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, José Ramos-Horta and Professor Garth Nettheim. 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 issue we are lucky to have a contribution by Professor Philip Alston from New York University and who is on the DTP Advisory Board, *Rethinking the World Bank’s Approach to Human Rights*. Before his current appointment as UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Professor Alston served as the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions. In this keynote address delivered at a workshop at the World Bank in October 2014, Professor Alston argues that the World Bank is retreating from its minimal human rights policy of the past, suggests how to address this retreat, and shows in his article why in the context of world-wide changes in development

> “Recognition of the human rights of [those living in poverty] does not guarantee them food, education, or health care, but it does acknowledge their dignity and agency, empower them and their advocates, and provide in contexts in which their interests have been systematically ignored.”

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. See [brief report](#).
- **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 2-3, 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 3-19** – 24th Annual Regional Human Rights and Peoples’ Diplomacy Training Program, Kathmandu, Nepal in partnership with INSEC.
- **November 26-30** - 3rd Annual Regional GCC Program on the Rights of Migrant Workers in the MENA

- Please check the [DTP website](https://www.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 Reports**

- 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.

- The 2013 DTP Annual Report is now available

**Other Training Programs**

- HREA Disaster Relief and Humanitarian Aid Training Programme January-April 2015

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

**ACTION OPPORTUNITIES – CALLS FOR SUPPORT – CALLS FOR COMMENT**

- Twelve Nobel Peace Prize laureates including DTP Founder José Ramos Horta have written a letter to President Barack Obama on the need to investigate the use of torture by the US. The organization TheCommunity.com invites people to support this initiative.

- Health and Human Rights Journal is seeking articles that explore issues related to the evidence of impact of HRBAs to health, **deadline 15 February 2015**

- Petition to Cambodian Government: [Free the net](https://www.freethenet.org)

- Become a member of International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)

**CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DTP ALUMNI**

- From Yuyun Wahyuningrum in Indonesia: [Civil Society’s Recommendations to the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR), the ASEAN Secretary-General (ASG), and the ASEAN Secretariat](https://www.dtp.unsw.edu.au/dtpnews/2014/05/civil-society-recommendations-to-the-committee-of-permanent-representatives-to-asean-cpr-the-asean-secretariat)

- From Pranom Somwong in Thailand: [Mining Company must withdraw threat of legal actions against community leaders; Weakening Security in Klong Sai Pattana Community in Thailand; OHCHR - Criminal Defamation Case against Loei Human Rights Defenders](https://www.dtp.unsw.edu.au/dtpnews/2014/05/mining-company-must-withdraw-threat-of-legal-actions-against-community-leaders)

- Yuyun Wahyuningrum reflects on truth, justice and reconciliation

- From Myo Win, in Myanmar: [The threat to Burma’s minorities](https://www.dtp.unsw.edu.au/dtpnews/2014/05/the-threat-to-burma-s-minorities), article by Alvin Powell of Harvard

- From CHRAC in Cambodia: [Joint Statement - Arbitrary arrests in Boeung Kak 1](https://www.dtp.unsw.edu.au/dtpnews/2014/05/joint-statement-arbitrary-arrests-in-boeung-kak-1)
WHERE ARE THEY NOW – NEWS OF DTP ALUMNI

• This issue we feature Wiwince, an alumna from the 2012 DTP Annual Program in Timor Leste. She is an advocate for human rights in West Papua.

• DTP alumni Romeo Saliga and Elena Damaso have joined the Bangsamoro Transition Commissioner Froilyn Mendoza, the leader of the non-Moro, non-Islamized Indigenous peoples, who is advocating for the incorporation of the rights provided by the Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act and UNDRIP in the Comprehensive Agreement between the MILF and the government of the Philippines.

• From Gabriel Tripura in Bangladesh: Gabriel introduces his NGO, the KOTHWAIN organization (Vulnerable People’s Development Organization).

