

**Diplomacy Training Program**  
**Trade, Human Rights and the WTO**  
*Held in partnership with Oxfam International Youth Parliament*  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
14<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2005  
Participant Biographies

**Azubike Nwokoye**  
***Global Coalition on HIV/AIDS***  
**NIGERIA**

Azubike is responsible for organising West African advocacy actions at a regional level for the Global Coalition on HIV/AIDS. These form part of a larger global campaign which helps to promote the four priorities of the work of the Global Coalition which are: technical assistance and capacity building; increasing political will and commitment through advocacy training; sharing information, opportunities and best practices and the preparation of youth for international conferences.

Azubike's work is directly affected by trade practices as access to treatment for HIV/AIDS in Africa is hard due to limited accessibility and high prices. Azubike is undertaking the training in order to gain knowledge on better techniques for international and national advocacy relating to trade practices. He hopes to share the information he learns with his local community.

**Bessie Naomi Maruia**  
***National HIV/AIDS Support Project***  
**PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

Bessie's role within the National HIV/AIDS support project is to ensure that there are care, counselling and support services available for people living with HIV/AIDS. There are currently less than 150 people within Papua New Guinea that have access to ARV drugs so Bessie has been collecting donations from friends as well as fundraising to buy drugs for those infected with HIV/AIDS within her province.

There are more than 10,000 people infected with AIDS in Papua New Guinea and it is estimated that there are around 45,000 to 65,000 people living with HIV. Bessie hopes that this training program will benefit her work by allowing her to better understand the work of the WTO and intellectual property rules so that she can be of more assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS in Papua New Guinea. Bessie would like to update her office with the knowledge she gains from the training as well as organise a joint project with the National Department of Health and Investment Promotion Authority upon her return.

**Chukwumuanya John-Kennedy Igboekwu**  
***Young Corps for Social Responsibility (YCSR)***  
**NIGERIA**

Chukwumuanya is a young doctor working for an NGO based in the Niger State, North Central Region, Nigeria. He is currently the Program Manager of YCSR's HIV/AIDS project which is aimed at reducing the spread and burden of HIV/AIDS in the North Central Region through education and care and support services.

The HIV/AIDS prevention program at YCSR involves community awareness programs in schools, as well as awareness programs in local communities and advocacy visits to government officials and policy makers in order to encourage these groups to give more priority and to invest more funds in HIV/AIDS control programs.

In previous months, Chukwumuanya's advocacy work has been focussing on lobbying the government through the media in order to get them to fulfil their obligations under article 12.2 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and Guideline 6 of the International Guideline on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights. Chukwumuanya wants the government to fulfil their obligations by committing more funds to HIV/AIDS programming activities and the provision of affordable medicines for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Chukwumuanya hopes to work with various stakeholders within his region at the conclusion of the training to bring affordable, effective and safe generic versions of ARV medicines into the Niger state. To do this he hopes to work with the Federal Ministry of Commerce, the National Action Committee on AIDS (NACA), Care People International, the Niger State Chamber of Commerce, Mines and Agriculture and the Nigerian Parliamentary Committee on HIV/AIDS.

**Constance Georgina Walyaro**  
***Citron Wood***  
**KENYA**

Constance is the President of Citron Wood – a development agency that is working to establish better conditions for the poor while advocating for environmental conservation. Constance aims to empower disadvantaged communities so that they can build more secure, sustainable and positive futures. She is also involved with the Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS in Eastern Africa.

Constance is interested in learning how to better advocate for the rights of farmers and those in need of HIV/AIDS medications. She believes that the existing practices of the Bretton Woods institutions need to be changed in order to benefit poor countries as well as the rich. She hopes that the training will greatly enhance her efforts to campaign for Trade Justice, a major increase in the quality and quantity of aid, Debt Cancellation and related issues. She believes that the training presents her with a wonderful opportunity to learn, enhance and refine practical skills, to foster integration and to build alliances.

**Duncan Khothatso Moeketse**  
***Funda Fundisani Youth Development / Project Y2Y***  
**SOUTH AFRICA**

Y2Y is an HIV/AIDS project run in partnership with Funda Fundisani Youth Development organisation and Oxfam CAA. Y2Y consists of a group of young people, some of which are HIV positive, who work with religious and cultural movements and local women's and youth organisations to engage the community in dialogue. Y2Y also aims to promote a positive collective response to HIV/AIDS.

