We are continuing with our series of contributions on new human rights challenges and new developments affecting political, economic, social and environmental changes in the 21st Century and what these mean for human rights and capacity building. We invite our readers and alumni to contribute to these contributions.

- This is the final year of Ban Ki Moon’s term as UN Secretary-General. A process is underway to appoint a new UN Secretary-General at the General Assembly in September. Given the critical role that the Secretary-General plays in the promotion of peace and human rights, we thought it important for E-Newsletter readers to be acquainted with the potential candidates. The 1 for 7 Billion campaign calls for a selection process that will find the best person for the job, irrespective of gender, region or background. It provides information on the candidates’ Vision Statements, the Informal Dialogue of each candidate with the General Assembly and a commentary on the Dialogue.

Exhibition of posters
- For DTP’s 25th Anniversary, UNSW Faculty of Law prepared an exhibition of posters featuring DTP alumni from the region, highlighting their work for Indigenous Peoples, Migrant Workers, Human Rights and Sustainable Development and on the human rights responsibilities of business.

**PLEASE DONATE**

- DTP relies on donations of time and funds to provide quality training to human rights defenders so that they can promote and protect human rights effectively in their societies. Please help if you can. Donations over $2 are tax-deductible. Please send your donation to DTP now online, or by credit card or EFT with this donation form.
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<td>Feb 18 – March 5, 2016</td>
<td>25th Annual Regional Human Rights Defenders Program</td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
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<td>March 1-4, 2016</td>
<td>The Human Rights of Migrant Workers –Bangladesh – 2nd Module</td>
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<td>April 11-15, 2016</td>
<td>Oxfam – 4th Module: Rights and Advocacy - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth Program</td>
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<td>April 27-29, 2016</td>
<td>2nd Regional GCC Program on Human Rights, Migrant Workers and the Private Sector</td>
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<td>May 1</td>
<td>DTP’s Alumni in Bangladesh – Review, Reflection and Planning</td>
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<td>May 3-6</td>
<td>The Human Rights of Migrant Workers –Bangladesh – 3rd Module</td>
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<td>May 25-June 3</td>
<td>Human Rights, Indigenous Peoples, the Private Sector and Development</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>DTP’s Alumni in Indonesia – Review, Reflection and Planning</td>
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<td>July (TBC)</td>
<td>The Human Rights of Migrant Workers –Bangladesh – 4th Module</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>Capacity Building for Human Rights in Asia-Pacific – Review, Reflection and Planning</td>
<td>Timor Leste/TBC</td>
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<td>August/September</td>
<td>DTP’s 26th Annual Regional Human Rights and Peoples Diplomacy Training Program</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<td>September (TBC)</td>
<td>Human Rights, Indigenous Peoples Rights and Advocacy</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>The Human Rights of Migrant Workers –Bangladesh – 5th Module</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>The Human Rights of Migrant Workers – MENA Region</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>3rd Regional GCC Program on Human Rights, Migrant Workers and the Private Sector</td>
<td>UAE</td>
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<td>November 28-December 16 (TBC)</td>
<td>DTP Australian Awards Fellowship Program</td>
<td>Sydney/Canberra Melbourne</td>
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- Please check the [DTP website](http://example.com) for details, program information and application forms. Please send enquiries to [dtp@unsw.edu.au](mailto:dtp@unsw.edu.au)

**Reports**
- [Report of 2015 Myanmar Regional Program on Human Rights, Business and Development](#)
- Learning the Lessons from 10 years of Capacity Building. [This report](#) 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 and [Lessons Learned on Capacity Building for Migrant Workers’ Rights](#) – (Nov 2014) Summary of Dubai Workshop. Click [here](#) for final report.
• 4th Annual Middle East and North Africa Regional Training Program on the Rights of Migrant Workers – Kuwait, (Nov 2014), Executive Summary. Click here for final report.

• The Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade has a reference from the Australian Parliament to Inquire into Australia’s Advocacy for the Abolition of the Death Penalty. DTP has made a submission to the inquiry. Professor Andrew Byrnes, DTP Board Member made a statement at the Inquiry.

