25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE DIPLOMACY TRAINING PROGRAM

This year is the 25th anniversary of the founding of DTP by Nobel Peace Prize winner and former President of Timor Leste, José Ramos-Horta and Professor Garth Nettheim. We will be publishing a series of contributions reflecting on the new human rights challenges posed by political, economic, social and environmental changes since 1989 and what these mean for human rights and capacity building looking forward. We invite our readers and alumni to contribute to these reflections.

- **UN must boost links among development, security, human rights** – NGO recommendations

- From Sabah, Malaysia DTP alumnus and journalist Leonard Alaza has offered to help us gather 25 cases studies of DTP alumni who have been making a difference – with stories to share and learn from. These will have a focus on the rights of Indigenous peoples in the region. [Leonard invites DTP alumni to contribute to this project.](mailto:dtp@unsw.edu.au)

**CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

**DTP Programs:** 2015 Draft Schedule
- **January 26-29** - The Human Rights of Migrant Workers – Sri Lanka – 2nd session
- **March 16-20** - The Human Rights of Migrant Workers – Sri Lanka – 3rd session
- **April/May** - Human Rights and Development – Regional Capacity Building Program for Civil Society Advocates – Myanmar. Click here for [brochure](mailto:dtp@unsw.edu.au) and [application form](mailto:dtp@unsw.edu.au) (deadline March 16)
- **May 11-14** - The Human Rights of Migrant Workers – Sri Lanka – 4th session
- **May** with Oxfam – 1st Module: Rights and Advocacy - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth Program Australia
- **July 27-30** - The Human Rights of Migrant Workers – Sri Lanka – 5th and Final Session
- **August - September** (3 Weeks) -DTP’s 1st DTP Fellowship Program (25th Anniversary) Australia
- **October** - The Human Rights of Migrant Workers – Bangladesh – 1st Session
- **November/December** - 25th Annual Regional Human Rights Defenders Program TBC

- Please check the [DTP website](mailto:dtp@unsw.edu.au) for details, program information and application forms. Please send enquiries to [dtp@unsw.edu.au](mailto:dtp@unsw.edu.au)

**Program Reports**
- [This report](mailto:dtp@unsw.edu.au) reflects on the Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) and Migrant Forum Asia’s (MFA) activities to build the capacity of advocates for the rights of migrant workers in Asia and the Middle East since 2004.
- [The 2013 DTP Annual Report is now available](mailto:dtp@unsw.edu.au)
- [Lessons Learned on Capacity Building for Migrant Workers’ Rights](mailto:dtp@unsw.edu.au) – (Nov 2014) Summary of Dubai Workshop
• 24th Annual Regional Human Rights and Peoples’ Diplomacy Training Program – Nepal (Nov 2014), Executive Summary
• 4th Annual Middle East and North Africa Regional Training Program on the Rights of Migrant Workers – Kuwait, (Nov 2014), Executive Summary

Other Training Programs
• Advanced Training on Monitoring Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Geneva. Deadline 17 April
• International Human Rights Law (Foundation Course); 20 May-30 June

PLEASE DONATE

• DTP trainers donate their time and expertise as do the many interns at the office who help with the DTP website, record maintenance and report-writing. However, in order to provide subsidies for the many applicants to DTP programs and to improve the frequency and quality of the programs, we need funding. Please send your donation to DTP now online, or by credit card or EFT with this donation form

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES – CALLS FOR SOLIDARITY – CALLS FOR COMMENT

• Urgent Appeal, India: Investigate Mass Grave Discovery in Manipur School
• Questionnaire from UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to peaceful assembly & association
• Petition, Papua New Guinea: Justice for Kepari Leniata, young woman burnt alive
• Urgent Appeal, Burma/Myanmar: Detention of six human rights defenders participating in a peaceful protest
• Urgent Appeal, Cambodia: Human rights defender Chhay Thy threatened with legal action; Chhay Thy is Provincial Coordinator of ADHOC
• Urgent Appeal, Thailand: Killing of land rights defender Mr Chai Bunthonglek

INTERNATIONAL NGO PROFILE

• Mediators Beyond Borders International builds local skills for peace and promotes mediation worldwide

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DTP ALUMNI

• From Agio Pereira in Timor Leste: “Timor-Leste: climbing towards the end of the journey” Agio also gave an interview on Xanana Gusmao on the occasion of the latter’s resignation from the Presidency
• From Mandira Sharma in Nepal: Human Rights Community Protests the Disregard for Justice in Nepal’s Transitional Justice Process
• From Myo Win in Burma/Myanmar: Myanmar Peace and Human Rights Consortium Condemn Ah-shin Wirathu’s Employment of Hate Speech toward Ms. Yanghee Lee
• From Fayez Ahmed in Bangladesh: A workshop on Community Journalism through Active Citizenship
• From Dilshan Weerasinghe in Sri Lanka: Migration and Sustainable Development Goals - A Post-2015 Call to Action
• From CHRAC in Cambodia: **Joint Statement on the Violation of the Union Development Group Co. LTD (Union) against villagers in Botumsakor and Kirisakor districts**
• From Jabbar Bhatti in Pakistan: **4450 Extra Judicial Killings in last Five Years**
• From Khon Ja in Myanmar: **Proposal to Union Peace Working Committee and Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team from Civil Society Forum for Peace**

