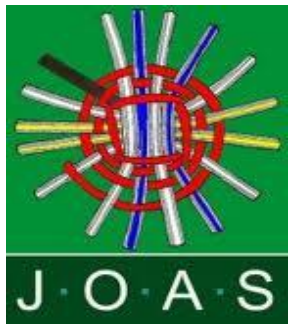


Human Rights, Indigenous Peoples, the Private Sector and Development



Program Report

I have learnt a lot of new things and knowledge that is really useful for me and also community. I'm clearer on what human rights mechanisms are available and how to use them.

SABAH, MALAYSIA

27 February - 08 March
2017



Executive Summary

The Diplomacy Training Program's (DTP) 2017 regional capacity building program for human rights defenders and community advocates in the Asia-Pacific region **Human Rights, Indigenous Peoples, the Private Sector and Development** was held in Sabah, Malaysia from February 27 to March 8, 2017.

The Indigenous Peoples Network of Malaysia or Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia (JOAS) partnered with DTP in delivering the program and the program was organized in collaboration with the UN's Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR).

There were 23 participants representing different Indigenous peoples and NGOs from 8 countries: *India, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Indonesia, and Malaysia.*

The participants work on a diverse range of issues – including preservation of endangered languages, defending the environment and stopping the spread of palm oil plantations, promotion of Indigenous cultures, land rights, prevention of forced evictions, women's rights and the role of women in decision making, and peace building. Each of the participants made a presentation about the work that they do, and the challenges they face in defending and promoting human rights.

One of the participants shared her story, and a video her NGO had made, about *"the haze"* that enveloped her island of Sumatra in 2015 as a result of fires started to clear land for palm oil plantations. A Harvard study has estimated 200,000 early deaths resulted from these fires. Many more continue to suffer from asthma and other ill-effects from these fires.

The course content focused on the rights of Indigenous peoples and on the responsibilities of the private sector and of governments in relation to these rights. There was also a focus on advocacy and engagement skills and network building. The network building included the collaboration with trainers from the OHCHR – including a DTP alumnus, Morse Flores - and from the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRRC).

Participants evaluated the course very positively in post training evaluations. This report draws on those evaluations. It gives an overview of course content and highlights, and makes some recommendations for future programs and capacity building.

Outcomes of the program include engagement by participants with OHCHR with UN Human Rights Special Procedures. An outcome for DTP was to pilot a subsequent capacity building program on Indigenous peoples' rights and the SDGs.

DTP acknowledges with appreciation the funding support given to this program by the Australian government, the Christensen Foundation and OHCHR. DTP also thanks the participants and the trainers who shared their knowledge and expertise on this program.

During this 10-day training I learnt a lot more than what I expected to¹.

¹ This and subsequent quotes are extracted from the end of training participant evaluations, completed anonymously. Copies of the transcribed evaluations are available on request.

Program Highlights

Welcomes and Opening Address from Jannie Lasimbang: The program was opened with a traditional Orang Asli blessing. In welcoming the participants on behalf of DTP, Patrick Earle, the Executive Director of DTP shared the story of DTP's founder, the Nobel Peace Laureate, José Ramos Horta – and of how as a young man, he was sent to take the plight of his people in Timor Leste to the United Nations (UN) Security Council, to appeal for international solidarity and the upholding of international law. His long campaign for human rights and self-determination in Timor Leste relied on mobilizing the concern and action of civil society across the world – on peoples' diplomacy, and building relationships beyond governments. His story both inspires and informs how DTP does its work. DTP's work recognizes the capacity of individuals, working together with others, to make change. It recognizes the value of building knowledge, skills and networks – and of sharing lessons learned.

Katia Chirizzi extended a welcome from the Asia-Pacific Regional Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR), acknowledging the wealth of experience within the group and how this opportunity to spend time with the participants learning about their human rights work and challenges would help inform the future strategy of OHCHR.

Jannie Lasimbang welcomed the international participants and reflected on the significance of travel and being exposed to the realities. It was her own experience of travel that first awakened her to the inequalities and the problems of the Indigenous peoples of Sabah. She also talked about the strength that comes from solidarity and she encouraged the participants not to feel scared of the international human rights standards and mechanisms, noting "the experts have complicated it". Human rights express what we feel is just and right, including how we should relate to each other and respond when we see injustice.

