

Tools for Congress

WEBSITE

The dedicated Congress website contains all the documents and publications you need to take part in or follow proceedings. Key documents such as the Strong Unions – Sustainable Transport paper, the report on activities and motions can be viewed and downloaded. There are also the section reports and reports to the women, young transport workers and climate change conferences, along with background information on how Congress works and the history of the ITF. A link to the Congress blog (see below) is also there. www.itfcongress2010.org

PHOTOS AND FILM

The ITF is inviting participants to share their own photos and film of Congress through the ITF's Flickr and YouTube pages. Contact cortes_isabel@itf.org.uk if you have any such items that you would



From left: ITF YouTube, Flickr and Congress web pages. Visit the internet café (on 2nd floor) to see more.

like posted on the ITF sites. See www.flickr.com/photos/itf and www.youtube.com/user/itfvideos

INTERNET ACCESS

Visit the Don Diego foyer (2nd floor) where there are 40 computer terminals with free internet access for use by Congress participants.

BLOG

For the first time, Congress has a blog, where bloggers can comment on the Congress experience and others can contribute comments. Go to www.itfglobal.org/congress2010blog. If you would like to become a Congress blogger,

contact: anderson_jeremy@itf.org.uk

TWITTER

There is an ITF Twitter feed for Congress. Tweet at: #ITF2010

INFORMATION DESK

Staffed by ITF personnel as well as volunteers from Mexican affiliates, the information desk and communications point is in the Don Alberto lobby (4th floor). You can:

- try to sort out any queries not related to credentials or registration;
- pick up copies of *Congress Daily News*, including back numbers, and

order other ITF publications;

- sign petitions and find out about ITF campaigns during Congress;
- collect any incoming telephone messages and faxes.

TRANSLATIONS

The Congress website is in Arabic, English, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swedish. There is also a Google-sponsored auto-translation facility on certain pages (use the language selector) to make more content available more quickly. When professionally translated text is ready, it will be uploaded and replace the automated text.

Welcome to the online multimedia Congress

From front page

meeting on the fight for quality public transport and services – another vital element of the strategy – will be addressed by Peter Waldorff, general secretary of Public Services International. And Aidan White, general secretary of the International Federation of Journalists, will coordinate one of the plenary sessions on Strong Unions – Sustainable Transport.

Delegates will also debate new developments such as the ITF's commitment to the Year of the Seafarer 2010 and the fight against piracy; campaigns for safe rail and road; the launch of a good practice guide on HIV/AIDS; a new focus for the ITF's flag of convenience campaign; a planned website for cabin crew; and the dockers' port intelligence database scheme, the latest tool in the campaign against ports of convenience.

The huge challenges facing trade unionists in Mexico will play an important role during Congress. A symposium on trade union rights will describe the battles against company unions and a

hostile federal government. There will also be an ITF petition handed to the ministry of labour and a solidarity rally on the last day of Congress (12 August) when it is hoped that as many Congress participants as possible will take part.

Congress campaign logo for solidarity with Mexican unions.

In numbers

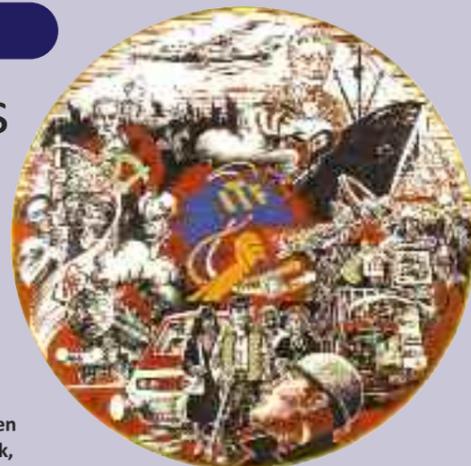
ITF Congresses

22 Number of delegates at the first Congress in London on 14 June 1898. Our last Congress, in Durban in 2006, brought together 653 delegates and 421 advisers from 101 countries.

20 Mexico is the 20th country to host an ITF Congress; 15 of them are European. Delegates have met in Great Britain on five occasions, four times each in Austria, Sweden and Switzerland and three times in Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. Congress first met outside Europe in 1980. The venue was Miami and the Congress was opened by US President Jimmy Carter.

2 The ITF's flag of convenience campaign was launched at the 1948 Congress in Oslo, Norway. Then there were just two FOC registries: Honduras and Panama. Within two years, some 50 ships were covered by ITF-acceptable agreements. Today, 263,000 seafarers working on ships of 26 FOC registries are protected by ITF agreements.