Duncan believes that the training program will assist him as he works with youth who are affected by HIV but who cannot afford treatment. These youth depend on the South African government's ARV program which only a few people can access. Duncan hopes to use the training program to facilitate workshops to discuss the effects of trade policies on the distribution of medicines for PLWHA.

**Erkulanu de Sousa**  
***Youth In Action Towards Sustainability (Y-ACTS)***  
**TIMOR LESTE**

Erkulanu currently works for Oxfam Community Aid Abroad in East Timor where he is a Livelihood and CBDM Program Officer at the National office. After the OIYP in 2004 he formed a youth lead organisation at the Oecusse Enclave called Y-ACTS. This organisation is currently raising community awareness on the importance of a sustainable environment to meet the needs of the current generation. The organisation is also enhancing the traditional structure and norms of the community in order to have a community based management system that will last in the long term.

Erkulanu believes that the conservation and deforestation issues that he works on will be greatly affected by international trade rules as developed countries start to place pressure on East Timor to commit to bilateral and multilateral trading agreements. He hopes that the DTP training is a good opportunity for both him and his organisation to learn about the WTO system.

**Evans Musonda**  
***Youth Association of Zambia***  
**ZAMBIA**

Evans is involved with the design and implementation of HIV/AIDS advocacy activities in communities and for establishing the monitoring and evaluation tools for program success. He also undertakes advocacy work relating to the accessibility of retroviral drugs within Zambia.

Evans hopes to learn new skills, experiences and approaches in order to respond to numerous HIV/AIDS problems through the training program. He hopes to learn how to better promote community access to medicines and

hopes to share all of the information and skills he learns through the training with the communities he works with.

**Faith Chepkoech Cheruiyot**

***Individual***

**KENYA**

Faith graduated from the University of Nairobi last October with a Bachelor of Laws. She is currently involved with several community projects including the giving of free legal aid and the implementation of her action plan from IYP 2004. She is also interning in a law firm that represents many companies who trade in Kenya and is looking to start a Masters in International Trade Law and Investment in 2006.

Faith comes from a rural community that has been heavily disadvantaged by unfair trading practices both in Africa and internationally. She believes that her people do not see any benefits from trade and hopes that this project will allow her to better liaise with the Ministry of Trade and the local community to improve the process of trade within her country.

Faith is particularly interested in the impact of agricultural trade rules on rural communities. She believes that although Kenya is blessed with many natural resources to benefit agricultural practices, the communities never benefit from this due to unfair trade laws, rules and practices. As a lawyer she would eventually like to assist her government negotiate its stand internationally to improve the trading terms of African countries while working towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and eradication of poverty.

Faith believes that the DTP training will help her to better understand the works of the GATT and WTO and the international arena. She believes that once she understands why the unfair trading terms have been created and why her rural community is so disadvantaged she can begin to find a strategy to solve Kenya's trade problems. Faith hopes that the project will help her to map out a plan with government authorities to improve the agricultural conditions of people within rural communities, as very few people in her country understand what lies behind the process of international trade.

**Hind Ottmani**

***Association of African Women for Research and Development***

***(AAWORD)***

**MOROCCO**

Hind works within the AAWORD to assist research on gender issues, to advocate for women's rights and for development, gender and governance and the participation of women in politics. She focuses her work largely on young rural women and their participation in local development initiatives, their organisation into cooperatives and on peer-to-peer education on different issues affecting women who reside in rural areas.

Hind attends the training as she believes that the WTO policy has a direct impact on rural communities and therefore the women she works with. She believes that rural women live in communities bound by age old traditions and beliefs. As small producers who remain largely illiterate, rural women have very few means to get organised and manage their production. They therefore find it very hard to face competition from the outside effectively.

Hind believes that it is important to encourage the organisation of rural women so that they are enabled to face competition more effectively, both locally and globally. She hopes that the training program will help her to understand further the challenges of rural women in a rapidly globalising world and to learn more skills to advocate for and assist the rural women of her country.

**Irene Banda**

***Organisation Development and Community Management Trust (ODCMT)***  
**ZAMBIA**

The purpose of ODCMT is to build the capacity of individuals, developing NGO's and community based organisations through training in human development skills. Such skills will enable these groups to enhance their opportunities to improve their lives and the lives of the people they aim to assist.

