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, Jose Ramos Horta and Professor Garth Nethheim. 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.

- In this issue we feature Performances and Challenges of the UN Human Rights Council – An NGO view. This article by Thodor Rathgeber for the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung argues among other points that the current dynamic within the UN Human Rights Council has driven the Council in certain cases to function more closely in accordance with normative standards, as well as with the reality on the ground. Civil society stakeholders have a number of opportunities to consolidate that dynamic.

Capacity Building and Training Opportunities

DTP Programs: 2014 Draft Schedule

- Feb 4-6 – Our World our Rights – Human Rights and Advocacy Training with Timorese and Australian Students
- Feb 10-14 – National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth Human Rights and Advocacy Summit with Oxfam Australia, UNSW Sydney.
- Feb 14-17 – Final Module: Nepal Special Capacity Building Program on Migrant Workers. See Final Report.
- May 1-4 – Regional Workshop on Ethical Business and Recruitment Practices in Labour Migration in the Middle-East - A Training Program for Practitioners Workshop (Dubai) Brochure
- May 19-28 - Regional Human Rights Advocacy, Business and Development (Myanmar/Thailand/Indonesia) See report in the UNSW Law website
- July 7-10 - Special Program: Sri Lanka Capacity Building for Advocacy for Migrant Workers and Safe Migration, Module 1, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- September - Special Program: Sri Lanka Capacity Building for Advocacy for Migrant Workers and Safe Migration, Module 2, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- October 2014 - Workshop on Reflections and Lessons Learned from 10 years of capacity building on Migrant Workers Rights with Migrant Forum Asia. (Check DTP web site for further information)
- November 2014 - 3rd Annual Regional GCC Program on the Rights of Migrant Workers in the MENA

- Please check the DTP website for details, program information and application forms. Please send enquiries to dtp@unsw.edu.au
Program Report

- 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.

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 SUPPORT – CALLS FOR COMMENT

- Petition, Myanmar/Burma: No Interfaith Marriage Bill which will have a dire and catastrophic impact on women’s human rights
- Petition, China/Tibet: Tenzin Delek Rinpoche is in very ill-health, with a heart condition, high blood pressure, and other worrying medical issues
- Petition, Cambodia: Stop the Construction of the Stung Cheay Areng Dam
- Urgent appeal, Thailand: Arbitrary arrest of Mr. Prom Jarana, a member of the Assembly of the Poor

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DTP ALUMNI

- Dr. Palla Trinadha Rao’s book Status of Adivasis/Indigenous Peoples Land Series – 7: Andhra Pradesh has been published by AAKAR BOOKS
- From Yuyun Wahyuningrum: Calls grow for review of regional human rights body
- From Mandira Sharma in Nepal: Asian Centre for Human Rights in cooperation with Advocacy Forum of Nepal and Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) of Nigeria finds that the track records of Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Nigeria UN Peacekeepers remain tainted and the UN has a long way to go to remove these taints
- From Francis Solomantine in Sri Lanka: Video on Migrant Workers, Human Rights, Qatar and the 2022 FIFA World Cup

WHERE ARE THEY NOW – NEWS OF DTP ALUMNI

- Sopheap Suong - Regional Manager for the Cambodian Women’s Crisis Center, a 2008 DTP alumnus

INTERNATIONAL NGO PROFILE

Each issue we will be profiling an international human rights NGO. Some take up individual cases and generate international action on the case. Others focus on research, always with an emphasis on advocacy to bring about change. Each of these NGOs play an important role in global and regional efforts to protect and promote human rights actively solicit and welcome information on human rights abuses.
Migrant Forum Asia (MFA) is a regional network of NGOs, associations and trade unions of migrant workers, and individual advocates in Asia who are committed to protect and promote the rights and welfare of migrant workers. It is guided by a vision of an alternative world system based on respect for human rights and dignity, social justice, and gender equity, particularly for migrant workers.

### Human Rights and Business

- **Frontline:** Travel ban imposed on human rights defender Mr Andy Hall after detention during hearing of new charges and subsequent release on bail. The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) has demanded that all charges against Andy Hall, 33, be dropped immediately.
- **Thailand:** Guardian reports global supermarkets linked to abuses including trafficking, forced labour and killings in fishing industry.
- **ILO** adopts new legally binding protocol to combat forced labour.
- ‘People’s Tribunal’ Indonesia says human rights violations in garment industry is ‘systemic’.
- **UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights** online consultation re guidance on national action plans to implement UN Guiding Principles – have your say.
- **Human rights website** spotlights conduct of over 5600 companies.
- **Human Rights Council** adopts resolution on elaboration of an international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights.

### Indigenous Peoples’ Rights

- **ANGOC** joins the Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCA) Consortium.
- **Problems and Deprivations of Bangladesh’s Plains-land Indigenous Peoples**

### Migrant Workers’ Rights

- At the 26th UN Human Rights Council session the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, François Crépeau, presented a thematic report on the issue of labour exploitation of migrants.
- **US** demotes Thailand, Qatar, Malaysia in Trafficking in Persons report – cites modern-day slavery among migrant workers.
- **Thailand:** Cambodian workers arrested for allegedly using fake work documents - at least 225,000 have fled for fear of violence & arrests.
- **Singapore:** Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics comments on Committee of Inquiry’s report on Little India riot – says more protections needed.

