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 June 2014 Professor Virginia Dandan, the Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity, presented the Draft Declaration on the Right of Peoples and Individuals to International Solidarity at the Human Rights Council in Geneva. This was the outcome of a decision by the UN to promote the importance of international solidarity in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. In her report to the Council the Independent Expert noted ‘that many global challenges and mass human rights violations, including global poverty, have persisted because of the pervasive gaps that exist in communities, between countries, and in international policy frameworks, and which allow the world’s most vulnerable people to fall through the cracks. International solidarity is the bridge across those gaps in understanding, action and accountability.’

**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
November 3-19 – 24th Annual Regional Human Rights and Peoples’ Diplomacy Training Program, Kathmandu, Nepal in partnership with INSEC. [Brochure and application form]

- Please check the [DTP website](http://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 Report**
- This [report](http://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.

**Other Training Programs**
- [Free online course on Human Rights](http://dtp.unsw.edu.au). The course consists of 33 classes in English, with captions, and may be completed in 2 months. The classes average 10 minutes in length.

**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](http://dtp.unsw.edu.au), or by credit card or EFT with this [donation form](http://dtp.unsw.edu.au)

**ACTION OPPORTUNITIES – CALLS FOR SUPPORT – CALLS FOR COMMENT**
- Urgent appeal, Burma/Myanmar: [Over 450 Farmers Victimized by Myanmar Military Land Grabbing](http://dtp.unsw.edu.au)
- Take Action Now, Sri Lanka: [Death threats against human rights defender Mr Sunil Jayasekara after publicly condemning harassment of Tamil journalists](http://dtp.unsw.edu.au)

**CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DTP ALUMNI**
- From Phou Bunthann, Thailand: [Introductory guide to Free, Prior and Informed Consent for Indigenous Peoples](http://dtp.unsw.edu.au)
- From Yuyun Wahyuningrum, Indonesia: [AICHR After Five Years: Progress, Challenges and Opportunities](http://dtp.unsw.edu.au) (appeared in Huright Osaka Newsletter)
- From Chhan Sokunthea, Cambodia: [ADHOC Statement on Human Rights Violations against Cambodian Women and Girls Trafficked under the Pretext of Marriage](http://dtp.unsw.edu.au)
- From Vivek Trivedi, India: Bridging the Gap Together (BTGT) works to unlock the potential of unprivileged students and prepare them to face the challenges of today’s world. Here are [twenty-one success stories](http://dtp.unsw.edu.au)
- From friends in CHRAC, Cambodia: [CHRAC Calls for Release of Information Regarding Cambodia’s Refugee Resettlement Agreement with Australia](http://dtp.unsw.edu.au)
- From Anucha Wintachai, Thailand: [Statement on the Judicial Harassment of Leading Human Rights Defender, Ms. Pornpen Khongkachonkiet](http://dtp.unsw.edu.au) (who also a DTP alumna)
This month we feature Dina Nuriyati from Indonesia. Dina is an alumna of the Regional Migrant Workers Training, Jakarta (2004), and the DTP Annual Regional Human Rights and Peoples Diplomacy Training Program, Timor Leste (2006).

Amnesty International Australia: Campaign Coordinator – Crisis Response & Tactical, deadline 3 September

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.

This month we feature one of the oldest and largest international human rights NGOs, Amnesty International. Readers can also go directly to the AI web site.

Human Rights and Business
- New Zealand: NGO files complaints under OECD guidelines against construction & insurance companies, alleges housing & health abuses due to inadequate response after 2010 earthquake
- Myanmar: Displaced villagers file complaint regarding Japan’s investment in Thilawa Special Economic Zone
- UN report: "The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age"; asserts that tech companies may be complicit in human rights abuses, cites UN Guiding Principles
- Myanmar: Government passes law on ILO Convention on Worst Forms of Child Labour; pledges to implement ban on child labour by December
- UN Human Rights Council Reaffirms Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
- China: InterContinental fails to prevent complicity in human rights violations in relation to its planned hotel in Lhasa, Tibet, says civil society group
- Business and Human Rights Resource Centre appeals to AICHR Representatives: make study on CSR and human rights publicly available

Indigenous Peoples' Rights
- Launch of the First World Conference on Indigenous Peoples website
- New World Bank rules will be disastrous for Indigenous peoples
- UN Secretary-General’s Message on the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- New video on local indigenous solutions to global climate change challenges

Migrant Workers' Rights
- The UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrants will be visiting Nepal from 4-12 December
• Nepali Government Working on Zero Recruitment Cost for Migrant Workers
• New Facebook Page: Recruitment Reform

Women’s Rights
• Launch of Publication on Gender and Militarism
• Regional Consultation Report: Labour Rights and Decent Work for Working Women in Asia
• Women activists defy danger to protect the environment
• Human Rights Watch submission to Australian Government inquiry on Women’s Rights in the Asia-Pacific: Burma/Myanmar, Indonesia, Brunei