In ODCMT's campaign against unfair trade rules, the organisation became involved with some of Zambia's best musicians and produced a song for the Big Noise which is being globally distributed along with other songs on the Guardian's Big Noise CD. ODCMT also has a campaign video which highlights the issues and impacts of poverty due to unfair trade rules. The organisation has further created 3 manuals on trade, investment and the use of pesticides. These manuals are used as discussion material in local workshops run by the organisation and are distributed to organisational partners and stakeholders involved not only on trade issues but on poverty reduction campaigns.

Irene works at a grassroots level with ODCMT. She feels that the DTP workshop will help equip her with the skills required to adequately represent the plight of the communities she works with. She hopes to share her own experiences and learn a lot from other participants.

**Kenneth Harry Msiska**

***The Young Advocates for the Advancement of ICT-related Development***  
**MALAWI**

Kenneth is an ICT activist and his main area of concern is narrowing the digital divide that exists within his country among people from different classes. Malawi has a largely rural economy since farmers make up the majority of the country's population. Malawi is also dependant on its green-gold tobacco, even though the market for this has been very volatile recently due to several controversies.

Kenneth works with people in rural areas, especially youths and farmers so that they take up ICT's to improve the output of their agricultural activities. Through the training program he hopes to gain insight as to how the World Trade Organisation (WTO) functions and to learn how international trade rules are applied to both the developed and the developing world. He also wishes to understand how globalisation is affecting economies within Africa, especially Sub-Saharan areas.

**Lamin Camara**  
***Lend a Hand Society***  
***National HIV/AIDS Secretariat***  
**GAMBIA**

Lamin works directly with the Deputy Director and CCSI Coordinator on the Community and Civil Society Initiative of the HIV/AIDS Rapid Response Project in Gambia. He works on issues directly affecting vulnerable groups such as orphans and people living with HIV/AIDS and aims to raise awareness for these groups to defuse the stigma and discrimination against them.

Lamin works in a country where approximately 2.1% of the adult population are infected with HIV/AIDS but where less than 50 people who are infected have access to retroviral drugs. 65% of the population in Gambia live below the poverty line which means they must feed their family on less than US\$1 a day. Lamin believes that intellectual property rules must therefore be changed if there is to be any hope for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

Lamin attends the training in order to learn how to better advocate on behalf of those who live with HIV/AIDS in Cambodia and to learn how to train young people to understand the needs of their family members infected with HIV/AIDS in order to adequately treat and advocate for them.

**Ly Pisey**  
***Womyn's Agenda for Change (WAC)***  
**CAMBODIA**

Ly is working to empower female sex workers, trans-gender sex workers and indirect sex workers (such as bar and beer promotion girls facing the same problems as direct sex workers) to speak-out and demand better living conditions and the right to run a business. She hopes to reduce discrimination towards sex workers in the community as well as with doctors and hospital staff and to stop violence against women, especially sex workers.

Ly believes that more women are being forced into sex work as part of the impact of globalisation and increasing poverty on Cambodian people in rural areas. The WTO and its free trade regime means that local people cannot compete against foreign products through cheaper prices and many women turn to sex work as a final frontier after other sources of income such as agriculture and garment work have had their wages and labour standards destroyed by globalisation.

Ly joins the training program in order to understand more about the rules of trade and its impacts so that she can better advocate for sex workers within Cambodia.

**Norma Elvira Carias Montiel**  
***Youth Employment Summit (YES) Network***  
***Center of Health Promotion and Family Attendance (CEPROSAF)***  
**HONDURAS**

Norma is a founding member of CEPROSAF and Coordinator of the Yes Network. She has 9 years experience in coordinating projects in preventative health and support to people living with HIV/AIDS in Honduras. She has been an activist in campaigns that promote the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS and is currently studying towards her PhD in Social Psychology and Anthropology.

Norma believes that Honduras is affected by international trade because it is one of the poorer nations of Central America and it is also the Central American country with the highest number of people living with HIV/AIDS. There are large problems with access to treatments, and babies and children are adversely affected as they do not have access to milk and other necessary products for their care.

With the knowledge she gains from the training, Norma hopes to create a training workshop for 30 people living with HIV/AIDS, in particular the leaders of this group within her city. She also wants to get her local television station to inform the public of Honduras about the joint training program between OIYP and DTP in order to raise public awareness about unfair trade practices.