• Rahul Chowdhari is an alumnus of the 2008 DTP Program in Manila. He told us,

“The training program was very useful to me. It gave me exposure required at that time. I got to know issues and strategies adopted by others for handling the issues and also introduced me to international laws and policies. Bringing together activists from different parts of Asia was also an eye opener. The problem seems to be similar in all the countries. When I attended the training program, there was one session on how to present our case in a better way and one participatory exercise was done for that purpose. This exercise was very helpful also.”

Journalist Camilla Mortensen published a profile of Rahul in Eugene Weekly that outlines how the young lawyer fights dirty coal, polluting industries and problematic dams while saving lions and elephants in India.

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 International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) collaborates with NGOs in advocacy and the production of alternate reports to UN Treaty Bodies and the UPR.

DTP’S THEMATIC PRIORITIES

Human Rights and Business

• NGOs, Cambodian & Thai villagers ask Malaysia Human Rights Commission to investigate Malaysian company Mega First for Laos dam project
• South Korea: Amnesty International report highlights "rampant" abuse of migrant farm workers
• “Who will take responsibility?”: Communities Testify about Dawei Special Economic Zone at Thai Human Rights Commission
• Challenging Corporate Power Through Human Rights
• Thailand: First criminal defamation case against rights defender Andy Hall dismissed – calls to drop 3 remaining cases continue
• Draft UN Guiding Principles Reporting Framework for companies
• Thematic study on CSR & Human Rights in ASEAN – summary and recommendations

Indigenous Peoples’ Rights
• Attempt to Expel Indigenous Peoples from Proposed Baram Dam Site Denounced By Human Rights Group
• Malaysia: Human Rights Groups Demand Police Stop Intimidating Rightful Indigenous Landowners of Baram
• The Palangka Raya Declaration on Deforestation and the Rights of Forest Peoples

Migrant Workers’ Rights
• In his latest annual report, The Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrants calls on governments worldwide to fully include the human rights of migrants in the post-2015 UN development agenda
• New OHCHR publication: The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Migrants in an Irregular Situation
• ILO: It's now time to ratify the newly adopted ILO Forced Labour Protocol (video)
• Business case of better management of migrant workers in Malaysia
• UN Committee on Migrant Workers: Criminalization ‘no solution’ to irregular migration

Women’s Rights
• Rights and plight of women asylum seekers and refugees brought into stark focus in new UN human rights paper
• UN rights panels outline States’ obligation to prevent harmful practices on women, girls
• UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls: Violence against women is a barrier to the effective exercise of all human rights

EVENTS
• RightsCon Southeast Asia 24-25 March 2015: RightsCon is the premier summit series bringing together civil society, engineers, activists, lawyers, companies, and governments on the subject of the internet and human rights.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
• The United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) invites civil society organizations to apply for funding for projects to advance and support democracy, deadline 31 December

AWARDS/JOBS/FELLOWSHIPS
• 2015 Oak Human Rights Fellowship - Focus of the 2015 fellowship is food sovereignty and human rights; apply by 5 December 2014
• Equitas has been awarded the 2014 Rights and Freedoms Prize by the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse du Québec
• Nobel Peace Prize awarded to children’s rights activists Malala Yousafzai of Pakistan and Kailash Satyarthi of India
• Basil Fernando and the Asian Human Rights Commission have received the Right Livelihood Award, widely known as the “Alternate Nobel Prize”. Basil Fernando is a member of the DTP International Council.
NEW PUBLICATIONS/WEB/BASED RESOURCES

• OHCHR: Realizing the human rights to water and sanitation: A Handbook
• Regional Guidelines for Responding to the Rights and Needs of Unaccompanied and Separated Children
• ANGOC: Enhancing Land Reform Monitoring Effectiveness: A Toolkit for CSOs
• IPU: Human rights handbook for parliamentarians (published in 2005 but still current)
• The Right to Human Rights Education - A compilation of provisions of international and regional instruments dealing with human rights education
• “Respecting Human Rights: Tools and Guidance for Business”
• The Global Slavery Index (estimates the number of people in modern slavery in 167 countries)
• New Right to Food Journal, launched by FIAN International, focusing on nutrition

