

ACTIVITY REPORT

JULY – AUGUST
2013

Activity Report for Third
Official Trip to Myanmar

Reported by: Zar Ni Thwe

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE THIRD OFFICIAL TRIP TO MYANMAR

In April 2013, AFFM representative Daw Than Than Htay won a majority vote among worker unions to act as the worker delegate of Myanmar during the International Labour Organization's 102nd International Labour Conference. This comes after more than 50 years of negligence by the Myanmar government to actively participate in the annual summit, which has not received a Myanmar delegate since 1962. This election was held during the trade union's leader's forum in front of the ILO High Level Team, leaders of the International Trade Union Confederation and various global union federations.

Daw Than Than Htay's nomination as the national worker delegate is symbolic of AFFM's growing strength and unity. Government officials recognize AFFM's power as a representative body, and the two groups have begun discussing a collaborative approach to a variety of issues affecting the nation's many sectoral workers.

Earlier this year, the AFFM was accepted by the government to work as a social partner on matters of industrial relations. On 1st August 2013, the register general U Myo Aung, deputy director general of labour, invited the general secretary of AFFM Zar Ni Thwe and Daw Than Than Htay to Nya Pyi Daw to participate in bilateral dialogues. This meeting, coupled with the upcoming establishment of an AFFM liaison office in Yangon, demonstrates both parties' desire to continually strengthen their relations.

The AFFM is fully recognized by international communities such as the ILO, the International Union of Food Workers (IUF) and a number of global union federations. On June 18th 2013, the AFFM was recognized as an affiliate member of the IUF.

On July 31st, the AFFM presented its policies, organizational structure to its affiliates including foreign NGOs. During this meeting, the AFFM also detailed its most recent petition submitted to Myanmar's parliament, which asks for a democratic cooperative system and new methods for commodity pricing.

Recently, an IUF representative came and worked with the AFFM to improve its Occupational Safety Health and Environment training programme, which focuses on working conditions in the agricultural sector. Its 5 training sessions effectively manage 9 target areas of concern common throughout the industry.

By the invitation of USAID, the AFFM general secretary Zar Ni Thwe will correspond with the consultant of USAID's Enabling Agriculture Trading Project initiative.

Activities:

1. Duration: 25th July - 22nd August 2013

2. Activities

1. Meeting with ILO - ATRAV and FoA program adviser

- Timeline 25th July 2013 (14:00 - 16:00)
- Location AFFM (Temporary Office) North Okkalapa, Yangon
- Attendees ILO -

Mr Patric Quinn (ILO Chief Adviser of FoA program in Myanmar), Pon Soul (Senior Officer of ILO - ACTRAV), Moon Light (ILO Yangon)

AFFM -

Zar Ni Thwe (General Secretary), Daw Than Than Htay (President), U Myo Myint (Vice President), U Khin Maung Oo (Vice President), Ms Hnin Win Aung (Assistant General Secretary)

- Discussion topic(s) Organize FoA and CB workshops; challenges AFFM members may face;
Educating AFFM members for Health Safety and Environment issue;
Gathering information and documentation

2. Organized the AFFM annual meeting

- Timeline 31 July 2013
- Location North Okkalapa - Hall
- Attendees 134 regional representatives (Basic and Township level) from Kachin State, Shan State, Mandalay Division, Ma Gway division, Bago division, Yangon division, Aye Yar Wady division, Mon State, Rakhaine State, Karen State,
- Discussion Topic (s) Reaffirming the policies and constitution of AFFM, Restructuring AFFM committee and positional duties
Follow up action plan for 2013 - 2014

3. Meeting with Labour Department

- Timeline 1st August 2013 (16:00 – 18:00)
- Location Training Center of the Ministry of Labour, Yangon
- Attendee

Labour Department

U Myo Aung the Director General, Register General
U Thet Naing Oo, the Deputy Director General
2 directors

AFFM

Zar Ni Thwe (General Secretary)
Daw Than Than Htay (President)