Jannie introduced the history of Indigenous Peoples in the UN – of how they have won both recognition of their rights and a place in this organisation of governments. It is an inspirational story that demonstrates what can be achieved through collaboration but, as Jannie noted, more attention needs to be devoted to how the achievements at the UN level are translated back into the community.

Jannie related this program in Sabah to the history of Indigenous Peoples engagement with the UN – the purpose of the program to build capacity to make more informed choices, to know how to seek remedies and to use the international instruments, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to ensure States and transnational corporations work with Indigenous communities to manage the impacts of business.

Both Patrick and Jannie noted the recent success of a local Indigenous community in Sabah in preventing the construction of a dam that would have displaced them from their lands and livelihoods. Participants in the previous DTP program in Sabah had visited this community to learn about their campaign, share experiences and show solidarity. Their success was a powerful example of the impact of advocacy.

Participant presentations began the first day of the program and punctuated the formal sessions. They were a highlight of the program – grounding the theory of human rights in the issues and challenges being faced on the ground on the region, breaking down the sense of isolation that advocates can feel, and providing opportunities to share from experience.

Key Issues for the Participants

Following the welcoming remarks, the participants introduced themselves and shared with each other and the trainers about the human rights issues and threats they and their communities are facing. Making time at the beginning of the program to hear from the participants enabled the program content to be directly related to the needs and concerns of the participants. Providing an early opportunity to build understandings of each other's communities and work also supported a key program objective- building networks of support.

Key human rights issues identified by the participants:

- land grabbing by companies
- non-recognition by governments of region of the existence of Indigenous Peoples
- discrimination faced by Indigenous Peoples
- violation of cultural rights through the commercialisation and misinterpretation of cultures
- enactment of laws which displace Indigenous Peoples from their land and resources
- militarisation and para militarisation – persecution of Indigenous Peoples being justified by claims that they support rebel groups
- violence towards women – early marriages, rape and sexual harassment;
- migrant workers – many Indigenous Peoples are having to migrate for work and then face abuses as migrant workers
- social and economic disadvantage – lack of access to health services and education
- climate change
- pollution and various forms of environmental destruction due to large scale development
- “the haze” – pollution across Indonesia/Singapore/Malaysia from burning of forests for palm oil planting

An Introduction to Human Rights - Katia Chirizzi, OHCHR

Katia provided a historical background to the development of international human rights law. She explained that prior to World War II what happened in states was an internal matter –there was no framework for the international community to intervene when human rights were being violated. Since World War II, the UN Charter and standards and mechanisms including the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the core human rights treaties and human rights mechanisms and regional human rights systems have been developed to hold States accountable for human rights.

The International Convention of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) was reviewed and summarised. The human rights in the ICCPR include the right to life, freedom from torture, equality before the law, freedom of religion and the right to political participation.

Key human rights principles include:

- Universality and inalienability
- Indivisibility
- Interdependence and interrelatedness
- Equality and non-discrimination
- Accountability and the rule of law

The obligations on States to *Respect, Protect* and *Fulfil* all human rights were discussed.

In a practical exercise groups selected one of the issues they had identified, and discussed examples of the obligations on states to respect, protect and fulfil. This was meant to be a short exercise but participants engaged deeply in the process to distinguish and develop their understandings of the concepts.

The participants then role-played a meeting with the High Commissioner on Human Rights where they briefed him on their issues, including both key challenges and recommendations. Some of the issues they raised included: land rights violations due to development projects; sexual violation of Indigenous women in Nepal and the non - recognition of children and the exclusion of women in village level decision making.

the materials are very clear and can be understood well

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Human Rights Based Approach to Development – Katia Chirizzi

Katia 's session on the International Convention of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) provided further explanation of international human rights – including treaty ratification and state obligations, the concept of progressive realisation and the use of General Comments.

Following the ratification of a human rights treaty, states need to review their existing legislation for conformity with the treaty, develop a plan of action and allocate resources to the implementation of the rights in the treaty. While *progressive realisation* is linked to resource availability, states are obliged to use the *maximum available resources* to improve the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights. The **General Comments** are useful for providing additional explanation of the rights and obligations.

