

Asian speakers at the World at a Crossroads conference, Sydney, April 10-12

Wednesday 18 March 2009, by [DSP](#), [Resistance](#) (Date first published: 18 March 2009).

The "World at a Crossroads: Fighting for Socialism in the 21st Century is quickly turning into an important and invaluable gathering of left and socialist activists from the Asia-Pacific region. (The conference will be held in Sydney over 3 days, April 10-12. For more info visit www.worldatacrossroads.org or buy your tickets at www.worldatacrossroads.org/register.

Asian speakers at the World at a Crossroads conference will join the initial guest speakers from Latin America and North

America, and solidarity activists in Australia, to report on struggles from countries such as Pakistan, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Timor Leste, Sri Lanka and more. Already confirmed for the conference are:

* **Tomas Freitas, Timor Leste** - Activist involved in the Timorese clandestine movement against Indonesian occupation and more recently, the campaign for fair maritime boundaries in the Timor Sea; director of Luta Hamutuk (Fight Together), a research and advocacy institute focusing on economic issues.

* **M.Saraswathy, Malaysia** - Founding member and current Deputy Chairperson of the Socialist Party of Malaysia; Chairperson of the PSM's Jelapang branch; long-term organiser of plantation workers, urban settlers and women workers in Malaysia, and founder of the Textile Union at Imperial Garment.

* **Reihana Mohideen, Philippines** - Long-term activist in the women's and labour movements; International Department of the newly formed Party of the Laboring Masses (PLM); Chairperson of Transform Asia, a gender and labour institute in South East Asia; editor of "Socialist Dialogue", a bulletin which carries debates and discussions of the international socialist movement.

* **Ammar Ali Jan, Pakistan** - Youth secretary of the Lahore branch of Labour Party Pakistan and a member of various progressive student and youth groups in Lahore including National Student Federation and Progressive Youth Front. While studying in the US he was involved in the

Campus Anti-war Network at the University of Texas, Austin, USA. He is a regular contributor for the most widely circulated English magazine in Pakistan including the News International of Jang Goup, the largest chain of newspapers in Pakistan.

* **Kavita Krishnan, India** - Central Committee member of the Communist Party of India (Marxist Leninist) and editor of the party's magazine in English, "Liberation"; National Secretary of the All India Progressive Women's Association (AIPWA); former President of the All India Students' Association from 1999 to 2006.

* **Dr Brian Senewiratne, Sri Lanka & Australia** - Sinhalese activist involved for more four decades in exposing the human-rights abuses perpetrated against Tamils by the Sri Lanka government and Sinhalese militias; author of various books published in Australia on the Tamil struggle have been banned in Sri Lanka where he has been labelled a "terrorist"; currently an activist in the Socialist Alliance.

* **Daphne Lawless, Aotearoa (New Zealand)** - leading member of Socialist Worker - New Zealand; editor of Unity, the journal published by SW-NZ.

* Also confirmed to attend the conference are **South Korean socialist activist Yongsu Won**; as well as an **anti-war activist from the Labour Party of Pakistan**; and a representative of the **Peoples Democratic Party, Indonesia**. We are awaiting further confirmation from a number of other countries in the region

They will join **Michael Lebowitz**, a Marxist economist based at the Centro Internacional Miranda in Venezuela; **Luis Bilbao**, a veteran of the Latin American left and a participant in the construction of the mass-based United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV); and **Ian Angus**, co-founder of the Ecosocialist International Network, amongst others.

The conference will house dozens of panel presentations and workshops over three days to discuss the urgent questions of our time, including:

* The capitalist economic crisis: Putting people and planet before corporate profits

* Stopping global warming: Social change, not climate change

* Emerging alternatives to capitalism and war: The Venezuelan revolution & anti-imperialist rebellion in Latin America

* Organising to fight for a better world: Building mass movements, alliances and left parties

Check out the website to book tickets, see full list of international guests and agenda (to be uploaded in the next few days), read articles and interviews with conference participants and more.

For those outside Australia interested in participating in this exciting left gathering, please contact [dsp dsp.org.au](http://dsp.dsp.org.au) or

ring + 61 2 9690 1977 to see how we can help with accommodation and other arrangements.

www.worldatacrossroads.org

World at a Crossroads - Fighting for Socialism in the 21st Century

Easter 2009, April 10-13, Sydney Girls High, Sydney, Australia

A conference that brings together socialist and progressive activists and thinkers from around Australia, Latin America, Asia-Pacific and North America to discuss the urgent questions of our time.

Organised by the Democratic Socialist Perspective and Resistance.
Sponsored by Green Left Weekly.