

We welcome our brothers and sisters from UNI Apro G&P/MEI to Japan

Japanese affiliates – UNI G&P

All Printing Bureau Labour Union (ZENINSATSU)

Abbreviation	PLU
Foundation date	1 st April 1947
Founding members	8,000 members
President	Mr. Takashi Umehara
Current membership	5,082 members (as of 1 st April 2017)



Main Principles

- To establish autonomy for trade unions, unite all G&P workers, improve working conditions and social status and expand rights for members while building a strong collaborative relationship.
- To build a labor-management relationship that focuses on ensuring fundamental rights for workers, facilitating future growth in the printing bureau business and is based on solid equality.
- To create a culture for workers in which labor and human rights are highly respected.
- To pursue permanent peace and global solidarity by collaborating with all citizens with a common belief based on liberty, togetherness and democracy.

Federation of Printing Information Media Workers Unions (INSATSU ROREN)

Abbreviation	PIMW
Foundation date	25 th August 1989
Founding members	46 organizations, 20,785 members
President	Mr. Masashi Takura
Current membership	42 organizations 21,461 members (as of April 2017)



Main Principles

- To uphold pride and responsibility for all PIMW workers and to pursue happiness by improving the worker's economical, social and political status.
- To maintain/improve working conditions
- To facilitate democratic growth in the industry
- To strengthen the labor front for all PIMW workers
- To realize a welfare nation
- To form solidarity with an aim to create peace worldwide

Japan Federation of Newspaper Worker's Unions (SHIMBUN ROREN)

Foundation date	30 th June 1950
Founding members	14 organizations, 10,800 members
President	Mr. Motohide Kobayashi
Current membership	86 organizations 20,585 members (out of which 1,500 are newspaper workers)



Main Principles

- To secure the three rights of work through building a spirit of unity among all newspaper unions and to fight for a better life and a higher political and social status.
- To protect the freedom of speech, to conclude democratic revolution, to respect Japanese culture and to rebuild the nation as a free and independent country, with the recognition that these are all newspaper's social mission.
- To respect democracy and autonomy for our affiliate's activities by rejecting oppression or interference from political parties, government and capitalists.
- To fight against unjust competition among newspaper companies which leads to exploitation of newspaper workers. To support the liberty and fairness in newspaper reporting activities, irrespective of their region or scale and to secure all worker's fundamental rights.

- To collaborate with other industries in order to establish a high living and political status for all workers, and unite a democratic labor front.
- To promote participation and unity among all democratic industrial federations around the world with an aim to establish world peace.

Other organizations we closely work and share information with

- The Graphical Sector of The Japanese Federation of Textile, Chemical, Food, Commercial, Service and General Workers' Unions (UA ZENSEN)
- Dai Nippon Printing Workers' Union (DNPWU)
- All Mint Bureau Workers' Union (ZENZOHEI)

Japanese affiliates - UNI MEI

Japan Broadcasting Labour Union (NHK Worker's Union) (NIPPORO)

Foundation date	2 nd March 1948
Founding members	5,000 members
President	Mr. Masatoshi Nakamura
Current membership	7,058 members (as of 25 th July 2017)



Main Principles

- To uphold democratic trade unionism and reject oppression or intervention from other parties.
- To secure fundamental human rights and to improve social and economical status for workers.
- To fight against other forces which try to misappropriately rule broadcasting.
- To promote broadcasting and its culture to realize a democratic society.
- To build world peace through global solidarity and mutual trust.

Japan Federation of Commercial Broadcast Workers' Unions (MINPOROREN)

Foundation date	12 th July 1953
Founding members	9 organizations, 1,650 members
President	Mr. Ohoro Akatsuka
Current membership	8,303 members



Main Principles

- To build strong cooperation between commercial broadcast trade unions with the aim to improve worker's lives, push up their political and social status and ensure their fundamental rights.
- To protect freedom of speech and expression as commercial broadcast's social mission in order to contribute to enhance Japanese culture and establish true democracy nationwide.
- To eliminate any kind of intrusion exercised over trade unions by political parties or governmental capitalists. To respect our affiliate's autonomy and follow the will of all of our union members to facilitate democracy in our operations.
- To oppose to exploitation of our workers triggered by unfair competition between commercial broadcasting companies. To support freedom and justice in both central and regional commercial broadcasting, and also secure fundamental rights for our workers by respecting their missions and individual personalities.
- To collaborate with workers from other industries to improve their lives and political status and work towards establishing a unified and democratic labour front.
- To create alliances with democratic trade unions around the world and devote ourselves to creating world peace through our activities.