Katia explained that a human rights based approach is centred on 2 actors

1. Duty Bearers –primarily States but in some cases individuals and entities
2. Rights Holders - every individual man, woman and child and to some extent groups – including Indigenous Peoples.

And a human rights based analysis involves the following questions:

- Which rights are at stake?
- Who is left behind?
- Who has to do something about it?
- What do they need to take action?

A practical exercise gave participants an opportunity to apply these questions to a case study of relevance to a number of the participants - the impact of the construction of a dam in an area populated by an Indigenous community of 5000 (including woman, children, elderly and person with disabilities).

The lectures on international human rights law provided a good connection with the National Laws of my country pertaining to human rights

Indigenous people and Agenda 2030- Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) – Saranbaatar Bayarmagnai (Baatar) (OHCHR)

Baatar provided an overview of the new global development agenda adopted by the General Assembly in 2015 - the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and its relevance and opportunities to advance the realization of human rights. The SDGs replaced, and go beyond, the previous Millennium Development Goals. The 17 SDGs have 169 targets and being more expansive and grounded in human rights have the potential to be transformative. The overarching theme 'leave no one behind' prioritises the needs and concerns of most vulnerable and marginalized, and Indigenous Peoples are also explicitly referred to in the preamble (para. 23 & 25) and in some goals and targets (2.3; 4.5)

Consistent with human rights laws, the SDGs call on States to prioritise the most excluded, including by removing discriminatory policies and laws, which from a human rights perspective implies the adoption of progress indicators, budget monitoring and analysis and active participation in accountability processes. The recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms are valuable tools for identifying key issues and priorities, multiple and intersecting patterns of discrimination, setting national priorities and benchmarks to attain the goals and targets for the furthest behind, and for guiding the implementation and reporting of SDG progress in overall.

The SDGs and Human Rights.

Baatar provided guidance for aligning the SDGs with a human rights based agenda. The SDGs are clearly based on commitments to human right principles (people centred; universality; indivisibility; equality & non-discrimination; participation and accountability).

The recommendations of the UN Human Rights mechanisms are valuable to include in the SDG planning for identifying the key issues and for providing guidance on:

- analysis of root causes /identification of groups left behind
- identification of actions /policy changes for implementation
- budget prioritization
- monitoring and measurement-indicators and disaggregation
- accountability principles and modalities – UPR models

The United Nations Human Rights System- Monitoring and Accountability Mechanisms: Katia Chirizzi and Saranbaatar Bayarmagnai

Katia and Baatar explained the UN's human rights monitoring and accountability mechanisms – both treaty and charter based.

Treaty based mechanisms:

Following ratification of a treaty States are legally obliged to *Respect, Protect and Fulfil* the rights contained in the treaty. The treaty bodies, comprised of independent experts, are mandated to monitor the implementation of the treaty provisions.

The monitoring process was explained: States prepare and submit their report; the treaty body (committee) presents a list of issues to the state party for further explanation; the state party submits a written reply; a constructive dialogue takes place between the

committee and the state party delegation and the committee issues its concluding observations and recommendations.

Treaty bodies can also receive individual complaints, make country visits, undertake inquiries (confidential investigation where there is very serious violation of the treaty) and write General Comments (interpretations of rights and obligations – soft law). Katia highlighted the opportunities for civil society to engage with the treaty mechanisms including: the preparation of submissions to the treaty body (shadow reports); SMART recommendations; collecting and providing disaggregated data related to the recommendations; translating the recommendations into local languages and incorporating the recommendations into advocacy strategies.

UN Charter Based Mechanisms

Universal Periodic Review (UPR): this is a State-driven peer-to-peer review process and each member state of the United Nations is reviewed once per cycle (4.5 years). Each UN member has now been reviewed twice. The review is based on how well the state has complied with its obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Human Rights treaties, voluntary pledges and applicable international law, as well as implementation of recommendations from the previous review cycle.

