



## ENGAGE-ASIA PROGRAMME 2025

*Building Worker Power in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:  
Training for Labour Activists in Asia*

### Announcement and Call for Applications

After a successful roll-out of the first ENGAGE-Asia Programme in 2023, we are excited to announce the second run of the programme, scheduled in March to July 2025. ENGAGE-Asia seeks to empower trade unionists and labour activists by providing them essential knowledge and tools to actively participate in public discourse and influence policy-making and implementation in areas such as labour and global governance, industrial policy, wages and productivity, climate justice and just transition, as well as emerging trends in the world of work. The programme is a collaborative effort between the Global Labour University (GLU) and the School of Labor and Industrial Relations at the University of the Philippines (UP SOLAIR), with the support of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) and the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions (LO Norway).

#### Structure of the programme

ENGAGE-Asia is a five-month, non-degree, blended Certificate Course programme consisting of two phases: an online phase and a residential/in-person phase. The online phase, which will run from 3 March to 13 June 2025, involves the completion of selected GLU Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and selected chapters of the FES web-based Trade Unions in Transformation Toolkit. The completion of the MOOCs and toolkit and participation in the online workshops of the online phase are requirements for participants to progress into the residential/in-person phase of the programme.

The residential/in-person phase, which deep dives into the topics of the MOOC and toolkit, will be held from 23 June to 18 July 2025 at UP SOLAIR (in Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines). It consists of six modules, divided into sessions, that constitute the programme's core courses:

- Module 1: Global Governance and the Role of Labour
- Module 2: Labour and Development
- Module 3: Industrial Policy, Wages and Collective Bargaining
- Module 4: Challenges in the World of Work and Role of Trade Unions
- Module 5: Trade Unions in Transformation
- Module 6: Group Research Project



For the in-person phase, participants are expected to arrive in the Philippines on 21-22 June 2025. The first session starts in the morning of 23 June. Sessions are to be held from Monday to Friday, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. There are approximately 15 in-person sessions and four days of field work for the group research project. Graduation is scheduled on 18 July 2025, therefore return flights will be booked on 19-20 July 2025. The detailed schedule and curriculum of the in-person course programme will be provided later to the successful applicants.

### Course lecturers

The course instructors include professors and lecturers from the GLU university network (University of Kassel, Berlin School of Economics and Law, and School of Labor and Industrial Relations of the University of the Philippines) and their universities, in addition to leaders and practitioners from global union federations, national trade unions, and international trade union support organisations.

### Target participants

Particularly encouraged to apply are trade unionists from Southeast Asia, East Asia, South Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific. Labour activists from workers' organisations and labour-oriented civil society organisations in the regions and countries mentioned may also apply.

The medium of instruction is English so applicants are expected to have a good command of the English language in understanding lessons, actively participating in discussions, and in writing short presentations.

### Certification

Upon successful completion of the training programme and all course requirements, participants will be awarded a certificate of completion by University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD) and GLU.

### Course fee

Participants of the programme who will not be awarded a scholarship will be assessed a registration fee of US\$700 (Php39,200.00). The registration fee will cover the following items and expenses:

- Course tuition fee
- Modules and learning materials
- Lunch and snacks during in-person sessions for approximately 15 days
- Dinner and cocktails in the opening session and graduation/closing session
- Transportation and lunch for a study visit
- Certificate of completion
- Administrative costs

The registration fee does not include any transportation costs, whether by land, sea, or air, and accommodation costs that the participant may incur for her/his participation in the course. Food expenses outside the course sessions (e.g., breakfast, dinner) will also be borne by the participants. It is also the responsibility of non-Filipino participants to secure an entry visa to the Philippines, if required, and to get a travel and health insurance covering the duration of their stay in the country.

The self-funded participants will be provided a list of options for accommodation within or near the university campus. There are many eating places offering decent food at affordable prices in and around the adjoining areas. The table below provides estimates for the cost of meals and accommodation.

