

DIPLOMACY TRAINING PROGRAM E-NEWSLETTER

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Recipient of the Sir Ron Wilson Human Rights Award 2015

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DTP – BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF ASIA-PACIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT 1990 – 2017

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

<u>Democracy in Asia: A Glass Half Full or Half Empty?</u> How has democracy fared in Asia over the last decade –
and what can help in pushing the agenda forward? An article in <u>The Diplomat</u> by Leena Rikkila Tamang, the
Regional Director for International IDEA's Asia & Pacific Programme and Mette Bakken, Acting Programme
Manager for International IDEA's Nepal Office

PLEASE DONATE

• DTP relies on donations 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

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Schedule of DTP Program's, Brochure and Application Forms click here

- "Leaving No One Behind": Australia, Indigenous Peoples and the SDGs October 23-25
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Building Capacity on Implementation and Reporting, Australia (Nov 9-10, 2017) <u>Brochure and Application Form</u> Only for Australia

For reports on completed DTP Training Programs click here

Other training programs

- 5th International Winter Course Human Rights and Asia 2018, Seoul Republic of Korea January 2018
- 8th International Conference on Human Rights Education 30 November-3 December

PROFILES AND NEWS OF DTP ALUMNI

- From Morse Flores: A mini reunion of DTP alumni in Geneva with Binota Moi Dhamai and Yuyun
 Wahyuningrum
- <u>Aishath Shifana</u>, 2016 DTP trainer and 2014 DTP Alumna, Director of Advocacy Department at Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM)
- Jermayne Williams, 2015-2016 DTP Alumnus, Family Individual Support Worker at Mununjali Jymbi Centre
- Dr. Subash Mohaptra, 2016 DTP Alumnus, Convener at End Corporate Abuse

JOBS

- REDRESS is recruiting a new Director Applications close 30 September
- ESCR-Net is seeking a Solidarity and Membership Coordinator to work in its New York office

DTP ALUMNI SURVEY

Priorities for Human Rights Capacity Building From 10th February – 23rd February 2017, DTP conducted a survey of its alumni through a short questionnaire. The survey sought the input of alumni in identifying key human rights challenges in the Asia-Pacific Region and Middle East, priorities for knowledge and skills building and advice on DTP's work in supporting networks. 135 alumni completed the survey. See results.

WORKING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS - NGO PROFILES

- <u>Centre for Human Rights and Development</u> dedicated to promoting and defending human rights in Sri Lanka
- <u>Foundation for Education Development</u> dedicated to promoting and defending human rights in Thailand/Myanmar

RESOURCES AND LINKS

- Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly: A Practical Guide for NGOs
- DTP Trainer Saranbaatar Bayarmagnai from OHCHR advised us of a new resource: <u>Realizing Human Rights</u> <u>through Government Budgets</u>

AWARDS

• DTP Alumnus Myo Win from Myanmar is the producer of the film <u>Sittwe about the conflict in Rakhine State</u>. It received the best South East Asia Short Award at the Freedom Film Festival in Malaysia.

PROMOTE YOUR CAUSE

• The Australian Human Rights Commission 2017 Human Rights photo competition – entries close 30 September

DTP'S THEMATIC PRIORITIES

Human Rights and Business

- Creating a paradigm shift: Legal solutions to improve access to remedy for corporate human rights abuse
- Australia is the next major opportunity for the global modern slavery movement
- India: Modern slavery, child labour, unsafe working conditions reported in granite quarries
- Australian mining company, Anvil, in prosecution spotlight for role in Congo massacre

Indigenous Peoples' Rights

- Why the Indigenous land struggle is key to advancing environmental justice for all
- Cambodia: <u>Indigenous people reject compensation from government refuse to vacate ancestral lands for dam</u> development
- Statement by the Chair of the UNPFII on the 10th Anniversary of the UNDRIP
- UN adopts resolution calling for Indigenous participation in meetings of UN bodies

Migrant Workers' Rights

DTP Monthly Migrant Workers Rights e-Bulletin. Issue No 7 is now available here

- Nepal: Welfare sum for migrant workers' kin doubled
- Regional Civil Society Statement on the Adoption of an ASEAN Instrument on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers
- CMW: Concluding observations on the initial report of Indonesia
- Thailand: <u>Protect Migrant Workers and Labor Right Activist</u>

Women's rights

- Thailand: Concluding Observations on Thailands report to the CEDAW Committee
- UN Women Annual Report: Rights, results and resilience: Implementing the 2030 Agenda
- Corporate power threatens women's human rights