**WHERE ARE THEY NOW – NEWS OF DTP ALUMNI**

• Anis Hidayah DTP alumna from Indonesia: **“A human rights warrior, walking a lonely path”**
• Binota Moy Dhamai DTP alumnus from Bangladesh: The UN Secretary-General has appointed Binota to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the **UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples** for a period of three years. Binota is in Canberra for two years to pursue a master’s degree on Environmental Management and Development at the Australian National University.

**DTP’S THEMATIC PRIORITIES**

**Human Rights and Business**

• **New report uncovers wage theft of migrants from Myanmar working in Thai apparel industry**
• **"The Potential of National Action Plans to Implement Human Rights Norms: An Early Assessment with Respect to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights"**
• **Video explanation of UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights**
• **NGOs launch Expert Legal Group to work on concrete propositions on binding treaty on business and human rights**
• **Report: Evaluating the Human Rights Impact of Investment Projects: Background, Best Practices, and Opportunities**
• **Myanmar and other governments commit to develop National Action Plans on business and human rights, at ASEAN conference**

**Indigenous Peoples’ Rights**

• **Invitation to First Nation/Aboriginal/Indigenous artists with disability from around the world to submit an Expression of Interest in an exhibition, which is proposed to be displayed at the United Nations in New York from December 2015**
• **Chittagong Hills Tracts Commission concerned about repeated attacks on Indigenous people in the CHT. Calls for bringing the attackers to justice and ensuring accountability of the security forces.**
• **Dalit women fight for their rights with marches and mass events in Nepal and India**
• In Australia the Close the Gap Campaign in its Progress and Priorities Report urges the Federal Government to **focus on greater access to primary health care services** to detect, treat and manage chronic health conditions in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

**Migrant Workers’ Rights**

• A coalition of migrant rights organizations including **Migrant Forum in Asia** and the Arab Network for Migrants Rights have launched **Step It Up, a year-long campaign to encourage ratification of the convention in 2015**, the 25th anniversary of its adoption
• **UN Agencies Issue Joint Statement Expressing Concern about Serious Human Rights Violations Affecting Migrants, Asylum-Seeker and Refugees**
• The OHCHR Human Rights Treaty Division Newsletter carries a report on the DTP/MFA training program for civil society representatives from Asia, the Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa that was held in Dubai in November
• Migrant domestic workers in Lebanon to protect rights by forming union, a first in Arab world; the founding committee of the Domestic Workers Union and the National Federation of Unions, Workers and Employers (FENASOL) are hosting the founding congress of the Domestic Workers Union in Lebanon on 25 January 2015
• Nepalese migrant worker deaths rose near 90 pc in 5 yrs.
• World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2015: “More decisive and constructive action is required”, says Pope Francis
• The Need for an ASEAN Treaty on Migrant Workers
• Qatar: NHRC sets up help desks for expatriate workers
• Hong Kong: The employer who abused Indonesian domestic worker Erwiana Sulistyaningsih found guilty. Read Erwiana Sulistyaningsih’s speech here.

Women’s Rights
• CEDAW and CRC Committees join to outline States’ obligation to prevent harmful practices on women, girls
• New training course for NHRIs to bolster gender equality
• Bangladesh Indigenous Women’s Network (BIWN) organizes press conference to share the situation of violence against indigenous women in Bangladesh
• UN Women launches online public mobilization campaign to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing

Disability
• Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities report on progress in mainstreaming disability in international development frameworks and agendas
• Disabled slaves tell of ‘living hell’ on remote South Korean salt farms

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
• UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women launches its 2015 Call for Proposals

AWARDS/JOBS/FELLOWSHIPS
• ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights positions available: Programs Manager; Programs Officer; Media and Communications Officer; Financial and Administrative Officer – deadline 1 February
• Human Rights Watch is seeking a highly qualified candidate for the position of Digital Advocate to develop online advocacy efforts around the world
• OHCHR Senior Indigenous Fellow – deadline 26 February
• Unitarian Universalist Service Committee $25,000 fellowship to promote the human right to water Deadline April 3.
• Cambodian Women Activists Win Award for Work to Combat Domestic Violence
NEW PUBLICATIONS/WEB-BASED RESOURCES

