Human Rights and Development:

A Capacity Building Program for Community Advocates in the Asia-Pacific Region

Myanmar

April/May 2015 (TBC)

Applications close: March 16, 2015

Before this training I just knew that there were human rights – that’s it. Now I know how to make use of them to protect our people.

Participant from the 2014 Human Rights in Advocacy for Development and Business.

INTRODUCTION

The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) is calling for applications for its regional program ‘Human Rights and Development: Building Civil Society Advocacy Capacity’. This program will take place in Myanmar for 10 days in April/ May 2015 (dates to be finalised).

This capacity building program will build the knowledge, skills and networks of civil society advocates to enable them to more effectively advocate for the protection and promotion of human rights – including the rights of women and of persons with disability – in the context of economic development. It responds to the needs of civil society organisations working with and for marginalized communities struggling to have a voice in the decisions that impact on their lives and livelihoods. It recognizes the role that civil society plays in holding governments accountable.

This program will also seek to strengthen and support the efforts of civil society in Myanmar at this key moment of economic and political transition.

The program will bring together 25-30 civil society advocates from across Myanmar and Asia who are active in organisations focused on promoting human rights in development. It will develop their knowledge of relevant human rights standards and accountability mechanisms and develop their skills in engaging with their governments and internationally. The program will enable these individuals to reflect on their experiences, learn from others and to build their support networks.

This program continues 25 years of DTP’s capacity building work with the human rights movement in Asia and the Pacific. It will involve working with local and regional partners, alumni from previous programs and key organisations in the region and the UN system.
WHAT WILL PARTICIPANTS LEARN?

This participatory and intensive program will have a particular focus on the following:

- Human Rights Standards and The United Nations System
- Human Rights and Business – UN Guiding Principles, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and other relevant standards
- The Right to Free Prior and Informed Consent
- The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Advocacy Strategies and Techniques

TRAINERS AND TRAINING METHODOLOGY

Trainers on DTP programs are experienced local, regional and international human rights practitioners, academics, and officials who understand and support DTP’s philosophy of participatory training. DTP recognizes and values the experiences and skills that participants bring to its programs. The training is interactive and sharing experiences and lessons with other participants and trainers is actively encouraged.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The program is for community advocates from Asia-Pacific countries and Indigenous Australia who work for and with NGOs and CSOs and who see the value gaining greater practical knowledge of international human rights standards and the UN system. Applications from those working with National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and governmental and intergovernmental agencies will also be considered. Consideration is given to ensuring a gender and geographical balance within each course. The training is conducted in English and an ability to participate in discussions is essential.

COURSE FEES

The DTP is an independent NGO and course fees are an important source of income for its work. The course fee for the program is US$2500 and covers tuition, accommodation, food, field trips, and resource materials for the 10-day program. Travel expenses to and from Myanmar are not included in this fee. A limited number of scholarships (full or partial) will be offered. NGOs are invited to enquire about subsidised spaces.

ABOUT THE DIPLOMACY TRAINING PROGRAM

The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) is an independent NGO providing practical training in human rights and people’s diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific region. It seeks to advance human rights and empower civil society in the region through quality education and training and the building of skills and capacity in NGOs. The DTP was founded in 1989 by José Ramos-Horta, the Nobel Peace Laureate. It is affiliated with the Faculty of Law at the University of New South Wales.

HOW TO APPLY

Application forms can be downloaded from the DTP website or can be requested from l.savage@unsw.edu.au. All applications must be received by DTP by March 16, 2015. Applications will be acknowledged on receipt.