Global Companies - Global Unions
Global Research - Global Campaigns
An International Conference

Crowne Plaza Times Square, 1605 Broadway, New York, NY 10019

February 9 - 11, 2006

Call for Participation and Call for Papers

Unions around the globe continue to operate in an ever-more complex and rapidly changing corporate environment. Increasingly the employers they face across the bargaining table or in organizing campaigns are part of diffuse transnational companies who have no loyalty to any one industry, product, or country. Given the globalization of firms, finance, and labor markets, the labor movement recognizes that union organizing and bargaining campaigns and strategic research must become global as well.

It is with these challenges in mind that we propose to bring together an international conference of scholars and trade unionists from around the globe in New York City in February of 2006. Specifically, the conference would:

- Share and learn from recent union initiatives in strategic corporate research and strategic global organizing and bargaining campaigns from around the globe in order to more effectively take on multinational companies through global comprehensive campaigns.
- Expand our collective knowledge and understanding of the changing nature of corporate ownership structures, practices, and strategies for the world’s largest multinationals.
- Lay the groundwork for building a sustainable global network of unions and academics to continue to work together to effectively engage multinational corporations worldwide.

The conference will be co-sponsored by Cornell’s School of Industrial and Labor Relations, University of California Institutes of Industrial Relations, the UMass Amherst Labor Relations and Research Center, the Douglas A. Fraser Center for Workplace Issues, the Cardiff School of Social Sciences, the Monash University Institute for Regional Studies, Queens College Labor Resource Center, and CRIMT (Interuniversity Research on Globalization and Work - Montreal University, Laval University and HEC Montreal). Through fundraising with universities, foundations, and unions, the sponsors of the conference will seek to have the resources to ensure participation from academics and trade unionists from both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.
**Conference format**

The conference will be a mix of interactive workshops, paper presentations, panel discussions, and sector, industry, and/or company caucuses involving a mix of academics, trade unionists, and representatives from labor related NGOs from around the globe.

In addition to material presented at the conference, in-depth strategic corporate research reports will be prepared by a team of researchers from the universities sponsoring the conference, with input from union members of the planning committee. The reports will focus on a limited number of key multinationals from diverse sectors and industries, where building research and strategic campaign capacity would be most useful to unions worldwide. To date the list of companies include Wal-Mart, Kraft Foods, Siemens, Exxon Mobil, Suez S.A., Alcoa, SSA Marine, Bouygues, Starwood, and Sanofi Aventis. These company reports, along with shorter summaries on the access points for information on multinational corporations at each of the countries represented at the conference, will be available at the conference for all interested participants.

**Proposal submission process**

We are seeking ideas for workshops, presentations and panel discussions as well as papers to be presented. If you are interested in participating in the conference please submit a one to three page proposal outlining your paper or presentation and how you believe it relates to the goals outlined above.

All proposals should include:

1. Description of format (workshop, campaign case study, panel, paper presentation etc.)
2. Description of the content or focus.
3. Name of the person submitting the proposal and full contact information including address, phone number, fax number, and e-mail addresses. Proposals for workshops should include names and addresses and presentation title for any speakers, presenters, or panelists that are proposed.

All paper proposals should also include a working hypothesis and a brief description of the research methodology. All papers must be written in English and in a format and style that is accessible to the general reader, free from academic jargon. Final papers should be 25 double-spaced pages in length, including all citations, tables, and references. A collection of selected papers from the conference will be published by Cornell University Press in a volume that will be edited by Dr. Kate Bronfenbrenner of Cornell University. The remaining papers will be referred to the *Labor Studies Journal*, a leading academic journal in the field of labor studies, for consideration under their normal peer review process.

While our deadline for proposals is September 15, 2005, we would like to hear from you as soon as possible so we can assist with your presentation as well as organize the conference successfully. University and union representatives to the conference planning committee will select those proposals that best fit the goals of the conference and also capture the variation in styles of campaigning and research methods across unions, industries, and countries.

**Conference Fundraising**

In the interest of including trade unionists and researchers from across the globe, we are seeking
funds to provide travel for those who otherwise could not afford to attend. Please indicate if your organization can contribute to the travel fund or if you need assistance with travel to attend. We are currently committed to having the plenary sessions include simultaneous interpretation into Spanish and French and are also seeking additional funds to expand the interpretation to cover other languages.

We will be reserving a block of rooms at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at Times Square under the name Global Unions Conference for the nights of February 8 - 11. General conference material and registration information will be posted at http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/globalunionsconference as planning for the conference progresses.

Proposals for papers or presentations, questions about the conference, or conference endorsements/contributions should be sent to the attention of conference coordinator, Kate Bronfenbrenner, at klb23@cornell.edu or to the following address:

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