This year is the 25th anniversary of DTP’s first human rights training course in 1990 with DTP Founders Nobel Peace Prize winner and former President of Timor Leste, José Ramos-Horta and Emeritus 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.

- In January this year a meeting was held in Geneva with the participation of members of the treaty bodies, government representatives, officers from the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academic experts. Participants took stock of recent developments, in particular the adoption and implementation of GA Res 68/268 on “Strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system”, identified major outstanding issues and what steps might be taken to address them, and looked at ways to secure greater compliance by States with their obligations under the treaties. The report of the meeting list a number of steps to be taken to strengthen the treaty body system.

- A number of events are planned for the 25th Anniversary of DTP, and among them we are delighted to be hosting the 1st DTP Fellowship Program later in the year. We are also focusing on improving our contacts with DTP supporters through an improved web site and the use of social media. We encourage you to take a look at and ‘like’ the DTP Facebook page.

**CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

**DTP Programs: 2015 Draft Schedule**
- **January 26-29** - The Human Rights of Migrant Workers – Sri Lanka – 2nd session
- **March 16-20** - The Human Rights of Migrant Workers – Sri Lanka – 3rd session
- **April/May** - Human Rights and Development – Regional Capacity Building Program for Civil Society Advocates – Myanmar. Click here for brochure and application form (deadline March 16)
- **May 11-14** - The Human Rights of Migrant Workers – Sri Lanka – 4th session
- **May** with Oxfam – 1st Module: Rights and Advocacy - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth Program Australia
- **July 27-30** - The Human Rights of Migrant Workers – Sri Lanka – 5th and Final Session
- **August - September** (3 Weeks) -DTP’s 1st DTP Fellowship Program (25th Anniversary) Australia
- **October** - The Human Rights of Migrant Workers – Bangladesh – 1st Session
- **November/December** - 25th Annual Regional Human Rights Defenders Program TBC
• Please check the DTP website for details, program information and application forms. Please send enquiries to dtp@unsw.edu.au

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
• Lessons Learned on Capacity Building for Migrant Workers’ Rights – (Nov 2014) Summary of Dubai Workshop
• 24th Annual Regional Human Rights and Peoples’ Diplomacy Training Program – Nepal (Nov 2014), Executive Summary
• 4th Annual Middle East and North Africa Regional Training Program on the Rights of Migrant Workers – Kuwait, (Nov 2014), Executive Summary. Reports of all three Middle East Programs in 2014 are now available.

Other Training Programs
• ISHR: Human Rights Defenders Advocacy Programme, Geneva – 10 to 24 June
• The Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex will offer its five day summer school on Human Rights Research Methods from 19 June to 3 July 2015
• Indigenous Peoples’ Rights E-Learning Course, 27 May-7 July 2015 and Field Visit: Amubri, Talamanca, Costa Rica, 3-9 August 2015
• Training Program: Justice Sector Reform: Applying Human Rights Based Approaches, Ireland, June 2015
• HREA: Gender and Human Rights e-learning course 29 April-9 June
• Working at the Nexus between Human Rights and Conflict Transformation (Tutored Online Course)

PLEASE DONATE

• DTP relies on donations of time and funds 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

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES – CALLS FOR SOLIDARITY – CALLS FOR COMMENT

• Urgent appeal, Myanmar: Arbitrary detention and sentencing of Messrs. Thein Aung Myint and Saw Hla Aung
• Action request Front Line, Malaysia: Temporary detention of members of Lawyers for Liberty
• Letter-writing: To World Bank President Jim Kim Regarding Resettlement Action Plan
• ESCR-Net & Business & Human Rights Resource Centre are inviting feedback on a checklist of questions to assist communities in effectively documenting human rights abuses by business, deadline 30 April
• Urgent appeal, Philippines: Judicial harassment of Indigenous peoples’ rights defenders
• Consultation/call for sharing: How to create and maintain civil society space? What works? A Report by the High Commissioner for Human Rights – Deadline 30 June 2015
• Call for action, Myanmar: Student human rights defender Po Po arrested and facing charges
This issue we feature the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA). With its headquarters in Denmark, IWGIA facilitates the participation of Indigenous groups in international advocacy and provides project support including in selected countries in Asia.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DTP ALUMNI

- From Bablu Chakma, Bangladesh: Government to lift restriction on foreigners' entry to Chittagong Hills Tracts and Government to lift restriction on foreigners' entry to CHT
- From Trinadha Rao Palla, India: Illegal and Arbitrary Eviction of Adivasis from Forests in Andhra Pradesh
- From Phou Bunthann, Cambodia: A Dam-Affected Community Celebrates the International Day of Action for Rivers and Opposes the Lower Sesan 2 Dam in Stung Treng Province, Northeastern Cambodia
- From Chalasani Narendra, India: Fact Finding Report on Polavaram Project Affected Seven Villages
- From Yuyun Wahyuningrum, Indonesia: OHCHR Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders

WHERE ARE THEY NOW – NEWS OF DTP ALUMNI

- DTP alumnus Nurkholis Hidayat who was the Director of the Jakarta Legal Aid Institute from 2009 to 2012 has celebrated two years as Legal Consultant with the Australia Indonesia Partnership for Justice promoting legal aid in Indonesia.
- DTP alumna Jumi Rahayu is a long-time activist from Indonesia. She was a trainer for DTP during a program in 2010 and has just celebrated two years as Operations Assistant with the International Organization for Migrants (IOM).
- This issue of the E-Newsletter we are highlighting the case of DTP alumna, “Margaret” who has applied the lessons learnt from the DTP program she attended to her own workplace in the Middle East.

