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## INTERNATIONAL DOMESTIC WORKERS' NETWORK



### Issue Highlights:

1. The IDWN has scheduled its Founding Congress for October 25-27, 2013, in Uruguay
2. Historic Workshop of DWs in Guinea: DWs at Guinee Parliament
3. SINTRASEDOM, Colombia held its 13th Congress
4. Organizing DWs in Thailand gains momentum
5. "Rate Card" sets minimum standards on domestic work in India
6. "Governor Brown, Clean Up your Act!"

**The IDWN has scheduled its Founding Congress for October 25-27, 2013, in Uruguay**

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The Steering Committee will decide on the major step to move the IDWN from "network" to "organization". The Founding Congress will bring together representatives of all domestic workers affiliates. Between now and the Founding Congress, the IDWN will engage all its affiliates in developing the constitution of the organization.

"Uruguay is the first country to ratify the C189. It is also where domestic workers are well organized and the home to the IUF Regional Secretariat. We can't think of a better place to give birth to the global federation of domestic workers' organizations," said Myrtle Witbooi.



### **2. Historic Workshop of DWs in Guinea: DWs at Guinee Parliament**

On October 13 & 14, SYNTRAD/IDWN domestic workers workshop was held at the parliament building, upon invitation by the President of Guinea Parliament, Ms Rabiadou Serah Diallo. The Minister of Labour, Ms Hadja Fatoumata Tounkara officially opened the workshop and said that she was keen to ratify the C189 as soon as possible. 35 domestic workers participated in the workshop coming from 4 provinces of Guinea. Other participants included the General Secretary of CNTG and the chief cabinet of the parliament.



The two-day workshop resulted in a work plan made by domestic workers focusing on organizing domestic workers into union from 8 provinces, campaign for ratification of C189 by 2012, and building strong SYNTRAD through capacity building and developing leaders. Interim leaders in the 8 cities were elected to take the responsibility. The two-day workshop received broad media coverage as reported by 9 radios and 5 TV stations. [To Learn more about the workshop >>](#)



Earlier, on October 7, the World Decent Work Day, SYNTRAD held a caravan to demand the ratification of C189. [For More photos >>](#)

### 3. SINTRASEDOM, Colombia held its 13th Congress

Yenny del Carmen Hurtado, General Secretary of SINTRASEDOM, Colombia stressed the need to organize more domestic workers at its 13th Congress held in Bogota on September 13-18. The IDWN Vice Chair, Ernestina Ochoa spoke on the C189 ratification campaign. [To Read more >>](#)

### 4. Organizing DWs in Thailand gains momentum

On September 28, the Network of Domestic Workers in Thailand held a training workshop on leadership and organization. 30 domestic workers from Thailand and from Burma, attended the workshop and pledged to organize another 350 into their organization in the next 3 months.

### 5. "Rate Card" sets minimum standards on domestic work in India

The Resident Welfare Association (RWA) of a complex in Gurgaon, National Capital Region (NCR), New Delhi, India issued attachments to all owners of apartments in the condominium for their feedback or suggestion on the "Rate Card" which is to be implemented in the complex. The "Rate Card" has been negotiated between representatives of employers and domestic workers employees on rates and guideline policies for hiring domestic workers. [For More details >>](#)

### 6. "Governor Brown, Clean Up your Act!"

On Sunday, September 30, Governor Jerry Brown vetoed the California Domestic Workers Bill of Rights. "But after organizing for years to win dignity, respect & labor protections for domestic workers, we have a choice too. We choose respect, we choose dignity and we choose to keep building our power to transform California and the nation, to care for all of us," according to the California Domestic Workers Coalition.

True, domestic workers have not given up. The Coalition organized an online "sponge" campaign to tell the Governor to "clean up his act" immediately after the veto. On October 12, it has collected 1000 "sponge". Before then, on the 10th,



some of its members went to visit Governor Brown in his office to tell him how his decision had impacted the domestic workers who make all other work possible. But he refused to meet the domestic workers.

"Governor Brown thinks he can ignore us, but he's wrong; he can veto our bill, and he can refuse to meet with us, but he can't ignore our movement. We are in this for the long haul! Governor Brown needs to hear our message loud and clear — that it's time to clean up his act," stated in message of the Coalition. (Source: California Domestic Workers Coalition; National Domestic Workers Alliance) [To Send Brown a Sponge >>](#)

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