Defends its 12 million members in 130 countries

The mission of the **BWI** is to promote and defend workers’ rights and improve working conditions in the building and wood working sectors.

**BWI** aims to promote and defend human and trade union rights through sustainable development using global organizing, negotiations, strategic campaigns and development projects.

**BWI** supports the constant growth of trade union membership for both formal and informal workers and improves trade union capacity to represent workers in sectoral policy, collective bargaining and workplace activities.

By promoting collective bargaining **BWI** works to guarantee decent working and living conditions, decent wages for workers and their families and fair working hours across the industry. **BWI** also promotes improved health and safety standards, social justice and skills development helping **BWI** sectors reach the highest standard of employment.

**BWI** also forges international framework agreements (IFAs) with multinationals to ensure workers’ rights and provide a platform of dialogue with employers to facilitate collective bargaining negotiations on the ground.

**BWI** believes supporting trade union participation in decision making processes of financial institutions and other organisations will influence policy and strengthen the capacity of institutions and tripartite structures in the building sectors to improve employment and labour practices worldwide.

Such support will also promote, implement and enforce labour standards through improved social dialogue and sustainable industrial development.

**BWI** achieves this through cooperation with its affiliated trade unions and advocacy with major global institutions such as; the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO); international employers’ organisations, such as the Confederation of International Contractors’ Associations (CICA); and financial institutions such as the World Bank and World Trade Organisation (WTO).

**BWI** calls on such international institutions and national governments to ensure working conditions and labour standards are included in the procurement of construction policies and infrastructure development projects, it also pushes for labour standards in all public contracts.

For example, the **BWI** works with forestry governance bodies like the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification scheme (PEFC) to improve labour participation in forestry certification schemes and to ensure the inclusion of social standards in the chain of custody of the wood industry.
Current BWI campaigns

GLOBAL SPORTS
FOOTBALL WORLD CUP 2014
BWI has joined with Play Fair to ensure fair and decent workers’ rights for the construction sector and sporting goods manufacturer’s at all major global sporting events.
BWI believes such events often intensify the exploitation of workers with organisations such as FIFA and UEFA consistently evading their social responsibility. But BWI is making a difference. Campaigns at the World Cup in South Africa in 2010 recruited 27,000 additional construction members winning workers a 12 per cent wage increase. The work of the BWI in South Africa has influenced construction workers in Brazil preparing for the World Cup in 2014 to demand better health and safety conditions as well as decent wages.
The World Cup 2014 campaign for workers’ rights in Brazil was launched in March 2011 in Rio de Janiero.
For more information please visit: brazil.bwint.org

CLIMATE CHANGE
Building and wood sector trade unions have a keen understanding of the battle against climate change. The construction industry is an intense consumer of global natural resources and creates huge amounts of waste. A way to tackle climate change is through the creation of ‘green’ jobs such as retrofitting old buildings optimizing energy efficiency. For the BWI, such new green jobs should not just be environmentally friendly but should be sustainable decent jobs carried out in a safe physical environment with conditions which respect workers’ rights as defined by national laws and international conventions.
BWI believes worldwide initiatives to preserve and replant forests, such as UN REDD (Reduction of Emissions through Deforestation and Degradation), must include trade unions as participatory stakeholders. The inclusion of trade unions will ensure education and social platforms which will broaden global understanding of forest workers and their communities.

EURO CUP 2012
In 2010 UEFA President Michel Platini visited four host cities in Ukraine to monitor preparations.
Mr Platini ignored a request to meet BWI representatives and Polish and Ukrainian trade unions to discuss current site conditions and sadly, just a few days after Mr Platini left the Ukraine a worker died at the Kharkiv Airport construction site. The BWI has signed 3,000 new union members in Ukraine and continues to demand a dialogue with UEFA and Mr Platini.

MIGRANT WORKERS
“BWI Connect” aims to address the influx of temporary migrant workers within the building, wood and forestry sectors and to represent migrant workers on the basis of equal pay for equal work. BWI will connect migrant workers to trade unions through membership assistance cards allowing members access to local services including legal counseling, legal representation and advice on back wages within the workers’ country of destination. BWI aims to alleviate worker concerns and foster trust between migrant workers and unions to encourage membership to ensure all workers are represented. BWI has proudly organized 2,000 workers in Bahrain, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

CHILD LEARN
BWI passionately campaigns against child labour. BWI and its affiliates have launched a campaign to combat child labour in southern Asia through education, schooling, gender empowerment and by promoting adult literacy.
BWI and its affiliates facilitate the Child Learn programme, a non-profit organisation managing the property and assets of schools educating child workers.
Thanks to the work of BWI more than 11,000 children now go to school in India instead of work and the influence of unions has grown and strengthened.
The influence of the BWI project has increased trade union membership and their collective bargaining capacity resulting in significant pay rises for working parents.
For parents increased pay allows their children to go to school rather than work, withdrawing children from work increases decent work opportunities for adults. Following the success of the project in India, the BWI has recently expanded to Nepal.

MULTINATIONALS
There are many examples of multinationals operating good business by respecting international labour standards. BWI social dialogue with several of these companies has expanded enormously, including today 16 global company agreements.
But there are also multinationals which too often operate without respecting these standards at global and national level.
In such cases, BWI launches regular campaigns.
The blog BWI Company Monitor also contributes to a better monitoring of multinationals in our sectors.
http://blogs.bwint.org/mnc

Press information
For more information on BWI campaigns, press releases, logo kits, graphical profile, video and photos please visit our website:
www.bwint.org/press

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