### Women’s Rights

- **New brochure:** ‘Dalit women fight’
- UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and Practice report: “Global efforts towards better corporate responsibility are “ignoring women””
- **UN Women** Announces Emma Watson as Goodwill Ambassador.
- **Statement By ARROW On The Resolution By The Human Rights Council, 26th Session On Its Narrow Formulation On The ‘Protection Of The Family’**
JOBS

- Amnesty International is recruiting a Researcher/Advisor for the Business and Human Rights team at the IS, London
- ASEAN Advocacy Programme Associate in FORUM-ASIA, deadline 31 July
- Corporate Accountability and Communications Officer, Business and Human Rights Resource Centre

FUNDING SOURCES

- A List of Foundations that Provide Small Grants to NGOs
- An interactive website where you can explore foundation funding for human rights by issue, geographic region, and population supported

EVENTS

- On September 5 and 6 the AICHR (ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights) will convene a workshop on Human Rights, Environment and Climate Change in Old Bagan, Burma.

AWARDS

- Bangladeshi Human Rights Attorney Adilur Rahman Khan Selected for 31st Annual Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award

NEW PUBLICATIONS/WEB/BASED RESOURCES

- The new OHCHR Ratification Dashboard is a comprehensive data visualization portal containing the latest status of ratification of 18 treaties and optional protocols
- New issue of Health and Human Rights Journal with a special section on climate justice and the right to health
- The purpose of the Right to Food Methodological Toolbox is to provide a practical aid for the implementation of the Right to Food Guidelines. These are elaborated in the 10 Right to Food Handbooks.

HUMAN RIGHTS – GENERAL NEWS

Extra-territorial obligations

- The Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights submitted a parallel report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which was scrutinizing China regarding extra-territorial obligations. It based its submission on the Maastricht Principles on Extra-Territorial Obligations adopted in 2011.

Treaty Bodies

- Indonesia: Concluding Observations by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child
UPR

- Periodic Review of Laos: FIDH and the Lao Movement for Human Rights (LMHR) urge the Lao Government to address land rights issues and protect rights defenders, submission from ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights and ISHR UPR Briefing paper on Laos
- Human Rights Council adopts outcome of Universal Periodic Review of Cambodia
- Deadline for submissions on Mongolia, Maldives, Marshall Islands for 22nd Session of UPR 15 September 2014

Development

- Open letter to governments from the Special Rapporteur on the human right to water and sanitation on the inclusion of human rights in the Sustainable Development Goals
- BRICS countries create $100bn bank to ease western grip on global finances

HUMAN RIGHTS – REGIONAL NEWS

- ASEAN MPs call for independence and strengthened mandate for regional human rights commission
- Rights group wants guideline on religion freedom at ASEAN level
- Thai NGOs submission on a review TOR of AICHR
- Environmental protection begins with protecting human rights

HUMAN RIGHTS – COUNTRY SPECIFIC NEWS

Australia

- UNHCR statement: Returns to Sri Lanka of individuals intercepted at sea For up-to-date information of on refugee and asylum seeker issues see Andrew and Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law
- Australia’s asylum seeker polices & treatment of gay refugees condemned at UN

Bangladesh

- Attack on visiting CHT Commission by Bengali settlers in Rangamati, 3 injured & 2 vehicles vandalized

Burma/Myanmar

- ASEAN Peoples’ Forum report of the 2014 civil society Conference
- Amnesty International: One year on, President’s promise to release all prisoners of conscience remains unfulfilled
- FIDH: End the prosecution of Rohingya human rights defender Kyaw Hla Aung
- Amnesty International: Media workers imprisoned in crackdown on free expression

Cambodia

- Human rights group Licadho reports torture and ill-treatment are rife in Cambodia’s police stations and prisons, with women, children and the mentally ill among those targeted
- Development for Cambodia, but not at any price - UN expert calls for oversight and remedy on land concessions
- Seven opposition MPs detained amid ongoing restrictions on peaceful assembly
China
- Another raid and further harassment of NGO Zhengzhou Yirenping and Mr Chang Boyang
- Mass pro-democracy rally in Hong Kong leads to many arrests
- Frontline: Indictment of human rights defender Mr Yang Maodong

Fiji
- HRW: In Fiji, Free Press Remains Elusive

Indonesia
- FIDH: The Indonesian Government should urgently review its laws, policies and practices to ensure that the country’s economic development is truly people-centered and not conducted at the expense of its citizens’ rights
- Civil Society Coalition for the Upholding of Law and Human Rights in the Land of Papua, together with a number of Jakarta and international human rights NGOs launch Pauans Behind Bars website
- Joint NGO Statement to the next government of Indonesia on human rights

Malaysia
- Malaysian police say Australian activist faces 'up to two years' jail'

Nepal
- THRD Alliance: Torture victims file case against police at Kanchanpur Court

Philippines
- New model proposed for national torture prevention mechanism

Singapore
- Massive leap backwards as Singapore resumes executions

Sri Lanka
- UN Human Rights Chief announces details of Sri Lanka conflict investigation

Thailand
- FIDH: Army threatens, detains, and forcibly evicts villagers

Assembly of the Poor in front of Army HQ

Timor Leste
- HRW: “East Timor’s president should refuse to sign new media law” that roll back media freedoms

July 2014 E Newsletter compiled, edited and designed by André Frankovits and Patrick Earle