• Special Program: Sri Lanka Capacity Building for Advocacy for Migrant Workers and Safe Migration – Summary Report of Module 5

• Building Civil Society Capacity for Advocacy for Migrant Workers and Safe Migration: The Diplomacy Training Program in partnership with Migrant Forum Asia with WARBE, RMMRU – Draft Report Bangladesh Module 1

**ACTION OPPORTUNITIES – CALLS FOR SOLIDARITY**

• Take action, Malaysia: Sentencing of human rights defender Haris Ibrahim
• Take action, China: Citizen journalist sentenced to four years and ten months in jail
• Take action, Bangladesh: Killing of LGBT rights defenders Xulhaz Mannan and Mahbub Tonoy
• Take action, Nepal: Detention of human rights defender Kanak Mani Dixit
• Urgent appeal, Myanmar: Poet suffers detention and prosecution for allegedly defaming President
• Take action, Thailand: Missing human rights defender Den Kamae
• Petition: Tell FIFA and sponsors to stop World Cup exploitation
• Have your say: What would you put in a treaty on human rights and business
• Take action, Pakistan: Killing of human rights defender Khurram Zaki
• Action appeal, Philippines: Call on the Philippine government to immediately pass the National Preventative Mechanism Bill on torture

**CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DTP ALUMNI AND THEIR NGOs**

• From Sathish Madhavan in Dubai: Filipino flies home after 20 years - Emirates 24/7 readers help man return home after two decades
• From Dilshan Weerasinghe in Sri Lanka: Migrant News Lanka: Join the Online Discussion on Temporary Labour Migration!
• John Tripura in Bangladesh has sent two of his articles published in the Dhaka Tribune: Security for the most vulnerable: Indigenous women suffer greatly as a result of continued discrimination and Tourism in CHT: some concerns
• The Kuwait Society for Human Rights a DTP alumnus organization produced two poster for 2016 Labor Day: [Poster 1] (image) [Poster 2] (image)

The Society has launched the "TOGETHER" Project with the First Electronic Platform of Labor Rights Protection in the Arab Gulf Region

• Tahirih Ayn from Sri Lanka, an alumna from the DTP 25th Annual Program has sent us an article, Daunting Problems before the Government
NEW PUBLICATIONS/WEB-BASED RESOURCES

- Odhikar, the Bangladeshi human rights organization: Human Rights Monitoring Report
- We have received New Video Stories from West Papua from one of our partner training organizations, Engage Media
- BBC Radio has produced a two part series on the universality of human rights, “Are human rights really universal”

AWARDS

- Human Rights Defender Phyoe Phyoe Aung, General Secretary of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions from Myanmar has been selected as finalist for the 2016 Front Line Defenders Award for Human Rights Defenders at Risk

WHERE ARE THEY NOW – NEWS OF DTP ALUMNI

- Francis Solomantine from Sri Lanka is now working for the Middle East Center for Training & Development (MECTD) in Dubai. MECTD was established by another DTP alumnus and focuses on education on local and international laws and associated developments. Its targets are civil society, the corporate sector, government agencies, and other relevant bodies of the region. He tells us that “working at MECTD will be a great opportunity for me to once again put more efforts in to labour migration and related issues…”

- Pervez Siddiqui, Manager - Advocacy, Media and Communication - at BRAC Bangladesh is an alumnus of the 2009 Annual DTP Program in Timor Leste. He is also an accomplished film-maker using peace and human rights as his themes. He is national coordinator for National Alliances for Migrant Worker Rights (NAMR,B) and member of the Bangladesh Civil Society Committee in preparation for the 2016 Global Forum on Migration and Development.

- We would like to congratulate Karen Gomez Dumpit on her appointment as Commissioner to the Philippines Human Rights Commission.

- We would like to thank the alumni from Bangladesh who met together with the DTP team on 1st May 2016 to discuss and agree on the value of establishing a DTP alumni network in Bangladesh. It was a great opportunity to network and connect with other human rights defenders from the country and share experiences.

