

## **Resolution of the ICEM Materials Conference**

November 4, 2009

The ICEM World Materials Conference meets in Izmir in the heart of the greatest economic crisis in our lifetimes. After decades of neoliberal policies, the burst in the US subprime housing bubble, and the failures in the oversight and regulation of the financial sector, the global economy has crumbled under the weight of this unsustainable system.

Worldwide demand in every sector of the materials industry is depressed as construction and other related industries have stalled as a result of the crisis. In every region of the world, workers in the materials industry are bearing the brunt of the crisis, facing layoffs, job cuts, and compensation freezes.

At the same time, on another front, employers are using the crisis as a pretext for implementing devastating cost cutting programs. Tough economic times have provided the justification for countless permanent facility closures, job shifts, and the increased use of contract and agency labor across the materials industry. While these policies are being implemented in the midst of an unprecedented crisis, their impacts are permanent; the changes implemented now stand to shape the working conditions in these workplaces for a generation.

In this difficult time, it is clearer than ever that workers around the world must come together to push back against the neoliberal policies that created this crisis and collectively resist capital's efforts to take advantage of this crisis by cutting jobs, freezing pay and casualizing work. To that end we resolve to:

- Continue to build solidarity on national, regional, and global levels through existing and emerging networks for trade unionists in the materials sector.
- Continue to communicate and share information through those networks regarding major developments at our employers and worksites.
- Support our union brothers and sisters around the world as they struggle to negotiate strong collective agreements in difficult financial period.
- Continue to make efforts in improving present Global Framework Agreements, specifically updating clauses on Contract and Agency Labor to ensure that company's business partners comply with framework provisions and international standards. Where frameworks do exist, we will continue to monitor working conditions and occupational safety and health conditions to ensure compliance with the framework agreements and international standards and norms.
- As the economic climate allows, work to organize more workers in the materials industry into our unions to grow our collective bargaining power and trade union strength.
- Support ICEM policy efforts on sustainable development and continue to raise and reflect the voices of materials industry trade unions in ongoing policy debates on environmental regulation and sustainable development.
- Support the efforts of the ICEM and the global labor movement in addressing the abuses of Contract and Agency Labor.