Special Procedures: there are 43 thematic mandates and 14 country mandates and Baatar provided an overview of their role and functions and how civil society can be involved. The mandate holders are independent experts (individuals or groups), appointed by the Human Rights Council. They can receive complaints and relevant information on human rights situation from all actors, communicate concerns and human rights violations to government or business, and they can conduct country visits and thematic studies. There are a number of ways for civil society to raise their issues of concern with the UN Special Procedures – who can in turn communicate these concerns through urgent appeals, allegation letters & other advocacy letters.

Baatar introduced the online complaint submission platform as their main way to submit information to Special Procedures, and shared guidelines on how to make these submissions effective and factual, and emphasised the need to convey the urgency and immediacy of the problem in order to gain greater attention for the Special Procedures to act.

In a practical exercise the participants prepared a complaint for submission to a Special Procedure. The participants drew on their experiences to develop their complaints, including a complaint related to the shooting by the military of villagers in Papua Indonesia who had been accused of producing traditional weapons and the blocking of access of researchers to a village that had requested their support in relation to the construction of the Kaduan Dam.

OHCHR Resources

To assist civil society in evaluating human rights and accessing information relevant for reporting and making submissions, the OHCHR has an on-line data base that Baatar introduced the group as useful tool for their advocacy work. The Universal Human Rights Index, an on-line database maintained and updated by the OHCHR, provides access to all the recommendations from the Treaty Bodies, the UPR, and Special Procedures.

Furthermore, Baatar briefly introduced OHCHR's framework on human rights indicators, and how this framework can be useful for civil society actors in their advocacy work, including in the context of follow-up to the recommendations of UN human rights mechanisms. The framework includes the need to use three types of indicators: *structural* (to assess States' intent to protect and promote human rights); *progress* (to assess State's measures and actions); and *outcome* (to assess the results of States' efforts). A practical and interactive discussion was held on how civil society can identify and use various types of indicators.

To know that the international mechanisms can be effective tools to bring about the concerns and issues of our local communities opens up a whole new world for our advocacy work.

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) – Jannie Lasimbang

Jannie introduced NHRIs as national level human rights mechanisms based on *the Paris Principles* (independence, accessibility and cooperation with the international human rights system) and the powers (monitoring, fact finding and advising governments, reporting back to parliaments/government, receiving and acting on individual complaints) of NHRIs. She provided some examples to demonstrate the usefulness of NHRIs to civil society and encouraged the participants to identify some of the systemic issues that they could take to their NHRIs. Jannie explained the strategy that JOAS and others adopted to achieve the National Inquiry into Land Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Malaysia. She advised participants to find out the NHRI nomination process in their countries and get good people nominated. She highlighted the need for training to encourage Indigenous Peoples to come forward and make complaints and also to ensure that complaints are well researched.

Human Rights and Business - Saranbaatar Bayarmagnai

The participants provided examples of business impacts on human rights, including the thousands of people evicted in Eastern India, a cement factory in Nepal reducing the water table, the harassment of tribal peoples in the Philippines by the private armies of ranchers and the denial of Indigenous Peoples access to their forests in Kalimantan due to land claim by an Australian mining company, of companies violating human rights in their countries. These examples are reminders of the need to target business in advocacy on human rights.

The impacts of increased globalisation and trade liberalisation, along with the absence of international standards to regulate business activities, have resulted in human rights violations including the economic exploitation of children, forced labour and land grabbing.

This led to the realisation of the need to develop an international framework to regulate business activities, and the need to spell out the roles and responsibilities of States and businesses. Professor John Ruggie was given the task in 2005 to consult with major stakeholders and to develop a draft framework on Business and Rights. The result of this work is the *protect, respect and remedy* framework:

- **Protect** - State duty to hold businesses accountable for acting with due diligence to avoid human rights violations and
- **Respect** – the responsibility of businesses to ensure they do no harm through their operations and supply chain – and exercise due diligence
- **Remedy**- the responsibility of states and companies to provide access to remedy where harms have been done;

This framework was subsequently adopted by the UN Human Rights Council as a set of Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). Baatar further introduced that States have also committed to developing National Actions Plans (NAPs) under the UNGPs – defining how they will implement the UNGPs at the national level - but very few have adopted NAPs.