DTP’S THEMATIC PRIORITIES

Human Rights and Business

- 60 NGOs issue joint statement calling on G7 to fulfill supply chain commitments
- From OECD Watch: Should I stay or should I go? Exploring the role of disengagement in human rights due diligence
- The ICJ and Child Rights have produced a practical guide to the Committee on the Rights of the Child’s General Comment on business and children’s rights
- Improving accountability and access to remedy for victims of business related human rights abuse
- Treaty Alliance: Proposed UN treaty on business and human rights must address corporate capture of government
• Report on FIFA and Human Rights: John Ruggie makes 25 practical human rights recommendations for FIFA

Indigenous Peoples’ Rights
• Malaysia: International NGOs condemn judicial harassment of human rights and Indigenous rights leader Jannie Lasimbang
• UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, launches IWGIA report "The Indigenous World 2016"

Migrant Workers’ Rights
• Pakistan: The country’s Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) is now functional
• Institute for Human Rights and Business releases briefings on recruitment fees
• Ban on Nepalese women going for domestic jobs lifted

Women’s rights
• “CEDAW Bearing Fruits in Timor-Leste”: Integrating CEDAW in laws and polices
• New video resource on women’s rights and the role of National Human Rights Institutions
• Connect with Respect is a curriculum tool for teachers in Asia and the Pacific. It was developed to advance gender equality, social cohesion and respectful relationships among young people
• Investing in women for peace and future generations: Timor-Leste Adopts a National Action Plan on Security Council Resolution 1325

HUMAN RIGHTS – GENERAL NEWS
• 27 NGOs in Geneva commit to paying their interns
• The body representing over 100 NHRI’s worldwide will now be known as the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions
• The United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression, David Kaye, warns that efforts to counter ‘violent extremism’ can be the ‘perfect excuse’ for democratic and authoritarian governments around the world to restrict free expression and seek to control access to information
• The World Bank Group is working with the United Nations Development Program, OHCHR and others to develop a new “strategic global research agenda” for LGBTI rights.

Death Penalty
• 6th World Congress against the Death Penalty, Oslo June 2016

UPR
• Reminders: UPR26 in November 2016 will review Timor Leste; UPR27 in April 2017 will review Indonesia, India and the Philippines (TBC); UPR28 in October/November 2017 will review Republic of Korea, Pakistan, Japan and Sri Lanka
• Thailand Government deceives international community at UPR

Treaty Bodies
• Full text of CESC General Comment No. 23 (E/C.12/GC/23) on the right to just and favourable conditions of work

Human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
• OHCHR: Video - The Right to Development – “Development Done Right”
• The Declaration on the Right to Development turns 30: Frequently asked questions on the Right to Development

HUMAN RIGHTS – REGIONAL NEWS

• In Southeast Asia, being democratic can lose you friends: How East Timor’s Democracy Is Making it an Outcast
• Regional MPs concerned by Thailand’s draft constitution and planned referendum
• Reintegration: the Forgotten Side of Migration in ASEAN

HUMAN RIGHTS – COUNTRY SPECIFIC NEWS

Australia
• NSW anti-protest laws are part of a corrosive national trend
• Australia violated rights of deaf people over jury service – UN experts
• UN rules that Australia’s indefinite detention of refugees is illegal
• The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation for human rights defenders will carry out an official visit to Australia from 4 to 18 October 2016. Civil society and other interested parties are encouraged to submit general inputs and specific proposals with regard to issues of concern, potential areas to visit and relevant stakeholders and individuals to meet. Please send your inputs to defenders@ohchr.org

Cambodia
• Judicial Harassment Against Human Rights Defenders A Blow to Rule of Law
• Licadho: Six activists and human rights workers arrested

China
• Restrictive law targeting foreign NGOs passed

Indonesia
• 63 Papuan activists arrested in April
• The security forces in West Papua cracked down on numerous peaceful rallies throughout the past month culminating in mass arrests on the 2 May
• Indonesia forms team to probe 1960s massacre ‘graves’

India
• UN Special Rapporteur on the right to housing, Leilani Fahra: "Right to housing vision needed to achieve equality for the poor in India"

Philippines
• Amnesty International: UN torture review must spur reforms
• Commission on Human Rights to lead opposition against return of death penalty

Samoa
• Samoa takes Pacific lead in committing to justice for children by ratifying two Optional Protocols to the CRC

Sri Lanka
• UN experts urge Sri Lanka to adopt measures to fight torture and strengthen justice system
Thailand
- Five years on, international organizations renew their call for the release of Somyot Phruksakasemsuk
- Junta Arrests Activist’s Mother
- Joint NG statement: Stop Judicial Harassment of Human Rights Defenders
- From Charles Hector: “Thailand commits to HR Defenders - Will they agree to do more?”

Vietnam
- Joint NGO Statement: Alleged Torture of Mrs. Tran Thi Hong Must Be Investigated

May 2016 E Newsletter compiled, edited and designed by André Frankovits and Patrick Earle

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