

Change, Yes We Can!

2008 East Asia Telecom Union Forum at Tokyo, Japan



2008 East Asia Telecom Union Forum was held in NWJ headquarter in Tokyo, from April 15 to 17. The theme of this year is “In the Age of the Convergence of Broadcasting and Telecommunications and Challenges for Labor Unions”.

Nowadays, technological innovations have led to the convergence of the services provided by the telecom and broadcasting industries, while regulatory systems for the two industries are still divergent. Also, Google and other Internet service providers now distribute vast quantities of video and other contents. Networks must be reinforced in order to meet the rapid growth in data traffic.

Telecom unions in East Asia detect some problems in current telecom industry. For instances:

1. At present, telecom companies shoulder the cost of network reinforcement. Is it appropriate to ask Internet service providers, as distributors of massive amounts of data, to shoulder these costs?
2. Is it appropriate to allow telecom companies to guarantee service quality for Internet service providers who pay extra fees and impose band and other restrictions on those refusing to pay such fees?
3. Internet service providers claim that such extra fees can affect Internet freedom. Is this claim justifiable?

Except NWJ, KTTU, and CTWU, the host union, NWJ also invited CWSAHK and KDDIWU to join the Forum. Succeeding UNI Telecom Director, Brother Marcus Courtney participated as well. As a contracted worker for Microsoft, Brother Marcus shared his experience of organizing Microsoft contracted worker by Internet.

The Forum passed two resolutions of organizing outsourcing workers and presenting

appreciation to Brother Neil Anderson about his contribution to UNI Telecom. NWJ, KTTU and CTWU signed joint statement by the end of the Forum.

