



INTERNATIONAL GUEST



Arturo Rodriguez

Name:

National Union of Industrial Workers

Union:

130 000

Number of members:

Holguin, Cuba

Hometown:

1

What is unusual about your hometown, place of work or job?

"I come from a small town in the Province of Holguin, which is well known because it is one of the country's most popular areas with tourists. We also extract nickel and produce all kinds of machinery in the region, particularly for the agricultural sector."

2

What does this year's theme, "The Power of Unity," mean to you? How has your local benefited from putting unity into action?

"This is the first time I participate in an International Steelworkers Convention. We Cubans have a pretty clear idea of the power of solidarity. When we had our Revolution, we came together as one people. Moreover, the slogan for the upcoming May 1st March in Havana is "Unity is our main power!"

3

What's the best thing about the convention so far?

"What I find fascinating is to see how important debate is for the Steelworkers and what noble causes you take up. I was also very marked by the experience described by the convention attendees when they talked about their struggles."

4

What things do you hope to do while you're here?

"To fully assess the contrasts between the political regime and lifestyle in my country and those in the United States and Canada. But I also hope to meet as many representatives of other unions or locals as possible."

5

What ideas from the convention will you take home?

"This is an excellent convention and the first one I attend. When I get home, I am going to report on this great sense of solidarity with unions around the world. I'm asking them to support the Cuban Revolution!" (laughter)