- OHCHR: Women’s Rights are Human Rights – A Handbook
- Human Rights and the Universal Periodic Review – edited by DTP Advisory Council member Hillary Charlesworth and Emma Larking; includes a chapter by DTP alumna Yuyun Wahiyuningrum
- Stay informed and learn more about the work and impact of Human Rights Treaty Bodies: Quarterly Treaty Bodies Newsletter
- Mobilizing Men in Practice: Challenging sexual and gender-based violence in institutional settings
- OHCHR: UN Human Rights Office launches major online database of treaty body case law

EVENTS

- Conectas 14th Colloquium: Human Rights and the Streets 24-29 May, San Paolo Brazil
- EngageMedia is pleased to announce a Video Camp for Southeast Asian filmmakers in Myanmar in June 2015

HUMAN RIGHTS – GENERAL NEWS

- 76 human rights experts urge UN member States to ensure that the principle of climate justice is at the core of climate change governance
- The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) showcases 25 examples of assistance by UNDP in the areas of democracy and human rights
- UN rights office appeals for halt in executions for drug crimes in South East Asia
- UN Pronouncements on Extra-Territorial Obligations

Treaty Bodies

- ESCR Committee General Comment 35, Liberty and Security: A New General Comment on Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- Next steps for improving human rights compliance and protection

UPR

- UPR April 2015 – Maldives: Briefing paper on the situation of human rights defenders
- NGO written submissions on Micronesia, Nauru, Nepal, Myanmar and Australia that will be reviewed during the 23rd session of the UPR (2 -13 November - TBC) must be submitted to the UPR system by 23 March
- An analysis by UPR-Info “Starting all over again?” indicates that only 1/5th of recommendations from the first UPR cycle are linked to a recommendation in the 2nd cycle
- Review of Kiribati, Lao People’s Democratic Republic documents

Development

- Philip Alston: “The two words that scare the World Bank”

HUMAN RIGHTS – REGIONAL NEWS

- Human Rights Specialists Explore Technology to Support Work in Asia
Australia
- Australian Human Rights Commission: National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention
- Government to Slash Funding of the Australian Human Rights Commission by 30%
- Human Rights Law Centre, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International call on Australian Government to stop forced-returns to Sri Lanka without proper screening
- UNHCR Legal Position: Despite court ruling on Sri Lankans detained at sea, Australia bound by international obligations
- Western Australian Government evicts Aboriginal Community and razes their houses. The process is threatened for more than 150 communities
- Geneva based human rights organization urges Australia to remove excessive restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly

Bangladesh
- Bangalee settlers in CHT exploited by vested quarters, claim rights activists
- Medical College inauguration against mass sentiment sparks fresh communal conflicts in Rangamati town
- Two Indigenous people killed, six women and girls subjected to sexual violence and two massive communal attacks on indigenous peoples take place in January
- NGO demands withdrawal of the racist and discriminatory decisions of Home Ministry that imposes embargo on foreigners visiting CHT and to national/foreign organizations and individuals on meeting with tribals
- From Kabita Chakma: “Bijoy Dibosh, safety and security in the CHT”

Burma/Myanmar
- Statement of Civil Societies on Latpataung Copper Mining Conflict
- Current Political Prisoner list in Burma 2015
- A mass call from Myanmar’s civil society to drop ‘Nation, Race and Religion’ bills
- Fortify Rights: Prosecute Perpetrators, Not Human Rights Defenders

Cambodia
- FIDH: Convictions upheld against 11 land rights defenders
- International and Cambodian groups issue a complaint to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Cambodia raising concerns over human rights violations resulting from the development of two hydropower dam projects in Cambodia

China
- Front Line: Release of human rights defender Mr Huang Kaiping
- Hong Kong: Guilty verdict in migrant domestic worker abuse trial a damning indictment on authorities' failure

Indonesia
- Amnesty International: First executions under new president retrograde step for rights
- ELSAM: Stop the Execution For Death Row Inmates and UN human rights expert calls for immediate halt to further executions in Indonesia

Laos
- UN experts appeal for help to probe two-year-old disappearance of rights defender
- FIDH: Government’s failure to live up to its UPR commitments calls for more international pressure
Malaysia

- Charles Hector: Rights Reforms Abandoned, Stop Suppressing Speech, Harassing Groups, Targeting Politicians
- Anwar Ibrahim sentenced to five years in prison
- Arbitrary detention of cartoonist Zunar an outrageous attack against freedom of expression

Thailand

- Detention of human rights defender Mr Pianrat Boonrit

Timor Leste

- East Timor Prime Minister Gusmao submits resignation

Vietnam

- Report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief on his 2014 Mission

January 2015 E Newsletter compiled, edited and designed by André Frankovits and Patrick Earle