



GWU requires from Lula credit incentive

President and directors from the **General Workers Union (GWU)** participated in a meeting with the President Lula

GWU was the first central to be called by president Lula to show their suggestions in search for alternatives to reduce the effects of the international crisis on our economy, on the internal market and workers income.

"We had a great reception from the president Lula, at the presidency office in São Paulo", points out the president Ricardo Patah, that used the meeting very well to, along with the directorship of GWU, show our proposals in favor of Brazil.

GWU highlighted to the president the preoccupation towards the bankers attitudes that insist on the deviation from functions by betting on stock jobbing and speculation even before threatens of world crisis, deviating to invest in Treasury stocks, the money kept in cash flow with the reduction of compulsory settlement, adopted by the Central Bank of Brazil to widen the credit offer, to institutions of lower size.



"Our preoccupation is mainly with jobs. Without credit, we have problems in both ends. On one hand, workers can't buy. On the other, companies raise taxes and reduce the installments"

"We also highlighted the need to guarantee, through official banks, credit to commerce and service companies, to store owners and consumers because it's essential to keep the economy warm and preserve the strenght of the internal market in Brazil", stated Patah.

"We suggested to the president credit without the squeeze of extremely high interest and with extended deadlines, so that it doesn't exclude workers of the consumer frontline, and help keeping the internal marketing working, without direct and immediate losses to the generation of jobs", states Ricardo Patah. After all, it's through the services and commerce sector that the C and D economic classes have conditions to participate in the internal market.

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Marcos Afonso, Chiquinho Pereira, Salim, Ricardo Patah, president Lula, Arnaldo de Souza Benedetti, Alemão, Congress Rep. Roberto Santiago, Canindé Pegado and Moacyr Pereira

GWU participates in the World Day for Decent Work

The General Workers Union joined unions from all over the world defending decent work for Brazilian workers



"**GWU** always defended actions in favor of better life conditions for the working class". The statement is from the president Ricardo Patah, while participating in the opening act of the "World Day for Decent Work", evoked by **ITUC (International Trade Union Confederation)** and by **TUCA (Trade Union Confederation of the Americas)**.

The World Day for Decent Work took place in the entire world on the last October the 7th. In Brazil it was set to October, 10, due to the city hall elections. It was considered the first large international union march and in over 100 countries the union centrals and the unions mobilized themselves to demand changes in the world economy at the current moment in which the financial crisis threatens the subsistence of millions of people all over the world.

In many Brazilian cities workers participated in the activities of the World Day for Decent Work. In São Paulo, **GWU** and other union centrals have done a unitary manifestation promoting a walk that ended in front of the Ministry of Labor building at Martins Fontes street, where a document was delivered summing up the vindication of Brazilian workers. The vindicatory document was received by **Luis Antonio Medeiros**, National Secretary of Labor Relationships and on the occasion representing the Minister of Labor and Work, **Carlos Luppi**.

Canindé Pegado, General Secretary of **GWU**, pointed out that the proposal of the International Trade Union Confederation comes to the meeting of the minds at **GWU** directed to the economic growth of Brazil so that new coalitions of decent work are generated that are represented by formal jobs, respectable salaries and respect to the union organization.

GWU supports entirely the reduction of work shifts without reducing wages and condemns all and every kind of discrimination (gender, race and sexual orientation). It's also important, as the General Secretary of **GWU** emphasized, that the government reviews urgently the matter of ratification of the ILO (International Labor Organization) conventions 151 that guarantees the right to the collective negotiation in the public sector and the 158 that restrains unreasonable resignations, respectively



GUW establishes a partnership with the Vale do Rio Doce Foundation to fight against child prostitution

The directorship of the **General Workers Union** received the visit of leaders of the Vale do Rio Doce Foundation and Bovespa Institute for a meeting where an explanation of the central programs was made, mainly of those related to child labor and prostitution. The meeting, according to the president **Ricardo Patah** was very important, because it meant the beginning of a partnership between **GWU** and the Vale Foundation to develop an associated project to face child prostitution, mainly in the cities of Vale actuation.

At the meeting it was decided to create a group of work to elaborate a proposal of a "Term of Mutual Cooperation" between **GWU** and Vale Foundation aiming to a more direct actuation on the fight against child prostitution..

