palazzo Hotel, Ratchadaphisek Road, Bangkok

Conference agenda:

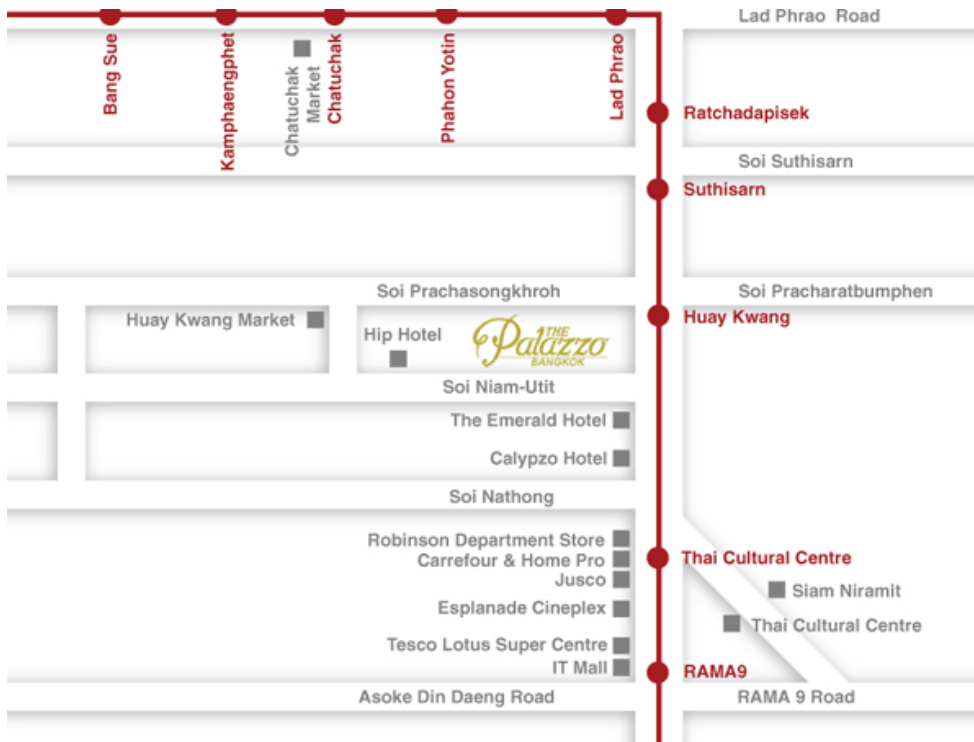
See [www.womenworkerssummit.org](http://www.womenworkerssummit.org)