DTP’S THEMATIC PRIORITIES

Human Rights and Business

- UN Forum on Business and Human Rights (16-18 Nov 2015): Call for session proposals
- Indonesia: Burmese workers in slave-like conditions to catch seafood supplying US businesses
- Malaysia: National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights to be drafted
- Sri Lanka: Report alleges local populations are suffering serious abuses because of large-scale tourist developments
- Business & Human Rights Resource Centre launches its first Business & Human Rights in Southeast Asia briefing
- Papua New Guinea women and Barrick Gold settle claims of sexual assault and violence at Porgera mine
Indigenous Peoples’ Rights
- Indonesia: National inquiry highlights violations against Indigenous peoples
- Nepal International Indigenous Film Festival opens call for submissions
- Independent journalists win 2015 Indigenous Voices in Asia award
- NGOs publish guidelines for seeking free, prior and informed consent in UN’s "REDD+" projects
- Indigenous peoples raise concern over India’s position on World Bank safeguards
- As Forum opens, deputy UN chief says 2015 a ‘critical year’ for world’s indigenous peoples

Migrant Workers’ Rights
- At UN Conference, Domestic Workers Push for International Labor Standards
- Maldives bans migrant worker protests, threatens to cancel visas
- Indonesia must push for ASEAN treaty on migrant workers
- UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of Migrants: “Migrants are not criminals”
- Qatar: NHRC to monitor labour camps
- International Migrants Alliance in Hong Kong: Value our labor and rights as domestic workers

Women’s Rights
- “Conflict-related sexual violence”: Report of the UN Secretary-General
- HRW: Tough road for Asia’s women activists
- UN Commission on the Status of Women: Activists blast 'bland' UN declaration as step backwards for women’s rights

Funding Opportunities
- The American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative is seeking applications from civil society organizations in Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Thailand for small grants (up to 12,000 USD) for projects to promote internet freedom. Applications here plus here. The deadline is 1 June 2015.
- The Nexus Fund: Applications for The 2015 Civil Society Exchange Program

Awards/Jobs/Fellowships
- Open Society Foundation - Malaysia Programme Officer, by 30 April (applications to bnowrojee@osiea.org)
- The International Service for Human Rights, Geneva is offering an internship with the communications team
- Civil Rights Defender of the Year Award 2015 goes to Nguyễn Ngọc Như Quỳnh
- EngageMedia: Job Opening: Editorial and Outreach Officer (Indonesia) apply by 1 May
- Apply for Consultative Status to ECOSOC (Deadline: 1 June 2015)

New Publications/Web-Based Resources
Human Rights Council

- Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at the 28th session of the Human Rights Council

Treaty Bodies and special procedures

- First Report of the Special Rapporteur - Leilani Farha - on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context
- Human Rights Council establishes a Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy
- Recognition of the human rights to water and sanitation by UN Member States at the international level

UPR

- Burma has failed to fully implement commitments it made at its last Universal Periodic Review in 2011
- The following A-P States will be reviewed at the 24th session of the UPR which will be held in Jan/Feb 2016: Palau, Solomon Islands, Singapore. The deadline for NGO submissions is 22 June (tentatively). Guidelines for submissions are found here.
- Nepal Civil Society report of UPR 2015 submitted to UN HR council: NGO Coalition, Women’s coalition, Dalits
- At the 27th session of the HRC, the UPR outcomes for Fiji was adopted (among others)

Development

- Jakarta court cancels world’s biggest water privatization after 18-year failure finding that the Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) were negligent in fulfilling the human right to water for Jakarta’s residents
- NGOs urge international development banks to review support for Mekong dams

Human Rights - Regional News

- OHCHR: South East Asia moves away from death penalty
- ASEAN commits to eliminating sexual violence

Human Rights - Country Specific News

Australia

- Former worker at Nauru detention centre for asylum seekers sends open letter to Australia detailing ill-treatment of detainees
- Australia’s UPR: Joint NGO Submission prepared by the Human Rights Law Centre, the Kingsford Legal Centre and the National Association of Community Legal Centres, with substantial contributions from a number of NGOs across Australia and endorsed, in whole or in part, by 190 NGOs, and Human Rights Watch Submission
- Thousands rally in Melbourne in support of remote Aboriginal communities
- Australian bid for UN Human Rights Council under scrutiny over asylum seeker policy
Burma/Myanmar
- Human rights defender Naw Ohn Hla sentenced to four months in prison

Cambodia
- Front Line: Boeung Kak Lake activists released

China
- Front Line: Deteriorating health of detained women’s rights activists Ms. Wu Rongrong and Ms. Wang
- Amnesty International: Release on bail of five women’s rights activists an incomplete step

Indonesia
- UN Human Rights Committee deplores Indonesia’s response to its call to stop executions for drug-related crimes
- West Papua: Four students in danger after police torture
- West Papuan Leaders join forces with International Solidarity Groups in Brisbane

India
- Caste aside: Exploring the issue of caste in Mumbai: Six documentaries exploring the issue of caste in Mumbai
- Front Line: Human rights defender Teesta Setalvad at ongoing risk of detention

Malaysia
- Suhakam concerned by arrest of MPs

Philippines
- Five members of the family of Indigenous peoples’ rights defender Melvy Anlagan were detained by members of the Philippine National Police

Vanuatu
- After devastation, UN experts call to protect human rights of all in disaster response

April 2015 E Newsletter compiled, edited and designed by André Frankovits and Patrick Earle
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