



International Transport Workers' Federation

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Ref: 13/9/10/3270

10 September 2013

Mr Akinobu ITOH
President,
All Japan Dockworkers' Union
10-2 Kamata, 5-Chome, Ohta-Ku
TOKYO 144-0052 JAPAN

Dear Brother Itoh,

Re: All Japan Dockworkers' Union, 84th Annual National Convention

I am honoured to send you greetings from the International Brotherhood and Sisterhood of the Transport Workers of the ITF and the Maritime Workers of the MUA, on the eve of your 84th Annual National Convention.

We stand at a critical juncture for the global labor movement and for international dockworkers and other transport workers in particular.

World trade dominates our national and international economies. It is a mighty engine driven by transport industries and in particular, shipping and dock workers.

We link workers in mines to workers in manufacturing. From there to the distribution and retail outlets everywhere it links workers, their communities and their endeavors as never before.

From the farms, coal and iron ore mines of Australia, Brazil and South Africa, to the steel mills and factories of China, India and Japan, to the Wal-Marts, Macys and supermarkets of the world - maritime workers do the heavy lifting.

We are rewarded with an unrelenting attack from neo conservative political and commercial forces seeking to build their power at the expense of working men and women and their communities.

The ongoing attack on the ILWU by the Japanese multinational Mitsui in Portland together with local US anti union commercial interests again demonstrates the reasons international dockworkers need to reach out with solidarity and strength to support those dockworkers under immediate attack and duress. We congratulate you for actions of solidarity in this d=important dispute.

We must organise every link of that supply chain so that we can reach out not only to each other in companies but to other workers in other industries to help build their power and so they may in turn help us build ours.

We must do this with urgent courage and commitment at a time that this economic engine c to direct great wealth into the hands of the few and not the many.

Together, we are the difference for dockers and transport workers and their future in Japan and across the world.

We pledge to stand shoulder to shoulder with you and along with everyone else that has had enough of the war against workers and their unions and is committed to do something about it while we are still able.

I also pledge my ongoing support for the great task of rebuilding still required after the tsunami, and understand the great financial difficulties facing your union and members

I pledge my personal solidarity and support as President of the ITF, Chair of the ITF Dockworkers and National Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia, together with the many organisations and members I represent and send our best wishes to your Convention and it's deliberations

Yours fraternally



Paddy Crumlin
MUA National Secretary
ITF President