### Address of Palazzo Hotel:

The Palazzo Hotel

111 Soi Niam-utit, Ratchadaphisek Road, Bangkok

Tel:+66 22764995-9 Fax: +66 22765000-2

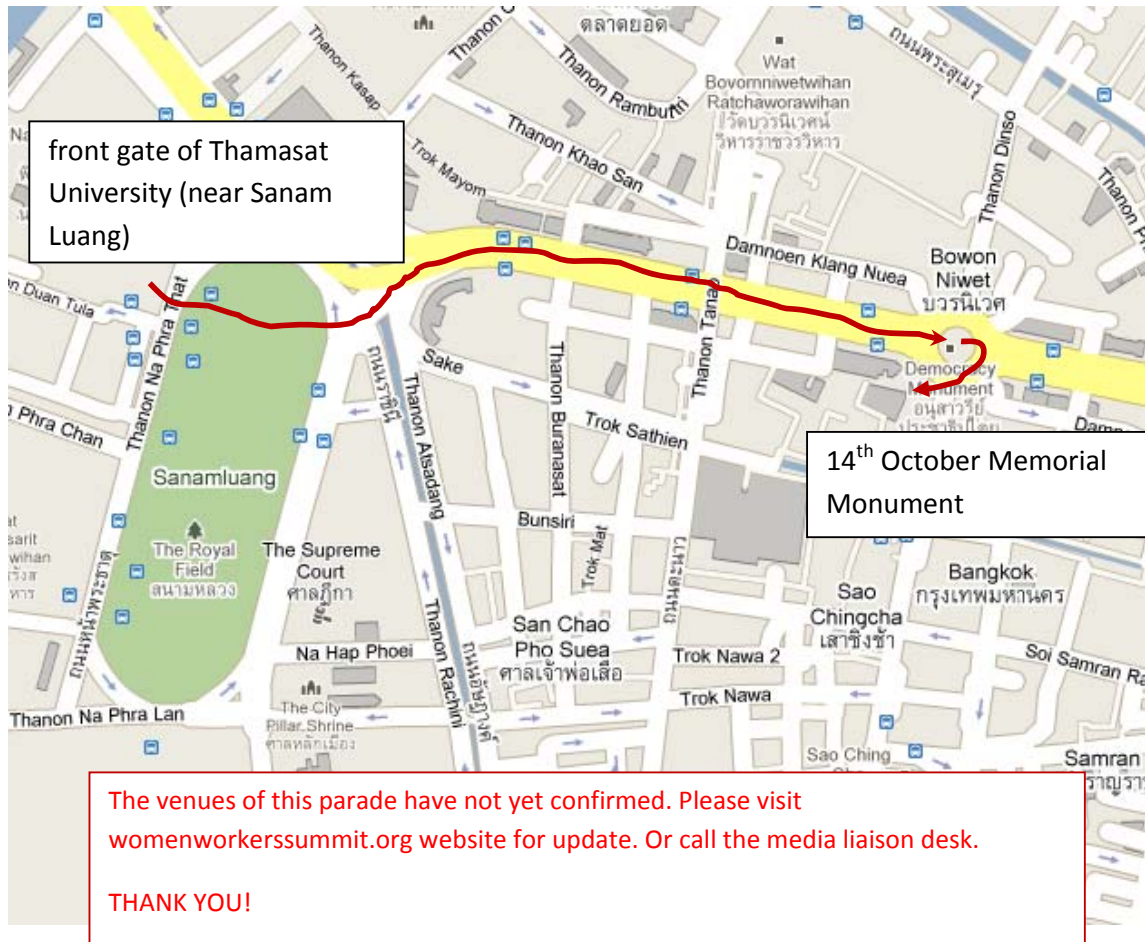


10<sup>th</sup> December (14.00- 19.00): Women Workers Parade and Workers Concert

# Celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of International Women’s Day (IWD100)

Draft Schedule: (the venue is not yet confirmed)

14.00 – 15.00	Gathering at the front gate of Thamatsat University (near Sanam Luang)
15.00 - 16.30	Parade towards Democracy monument and then to the 14 <sup>th</sup> October Memorial Monument
16.30- 16.45	Opening song (2-3 songs for played by labour music band)
16.45- 17.00	Introductions by organiser and ILO representative
17.00- 17.15	Drama by Foundation for Child Development
17.15- 17.30	Presenting women workers statements to representative from Thai Ministry of Labour
17.30- 18.15	Workers Performances from Hong Kong, Indonesia and India
18.15 – 18.45	Mini-concert with picture showing (women workers throughout the century)
18.45 – 19.00	Closing ceremony (Singing of the Solidarity song together)



## Contacts for Media

This is a list of experts and spokespersons who will be in the Women Workers Summit and available for media interviews and/or briefings. You can call our media liaison desk to make interview appointments, or call the experts directly.

Media liaison desk:
Kae (Thai/English)-0865522247 <a href="mailto:phornphan@cawinfo.org">phornphan@cawinfo.org</a>
Juliette (English)-0870999636 <a href="mailto:juliette@cawinfo.org">juliette@cawinfo.org</a>

Spokesperson	Organisation	Country	Expertise	Contact	Languages
Rokeya Kabir, Executive Director	Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS)	Bangladesh	Women workers in the informal sector	Attending WWS  Office:+ 880- 2-8111323,+ 880-2- 8124899	English Bengali
Irene Xavier,	TIE Asia  Sahaba Wanita	Asia  Malaysia	Union; factory workers in free trade zones; FTA, globalisation and women workers	Attending WWS	English,  Bahasa Malaysia
Franny Parren	TIE-Netherlands	Mexico  Europe	Production mapping as a method to organize workers	Attending WWS,  + 31 6 14313821 (mobile), +31 20 6642191 (office), franny@tie- netherlands.nl	English,  Dutch
Venus Culli	Kilusan ng Manggagawang Kababaihan (KMK)	The Philippines	Migrant workers	Attending WWS,  <a href="mailto:kmk.phils@gmail.com">kmk.phils@gmail.com</a>	English
Jansila Majeed	Community Trust	Sri Lanka	Women's human	+9412687206/	English

Spokesperson	Organisation	Country	Expertise	Contact	Languages
	Fund		rights	mobile <a href="mailto:jenzila@ctfsrianka.org">jenzila@ctfsrianka.org</a>	
Marilen Barle	National Federation of Labour	The Philippines			English
Mylene D. Hega	Manggagawang Kababaihang Mithi ay Paglaya (MAKALAYA)	The Philippines	Informalisation of work, women's labour union		English
Gindo Nadapdap	Kelompok Pelita Sejahtera	Indonesia	Women workers condition in Palm oil Plantation of North Sumatra, Indonesia	+62-61-8364300/+62-61-8360363/+812 6312023/ medan_pkps@yahoo.com	Bahasa Indonesia  (Eng. translation available at WWS)
Lita	RUMPUN	Indonesia	Domestic Workers	+62811282297 bitingklapa@yahoo.com	Bahasa Indonesia  English
Munaza Hashmi	Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research (PILER)	Pakistan	Discrimination against women workers	+92300-7183789	English
Fumiko Yakabi	Women's Union (Kansai), Equality Action 21	Japan	problems that working women are facing in Japan	81-3-6325-7650 payequity-office@memoad.jp	Japanese  (Eng. translation available at WWS)
Shailaja Aralkar	Kagad kach patra kashtkari panchayat (kkpkp)	India	Organising waste pickers and its contribution to stop climate change	+919765999516 email <a href="mailto:aralkarshailaja@gmail.com">aralkarshailaja@gmail.com</a>	English