

# BWI Presidium 2018-2021

Elected by BWI World Congress in Durban South Africa  
on 01 December 2017.



## ➤ **BWI President: Per-Olof Sjöö**



Per-Olof is the current President of BWI and President of the Swedish Union of Forestry, Wood and Graphical Workers (GS). He was re-elected in 2016 for another term.

Per Olof is currently a Board member of LO Sweden (The Swedish Trade Union Confederation) and from 2012 to 2016 he was Chair of the LO-TCO Secretariat of International Trade Union Development Co-operation now Union to Union.

Per Olof was the first non-U.S. citizen to receive the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award in 2012 for his efforts on behalf of workers at the IKEA Industry plant in Danville, Virginia, the United States. The award is bestowed by an independent NGO, American Rights at Work and recognizes those who advance human rights for workers.

In 2015 he was awarded the Swedish Development Forum Prize for achievements in international development work.



➤ **BWI Deputy President: Dietmar Schäfers**



Dietmar is the current Deputy President of the BWI and the Chair of the Adhoc Working Group on Sports Campaign. Dietmar is also the President of EFBWW and currently the Vice President of IGBAU Germany.

Dietmar is a draftsman by training. He was born in Siddinghausen, Büren, Germany in 1955. He started his trade union involvement in 1975 and assumed various positions like district youth chairman, district secretary, and union secretary. Since 2001, he has held high-ranking positions in his union IGBAU and this includes membership in the Federal Executive, deputy chairman of the National Executive Board - Construction industry - Southwest Region, deputy chairman of the National Executive Board for the construction industry and since 2009 as deputy chairman of the Federal Executive. He had external responsibilities as well and this covered the membership in the Board of Directors of the Federal Employment Agency, vice chairman of the company Xervon GmbH and member of the board STRABAG AG.

➤ **BWI Deputy President: Pierre Cuppens**



Pierre is currently the Deputy President of BWI and currently the General Secretary of ACV Belgium. Pierre is the Chair of the BWI Global Cement Network.

Pierre is from Belgium and has a degree in construction and worked for more than 10 years in a general contractor of the construction sector. He is 48-years old and first joined the CSC as regional manager of Liège. He went through the function of national responsibility, national secretary and is now general secretary of the CSC Building - Industry & Energy, which is the largest professional group in the Confederation.



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➤ **BWI Deputy President: Piet Matosa**



Piet Matosa is the current President of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) elected at the 15th national congress held at the Birchwood Hotel Boksburg in June 2015. He served as an Acting President in from 2014 after the general elections in South Africa when the incumbent went to join cabinet of the ruling part in government. He joined NUM in 1990 as a Shaft Steward for the Admin Department. In 1992, he was elected Branch Health and Safety Secretary and a full-time Shop Steward at Delmas Coal Mine in 1993. He was appointed in Terms of Medical Aid Schemes Act of RSA as the First Principal Officer of Eyethumed Medical Aid in 1999.

➤ **BWI General Secretary: Ambet Yuson**

Ambet is the current General Secretary of BWI. He was elected to a second term in 2013.



Ambet has been active in the trade union movement for nearly 30 years starting as a union organizer for the garment and textile union in the Philippines. His entry to the trade union movement was the result of his pro-democracy activism during the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos in the early 1980s.

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> BWI World Congress that was held in Lille, France in December 2009, Ambet was elected as General Secretary, becoming the first General Secretary of a Global Union Federation from the Global South. He was re-elected to this position in 2013 at the 3<sup>rd</sup> BWI World Congress in Bangkok, Thailand. As General Secretary, he has led BWI in various global negotiations and engagements with MNCs, World Bank and other International Financial Institutions, FSC, PEFC, FIFA and IOC; orchestrated BWI's global campaign on decent work in mega-sporting events in Brazil, Poland-Ukraine, Russia, Qatar, South Korea and Japan; and represented BWI in the United Nations, ILO, UNHCHR, UN-HABITAT, GFMD, UNFCCC-COP and the World Economic Forum.

Ambet was the Chair of the Council of Global Unions (CGU) in 2013-14 and continue to Chair of CGU Migration Working Group. He holds various positions such as member of the FIFA Human Rights Advisory Board, member of the Steering Committee of the MSE Platform; Standing Committee member of the UN Habitat World Urban Campaign, and the Chair of the UN Habitat Consultative Assembly GAP.



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