

Global union action day in IBM

IBM will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in June 2011. It is a remarkable history of a corporation that has been at the forefront of many of the technological innovations that shape our world today. It is thanks to the work of IBM employees that the company can announce its achievements to the world. In marking this milestone, unions within IBM call on the company to respect its worldwide workforce.

Today, IBM appears in the top league in many international rankings, for example it is No. 12 on Fortune's annual list of most admired companies in the world.

However, today IBM no longer figures at the top of any "*employers of choice*" or "*best places to work*" rankings.

Unfortunately, in parts of IBM wages and working conditions have been reduced to the extent that the living conditions of IBM employees are under threat.

- Profits are up, but IBM fires long time employees and replaces them with lower paid contractors.
- Raises are restricted while executives receive millions in salary and stock options.
- Stress on the job has increased due to a heavier workload because of reduced staffing.
- Workers see pay checks shrink as health care contributions increase.

IBMers traditionally have taken pride in working for IBM, but many today are expressing disappointment in the way that they are treated by the company. Despite working for the same company, not all employees are able to improve their wages and conditions by joining a trade union and engaging in collective bargaining with IBM. In fact in many parts of IBM today, employees are actively restricted from freely choosing whether or not to join a trade union.

But there are unions in IBM - some of them have been representing IBMers for many years - and in certain countries these unions actively engaged in dialogue and collective bargaining with the company, delivering better wages and conditions for IBM employees. IBM unions believe that everyone who works for IBM should have the right to negotiate to improve their working lives – access to decent pay and working conditions should not depend on which country you work in, but should be available to all IBM employees.

That is why IBM unions have come together to form a Global Union Alliance at IBM, to better protect the interests of IBM employees. On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of IBM, the IBM Global Union Alliance is calling for a joint day of action on 14 June 2011 to highlight the role of IBM employees in the company's success and call for

Respect for IBMers!

The Global Alliance unions encourage all IBM employees to become a member of one of the IBM unions and join your fellow IBMers in making a difference in your workplace.

In the US please join the Alliance@IBM CWA Local 1701 www.allianceibm.org
Member names are union confidential. IBM will NOT see them.