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, Dr José Ramos-Horta and Professor Garth Netheim. 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.

• This month we are fortunate indeed to include a contribution from Professor José Ramos-Horta himself. Dr Ramos-Horta reflects on the struggle for justice and human rights during the past 25 years and highlights some of the challenges now facing the human rights movement in the region.

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)
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

November 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

- 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.

Other Training Programs

- 2015 Winter Course, Human Rights and Asia Seoul, January 2015 (deadline 3 October)
- Training on Understanding Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Geneva November 17-21

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

- Urgent appeal, Burma: Ongoing judicial harassment and arbitrary detention of Htin Kyaw, Tin Maung Kyi and Zaw Win
- Urgent appeal, Thailand: End judicial harassment of human rights defenders Pornpen Khongkachonkiet and Somchai Homlaor
- Urgent action, Indonesia/West Papua: Attempted Criminalization of Papuan Human Rights Lawyer by Law Enforcement Authorities
- Urgent action, Myanmar: U Sein Than Imprisoned for peacefully protesting
- Action requested, Sri Lanka: Human rights lawyers Mr Namal Rajapakshe and Mr Manjula Pathiraja receive death threats
- Action Alert: Protest the Dismantling of World Bank Safeguard Protections
- Calling for Submissions: UN4U Photo Contest 2014 on Gender Equality (deadline 10 October)
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DTP ALUMNI

- From Tammy Solonec, Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Manager, Amnesty International Australia: “Join our urgent call to stop the demolition, and to protect sacred Aboriginal sites in Oombulgurri.”
- From Abdul Jabbar Bhatti in Pakistan: Latest News Bulletin on Education

WHERE ARE THEY NOW – NEWS OF DTP ALUMNI

- Sheena Watt from Australia is an alumna of two DTP Programs in 2008 and 2010. She is now working for the Federation of Ethnic Communities Council of Australia.
- Vivek Trivedi from India has been selected to attend the UNESCO Education for Sustainable Development Youth Conference and the UNESCO World Conference to be held in November 2014 in Japan
- DTP offers its condolences to the family and friends of John Ondawame. John had dedicated his life to the liberation of West Papua and exposing human rights abuses there

JOBS/INTERNSHIPS

- Fellowships in International Human Rights
- Human Rights Advocates Program 2015, Colombia University
- The Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human seeks a Prison Project Supervisor; apply by 29 September

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.

- The Center for Economic and Social Rights together with its off-shoot ESCR-Net focus on the realization of economic and social rights and provides opportunity for action as well as providing protection for people at imminent risk.

DTP’S THEMATIC PRIORITIES

Human Rights and Business

- Malaysia: Rights group SUARAM calls on government to investigate alleged exploitation of Nepali workers by JCY International
- Thailand: Over 100 organizations around the world appeal to members of the Thai Pineapple Industry Association to urge its fellow member Natural Fruit to drop the cases against human rights defender Andy Hall
- New guide for companies to tackle slavery in supply chains
• **Call for signatories to a joint statement on protecting human rights defenders working on corporate accountability (deadline 9 Dec)**
• Malaysia: [SAVE Rivers report on Baram Dam alleges Indigenous rights abuses by Sarawak Energy & State Government](#)
• Report on states' extraterritorial obligations related to corporate human rights abuses

**Indigenous Peoples' Rights**

• UN Secretary-General: [Rights, resources and lands at the centre of the First World Conference on Indigenous Issues](#)
• Indonesia: [Human Rights Commission’s first national inquiry into abuses of Indigenous peoples’ land rights](#)
• Cambodia: [Indigenous communities from Preah Vihear demand “cancel land concessions and give us our communal land titles”](#)
• Human Rights Council holds panel discussion and interactive dialogue on Indigenous issues

**Migrant Workers’ Rights**

• Thailand: [Migrant Children Locked Up -Thousands Held in Immigration Detention](#)
• [Ingram Symposium on Labour Migration in the Asia Pacific Region: The Challenges of Governance](#), Sydney 21 October
• [The UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrants](#) will be conducting an official visit to Nepal in early December
• Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families: [List of issues prior to submission of the initial report of Timor-Leste](#)
• Concluding Observations by the Committee on the second periodic report of the [Philippines](#)

