stitching a decent wage across borders
In Asia, at a garment manufacturing unit...
The workers are having a union meeting...

How can we go on like this?
I can't even buy milk for my kids...

We already get paid so poorly. On top of that, my boss hasn't paid me for 6 weeks!

Look at Ranga, when he asked for his legal overtime wage...

He got fired...
I wonder am I paid the lowest or is everyone paid so poorly?

You’ll be surprised! Garment Workers across Asia earn more or less the same wage.

That’s pathetic! We produce most of the world’s clothes!

But what can we do about it?

Or what can our union do? We are stronger together! Aren’t we?

Unions across Asia are joining the ASIA FLOOR WAGE CAMPAIGN!
The campaign is demanding a basic wage that will allow us to all live comfortably.
So who’s joining this campaign?

Workers are forming unions like ours and...

...unions across many Asian countries are joining the campaign!

So what kind of a BASIC FLOOR WAGE are we asking for?

First, our wage needs to cover food for our families

To work, we need energy! The basic amount of food that we need...

...for a family of four:
These are the basic needs of a worker’s family.

And even though the food changes from country to country...

...We still have the same stomachs!

But we can’t live on food alone!

We have to pay for other things as well...

We need clothes to wear!

We need a house to live in!

Our kids need to go to school! And we consider these ‘Non-Food Costs’...

You’re right! Our Non-Food Costs are as much as our food costs...
So for this we need a basic floor wage that covers our food as well as non-food costs.

I am just curious... How much will this translate to for my wage?

Well, broadly speaking it means...

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*BANGLADESH*
29,442 Taka

*INDONESIA*
4,684,570 Rupiah

*INDIA*
18,727 Rupees

*SRI LANKA*
48,608 Rupees

*CHINA*
3,847 Yuan

*THAILAND*
13,359 Baht

*These wages are per month*
This is the basic floor wage we should earn in our regular working hours...

This does not include our overtime wages!

Or our employment benefits!

But I have a question...

I am worried...that if we become more expensive...

Our factories will relocate and...

And I will lose my job...
Thank you for asking this question! If one country was fighting for a higher wage alone, this might happen. But, this campaign is across Asia! Unions are coming together for a common demand! And that is the strength of our campaign!

Because we are all doing this together at the same time! And we're the centre of the garment manufacturing industry. They cannot afford to relocate! Don't worry!

Besides these big companies that we are exporting to, can afford to pay us more... You can’t even imagine the profits they make... For example, for every T-shirt they sell in U.S...
That’s it? I am sure they can afford to pay us more!
So how can we join this campaign?

WE ARE ALL STRONGER TOGETHER!

As I said, we need to join unions. And the unions need to join the campaign!

So let’s make sure our unions are a part of this campaign!

WE ARE ALL STRONGER TOGETHER!

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Frequently Asked Questions & Answers:

What is the Asia Floor Wage Campaign?

The Asia Floor Wage Campaign is a campaign to set a regional decent wage for garment manufacturing workers in Asia. The wage is meant to meet a worker’s family’s basic needs, both food and non-food costs.

Who is part of the Asia Floor Wage Campaign?

Unions and labor rights groups in India, Indonesia, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Pakistan, Cambodia, Europe, the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States are already part of the campaign.

How do I join the campaign?

To join the campaign, ask your workers’ organisation to join the Asia Floor Wage Alliance and to unite with other unions and organisations across Asia and the world.

I’m worried that the factory that I work for will move away if we fight for higher wages.

Because this campaign is across Asia and we are fighting for a similar minimum living wage across the different countries, the companies will face same wage demands everywhere. Asia produces the majority of the world’s clothing and the companies rely upon our labour. Our strength comes from our solidarity.

Can companies afford to pay us more?

On the average t-shirt, labour costs make up less than 3% of the overall cost. The big, international companies that are selling clothes in the U.S. and Europe are making more than 75% profit on each piece of clothing. They can afford to pay us, who actually make the garments, more.
Visit asia.floorwage.org to learn more.....

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