- Discussion Topic(s) Build up the social partnership
Minimum Wage
Finding solution about interfere of local authority on the Freedom of Association
Arranging to meet with Minister of Labour
4. Conducted AFFM - IUF Training
- Timeline 2nd - 3rd August 2013
 - Location Myanmar Industrial Trade Unions Federation
MITU's Office - Dagon Port Township
 - Target Group AFFM township level leaders of Kyauk Tan, Thong Kwa, Dagon Port, Dagon Seike Kam of Yangon division
 - Attendees 18 leaders of AFFM Township level
 - Discussion Topic Introduction and presentation about IUF
Identity and Democracy
Democratic Trade Unionism
ILO's convention 184 (Occupational Safety Health and Environment of Agricultural Sector)
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5. Travelled to Shan state and conducted AFFM - IUF Training
- Timeline 5th August – 6th May 2013
 - Location Naung Cho Township, Chay Mit Bin village
 - Target Group Naung Cho and Kyauk Mae Township Unions
 - Attendees 37 leaders of AFFM Basic and Township level
 - Discussion Topic Introduction and presentation about IUF
Identity and Democracy
Democratic Trade Unionism
ILO's convention 184 (Occupational Safety Health and Environment of Agricultural Sector)
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6. Travelled to Ma Gway Division and conducted AFFM - IUF Training
- Timeline 7th August – 8th August 2013
 - Location Min Done Township, Min Done City,
 - Target Group Leaders of 18 unions of Min Done Township,
7. unions of Kan Ma Township
 - Attendees 42 leaders of AFFM basic and Township level
 - Discussion Topic(s) Introduction and presentation about IUF
Identity and Democracy
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Democratic Trade Unionism
ILO's convention 184 (Occupational Safety Health
and Environment of Agricultural Sector)

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- 7. Travelled to Mon state and conducted AFFM - IUF Training
 - Timeline 14th August - 15st August 2013
 - Location Tha Htone city, Mon State
 - Target Group AFFM affiliates of Mon State, Karen State, Tanintharyi division
 - Attendees 14 basic and township level leaders from Mon State, 12 basic and Township level leaders of Karen state and 2 leaders from Tanintharyi division
 - Discussion Topic(s) Introduction and presentation about IUF
Identity and Democracy
Democratic Trade Unionism
ILO's convention 184 (Occupational Safety Health and Environment of Agricultural Sector)
- 8. Travelled to Aye Yar Wady division and conducted AFFM - IUF Training
 - Timeline 16th August 2013
 - Location Day Da Ye city, Aye Yar Wady division
 - Target Group AFFM affiliates Aye Yar Wady division
 - Attendees 11 basic and township level leaders Day Day Township, 3 leaders from Phar Pone Township, 7 leaders Ma U Bin Township,
 - Discussion Topic(s) Introduction and presentation about IUF
Identity and Democracy
Democratic Trade Unionism
ILO's convention 184 (Occupational Safety Health and Environment of Agricultural Sector)
- 9. Press Release
 - Timeline 21st August 2013
 - Location AFFM Temporary Office, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon
 - Interviewed with Shwe Naing Ngan Thit (Golden Country) Journal , Kumudra Journal, Eleven Media Group
 - Interview Topic (s) forthcoming implementation about Co operative, Presentation on the suggestion letter of parliament

3. Follow up Action

- a. Execution of a FoA and Collective Bargaining training (3 times in 3 different locations).
- b. Future development throughout Myanmar with township level formation - 6 townships in Bago division, 2 township in Shan State, 4 township for Kachin state, 3 townships for Aye Yar Wady division and 2 township for Karen state and 3 townships for Ma Gway division, 1 township for Tanintharyi division
- c. Preparation for petition campaign on crop pricing of Rice, Bean and Rubber
- d. Preparation to call for fair commodity pricing
- e. Child labour documentation
- f. Joint activity ILO Liaison office on the Abolishing of Forced labour



AFFM Annual Meeting



U Zar Ni Thwe makes presentation on the solidarity actions



AFFM - IUF Training - Dagon Port Township



AFFM - IUF Training - Naung Cho Township, Shan State
Ms Premjai of IUF provides training about IDENTITY



AFFM IUF Training in Magway Division, U Zar Ni Thwe and Ms Yong provide Occupational Safety Health and Environment



AFFM IUF Training in Mon State, Ms Yong provides training about IDENTITY



AFFM IUF Training in Aye Yar Wady Division