



Youth & Women Conference by UNI-ILC.& UNI ILC/FES Empowerment Program for Women & Youth

A Report by Joseph Martin CJ and Chandrashekhar Azad

ARTEE Central Office Nominated its three members Smt.Sumathi Srinivasan (SEA,AIR-Chennai), Sh.C.S.AZAD (E.A,DDK-Lucknow) & Sh.Joseph Martin CJ (E.A ,AIR –Ooty) to attend the UNI ILC Youth & Women Conference on 19 September 2014,and UNI ILC/FES Empowerment Program for Women & Youth from 20/09/2014 to 21/09/2014 at Chennai. Our delegates participated in this program of UNI ILC very actively. ARTEE had sent a team which was a blend of experience & youth to represent the association.

The Joint Inaugural Session for Women & Youth Conferences was attended by Brother Milind Nadakarni,President,UNI ILC, Brother.Rajendra Kumar Acharya, Director,Trade Union Development,UNI APRO,and Brother.D.Thegarajan,General Secretary,UNI ILC.And the Conference elected the UNI ILC Youth & Women Committee President and General Secretary.

The training methodology used by the faculties in the UNI ILC/FES Empowerment Program for Women & Youth was based on active learning.Experienced union trainers from UNI APRO and FES supervised all the programs followed by group discussions and practice. All participants got opportunity to involve in doing case studies, role plays and practical exercises to reinforce the learning process. All participants presented their representation describing their Industry /organization situation and their union handling of the subject of Women & Youth Empowerment in Unions to strengthen trade unions to secure decent work in the services sector and informal economy.

Healthy & informative sessions on subjects like **GENDER BALANCE** in Trade Unions, **WOMEN & YOUTH** – Stake holders in Union today , **TRADE UNION CONVENTION** ,**IDEAL Working Condition**, **Building power at work place**, **Ensuring s safe workplace environment**, **Organizing Women & Youth in the Trade unions**, **Action Plan for Campaigns** etc were the highlights of the program.

Key note addresses by **Brother Rajendra Acharya**,Director,Trade Union Development,**UNI APRO** , **Brother Milind Nadkarni**,President,**UNI ILC**,Chief guest **Dr.Pravin sinha**,Sr. Advisor,**FES** ,**Brother D.Theagarajan**,G.S.,**UNI ILC**,**Sister Sharada Bangera**,President of **UNI ILC Women Committee** & **Sister Anjali Bedekar**,Coordinator,**UNI ILC** reiterated the determination of trade unions to be instrumental in building a better world and in advancing humane globalization process with required changes at the workplaces and promote decent work for all workers

A message by **Brother Philip Jennings**, General Secretary, **UNI APRO** was conveyed to all by which he emphasized **UNI's** commitment for its extended support to all unions affiliated to it and to work in partnership with local unions to convince global business to respect the workers rights. **UNI** suggested all affiliated unions to form a Structural **“WOMEN WING “** and **“YOUTH WING “** compulsory to promote, empower and integrate Youth & Women in Unions for utilizing the optimal potential of unions in respect of today's competitive arena by following the theme of **“Today is future”** i.e Unions must accommodate & promote Youth & women now,preserving it for a long time may be a potential loss for the unions.

Thus the whole program of **UNI ILC** was well articulated with a vision of Integration of Youth & Women into union's functioning & decision making body to achieve the real objective of trade unions by blending Experience of seniors, Energy & innovation of Youth and sensitivity of women rationally.