In a practical exercise the participants developed a template outlining the steps that States need to take to be taken to develop their NAPs, including:

1. initiation
2. assessment and consultation
3. drafting
4. implementation
5. revising and updating

Finally, Baatar explained ~~the main three that there are now 3~~ UN processes in relation to focussed on business and human rights:

1. *UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights*: a UN Special Procedure set up to disseminate information on business and human rights; to promote good practices; and to conduct country visits (limited due to capacity & resources)
2. *Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights* – a global platform to bring together all stakeholders to discuss the main challenges and to develop recommendations;
3. *Open-ended Intergovernmental UN Working Group on Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with Respect to Human Rights and Business Treaty* – ~~tasked work has begun~~ to elaborate an international legally binding instrument to regulate the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

Business and Human Rights – OECD Guidelines and RSPO - Matthew Coghlan/Holly Jonas

Following on from Bataar's overview of the UNGPs, Matthew discussed the guidelines that companies from OECD countries are expected to follow and the procedure that is available to make a complaint when these guidelines are breached. Countries appoint a National Contact Point (NCP) to promote the guidelines and to supervise the complaints/mediation process.

The limitations of the UNGPs were noted - they are not legally binding and the number of member countries is quite low but, as the presentation from Smruti from India demonstrated, the guidelines and complaint process can be valuable tools for Indigenous peoples' advocates.

In a role-play the participants prepared for and participated in a mediation with a company using the OECD Guidelines and facilitated by the NCP.

The Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) is an initiative of palm oil companies in response to mounting evidence and pressure on human rights and environmental harms associated with palm oil plantations. Many Indigenous communities have been displaced/evicted. It sets standards on labour, human rights and environmental issues. Holly outlined the RSPO principles and its complaint system. In a practical exercise, the

participants worked with the RSPO complaints template to learn the procedure and to identify the information they would need to prepare in order to make a complaint.

Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC) - Bobbie Sta Maria

The BHRRC is an NGO established to respond to the demands for action and information on business and human rights issues globally. It conducts research on issues, receives and communicates concerns to companies and publishes their responses. It produces a monthly E-Newsletter. The BHRRC is now referred to by investors and others keen to make sure that they are investing in companies committed to human rights and with good policy and practice. This in turn creates more leverage for NGOs.

Review of Business & Human Rights- Bobbie Sta Maria

Bobbie recapped content on business and human rights – explaining that corporate social responsibility (CSR), is a discretionary, top-down approach determined by management of individual companies - and compared this to a human-rights based approach that requires the company to respect human rights that are very well defined.

Bobbie shared a film on the Dawei community campaign in Myanmar to highlight the steps involved in holding corporations accountable. She stepped participants through nine key questions for advocates in developing their campaigns.

1. What do we want (Goals)
2. Who can give it to us (audiences, key players or power holders)
3. What do they need to hear? (messenger)
4. Who do they need to hear it from
5. How can we get them to hear it (delivery)
6. What do we have (resources)
7. What do we need to develop (gaps)
8. How do we begin (1st steps)
9. How do we tell that it' working (evaluation)

Answering these questions systematically is a good strategy development process.

If it weren't for this training, I would never have known about the OECD, its mandates and how it could be of use to our advocacy.

Community Field Trip

The participants visited an Indigenous community, 190 kilometres from Kota Kinabalu, to learn about impact of rubber plantations and land disputes on the community . The visit was organised by local JOAS staff (including DTP alumni).

The community lives in an area where land ownership and use is contested. What had been pristine rainforest decades ago had virtually all been cleared for plantations. A major company owns rubber plantations surrounding the village. The community showed participants around the village – which was still not linked up to the electricity grid (the pylons stopped just short of the village), houses did not have running water and the nearest

school was in a village kms away. There was clear evidence of malnutrition among the children.

JOAS had arranged for a presentation to be given by the company's community relations team and Forestry Management Unit (FMU) - showing the different conservation values attached to parcels of land around the village and accompanying permissible land use. The company presentation promoted the sustainable forestry practices of the FMU, the consultation procedures that involved the villagers, NGO and local authorities and the policies related to local employment and community development.

After the company representatives left, the JOAS community worker shared the story of the community and the problems that the community had encountered. Villagers have been arrested and fined for tapping rubber trees in areas they maintained were theirs, but that the company claimed. The villagers were angry at the arrests, became organised and lodged a successful appeal against the charges and fines.

