

**Report from AFW Launch  
October 7, 2009 (Decent Work Day)  
Jakarta, Indonesia**

Organisers: TURC, SPN, GSBI  
Rapporteur: Dela Feby (TURC)

The AFW Launch in Jakarta was attended by more than 50 people from various labour research centres, government officers (National Wages Council), labour rights NGOs, independent researchers, media, Code of Conduct networks, and more than 14 trade unions from various industrial sectors.

The Launch was divided into two sessions: keynote speech from the ILO Jakarta and a seminar on the AFW.



At the first session, Peter van Rooij, Deputy Director of ILO Jakarta, gave a keynote speech about decent work. He really appreciated that the TURC and the AFW Alliance chose 7 Oct, Decent Work Day, as AFW launch day since decent wage is a major component for decent work. The ILO has tried to define what is decent wage through Convention Number 94, 131, and 193. According to him, the component of decent wage must cover at least two factors: social and economic. But even now, the ILO research shows that minimum wage in most parts of the world is not enough for workers to fulfil their daily needs. On the other hand, the collective bargaining of the unions could only reach 8 % of success in raising wages due to the lack of bargaining position of trade unions in most parts of the world.

He thought that the challenge for an AFW idea was how to convert the Floor Wage to the national "minimum" wage in each country. And he wished the Alliance and the participants of the launch not to be trapped to discuss about the components of decent wage, instead discussing the most important thing that was how to make this Floor Wage campaign successful nationally and internationally and how to make this Floor Wage come true.



After Peter Van Rooij gave the speech, Elyawati, a woman worker from PT Saraswati Garmindo, a garment factory located in Sukabumi, West Java, gave a testimony. PT Saraswati produces women's underwear, most of them are for Yamamai brand (USA). At first, the factory was located in National Bonded Zone in Cakung, North Jakarta, and two years ago it was relocated to Sukabumi district. This kind of relocation is growing in Indonesia. The destination is the district that can offer lowest minimum wages policy. Elyawati shared about her life as a garment worker. She testified how her wage cannot cover her family needs, with a husband and a 7 year old son. She already gave up her dreams to have her own house, and to give her son the best nutrition and education.

In the second session, there were 4 panelists. The first panelist was Indra Munaswar from the FSPSI Reformasi union. In 2000, the FSPSI Reformasi, together with LP3ES (independent surveyor), American Centre for International Labour Solidarity (ACILS) and other organizations conducted a research titled "Studi Belanja Buruh Jakarta" (Study on Workers' Expenses in Jakarta). From the research they found that minimum wage that workers received each month only covers 41% of their real expenses.

The second panelist was Endang Sunarto, from the Serikat Pekerja Nasional (SPN) union. Recently together with Garteks KSBSI, Akatiga, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), ITGWLF, and TWARO, they conducted a research on "living wage". From the research they found out that the minimum wage the workers received only cover 42% of the real workers' expenses.

This means that after 9 years, although the figure increases, the real wage is not increasing at all. The purchasing power for garment workers is still very low. Endang also shared the reason why they join AFW Alliance. The SPN believe that decent wage is important factor to achieve workers' decent live. Besides, AFW's strategy is very strategic because AFW will do advocacy at the first tier to the same brand in the world. And also AFW is specifying in garment sector, which is one of the most sector in SPN, and also Indonesia.

The third panelist was Rudy HB Daman, from GSBI. GSBI embrace the AFW idea because this initiative comes from workers themselves and the trade unions, in response to economic globalization. And the AFW Alliance consists of various organizations and also social communities around the world.

The fourth panelist was Dela Feby from the TURC. Dela shared what was the AFW, its origins and concepts, the members of the Alliance, she used the AFW in Six Steps for this. She explained that AFW concept is not to focus on the components, but on the purchasing power of workers and their families. Even though the initiative was

started from garment industry, this concept was also applicable in other industries. That's why, the AFW needs support also from any kind of trade unions in every sectors.



After the sessions, the participants and the panelists had a dynamic discussion. Some of the participants said that the idea was good, but they had to think about the national strategy. The participants also said that at the end what mattered in talking about wage was how to guard the Minimum Wage process in each region and how the trade union in factory could play an important role in collective bargaining. The participants also stressed that when we talked about decent wage and did campaign to buyers and brands, what was important was to ensure that workers had job security first.

One of the participants demanded that the concept of AFW should continue being discussed in many forum in the future, because it was not easy to comprehend the steps of the AFW and needed more discussion, this would also help to get bigger support from other organizations.

In this launch the organisers also gave the participants a packet of conference kit, consisted of:

- Flyers that giving info about the background of AFW, and what AFW Alliance do;
- A copy of the AFW in Six Step in Bahasa;
- The AFW Comic and Poster;
- The Press Release;
- The Brand Letter;
- TURC T-shirt ("Union Active").

And here are the links where you can read the news about the launch:

<http://hukumonline.com/detail.asp?id=23308&cl=Berita>

<http://infogsbi.blogspot.com/2009/10/surat-komite-pangarah-afw-untuk-para.html>