

To all UNI affiliates  
To members of the UNI World Executive Board (titular and substitute members)

### **Devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan**

Dear Colleagues,

I know how concerned everyone will be for the health and safety of our members and friends in Japan at this time of national disaster. It was only a short while ago that we were in Japan for the UNI Global Union World Congress. We had a brilliant congress built on the commitment of our affiliates, their members and of course the red jacket volunteers.

Everyone in Japan is deeply impacted by the devastating earthquake. I have been in touch with our Tokyo office staff by email since Friday and this morning I spoke with Brother Eiichi Ito, Director of our Tokyo office.

The massive earthquake of a magnitude of 9.0, followed by the tsunami that hit the north eastern and north Kanto region of the Japanese mainland, occurred in the early afternoon of 11 March during working hours. It would appear that the death toll will reach into tens of thousands of people, as towns and villages have been totally destroyed.

Our Tokyo office has been in contact with the UNI Liaison Council Japan. Our unions are working on rescue and recovery initiatives. Most unions have been affected as they have branches in the north east and north Kanto regions. They are trying to gather information on their missing members and their families. This is a very difficult task, as post and telecom facilities have been destroyed, so this will take time.

Three members of our Tokyo staff were at the office at the time of the earthquake. Even with the epicentre being some 400 kilometres north east of Tokyo, the tremors still lasted several minutes, shaking high buildings and bringing objects crashing to the ground. It was a terrifying experience for them. Our staff had to stay overnight because all transportation stopped.

This morning, aftershocks are still being felt and not many trains are working due to the serious lack of electricity following the explosions at the nuclear power stations. Tokyo Electric Company announced that there will be rolling power cuts in most cities, except for central Tokyo districts, such as Chiyoda-district, where our office is located. Our staff are trying to collect as much information as possible from our affiliates and will continue to report on the situation.

We will do all that we can to help our Japanese brothers and sisters in this time of tragedy. Affiliates from around the world have already contacted us, asking how they can

help and for news of all the wonderful people they met during our World Congress in Nagasaki in November.

International solidarity is extremely important at this difficult time and I encourage affiliates to send messages to their Japanese colleagues. Please find attached a list of affiliates with contact details. Kindly send a copy of your message to our Tokyo office at the following address: [tokyo@uniglobalunion.org](mailto:tokyo@uniglobalunion.org)

Our Tokyo office is in consultations with our Japanese affiliates with respect to how UNI and our affiliates can contribute to the recovery effort.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip J. Jennings". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Philip J. Jennings  
General Secretary  
UNI Global Union

## Contact list of UNI Global Union's Japanese affiliates

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