HUMAN RIGHTS – GENERAL NEWS

- <u>Darker and more dangerous: High Commissioner updates the Human Rights Council on human rights issues in</u> 40 countries
- Inclusion of the Responsibility to Protect on the Formal Agenda of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly
- Report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of UN action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation
- The Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association is calling for submissions: Strategic litigation in national, regional and international courts

SDGs

Civil society urges businesses and governments to put human rights at core of implementation of SDGs

UPR

- Reminders: 28th session UPR Working Group 6-17 November July deadline (<u>Republic of Korea</u> (Troika: Mongolia, Hungary, Congo) <u>Pakistan</u> (Troika: Latvia, Egypt, Iraq) <u>Japan</u> (Troika: Qatar, Belgium, Togo) <u>Sri Lanka</u> (Troika: Burundi, Republic of Korea, Bolivia)
- Stakeholders' Submission for 3rd Cycle to be sent: Bangladesh and Tuvalu by 5 October, 2017
- Application Form for UPR Pre-session 29 (12-15 December 2017 TBC)

Development

- UN expert urges World Bank to amend its constitution to effectively advance human rights
- Human Rights Watch: <u>Recommendations on the World Bank's Guidance Notes regarding the Implementation of the Environmental and Social Framework</u>
- UN Briefing: Frequently Asked Questions on the Right to Development

HUMAN RIGHTS – REGIONAL NEWS

- Southeast Asian Civil Society Statement on Social Protection
- ASEAN Parliamentarians come together to promote human rights in the context of trade

HUMAN RIGHTS – COUNTRY SPECIFIC NEWS

Australia

- Urgent UN intervention sought to halt Government attempts to coerce refugees back to harm
- Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous peoples on her visit to Australia

- Federal Government's changes to welfare laws will give too much power over remote communities to an unelected bureaucrat
- UN told Australia must abandon racially discriminatory remote work for the dole program

Burma/Myanmar

- UN human rights chief points to 'textbook example of ethnic cleansing' in Myanmar
- <u>Statement by Mr. Marzuki Darusman, Chairperson of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on</u> Myanmar
- Oral statement for the Interactive Dialogue with the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission

China

- Take action: Human Rights in China staff director Zhen Jianghua taken by police to unknown location
- Hong Kong: <u>Judiciary in the dock jailing of student activists</u>
- Take action: Human rights defender Li Zhaoxiu arrested at hospital while awaiting surgery

Cambodia

- Environmental rights group targeted for exposing potential sand smuggling activities
- Shutdown of Prominent Cambodia Newspaper Fuels Fears of Government Crackdown Ahead of Elections
- Cambodian Indigenous Minorities Fight Tide of Development (video)

India

- From Ravi Nair: <u>The Poverty of Imagination- Indian Foreign Policy in Myanmar</u> and <u>Rijuju in Rohingya</u> Blunderland: Domestic Law Is Against Forcible Deportation
- People's convention urges Government of India to withdraw plans for mega dams
- South Asians for Human Rights vehemently condemns the killing of Journalist Gauri Lankesh

Indonesia

- International and Regional NGOs: Government must make public the 2005 fact-finding report on Munir's case
- <u>Protesters Thwarted in Attempt to Enter Legal Aid Foundation Office in Jakarta</u> and <u>Attack and Threats against</u>
 YLBHI and LBH Jakarta office

Laos

• UN body says detention of government critics is "arbitrary" and urges their release

Malaysia

• Examining Human Rights in the Context of ASEAN Regional Migration:

Philippines

- Amnesty International: Killings of children continue unabated
- Two human rights defenders threatened and intimidated by suspected government security forces

Singapore

Take action: Human rights defenders under investigation for holding candlelight vigil

Thailand

• Take action: Release student and pro-democracy activist Jatuphat Boonpattaraksa

Vietnam

• Take action: Nguyen Van Oai sentenced to five years imprisonment and four years house arrest

NEWSLETTERS/REGULAR PUBLICATIONS

In this section, we list contributions that appear on a regular basis that may be of interest to our readers

- Burma Human Rights Network Monthly Situation Updates Registration
- Vietnam Human Rights Defenders Weekly
- Bangladesh Human Rights Monitoring Report, monthly from Odhikar
- AWPA Sydney News from the Australian West Papua Association (AWPA)
- Australia Asia Worker Links
- United Nations Democracy Fund Monthly Newsletter
- Kapaeeng Watch from Bangladesh
- Hurights-Osaka: Asia Pacific Human Rights Information Center
- INDIA NEWS A publication of the India Committee of the Netherlands
- HREA Upcoming E-Learning Courses

September 2017 E Newsletter compiled, edited and designed by <u>André Frankovits</u> and <u>Patrick Earle</u>

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