

**Report on UNI APRO – FES Training Course on Organizing Young Unionists**  
**8-14 Jan 2007 Colombo, Sri Lanka.**

**“WE CAN LEAD”**

Seventh Day of 2007, a sunny Sunday, 20 young unionists descended on Colombo, Sri Lanka. In spite of all the dangers from LTTE, we were ready to take up the training course with confidence. We being young activists from varied unions, belonging to different sectors and countries were here for a purpose, to “organize” ourselves.

This training program was planned and conducted by efficient resource persons from UNI APRO and was sponsored by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung of Germany.

The program started with traditional opening ceremony by lighting the lamp and solidarity song echoed. The trainees introduced themselves and were divided into groups and three committees were formed Social & Sports, Reports and Program.

The course started off with the introduction to UNI APRO & FES. Later, topics on Globalization and role of trade union were presented. Educative lectures were given with the use of visual aids, group activities and presentations on various topics which included effective communication, time management, collective bargaining, Anger-Hope-Action technique, International Labor Organization, Leadership skills to name a few. Four groups were formed and case studies assigned. All the four groups started working as a team with a unanimously elected team leader.

Apart from the regular training schedule, trainees were exposed to beneficial and self grooming facilities like gymnasium, steam & sauna bath, swimming etc. Study tour was a very important learning process for everyone. We traveled to an Elephant orphanage at Pinnawala near Colombo, a visit to Palace and Buddhist temple of tooth at Kandy. This activity assessed our organizing capability and time management.

FES representative Ms.Astrid Becker, UNI APRO representatives namely Mr.Priyalal, Mr.Rajendra Acharya, Mr.Ranatunga and Ms.Yoko Ogawa, Commissioner of Labor, Sri Lanka were present on the farewell dinner hosted by UNI APRO.

Finally, on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2007 each group came up with their presentations and the trainers evaluated work of each group and gave valid feedback. Motivating slogans like “WE ARE HERE TO CARE” & “NO MORE TEARS” were created.

This training program concluded with a visible achievement of its objective “TOGETHER WE CAN” and everyone had achieved a sense of oneness and team work in a week’s time.

## Training Schedule

Day 1 – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2007:

- Brother Priyalal, Rajendra Acharya, Ranatunga and Sister Yoko Ogawa resource persons from UNI APRO were present and the training program was inaugurated in a traditional method of lighting oil lamp by FES official from Sri Lanka, Mr.Mahmood, UNI APRO resources persons and a representative from each participating country.
- Brother Rajendra distributed UNI bags and course material related to the course.
- Each participant was coupled with another one from a different country and was told to interview each other about Personal details, Job, Priorities, Hobbies, Future plans, etc. and later introduce each other to all the participants. It was a very unique and efficient method to introduce everyone.
- A quick run through of the training schedule by Brother Rajendra helped participants to get an idea about the training program.
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**Training Session in progress**



**Group Discussion in progress**



**Group Work Presentation**



**Study Tour - Elephant Orphanage at Pinnawala**



**We Young Unionists!**