



Trade Unions international of Workers of Energy, Metal, Chemical, Oil and Allied Industries (TUI EMCOAI). World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)

Mexico City, May 2007

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNIONS CONGRESS OF ENERGY WORKERS:
ELECTRIC POWER, OIL, GAS, NUCLEAR ENERGY, WATER, CHEMICAL
INDUSTRY AND ENERGY MINERS**

C O N V O C A T I O N

Topics as energy and water are topics of vital interest for the workers and peoples on all over the world. However, these natural resources have become elements of international dispute and they are the center of attention of the neo-liberal politicians and their policy of privatization. The monopoly corporations dominating the energy, the water and allied sectors are seeking by all means –even through military means- to impose the private ownership and domination of these assets including all related natural resources as of the basic means of production, in order to assure uninterrupted energy supplies for them. The working people and trade unions cannot remain indifferent on these topics. In several regions of the world, the trade unions are leading the struggle against the neo-liberalism policies in strategic sectors and presenting an alternative to the policies of neo-liberalism.

INTRODUCTION

The world energy scenario - In the world today, the ownership and control over the energy sector and other natural resources are centered in the highly developed countries. They misappropriate these resources, especially those that are not controlled by them. This has worsened the crisis. The natural energy and water resources are characterized by an unequal distribution around the world. The increasing demand, the irrational use, the imposition of privatization and the rampant speculation and misuse are leading to the rapid exhaustion of these resources and a rapid reduction of energy and other vital natural resources. As a result, prices have sky-rocketed all over the world. The worst situation would be a great reduction in the supply and reserves of hydrocarbons and water resources in response to the growing demand. At the same time, the reserves are getting exhausted, while the world is confronting a situation of declining hopes about the possibility of new discoveries of oil and even water supplies. The world is thus facing a grim situation as a result of this intensification of the capitalist crisis

The world energy policy – The policies of the global energy monopolies are characterized by (1) the intensification of the use of fossil fuels and (2) the private monopoly control and misappropriation of the world's energy resources. It is forecast that in the coming years, oil will continue dominating until 2030 followed by coal and natural gas. All the fossil fuels are polluting and they produce big emissions of dioxide of carbon (CO₂). It is now well-known that the pollution of our planet by motor transport as well as electricity generation has seriously damaged the climate and life in the planet. The alternative sources of energy are in development, but the costs are very high and their exploitation is relatively restricted. It is now widely accepted that the wider and rapid use of renewable energy can help to reduce the present environmental problems. On the other hand, world public opinion is proclaiming that this is crucial in order to promote scientific and technological development, through the alternate sources of the energy. Nuclear power is an alternative that is widely debated. The developed countries continue sending their radioactive waste to other countries while they deny the right of countries to promote the scientific and industrial development of this source of energy delimiting the right of countries to sovereignty over energy resources, as is the case of Iran.

The peoples' struggle – The energy panorama of the world is linked with the efforts of those who are controlling this sector and their absolute right to impose the right of property. The transnational corporations and the political leaders supporting them seek to further strengthen their ownership and control of the natural resources and the physical infrastructure. They seek the total privatization of the energy sectors, the expropriation of all the primary energy resources, the electrical power systems, the networks of oil and gas pipelines, water reservoirs, and the industrial infrastructure and seek to weaken the energy sectors remaining in the public services.

The policy of privatization constitutes the principal aspect of the political strategy of the neo-liberals. In the energy sector and the water supply sector, imperialism has forced privatization of these vital sectors through the so-called legal route, in their efforts to impose their domination, by political and military threats, ignoring the opposition of the working people and trade unions. However, even in a situation of inequality in the battle, the working people have begun to right back, especially in Latin America, the Middle-East and Asia. The working people and trade unions are forging united action to defend and rescue the resources and safeguard the energy and of water resources, in the interest of national and social development. This struggle is, in fact, the struggle for national sovereignty over the energy and water resources of every nation.

The working people, the democratic forces and the trade union organizations have called for international solidarity. In order that the peoples could promote economic and social development, it is necessary to recognize the right to the energy and to the water resources of all peoples as a basic social right without which it is not possible to build a worthy life.