Andréia Rabetim and **Aline Inez da Torre**, representatives of Vale Foundation and **Márcia Campos**, director of the Aliança Institute, held a presentation of the Foundation and what it has been developing in cities of Minas Gerais and Pará.

Marcos Afonso, **GWU** National Secretary of Publicizing and Communication, recognized the quality of work that has been introduced by the Foundation, highlighting that this partnership might contribute even more to this objective.

Raimundo Maglyano, president of the Bovespa Institute, highlighted how important it is that Vale do Rio Doce gives access to young people, quoting for instances the own institution presided by him that has the participation of a youth in its council.

Through **GWU**, **Canindé Pegado** (General Secretary), **José Moacyr Malvino Pereira** and **Rumiko Tanaka** (Finances Secretaryship), **Eduardo Bonfim** (Presidency Adviser), that held the presentation of the project "A seed to the future", **Cleonice de Souza Caetano** (Secretary of Health and Safety at Work) and **Avelino Garcia Filho** (Fiscal Council) also participated in the meeting.

4th National Full Session of GWU in Minas Gerais affiliates 14 institutions

The **General Workers Union** promoted its national full session, on October 30th, at the auditorium of the Metallurgic Workers Federation in the state of Minas Gerais, which headquarter is located in the capital of that state.

Besides matters of administrative issues, the great news was the signature of the affiliation forms from 13 unions and a federation to the **GWU** from Minas Gerais.



Out of this total, 12 represent metallurgic workers and one from heavy construction. The federation is from the mechanic metallurgic and electric material industry

On the brink of celebrating its first anniversary (it was founded in November 2007), **GWU** from Minas Gerais is rising as one of the most active in Brazil and these new affiliations show the confidence that the union leaders have in the institution program.

UNI-Americas and GWU introduce project on retail commerce



Ricardo Patah, Presidente of SENTRACOS and General Workers Union (GWU)

A 4-year project introduced this month wants to stimulate the unionism in the commerce sector and build a network of workers of multinationals in the sector.

The project is being sponsored by CC.OO. from Spain and its objective is to sign global agreements with the retail giants to establish union rights, collective negotiation and dialogue.

It covers Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

Some of the retail giants are Latin-american such as Cencosud, Pão de Açúcar and Falabella - while others are global names, such as Wal-Mart and Carrefour.

Carrefour already signed a global agreement with **UNI** and there is a collective negotiation at the Wal-Mart Argentina.

"This is a very important sector to us," said the **UNI-Americas** secretary **Rodolfo Benitez**. "It's a strong business with many workers and we want to help developing a collective voice and build regional and global bonds."

The project began with a preliminary meeting in Chile and was discussed with commerce union leaders in Brazil last week (both union confederations, **SENTRACOS-GWU** and **CONTRACTS-CUT** are going to participate). "Latin America is an important region to us", stated the General Vice-Secretary of **UNI Philip Bowyer** that was in São Paulo to discuss the project.

"The growth of unions in the region is going to strengthen the union networks that are being built in retail multinationals", said Alke Boessiger, who's going to direct the UNI Commerce from next year on. (*UNI-Americas, 07.10.2008*)

GWU presents original project of ILO education course

The graduation project via Internet, authorship of **GWU** Brazil was praised by representatives of the International Labor Organization during the course of Education of Educators, held in Turin (Italy) to union leaderships of Portuguese speaking countries.

The original project was elaborated in approximately four hours by representatives of the Brazilian **GWU**, **Isabel Kausz dos Reis** and **Leonardo Vitor do Vale** and promotes this kind of course via internet, avoiding this way the usual problems of locomotion and, on the other hand, benefiting the participation of a larger number of union leaderships.



The introduction of this new methodology will have as its basic tool the platform Solicom, from ILO, that offers total safety to the organization staff of the course and also to the ones that participate in it.

Isabel and Leonardo consider the course a very good one, held at the Education Center of ILO Turin, for it has been adopted by an innovative methodology. "It also served to exchange experience between unionists of Portuguese speaking countries" reminded Isabel Kausz dos Reis. Last week they participated in a cycle of studies at the Union Education Center and Professional Improvement (Cefosap) from GUV Portugal.



"The **General Workers Union** reaffirms its historic commitments to the working class, while seeking to expand its methods of action, with ethics, courage and the certainty that Brazil can be better and more just." Ricard Patah - UGT's President
UGT World - the International Newsletter of the UGT - General Workers Union

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