Fukushima – Land of Japan’s real spirit!

Introduction

Fukushima prefecture lies about 200 km northeast of Tokyo. Hosting a population of 1.9 million people, it is considered the 3rd largest in land area among all of the 47 prefectures of Japan. The prefecture's central city, also only known as Fukushima, holds 290 thousand residents. I am happy that it is the city where we are holding the UNI Apro MEI Conference and the UNI Apro Graphical and Packaging Conference on 11 – 13 September 2017.



Characteristics

On the way towards Fukushima from Tokyo, you will be treated to an eye feast with the dramatic change of scenery where vast open plains in the horizon give way to striking lofty peaks. The Fukushima prefecture is a mountainous region which creates a very impressionable and severe landscape, especially during winter when the area is covered with thick snow. Contrary to the intensely cold climate, the people are warm and friendly and possess high agricultural skills. Many Japanese

agricultural products are produced in Fukushima. The prefecture is renowned for its wide variety of famous Japanese sake made from locally grown rice nourished by the region's abundant natural water and fertile soil.

Culture

The Tohoku region is located in the northern lands further across Fukushima, and has historically been referred to as “MICHINO OKU, the place far beyond the road”. Compared to Kyoto or Tokyo, where the culture developed at an early stage, Fukushima has nurtured an entirely



different unique and mystical culture by harmonizing itself with the region's beautiful nature. It was this very landscape that inspired the 17th-century haiku genius, Basho Matsuo, to refine the form of haiku - a form of Japanese poetry that expresses the surrounding world in 17 syllables. In many of Basho's haiku, we can feel the beauty, magnificence, serenity of nature, and most of all, its tranquility. I believe that this reflects the real original

Japanese spirit that is embedded in the Tohoku culture.

History

Historically, Tohoku was constantly invaded by troops from Kyoto and Tokyo from as far back as the 8th century until the 11th century. Peace prevailed by the 12th century with glorious golden temples and shrines dotting the land in the region. However, when Japan experienced a revolutionary transition towards modernization in the 19th century, the old powers fought and lost in some of the fiercest battles ever to take place in Fukushima. We can see through history that Fukushima has geographically served as a battlefield experiencing losses and hardship.



More recently, as we all know, a violent earthquake shook the whole Tohoku area including Fukushima. The magnitude of this earthquake was something that Japan has never experienced in the last thousand years. The earthquake created an enormous tsunami which destroyed the coastline and took the lives of 20,000 people. It also damaged severely a nuclear power plant that provided electricity to Tokyo. We still remember the terrifying images of explosions throwing up radioactive substances into the air. The whole nation was struck by terror and anxiety at that time.



Six years have passed since that shocking incident, and the city is gradually recovering. Areas which were damaged by the tsunami are being reconstructed with new roads, harbors and residences. My wish is that you will all have an opportunity to visit the disaster stricken areas on this occasion, and support and encourage the local Fukushima residents, who are still struggling to bring back their homes and communities together.



The Great East Japan Earthquake

On 11 March 2011 at 2:46 pm, an earthquake with a magnitude 9.0 originated in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Tohoku region and struck eastern Japan. It was the most powerful earthquake ever recorded in Japan. The area was also hit by the biggest quake-generated tsunami ever witnessed in history. Waves peaked at 30 meters at the highest point when they hit the land. The toll of casualties and missing were as many as 18,446 according to the

police report in March 2017. Many areas stretching from Northeast Japan to Southeast Japan were affected by the tsunami which even reached Hokkaido and the Kanto region. Three prefectures, Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima, were affected severely, with approximately 15,000 victims. Even today, 120,000 citizens still live in temporary shelters.

Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) No.1 Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant accident

In Fukushima, two nuclear power plants and ten nuclear reactors generated and provided electricity to the whole Kanto region. The reactor automatically stopped its operations right after it was hit by the earthquake on 11 March 2011. However, the No.1 Fukushima Nuclear power plant was stricken by a ten meter-Tsunami which rendered the emergency source of energy inoperative and broke the pumping function which was responsible for cooling down nuclear fuel. The temperature of the fuel rose uncontrollably leading to an eventual nuclear meltdown. Finally, on 15 March, the plant exploded.

After this tragic incident, the water cooler system was reconstructed to stabilize the situation. Scientific readings of the current radio-density have settled down to the level that causes no adverse impact to humans unless you stand right beside the power plant, but still, there are some groups that question the environmental security which remains a source of tension with the government and the power company.



Masatoshi Nakamura
President of UNI Apro MEI