There has subsequently been more consultation by the FMU, a change in the company representatives and less hostility - and the community have negotiated for a small area to planting crops and practicing their community protocols. They are continuing their efforts to protect the forest and the river.

Travelling back through rural Sabah, past the World Heritage listed Mt Kinabalu, the scale of rainforest destruction was clear, with oil palm, acacia and eucalyptus plantations covering the land, and only small remnants of rainforest left.

Indigenous Peoples Rights in the UN System - Morse Flores (OHCHR)

Morse (DTP alumnus) began his presentation on engagement with the UN system with advice on international advocacy. He warned that opportunities are lost when advocates are not prepared sufficiently. Advocates need to understand the various mechanisms, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP - Geneva); the UN Permanent Forum on Rights of Indigenous Issues (UNPFII - New York) and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in order to decide which is the most useful to their issue and advocacy strategy. To engage with mechanisms effectively, advocates need to know the standards - the range of core human rights instruments – that they can refer to.

Morse walked the participants through the history of Indigenous Peoples in the UN system and the discussed the developments in how Indigenous Peoples have been recognised at the UN culminating in their current legal standing under international law.

Groups were given a practical task to prepare a presentation on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) – including the history and the main provisions of UNDRIP and also a case study demonstrating its implementation.

Free, Prior and Informed Consent – Morse Flores

Morse presented a video that highlighted a community's experience of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). Participants were asked to identify and elaborate on the 4 components.

- Free: free decision made without any intimidation
- Prior: early consultation; sufficient time; all members of the community are consulted; prior notice

- Informed: tell everything; no one left behind especially the women; consultation meetings so that the community can determine whether or not to give consent
- Consent: Written/oral; win/win processes; good faith

Morse concluded that the most important provision of UNDRIP is self determination and FPIC is an exercise of self-determination.

Advocacy and Lobbying at the UN: Joshua Cooper and Morse Flores

Morse and Joshua have extensive experience in advocacy and lobbying and they shared with the participants the key factors involved in being effective advocates.

1. You know your peoples story better than anyone –what you need to work out is where you can be most effective in telling the story
2. You need to know the decision-making processes in your country and the decision-making context. Timing is very important for example lobbying can be very effective at specific times e.g. election times
3. Preparation/preparation/preparation – so that you can be most effective when the opportunity arises. Plan and rehearse.
4. Be clear and concise (elevator pitch) (who, what, when, how). The message is key
5. Know your allies – don't waste time trying to convert those who are already converted; know the key UN officials and who the key players are
6. Know the views of the people you are going to lobby and what will influence them
7. Develop your negotiating techniques - body language; keeping your voice calm; listen actively; ask questions; keep to time
8. Build relationships

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) - Joshua Cooper

The participants were given the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills developed in the program in the UPR **role-play**. Joshua provided an overview of the mechanism – a peer based review of a member states progress in meeting their human rights obligations and described the process. Participants took on the roles of the member state, the three states selected to conduct the review, civil society and NGO representatives, who ensure that the reviewing states are provided with relevant information, and the UN officials and prepared for and conducted a simulated UPR.

This final exercise was an energetic and an encouraging demonstration of the confidence and skills that the participants can apply to their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms and in their advocacy more broadly.

Reflections and Participant Evaluations:

The final session of the program included time for written (anonymous) evaluations and a final group evaluation of the program. The group evaluation enabled participants to reflect on whether the training had met expectations, what the most important things were about the program and what could have been better.

The positive remarks of the group evaluation were echoed in the written evaluations. Both processes provided insights into the value of the program – the knowledge gained and how it could be used; the skills developed and the confidence and networks built. The participants had quickly established a supportive and safe learning environment amongst each other.

Participants:

Participants were selected for this program through an open application process. Brochures were widely circulated through DTP's alumni and partner networks. Selection criteria were agreed with the local partner, and included active involvement in the issues and capacity to apply the training to their work. Efforts were made to ensure a gender balance in the composition of the participants, although this was only partially achieved. **10 of the 23 participants were women.**

DTP aims for between 25-30 participants as an optimum number. On this occasion, due to some late withdrawals there were only 23 participants.

