



DIPLOMACY TRAINING PROGRAM

AFFILIATED WITH THE FACULTY OF LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
A training program for peoples of the Asia-Pacific region

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Human Rights Advocacy and Business

A Capacity Building Program for Advocates

In partnership with Institute for Social and Economic Change and Cividep, India

13-20 July 2009, Bangalore, India

The Diplomacy Training Program is calling for applications for its fourth regional program focused on human rights advocacy and business. The program has been developed to assist human rights defenders and community advocates to respond practically to the challenges for human rights posed by the growing power and influence of corporations, particularly multi-national corporations.

Across the Asia-Pacific region businesses are being challenged over their impact on human rights. Trade and investment agreements have favoured major corporations at the same time as constraining the regulatory scope of national governments. The use of child labour and the abuse of migrant labour, the exploitation of women workers through low wages and oppressive working conditions in the garment manufacturing sector by global brands and retailers, the displacement of Indigenous communities by mining companies, the impacts on community livelihoods of forestry, breaches of privacy by internet service providers, the patenting of traditional knowledge and collusion with state repression are some of the areas that have drawn the focus of advocates. Issues of corporate accountability and corporate social responsibility are moving up the global and regional agenda.

Industry codes of conduct, the UN Global Compact, multi-stakeholder initiatives and the OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises, are responses to the demands for greater corporate accountability. The UN Human Rights Council has adopted a new framework on human rights and business – and over the next three years the UN Secretary General's Special Representative on Human Rights and Business has a mandate to explore how the framework can be applied to practice.

At the same time advocates are exploring different strategies to bring about change including: corporate engagement; litigation (including extra-territorial litigation); "naming and shaming" campaigns, shareholder activism and ethical investment

This program aims to explore how existing and emerging standards can be applied in practice, to share knowledge and lessons learnt in this area and to build the skills necessary for engaging in effective advocacy on business and human rights. The reports of DTP's past Human Rights and Business programs are available at www.dtp.unsw.edu.au

WHO SHOULD APPLY FOR THE TRAINING?

The program is particularly for advocates from Asia/Pacific countries and Indigenous Australia who work for and with non-government and community based organisations. It is for those who have an interest in learning more about the relevant standards and advocacy strategies in relation to the human rights responsibilities of business, and how these responsibilities can inform their own advocacy efforts. Applications are invited from those with experience of campaigning on corporations and those who have little or no experience, but who have the interest and capacity to undertake advocacy on these issues in the future with organisations in the region. Applications from women advocates and Indigenous peoples' advocates are encouraged. The training is conducted in English.

WHAT WILL PARTICIPANTS LEARN?

- Awareness and knowledge of existing and emerging human rights standards and codes of conduct relevant to corporations
- Practical skills for holding business accountable to its human rights responsibilities, including research skills, lobbying and working with the media
- Lessons from different strategies used by NGOs and the experiences of other advocates in the region

WHAT IS THE DTP?

The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) is an independent non-governmental organisation (NGO) providing practical training in human rights and people's diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific region. The DTP was founded in 1989 by Jose Ramos-Horta, the 1996 Nobel Peace Laureate and President of Timor-Leste. It is affiliated with the Faculty of Law at UNSW in Sydney. DTP always works in partnership with local and regional NGOs. For this program its NGO partner is Cividep-India.

TRAINERS & TRAINING METHODOLOGY

Trainers on DTP programs are experienced and highly respected local, regional and international human rights practitioners, academics, and officials who understand and support DTP's philosophy of participatory training. The DTP recognizes and values the experiences and skills that participants bring to its programs. The opportunity to share experiences and lessons with other participants and trainers is one of the real benefits and highlights of attending the program. The training methodology is interactive with an emphasis on group work, role plays, case studies and discussion.

COURSE FEES & APPLICATIONS

There is a course fee of **AU \$1500/US\$1,000** which covers tuition, accommodation, food, field trips, and resource materials during the training. Travel expenses to and from the training are not included. **A limited number of subsidised spaces are available on the program. Community and non-government organisations are invited to enquire about subsidised spaces.** Application forms can be downloaded from the DTP website www.dtp.unsw.edu.au or can be requested from dtp@unsw.edu.au.

All applications must be received by DTP by **24 April 2009**. All applications will be acknowledged. For further information contact dtp@unsw.edu.au Website: www.dtp.unsw.edu.au