

## MYANMAR: BUILDING A MOVEMENT

In 2012, the Federation of Trade Unions – Myanmar (FTUM) and its leaders returned home after decades in exile. They are now working with ITUC to rebuild the labour movement.

The ITUC and FTUM have trained a new generation of organizers to build the movement. Over 300 unions are now affiliated to the FTUM in a broad range of economic sectors, a testament to the desire of workers to have a collective voice at the workplace and in society.

### **However, there are many obstacles to overcome:**

- Employer harassment of union leaders and workers. The law does not afford workers adequate protection.
- The government is arbitrarily refusing to register trade unions.
- Workers continue to be arrested and charged under the Peaceful Assembly and Procession Act
- Under the labour law the majority of disputes are not adequately settled.

The ITUC and FTUM are working to amend the legislation, build legal capacity and to ensure that workers fired for their trade union activity are reinstated.

