

IFJ ASIA PACIFIC - UNION TO UNION

Project Partner Testimonials 2021



Sasmito

President - Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) Indonesia

"IFJ has assisted AJI in organizing a program entitled Strengthening the Capacity of Young Union Leaders Amid Covid-19 Pandemic. The project brought together several potential young union leaders to discuss their employment conditions, forming a joint forum for discussion, in the midst of various changes in government regulations in Indonesia on the employment law and the newly passed Omnibus Law. Previously, AJI had also conducted research supported by IFJ about media workers' conditions amid Covid-19. Both activities were really helpful in giving basic understanding of the issues impacting journalists as well as raising awareness on the importance of forming a union for media workers. It was also important to ensure the regeneration of the organization. Without young union leaders, the organization will not have a successor and threaten our sustainability."



Frank De Zoysa

General Secretary - Sri Lanka Working Journalists' Association (SLWJA)

"Even though SLWJA has been a full member of IFJ for more than a decade, this was the first opportunity we got to work with them which was indeed very useful. SLWJA was in a great need of establishing an official website and a data base of our members but we could not do so due to non-availability of sufficient funds as SLWJA is a non-profitable trade union for working journalists. Fortunately, we were able to work with IFJ's Union-To-Union project and our dream became a reality. SLWJA also held two day online workshop for 50 working journalists and students who study journalism on 4 topics such as Cyber Security, News Photography, Ethics and Rights & Responsibilities of Journalists. Our aim of having this online workshop was to increase participant's knowledge of the said topics, especially the benefits of being a member of a trade union, and to increase number of members of our Union. SLWJA wish to thank the IFJ for its continued support to make our project success and we look forward to working with the IFJ in the future."



Dharmasiri Lankapeli

General Secretary - Federation of Media Employees Trade Unions (FMETU)

"The evolution of Sri Lankan media is underlined by domination by males and older senior journalists. The FMETU made optimum use of the IFJ - UTU project to pave the way for a landmark achievement in the media sector in Sri Lanka. Through the project, Constitutional change of FMETU was ratified. The change included the appointment of women journalists in key office positions of the Executive Committee, one position, namely President, General Secretary or Treasurer and increasing representation of women journalists, young journalists and journalists from minority communities in the Executive Committee. This landmark achievement opened space for diversity and for more young journalists and women journalists to hold leadership positions. Also we construct tri language website, fmetu.org under this ifj-utu project. As the result of this program our representative woman leader, FMETU Deputy General Secretary Mrs. Inadira Nawagamuwa elected with majority as a general reserve advisor of IFJ 31st Congress in Oman last week. We are extremely grateful to IFJ for their invaluable guidance, support and camaraderie"



Jonathan de Santos

Chair - National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP)

"Union To Union support has helped us find baseline data on working conditions for freelance and digital media workers in the Philippines and learn what kind of support they are looking for. Aside from helping with organizing, study findings also helped during hearings at the Senate on a proposed Media Workers' Welfare bill, which had provisions for tenure and hazard pay for freelancers. While it did not pass, a senator has indicated he will refile the bill in July. We are also looking for ways to provide members who are freelancers access to insurance and to make information on pay rates more openly available to help them and give their union membership more value. UTU also helped kick off our Masked Media campaign to sell face masks to raise money for the legal defense of journalists and to raise awareness of press freedom issues. The campaign has been cited in competitions, including the Spikes Asia Awards, where it won Gold and Bronze in separate categories. The awards have led to more mask sales and more funding for colleagues facing cases."