**Ros Sokunthy**  
***Womyn's Agenda for Change (WAC)***  
**CAMBODIA**

WAC focuses its work on tracing and critiquing the impacts of neo liberalism and globalisation on women and men in Cambodia. WAC works specifically on garment worker empowerment, sex worker empowerment, advocating for women's rights, globalisation and development and research. Ros believes her experience and first-hand knowledge of how these issues affect the 'real' people of Cambodia make her a worthy participant in the DTP training program.

Ros believes that the impact of agricultural trade rules on rural communities is the main reason that most people within Cambodia become garment workers. She believes that when Cambodia became a member of the WTO, rural farmers became obliged to compete with trans-national corporations. Farmers that traditionally used basic tools and animals went into debt to buy fertilizer, pesticides, labour and water in order to compete with the international standard of crops. Their crops were unable to compete with those produced by more modern technology however and families became obliged to send

their daughters off to become garment workers as the extra income was needed. This forced migration and labour has broken up traditional Indigenous communities and changed the dynamic of many rural communities within Cambodia.

Ros believes that attendance in the training program will benefit WAC and its target groups through the knowledge gleaned at the training that can be passed onto workers and local community members. The project will allow WAC to become more informed as to the impacts of trade policies on garment workers and will allow WAC participants to establish vital regional and international connections with other organisations concerned about the impacts of trade.

**Sajin Prachason**

***FOCUS***

**THAILAND**

Sajin Prachason is a research associate at Focus. She graduated from Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University and got an MA in Politics of International Resources and Development, University of Leeds. She joined Focus in 2005 and is now working in the Trade Campaign and Thailand program. Prior to joining Focus, she worked as a researcher on international migration at Asian Research Center for Migration, Thailand and as a freelance researcher on corporate social responsibility.

**Sudyumna Dahal**

***Youth Initiative***

**NEPAL**

Youth Initiative develops local, national and global partnerships to collaborate on the achievement of MDG's locally, nationally and globally and to study the impact of the WTO and other international trade policies on the achievement of MDG's. Sudyumna has extensive experience involving networking, policy research and advocacy centred on the impacts of both trade and poverty.

Sudyumna has recently been advocating against the possible impacts of international trade policies on MDG's. He hopes to share these experiences with other participants, as well as to learn from the variety of skills and knowledge that will be in abundance at the training session. He hopes to use the information he gains at the training to advocate at a broader level for his community, and to share the knowledge he gains on trade with all of his colleagues and any interested parties within Nepal.

**Vikram Aditya**

***Friendship Foundation***

**INDIA**

Vikram works with the Friendship Foundation, which requires active involvement in community forest conservation and forest management as well as engagement with farmers and small agricultural land holders. His work within these two areas has made him realise the importance of agricultural sustainability to forest survival and vice versa.

The raising of market prices for crop output in India has resulted in farmers moving into forestland to further enhance their output which is causing both Vikram and the Friendship Foundation many concerns. For instance, a drop in exchange price could mean farmers do not get proper returns for crops and consequently attempt to produce cash rich crops, draining the available water and creating a local draught or destroying forest land in their attempt to gain land to produce more crops. He highlights a recent trend within India of farmers committing suicide by consuming pesticide due to huge losses in profit as an impact of unfair trading rules by the WTO.

Vikram believes that his involvement in the training program will help him to better understand international trade and will give him a fresh perspective into the issues faced by farmers. He hopes to use the information gained at the training to develop workable solutions to common rural ecological and agricultural problems.

**Vorsak Bou**  
***Wathnakpheap***  
**CAMBODIA**

Wathnakpheap is a Cambodian NGO which works to support children and youth at risk through community development. Much of the organisations work involves the provision of skills training to children and youth. Vorsak works with the management team of his organisation to develop policies, guidelines and strategies to allow the effective operation of its programs.

Vorsak believes that trade practices influence Cambodia directly as many Cambodian people are farmers who do not have the benefits of modern technology. This often means that their outputs are slow and of low quantities compared to farmers in other countries who utilise modern technologies. While Wathnakpheap is working to improve the food security of poor families through the provision of agricultural training, the cost of the community's bulk product cannot compete with imported products from developed countries.

Vorsak hopes that his involvement in the training program will help him to clearly identify the impact of trade on communities and the health of people within these. He wishes to join together with youth worldwide to advocate about the issues and impacts of trade to his government. At the completion of the training Vorsak will organise a workshop for the youth of his local community to make them aware of the issues surrounding international trade and the WTO.

