

**RENGO-TUAC SYMPOSIUM ON THE OECD MNE GUIDLINES**  
**TOKYO 25 FEBRUARY 2008-02-24**  
**Session 1 welcoming remarks**  
**John Evans**  
**General Secretary TUAC**

Good Morning my name is Evans and I am pleased to follow Takagi-san in welcoming you to this joint symposium on the OECD MNE Guidelines.

I would like to thank RENG0 for hosting this event and to the OECD Deputy Secretary General Amano for being present. I am pleased that there are representatives from the ITUC Asia Pacific here and several of the regional representatives of the Global Union Federations as well as colleagues from RENG0. We will also be joined by representatives of the National Contact Point from Japan, the German Government who hosted last year's G8 summit, the International Labour Organisation as well as other representatives of the Government and Keidenren.

I must however start by giving the apologies of Carla Colletti from the International Metalworkers' Federation who chairs the TUAC Working Group on Trade and Investment and wished very much to be here but had to withdraw last week due to ill health. I will do my best to replace her. I should also give the apologies of Rajasakaran – the President of the Malaysian Trade Union Confederation and ITUC Asia Pacific – who also could not travel due to ill health – I am sure that we all wish them both speedy recoveries.

This seminar is taking place at an important time for several reasons:

Firstly with Japan hosting the G8 meetings this year it is important that we take stock of and build on the agreement at the G8 in Germany last year that committed G8 governments to reinforcing their efforts to implement the OECD Multinational Guidelines.

Secondly if current trends continue there will soon be one hundred cases raised by trade unions since the Guidelines were revised in 2000 and that gives us a stock of cases to examine and assess what has worked and what hasn't from a trade union point of view and also in terms of the performance of governments' National Contact Points.

Thirdly several Contact Points for example in the UK and the Netherlands are going through a restructuring and it is timely to look at the reasons and assess whether there are lessons to be drawn for other countries – such as here in Japan.

Fourthly as we will discuss in later sessions there has been a growth 2007 in the number of cases raised in Asia and therefore a regional perspective and discussion is timely.

Fifthly – with new signatories to the Guidelines – Egypt adhered at the end of last year and TUAC held a seminar with the Arab trade unions in Cairo to build union awareness – it is also useful to consider which countries will be future signatories.

Sixthly the OECD and the ILO are to hold a high –level Round Table in June of this year on the implementation of the Employment Chapter of the Guidelines and how to achieve greater synergy with the ILO instruments.

These are some of the reasons why I believe that the time is right for today's meeting and why I am particularly looking forward to what I am sure will be a stimulating day.

Thank you