1946 Alida de Jager was one of only a handful of women delegates – if not the first – to attend an ITF Congress in the first half of the 20th century. She represented the ATM Mexican tram workers' union – our host in



The design created by artist Mick Jones for a commemorative plate marking the ITF's Centenary Congress in London in 1996.

Mexico City – at the 1946 Congress in Zurich, Switzerland.

8 There are eight section conferences at this Congress: civil aviation, dockers, fisheries, inland navigation, rail workers, road transport workers, seafarers and tourism services. The ITF Congress in 1921 was the first year in which the ITF sections, then numbering only four, met separately.

84 Number of days that Congress will have been in session (since 1898) by the end of this Congress in Mexico City.



ITF 42ND CONGRESS
MEXICO CITY 2010

What's on today

Registration of participants: Don Diego 1 & 2 (2nd floor), 8am-10am.
Opening plenary session: Don Alberto (4th floor), 10am-5.30pm.
Credentials committee: Dona Socorro (2nd floor), 12.30pm-1pm.
Resolutions committee: Don Alberto (4th floor), 12.30pm-1pm.
Press conference: Don Diego 3 (2nd floor), 1pm-3pm.
Resolutions committee: Dona Socorro (2nd floor), 5pm-6pm.
ITF Congress opening reception: Palacio Vizcaínas (Colegio de San Ignacio de Loyola Vizcaínas, Vizcaínas 21, México DF 06080), 7.30pm-11.59pm. Coaches will collect participants from Congress hotels from 6.45pm, with departures from the venue from 11pm onwards.

Trade union rights in Mexico: Visit the Information Desk (4th floor: Don Alberto lobby) for information on union rights violations in Mexico. Sign the Congress petition to be delivered to the Mexican government by an ITF delegation on Monday. And find out about our solidarity march and rally at the end of Congress.



A still from the five-minute film "ITF Humanitarian Efforts in Gaza", which will be screened between 1.15pm-1.45pm in the Don Alberto hall (4th floor). Hosted by Bilal Malkawi, ITF Arab World representative, this English language documentary is part of a series of daily films to be shown at the same time during Congress.

DAILY NEWS

No.1

Thursday 5 August 2010



Delegates at the ITF young transport workers' conference in Mexico City on Tuesday. See report on page 3.

Our theme: Strong Unions – Sustainable Transport
Welcome to the online multimedia Congress

What is set to be the largest ever ITF world Congress opens today at the convention centre in Mexico City's Hilton Reforma Hotel. More than 1,300 participants from nearly 370 trade unions in 112 countries are expected to attend the ITF's first ever Congress in Latin America.

Delegates will decide ITF policy for the next four years. They will also elect a president, vice-presidents, general secretary and executive board, along with representatives on the section committees.

This Congress will break new ground in other ways. Much of the proceedings will be captured online, while multimedia presentations will also be a feature of Congress business. Available for download on the dedicated Congress website (www.itfcongress2010.org) are free photos, links to YouTube videos, press releases, speaker biographies and PDFs of *Congress Daily News*.

In addition, the website features the first ever Congress blogging area – as well as all the section

reports and resolutions, plus a history of Congresses and practical guides.

The Congress theme, Strong Unions – Sustainable Transport, will dominate much of the work of delegates and advisers over the next eight days.

Addressing the challenges facing the global trade union movement from deregulation and privatisation, the theme policy document will be debated in the section conferences and plenary sessions. And there will be a series of workshops on Organising Globally, one of the main components of the Strong Unions – Sustainable Transport strategy.

A key underlying message of the strategy is that, with globalisation and new technology leading to a greater integration of transport functions, unions must themselves deliver a coordinated response that cuts across the various ITF sections.

Congress will be joined by general secretaries of two sister global unions during these debates. A special

Turn to back page

David Cockroft

My Congress

David Cockroft was first elected ITF general secretary in 1994.

You first attended an ITF Congress in 1986. How have they changed over the years? They are bigger, longer, more complex and more global. The Congress in Luxembourg in 1986 had 661 delegates and advisers from 231 unions in 64 countries. At the last count we were expecting almost to double these numbers, making this by far the biggest Congress in the ITF's history. We held the first developing country Congress in Delhi in 1998, then to North America (Vancouver) for the second time, Durban in South Africa and finally we are in Latin America. So we have visited every major region of the world.