FUNDING SOURCES
• UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking
• Call for proposals: Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) 2014-2015 - Cambodia, Laos and Thailand – deadline September 19. For advice and assistance on how to make a submission, please contact: Canada Fund for Local Initiatives Coordinator (CFLI Coordinator) E-mail: canadafund.bkk@gmail.com

EVENTS
• Fifth International Conference on Human Rights Education "Advancing Universal Human Rights Culture", December 4-6

AWARDS
• Nominations called for 2014 Asian Girl Human Rights Award, deadline 31 August
• Nominations for the 2014 CIVICUS Innovation Awards are NOW open
• The Human Right Tulip is an annual award to individuals or organizations that promote human rights worldwide in innovative ways: nominations called for by September 8

NEW PUBLICATIONS/WEB/BASED RESOURCES
• Forest Peoples Programme Annual Report 2013
• Amnesty International: Human rights for human dignity : A primer on economic, social and cultural rights (second edition)
• OHCHR “dashboard” allows users to view treaty ratification of 18 treaties through interactive world and regional maps

HUMAN RIGHTS – GENERAL NEWS
• Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Optional Protocol: Signatures and ratifications
• Non Aligned Movement (NAM) Ministers reiterate support for self-determination and decolonization for dependent territories
• OXFAM: “Banking on shaky ground”: Australia’s big four banks and Land Grabs

Treaty Bodies
• Advocacy Update on Rights to Housing, Land and Access to Productive Resources
• General Comments 1 on equal recognition before the law and 2 on accessibility issued by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

UPR
• Reminder: The deadline for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to receive written contributions from the stakeholders of Mongolia, Maldives and Marshall Islands to be reviewed during the 22nd session of the UPR is 15 September 2014

Development
• World Bank turns Its back on rights protections for the poor, global civil society response gathers momentum
• Latest Human Development Index shows overall slowdown in growth: 2.2 billion people are poor or near-poor, warns 2014 Human Development Report on vulnerability and resilience
• BRICS launch the New Development Bank and a reserve arrangement
• World Bank begins investigation into eviction of salt-pan workers in Gujarat following NGO complaint
• Development Déjà Vu: How can the new BRICS bank avoid repeating the same mistakes and egregious human rights violations of the World Bank?
• UN Research Institute for Social Development launches a resource platform on social protection and human rights
• A global group of NGOs has developed a website containing NGO comments and information on the World Bank’s safeguards review

HUMAN RIGHTS – REGIONAL NEWS

• Human Rights still take a back seat in ASEAN, say activists
• Stronger mandate sought for AICHR

HUMAN RIGHTS – COUNTRY SPECIFIC NEWS

Australia
• Young children and their families held in asylum seeker detention in Australia will be released on bridging visas, but the policy will not extend to children being held on Nauru and Christmas Island
• Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee Calls for Release of Information Regarding Cambodia’s Refugee Resettlement Agreement with Australia

Bangladesh
• Front Line: Human rights defenders Ms Moshrefa Mishu, Ms Joly Talukder, Ms Shabnam Hafiz and Mr Quamrul Hasan detained by police
• “Human Rights Report 2013 on Indigenous Peoples in Bangladesh”

Burma/Myanmar
• Article 19: Beginners' guides on free expression in Myanmar
• Five Burmese journalists jailed for 10 years for a single news report
Cambodia

- Court Jails Khmer Rouge Leaders for Life for Crimes Against Humanity
- ADHOC: CSO Joint Statement Calling for the Release of Lor Peang Villagers and Solving Land Dispute
- Thai Human Rights Body Says Plantations Stole Land

China

- Human rights defender Ilham Tohti formally indicted on 'separatism' charges

Fiji

- Amnesty International: “Play fair: A human rights agenda”

India

- Amnesty International: Irom Sharmila's re-arrest a mockery of her right to free expression

Indonesia

- Five separatist rebels shot dead in West Papua

Philippines

- Amnesty International: Arrest of General must break down wall of impunity for torture

South Korea

- 'The Myth and Reality of Human Rights in South Korea'

Sri Lanka

- Front Line: Meeting of Families of the Disappeared disrupted, human rights defenders intimidated and targeted in a smear campaign

Thailand

- Thailand 'loses claim' as human-rights leader in Southeast Asia
- Front Line: Continued intimidation of human rights defender Mr Surapan Rujichaiwat

Vietnam

- Despite impediments and surveillance, UN Religious Freedom Expert visits Buddhist Leader Thich Quang Do in Vietnam
- UN Envoy Accuses Vietnam of ‘Serious Violations’ of Religious Freedom
- Government scraps 12 planned dam projects citing low economic benefits and high social, environmental risks

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