Hotel accommodation	US\$ 230* to 770** per month
Food	US\$ 12 to 20 per meal

Note: The US dollar estimates are based on a conversion rate of Php55 to US\$1. Dollar amounts are subject to currency fluctuations.

\* This is the monthly (30 days) rate for a regular room at the UP International Center located in UPD Campus and

\*\*This is the monthly (30 days) rate for a regular single/twin-sharing room at the University Hotel located in UPD campus.



### **Availability of scholarships**

A limited number of scholarships will be awarded to selected participants. The scholarship covers the following:

- Course tuition fee
- Food and (twin-sharing) accommodation for the duration of stay in the Philippines (approximately 28-30 days) to participate in the in-person sessions
- Transportation expenses within Metro Manila and/or within the Philippines (for Filipino participants)
- Roundtrip airfare
- Travel and health insurance for non-Filipino participants

Applicants who are eligible for a scholarship are those who:

1. Come from and/or presently reside in countries in Asia that are not part of the Development Assistance Committee (non-DAC) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
2. Are currently affiliated with any of the following: trade unions, other worker organisations, and labor-oriented non-government organisations. Priority will be given to applicants who come from trade unions, are not older than 40 years old, and hold an elective or appointive position in the union, or who are union organisers, or labour trainers/educators.
3. Have been working in the trade union for at least three years at the time of application and formally commit to work in the union for at least three more years after completing the course.
4. Formally commit in writing that they will meet all of the following course requirements:
  - completion of all the MOOC video lectures
  - attendance in all the online and in-person sessions
  - active participation in the completion and presentation of the results of the group research project (Module 6)
5. Make an own-contribution of US\$200 to secure their commitment to complete the course.

An endorsement and/or recommendation by the applicant's trade union/organisation of her/his application to the programme would be beneficial to a scholarship application.

As far as possible, the number of awarded scholarships will be divided equally between eligible female and male applicants.

### **Application process**

The application process shall be done online. To apply, please accomplish the Online Application Form at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdsc9n2K74VvHI1WVyro5USHEsA57VVKIViaxzDM\\_U8Chk7hA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdsc9n2K74VvHI1WVyro5USHEsA57VVKIViaxzDM_U8Chk7hA/viewform) and upload the documents (in English, pdf format) listed in the table below, with the suggested filenames, to complete the application process.

All applicants	Additional requirements for applicants applying for a scholarship
Curriculum Vitae (CV) <i>Filename: Surname_CV</i>	Proof/certification that the applicant has been working in the union or organisation for at least 3 years <i>Filename: Surname_Union-Org work years</i>
Personal motivational letter <i>Filename: Surname_Motivational letter</i>	Inclusion of a statement in the applicant's motivational letter expressing commitment to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- work in the union for at least 3 more years after completing the course</li> <li>- complete all the selected MOOC video lectures</li> <li>- attend all the online and in-person sessions</li> <li>- actively participate in the completion and presentation of the results of the group research project (Module 6)</li> <li>- pay an own-contribution of US\$200</li> </ul> <i>Filename: Surname_Commitments</i>
Scanned copy of certificate of highest educational attainment <i>Filename: Surname_Highest education</i>	Endorsement or recommendation letter from the applicant's trade union or organisation of her/his application to the programme (this is not a requirement but would be advantageous to a scholarship application) <i>Filename: Union-Org endorsement</i>

Please note that we will neither review nor process incomplete applications. Thus, please ensure that all relevant documents, as listed above, are uploaded in your online application.

**The closing date for applications has been extended to 31 October 2024  
(until 12:00 midnight, Philippine Standard Time).**

#### Contact

For enquiries, please contact **Vera Eileen V. Puppos**, Assistant Coordinator of the ENGAGE-Asia Programme at UP SOLAIR.

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We look forward to receiving your applications. Thank you.

**Mirko Herberg** (Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Germany)

**Frank Hoffer** (Global Labour University)

**Marie Schroeter** (Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Philippines)

**Melisa R. Serrano** (School of Labor and Industrial Relations, University of the Philippines)

**Edlira Xhafa** (Global Labour University Online Academy)