The policies of energy and water of the workers – The policies of energy and water resources upheld by the working people is that this is the basic right of the workers and peoples. It has to be a social right of humanity that the energy and water resources and industrial infrastructure must be collective social property of the nations. The workers propose the use and utilization of all the energy and water resources for the social development of the peoples and countries, not for war. This is a part of the struggle of the countries and peoples in order to defend national sovereignty, the rights of the workers and peoples in all countries and for the future of the humanity.

Our policy on energy and water resources, in the interests of the workers and peoples, implies the right of social collective property, an independent energy policy linked to the social development. This policy seeks the integration of all the structures of energy development as well as the effective use of water resources through greater people's participation in the formulation and development of these policies, upholding the independence and sovereignty of the nations. These are the basic rights of the workers and peoples all over the world.

Unity, organization and workers' rights – To achieve our aims, it is necessary to unite the forces of the workers and peoples. For that reason it is of high importance that the workers and trade unions the world over promote a collective and democratic discussion. Our analysis of the present situation and the united action we propose can stimulate the united action that allows us to win our demands through the diverse struggles uniting the working people in all countries of our planet.

TUI of Energy – In 1949, was founded the Trade Union International of Mining Workers, in Florence, Italy. In 1983, the field of action of this TUI was broadening to include energy workers. It was at the International Trade Union Congress held in 1986 in the High Tatras (in the former Czechoslovakia) that proposed the establishment of the Trade Unions International of Energy Workers (TUI ENERGY). Because of the changes in Eastern Europe, the TUI was interrupted. This process was resumed on 1998 at the International Conference held in Havana, Cuba, which reorganized the unions of the sectors of the energy, metal, chemical, oil and allied sectors forming the Trade Unions International of Energy, Chemical, Oil and Allied Industries (TUI EMCOAI). Later, diverse organizations have affiliated and others are in routes to do it.

The TUI, since its inception has promoted important actions in defense of the rights of the workers and a determined struggle against the privatizations of the energy sector imposed by neo-liberal governments in various countries. In Mexico, for example, the Electricians' Mexican Trade Union (SME), continues its struggle to prevent the privatization of the electrical industry. Equally in many other countries the resistance of the workers against the privatizations they have been forging ahead.

The further development of workers struggles in various sectors, including metallurgy, mining industry and other trade branches, has encouraged the TUI Secretariat, and the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) to propose the re-structuring of the TUI and to propose to the forthcoming Congress to decide on the restructuring the TUI, in order to achieve a more effective activity.

It is therefore proposed that the restructuring should lead to the creation of two Trade Unions Internationals: (1) The Trade Unions International of Energy Workers (TUI ENERGY); this TUI will bring together trade unions from all energy-related sectors – such as electric power, oil, gas, nuclear power, water, chemical industry, and energy miners; (2) The TUI of the Mining industry, Metallurgy, Steel, Metal and Allied Sectors (TUI METAL), where will be reunited unions of the mining industry, the metallurgy, the steel and metal industry, whose corresponding Congress is in progress.

International trade union solidarity – International trade union solidarity in the struggle for the unity of workers and for obtaining their vital demands is the need of the hour. International trade union solidarity will unite us and lead our struggle to win our demands through organization and struggle. Workers of All Countries – Unite and Struggle to Win Workers' Demands, Peace and Social Progress!

CALL AND INVITATION

The Trade Unions International of Workers of Energy, Metal, Chemical, Oil and Allied Industries (TUI EMCOAI) and the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) cordially invites trade unions in all our trade sectors to analyze the energy world situation, the demands, struggles and alternatives proposed by the workers. We cordially invite all the affiliated and fraternal organizations to participate in this event.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNIONS CONGRESS OF ENERGY WORKERS: ELECTRIC POWER, OIL, GAS, NUCLEAR ENERGY, WATER, CHEMICAL INDUSTRY AND ENERGY MINERS

The international Congress will be developed according the following

BASIS

- 1- The international Congress of the TUI will be held on 26, 27 and 28 of September 2007, in Mexico City, at the invitation of the Electricians' Mexican Trade Union (Sindicato Mexicano de Electricistas, SME).
- 2- The international Congress will have the following agenda:
 - a) The situation of the workers in the energy, water and related sectors at the national and international level;
 - b) Discussion and approval of the Draft Policy Document which will be put it to consideration of the Congress, as also the Statutes of the TUI ENERGY.
 - c) The elections of the new Office-Bearers and Executive Committee of the TUI ENERGY.
 - d) Final declaration.