**Women’s Rights**

• UN Women launches online platform to encourage gender-responsive businesses, support women-led enterprises
• Rebecca Peters on violence against women: “[Reeva’s real killer: It started with the gun](#)"

**EVENTS**

• [Ingram Symposium on Labour Migration in the Asia Pacific Region: The Challenges of Governance](#), Sydney 21 October
• [The Third International Conference on Human Rights and Peace & Conflict in Southeast Asia](#) 15-17 October

**AWARDS**

• [Nobel Peace Prize winner and former President of Timor Leste, Dr José Ramos-Horta made an Honorary Companion of the Order of Australia](#)

**NEW PUBLICATIONS/WEB/BASED RESOURCES**

• The Carter Center has developed a [training material on the UPR](#). It contains a manual for trainers and a set of PowerPoint presentations
• **Realizing the human rights to water and sanitation: A handbook** by the UN Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation
• **New Public International Law blog launched** – includes news on international human rights and trade/WTO

**HUMAN RIGHTS – GENERAL NEWS**

• **Opening Statement by Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at the Human Rights Council 27th Session**

**Treaty Bodies**

• **Status of ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (150 countries are now party to the Convention)

**UPR**

• Reminders: **Stakeholder submission** to the 2nd cycle reviews of the following countries should reach OHCHR by 23 March 2015 - Australia, Micronesia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal
• **Cambodia rejects 4 UPR recommendations** it had initially accepted
• The Maldives are coming up for review in April 2015. ISHR has prepared a **briefing paper on human rights defenders**

**Development**

• **Large Dams Just Aren’t Worth the Cost**
• UNDP: **Nine steps to cut poverty and inequality in Pacific Island Countries**
• **UN rights expert welcomes decision to establish a multilateral legal framework for debt restructuring**
• TUC: **New World Bank ‘labour safeguard’ is full of holes**

**HUMAN RIGHTS – REGIONAL NEWS**

• **Rights groups call for an end to enforced disappearances in ASEAN**
• **Nick Macelllan looks at the parallels between the calls for self-determination by Scotland and those of post-colonial nations in the Pacific**

**HUMAN RIGHTS – COUNTRY SPECIFIC NEWS**

**Australia**

• **The Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia is concerned that abuse against Aboriginal children could be under-reported to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse**
• **Three UN experts issue a statement calling on Tasmania to withdraw the 'anti-protest' bill**

**Bangladesh**

• Front Line: **Physical attack against human rights defender Hana Shams Ahmed**
• Kapaeeng Foundation: **Coordinator of International Chittagong Hills Tract Commission attacked in Bandarban**

**Burma/Myanmar**

• Front Line: **Human rights defender Mr Ko Htin Kyaw sentenced to ten years in prison with hard labour**
• Myanmar's Rohingya stuck in refugee limbo in India

Cambodia
• HRW: End Political Prosecution of 6 Unionists

India
• Manipur: State government accused of not being able to safeguard rights of Indigenous people

Indonesia
• Activists demand Jokowi-Kalla end religious violence
• French journalists Dandois and Bourrat arrested in West Papua face five years jail
• Amnesty International: New administration must resolve killing of human rights defender Munir
• Front Line: Papua - Judicial harassment of Papuan human rights lawyer Mr Gustaf Kawer

Laos
• NGO restrictions threaten development, say non-profit groups

Malaysia
• Amnesty International: Increasing use of the Sedition Act fosters a climate of repression

Papua New Guinea
• Report on the views and attitudes of villagers affected by the reopening of the Panguna Mine in Bougainville

Sri Lanka
• ISHR: End reprisals against those who cooperate with the UN

Thailand
• OHCHR Regional Office for South East Asia: Increasing Restrictions on Human Rights Defenders
• HRW: Opposition Supporter 'Disappeared'
• Human Rights Organizations Make Global Call to Action on Community Land Rights Dispute
• FIDH: Students and academics arrested for organizing democracy talk

Vietnam
• FIDH: Three human rights defenders sentenced to jail
• Global Witness files complaint against Vietnam Rubber Group with Forest Stewardship Council for alleged land grabs