HUMAN RIGHTS – GENERAL NEWS

• Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism: Online mass-surveillance - “Protect right to privacy even when countering terrorism”
• The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary EXECUTIONS raises concern about the increasing use of technologies that depersonalize the use of force –including armed drones– not only on the battlefield, but also in domestic law
• The United Nations Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism calls for global action to eradicate racism from sports
• UN Human Rights Committee Publishes New General Comment 35 to Guide States in what is Justified to Deprive a Person of their Liberty

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

• “The challenge is global” – UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food warns access to adequate food is still far from being achieved
• UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education: “Education must be protected from the forces of privatization”

Human Rights Council

• Bangladesh, India and Indonesia have been elected to the Human Rights Council

UPR

• Is the UPR an effective mechanism and how can one engage with it? UPR Info’s new publication, “Beyond promises: the impact of the UPR on the ground”, provides some important answers
• Fiji: Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – including recommendations

Development

• Civil Society Walks Out On the World Bank
• UN Women: World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 2014: Gender Equality and Sustainable Development
**HUMAN RIGHTS – REGIONAL NEWS**

- Future of human rights in Southeast Asia remains bleak
- Minority Voices Podcast: September 2014 with a focus on South Asia

**HUMAN RIGHTS – COUNTRY SPECIFIC NEWS**

**Australia**
- The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) calls on the Australian Government to put tackling climate change at the heart of efforts to eradicate poverty and promote development
- Aboriginal woman who died in Western Australia jail was there for an unpaid fine
- Alleged abuse by military personnel of protesters against war in Iraq
- Pacific Islanders Take on Australian Coal
- United Nations raises serious concerns about Australia’s immigration policies
- UN Committee Against Torture slams Australia for Claiming Domestic Violence is 'Not Torture', says Asylum-seeker Conditions Inhuman and Unlawful

**Bangladesh**
- The acquisition of land for building BGB sector headquarters in Bandarban threatens the means of livelihood of more than 100 indigenous families

**Burma/Myanmar**
- NGOs urge Burmese government to investigate the enforced disappearance of Sumlut Roi Ja
- Human rights journalist killed in detention by military forces
- UN Special Rapporteur commends reforms to date, but warns of risks of backtracking on human rights
- War Crimes Continue with Impunity in Northern Myanmar
- Front Line: Body of human rights journalist Mr Aung Kyaw Naing found with possible evidence of torture

**Cambodia**
- Draft Cybercrime law raises serious concerns about online free expression and other critical human rights
- Civil Society Groups Condemn Arrest and Detention of the Boeung Kak Lake Seven and three more women and Buddhist monk detained

**China**
- Human rights defender Ms. Su Changlan confirmed to have been placed in criminal detention on charges of “subversion of state power.”
- Human rights defender Liu Xizhen reappears after 20 days in secret detention and is placed in criminal detention

**India**
- Amnesty International: Changes to environment, land acquisition laws jeopardize human rights

**Indonesia**
- West Papuan National Flag Day, 1st December
• At the third Jakarta Human Rights Dialogue on Monday, the Indonesian representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) showed that the death penalty does not have a deterrent effect.
• HRW: ‘Virginity Tests’ for Female Police ‘Testing’ Applicants Is Discriminatory, Cruel, Degrading

Malaysia
• FIDH-SUARAM: Keep politics out of the courtroom in Anwar Ibrahim’s appeal
• Halt All Sedition Cases Pending Highest Court Decision
• Woman wins RM300,000 in landmark case on discrimination over pregnancy
• Joint statement: International Conference Organizers Turn Blind Eye to Sarawak Energy’s Complicity in Environmental Destruction and Rights Violations

Philippines
• Amnesty International: Five years later, no convictions under landmark anti-torture law

Sri Lanka
• UN Human Rights Committee: Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Sri Lanka
• UN rights chief condemns ‘disinformation campaign’ to discredit Sri Lanka probe

Thailand
• TLHR: Suppression of freedom of expression must be stopped

Vietnam
• New report denounces violations of economic, social, and cultural rights

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