How is Congress more complex? In addition to the crucial work of the ITF sections, an increasing part of our activities is cross-sectional and often linked with other global union federations operating in related

“The Congress theme recognises that strong unions are of no use if we don't have a transport industry which is socially and environmentally sustainable.”

industries. As well as our first ever climate change and youth conferences, this time there is a series of workshops on organising, on HIV/AIDS and on trade union rights. And we are holding a half-day session on the launch of the Quality Public Services campaign that we are organising with the other global union federations.

Why was Strong Unions – Sustainable Transport chosen as the Congress theme? Strong unions is the

continuation of the Organising Globally theme adopted in 2006 in Durban, which itself followed on from the Mobilising Solidarity and Globalising Solidarity themes from the previous two Congresses. These are all about finding new ways of delivering the core function of the ITF, which has always been to use international action to protect, defend and advance strong unions at national level. The difference is that the world economy and employers are now totally global. But strong unions are of no use if we don't have a transport industry which is socially and environmentally sustainable. That means we have to push more for coordinated public transport in urban centres. It also means that we must ensure that the measures taken to tackle the threat of climate change protect decent jobs and working conditions.

In these difficult times are unions not more likely to turn inwards rather than be interested in international matters? In today's economy capital is global – both for freight transport and increasingly for passenger transport. We have global delivery companies like DHL and UPS and we have multinational bus companies and railway operators like Deutsche Bahn, Veolia or National Express. We have to organise them globally to succeed. It will be tough but unions are under attack everywhere. Transport workers are central to the survival of strong unions and international action is crucial to keeping them strong.

Are there any difficult decisions to be taken at this Congress? The ITF's finances are coming under pressure from falling membership combined with rising demand for our services. Congresses always like to demand that the secretariat does more. The difficult part will be the implementation of the Congress decisions in practice. That requires tough decisions by the executive board and by the secretariat.

How will we know if this Congress has been a success? Delegates have travelled a long way to attend Congress. I guarantee that they will have worked very hard. I think the most important thing which has to come out of the Congress is that we have a united ITF, with the secretariat and the affiliates focused on delivering total support to every union in every country when it most needs it.



Cockroft: We must push for more coordinated public transport in urban areas.

In brief

Randall Howard bows out



Today's keynote address to Congress will be made by ITF president Randall Howard (left). It will also be the first and last time that he delivers the presidential address as Howard, who was elected at the Durban 2006 Congress, will be stepping down at the end of proceedings in Mexico City. This is because he was appointed last year as an advisor to the South African minister of public services and administration in the cabinet of South African president Jacob Zuma. At the same time he resigned as general secretary of the SATAWU South African transport workers' union, a position he held since 2000. See www.youtube.com/watch?v=ayxZh3bjHe4 for a video showing images of "23 years of a committed, passionate and tested trade unionist advancing the struggle for workers and the poor".

Invitation to jailed Iranian leader



One delegate who will be missing but not forgotten at this Congress is Iranian trade unionist Mansour Osanloo. The leader of the Vahed Syndicate Tehran bus workers' union is still in prison despite an announcement last month by the Iranian authorities that he would shortly be released. The ITF immediately sent a letter to Rajaie-Shahr prison in Karaj, where Osanloo has been held for his trade union activities, to invite him to Mexico City. The ITF welcomed Iran's announcement to the International Labour Organization but pointed out that there were still 52 other innocent trade unionists in custody. The repression of Iranian trade unionists is likely to be debated during Congress, as Vahed Syndicate has submitted an emergency resolution on the subject.

More unions join ITF

Since our last Congress, an additional 131 unions have affiliated to the ITF. This means that 760 unions in 154 countries are now part of the ITF, representing a total of 4,694,935 members in May this year. This has ensured that this Congress will be the biggest in ITF history. The largest influx has come in the Americas, with 42 new affiliates, followed by Africa (37), Europe (30), Asia/Pacific (18) and Arab World (4). Allowing for union mergers and lapsed affiliations, the net increase in the number of affiliated unions over the past four years stands at 94. Among the new unions represented at this Congress are four from Argentina and two each from Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and the US. There are also seven newcomers from Europe, five each in Africa and Asia/Pacific and one in the Arab World.



Transport workers must take responsibility for tackling climate change, participants at a historic meeting said yesterday. The calls came at the ITF's first-ever climate change conference, held in Mexico City on the eve of Congress, in which speakers urged the ITF to develop sustainable means to achieve emission reductions from the transport industry.