- 3- The time table is proposed as follows:

September 26th.

08:30	Report of the Credentials Commission
09:00	Opening of the Congress
10:00	Report of the Secretariat, and the General Secretary of the TUI-EMCOAI
11:00	Report of the Finance Control Commission of the TUI-EMCOAI
12:00	Discussion and approval of the Draft Policy Document: a) The energy situation
14:00	Lunch
16:00	Discussion of the draft policy Document: (continuation) b) The water situation
18:00	Discussion of the draft policy Document: (continuation) c) The workers' situation
20:00	Break

September 27th.

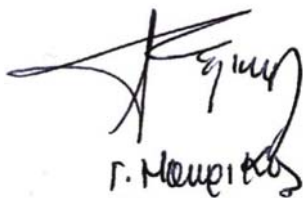
47th. Anniversary of the Nationalization of the Power Industry of Mexico
Special program

September 28th.

09:00	Continuation of the debate d) Strategy and program of action.
12:00	Discussion and approval of the Statutes of the TUI ENERGY
14:00	Lunch
16:00	Discussion and approval of the Resolutions for the Congress
17:00	Election of the new Executive Committee of the TUI ENERGY
17:30	Presentation of the new Executive Committee of the TUI ENERGY
18:00	Message of the General Secretary of the ENERGY TUI

18:30 Final declaration of the Congress
19:00 Closing of the Congress

- 4- Each delegate will have a maximum of 8 minutes for his/her intervention. There will be simultaneous interpretation in Spanish, English and French.
- 5- The session will be held at the Electricians' Mexican Trade Union, located on the 3rd street of Maestro Antonio Caso, Number 45, Colonia Tabacalera, Zip code 06470 in Mexico City.
- 6- Registration and accreditation of the delegates
 - a) Each affiliated and fraternal organization will be represented by 2 (two) delegates
 - b) The expenses for delegates' travel will be paid by their own organization.
 - c) The Electricians' Mexican Trade Union, as host of the Congress will cover all the expenses of the event, as also accommodations and transportation.
 - d) The unions can send more delegates, but in that case, each organization will have to pay their own expenses.
 - e) In the sessions of the Congress, each delegation will have only 2 (two) votes
- 7- The delegates who need Visa, should communicate with the Electricians' Mexican Trade Union (SME): uis-temqpia@sme.org.mx, sinmexel@sme.org.mx, Fax (00) 5255-5535-7046 or (00) 5255-5547-7875. For effects of the case, the diverse delegations they will have to send the complete names of their representatives, also their nationality, specifying the number of their passports, emission dates and expiration, respectively. We request to all the delegates who need the Visa, to call us as soon as possible to process the request for Visa.
- 8- For further information, please contact: Valentín Pacho, Deputy General Secretary of the WFTU and coordinator by the Secretariat of the WFTU: valentin.pacho@hotmail.com and/or Central host of the WFTU: info@wftucentral.org, vpacho@wftucentral.org, or call +30-210-9236700, by fax to+30-210-9214517and/or with the Electricians' Mexican Trade Union (Sindicato Mexicano de Electricistas, SME): Phones: +52-55- 57051813, (00) 52 55 55357046 and by telefax: (00) 52-55-55477875 in Mexico City. Our web site is: <http://www.uis-temqpia.org>



George Mavrikos
General Secretary
WFTU

Sincerely



Martín Esparza Flores
General Secretary SME
General Secretary
TUI-EMCOAI



Fermín Paz Lamigueiro
Deputy General Secretary
TUI-EMCOAI



Edgar Ponce Iturriaga
Secretary of Finance
TUI-EMCOAI



Fernando Amezcua Castillo
Secretary of the Exterior
SME