

## THE OFFICE OF COOPERATION GENEVA SEMINAR

The Hans-Böckler Stiftung (Werner Fiedler, Department of Study Promotion, head of the unit for PhD scholarships) (<http://www.boeckler.de/index.htm>) in collaboration with the Office of Cooperation RUB/IMU (Manfred Wannöffel, Managing Director) initiated a research and familiarization seminar for twelve scholar students programmed for bachelor's, master's and doctorate's degrees drawn from universities in England and Germany. The 5-day seminar on the contents, institutions and challenges of Global Labour regulations started from Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> of September, 2013 and ended on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2013 in the Switzerland city of Geneva. The seminar was well coordinated by Frank Hoffer (ILO), Joyce Abebrese, a final year master's student at the Ruhr-University of Bochum and was assisted by an intern from the Global Labour University (Berlin School of Economics and Law) Emmanuel Allotey, working with the Office of Cooperation.

The overall purpose of the seminar was to illustrate the linkages between national unions, Global Union Federations and other international organizations depending on different networks within the country and cross-borders to promote workers' rights. The seminar was tailored to meet the aspirations of the participants as to workings of these organizations, at the same time served as a mechanism to educate them about the roles these institutions play in the sphere of work and labour and how to merge these bodies in the field of academic research in the global perspective.

The programme was segmented into four parts, and dealt with issues on the following:

- 1. Overview and introduction of Global Labour.*  
CONTENT AND CHALLENGES OF GLOBAL LABOUR- **Manfred Wannöffel**
- 2. Presentations of the International Organizations involved in the global regulation of labour.*  
THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN  
THE ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION -**Werner Sengenberger**  
THE WORK AND STRUCTURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION, THE  
STRUGGLE FOR INTERNATIONAL LABOUR STANDARDS- **Frank Hoffer**  
PROGRAMME AND PRACTICE OF DECENT WORK IN GHANA- **Joyce Abebrese**
- 3. Presentation of the Global Unions and their networking experiences with other NGO's and political organizations.*  
PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL (PSI) - **Jürgen Buxbaum**  
UNION NETWORK INTERNATIONAL (UNI) - **Alke Boessiger**  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF CHEMICAL, ENERGY, MINE AND  
GENERAL WORKERS (ICEM) - **Manfred Warda**  
INDUSTRIALL – **Helmut Lense**  
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FOOD AND ALLIED WORKERS (IUF) – **Burcu Ayan**  
  
INTRODUCTION INTO THE WORK OF THE FRIEDRICH-EBERT- STIFTUNG  
OFFICE, GENEVA - **Matthes Buhbe**

4. *FUTURE PROSPECTS: CHALLENGES AND RELEVANT POLICY FIELDS.*

CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SYSTEMS - **Susan Hayter**

MIGRANT WORKERS AND GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS - **Luc Demaret**

ILO AND GOVERNANCE OF LABOUR MIGRATION - **Ryszard Cholewinski**

The overview and introduction gave a first glance into the linkages between the national and international regulation of labour. Manfred Wannöffel argued that there was a double-strategy between the mentioned two levels of regulation, meaning that there can be no successful and sustainable international or global regulation of labour, if the efficiency and influence lacked at the national level.

The second part of the programme gave an insight into the work of international organizations, such as the IMF, World Bank, UNCTAD etc. regarding the drive concerning globalization. Furthermore, the global regulation of labour and the verification and monitoring of International Labour Standards (ILS) were stressed. The participants had the opportunity to follow another presentation in the rooms of the International Labour Organization (ILO) concerning the origins and challenges of the ILO.

The third part of the seminar took place in the head office of the Global Union Federation Union Network International (UNI) in Nyon which centered on several networks and strategies of the Global Union Federations to globally promote workers' rights.

The fourth and final part of the seminar was located in the rooms of the ILO, where the future roles of the Global Union Federations, the ILO and political institutions were questioned: Do they possess the necessary leverage to address the avalanche of issues confronting this specialized field of labour, work and International Labour Standards in the globalized economy? Especially, the challenges and prospects for collective bargaining systems were displayed, as well as the challenges confronting the stakeholders in terms of organizing migrant workers.

Besides, the organizers and participants of the seminar had the opportunity to tour places of interest in Geneva. They visited the old city of Geneva to see its medieval churches of different religions, administrative offices, entertainment centers and residential quarters. Moreover, a boat ride on Lake Geneva from Nyon to Geneva, as well as a visitation to the United Nations offices located in Geneva was organized to close the curtains on the five day educational seminar.