According to a widely supported motion before Congress, the process would require "fundamental changes in the current system of globalised production which relies on global supply chains, low transport costs and cheap and increasingly casual labour". It would also require a bigger role for public transport.

The motion insists, however, that the ITF would never accept that the transition to a low-carbon society should take place through increased unemployment and the undermining of wages and working conditions. It adds: "A just transition therefore has to involve job creation, decent work and quality jobs, a radical redistribution of wealth and social security schemes which safeguard people's livelihood and social and human rights."

In the run-up to yesterday's one-day conference, the ITF worked with the Global Labor Institute (GLI) at Cornell University, US, to come forward with proposals for tackling climate change. The outcome is a discussion document, titled "Transport Workers and Climate Change: Towards Sustainable Low-Carbon Mobility" which was unveiled at the conference.

The 55-page report was compiled in conjunction with the ITF Climate Change Working Group, chaired by Asbjørn Wahl of the Norwegian Fagforbundet union, and with representatives from unions in Australia, Austria, South Africa and the US.

Delegates also considered a paper presented by Robert A Scardelletti, president of the TCU transport and communications union of the US in which he stressed that the first responsibility of unions was to



There were nearly 300 delegates at the climate change conference.

Historic move towards 'just transition' to green transport

defend members' jobs and standard of living.

He added that it would be necessary for unions to oppose job-destroying initiatives associated with climate change. "But, at the same time, we can unite with environmentalists on a range of policy issues," he said. In addition, policies for expedited research on clean coal and oil technology should be embraced.

Addressing delegates in Mexico City, Lara Skinner of the GLI underlined the important role that public transport must play in dealing with the problem of climate change.

"Reducing the use of private vehicles will be essential in the future and, for this, public transport must be quick, affordable and efficient," she added.

Alana Dave, ITF education officer, told *Congress Daily News*: "This conference is a historic first for the ITF, and one that reflects a growing recognition

that transport unions need to respond to the issue of climate change at a workplace level and beyond."

She continued: "Transport is a significant and growing source of emissions, responsible for around 14 per cent of the global total. We aim to take a lead in promoting a science-based approach which utilises 'reduce-shift-improve' strategies that will contribute to the major transformations which are necessary in the transport industry and society as a whole. We particularly support the creation of sustainable jobs and a just transition."

Dave added that the ITF was committed to building alliances to promote a just solution to the problem of climate change and would continue to work with global unions at international level for the forthcoming United Nations climate change conference in Cancun in November and December this year.

Young transport workers seek formal ITF status



Young transport workers are urging the ITF Congress to formally recognise them as a fully fledged part of the ITF's structures.

Formal recognition within the ITF constitution would give the young workers – representing the under-35s – similar status as the ITF women transport workers' committee.

An amendment to the constitution which would put the recommendation

of the young transport workers into effect is scheduled for debate at the Congress plenary session on Thursday (12 August).

A youth steering committee was set up following the 2006 Congress and has since been building a network of young active transport trade unionists around the world.

At this week's conference in Mexico City, speakers stressed that greater participation by young workers was an essential tool in the objective of

building strong unions and international solidarity.

The one-day conference was welcomed by ITF president Randall Howard and general secretary David Cockroft, who commended steering committee members for their hard work.

The more than 100 delegates watched a film produced by the ITF about the work of the steering

committee. They later broke into working groups to consider five topics: climate change, precarious work, strengthening the ITF's young workers' network, organising and campaigning and making the work of young activists relevant to young workers in the workplace.

ITF youth officer Ingo Marowsky said afterwards that he was delighted with the level of support for the conference and the participation of delegates. "It was a very positive event, which clearly underlined the point that young transport workers are not the future, they are here now and eager to play their part in the trade union movement both nationally and internationally."

He added: "We are on our way to enabling our young members to play their part in implementing the Strong Unions – Sustainable Transport strategy."

See the ITF film at: www.youtube.com/user/itfvideos#p/a/u/0/hnX6UCTNwfl

Right: Four new members of the ITF young transport workers' steering committee elected at the conference (from left): Julia Liliana Becerra (CCUOMM, Argentina), Kate Wasikevka (TSSA, Great Britain), Dorothy Nandera (ATGWUU, Uganda) and Maria Malkki (Finnish locomotive drivers' union). They join 13 other young men and women on the committee.