The inclusion of a program fee in the brochure is recognised as a deterrent to many potential participants, although it can also have the effect of ensuring that participants see the value in the training and are committed to it. This continues to be a balancing act.

Participatory Methodology:

Group Work: At the start of the program individuals are split into groups and tasked with daily management of the program. This process helps in team building, the sharing of knowledge and experience, and reinforces the participatory nature of the training. DTP and its partners provide the framework and the technical inputs, but participants have real ownership over the process. There is also an emphasis on group work in individual sessions and groups are mixed up – building new relationships.

Participant Presentations: Short participant presentations are interspersed through the program. These are a highlight. They build confidence and skills in presentation, and facilitate the sharing of knowledge, the building of solidarity and networks and help to ground the theory in the reality of peoples' experience.

Continuous participant monitoring and evaluation: At the end of each day a different group of participants sit down with the facilitating team to reflect on what was good/could have been better/needs to change. This has proved a very important method.

All presentation some were easy to understand, but some are really hard to get and understand for me, using example and other tools like video/role play is the best way to present. It is still good overall

Trainers and Facilitators:

The learning process is intense, and the content can be heavy and technical. DTP is fortunate to be able to call on a rich mix of trainers for its programs. The mix of teaching styles and backgrounds of the presenters continues to be a strength of the program. DTP aims for gender balance in the trainers/presenters. The program was co-facilitated overall by Lorelle Savage and Patrick Earle. **There were four women, and five men presenting on this program.**

There is an added value in bringing in trainers who work inside the UN system that participants' are being encouraged to engage with. This helps make subsequent approaches to that system less daunting and the personal insights that these trainers bring are very practical. In this program it was a particular pleasure to welcome back Morse Flores, a DTP alumnus from 2005 who is now a UN Human Rights Officer, based in Geneva. He emphasised the value of the training – and of the networks it had established. The trainers are part of the network that is built by the participants through the program.

Many thanks again for the opportunity to cooperate with you and the broader DTP team. I learned a lot from the inspirational work that each of the participants is doing. Looking forward to staying in touch.

Katia Chirizzi (acting Deputy Regional Representative OHCHR, Bangkok)

Training Content:

It is a continuing challenge to get the balance right between depth and breadth of content on these programs. Ten days is a long program by comparison with many other training workshops, but not sufficient to cover all the ground of knowledge and skills that will be useful. Given the diversity of participants, DTP errs on the side of breadth. Trainers are briefed to address and integrate issues of gender in the content that they deliver, even when gender is not explicitly included in different session titles. Gender is also addressed in the presentations of participants.

In this program the presentation on gender in traditional decision making among the Indigenous peoples of the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh was a highlight of the program. It illustrated powerfully the dynamic nature of Indigenous cultures and how sustainable change in traditional cultural practices engages with international standards, based on participation of affected individuals and communities.

Program Outcomes:

My responsibility will be to access these international laws and provisions for the betterment of Indigenous peoples

Capacity building for human rights advocacy is a long-term investment, and it can be difficult to point to immediate outcomes. DTP's model of training depends very much on supporting individuals that are committed and active in working for human rights in their communities. It is they who face the challenge of making sense of all that they learn, working out what is useful and can be applied in their different contexts and organisations when they return home.

At the end of the program some of the participants shared their plans for follow-up:

I had pre-planned a workshop on women's rights in our community. But now I am excited to collaborate and share my experiences from this training at the earliest.

I am going to organise information sharing session with the Indigenous Peoples organisation I am working with to plan out how we can integrate this information in our future strategies.

Based on what I have learnt the situations of human rights from country, I can teach more knowledge how to lobby with my government in the future

Bonds of friendship and solidarity were built during the program, and the group established a Facebook group among themselves to stay in touch with each other. They have all also become part of the wider DTP alumni network of participants and trainers.

In addition DTP, notes the following program outcomes.

- Follow-up engagement with OHCHR & the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health. Some of the participants communicated their issues of concern on health and human rights issues in Papua and Sumatra ahead of the visit of the UN Special Rapporteur to Indonesia
- At least one on the participants followed up to engage with trainers/DTP on further advice on how to engage the UN system effectively/write submissions
- The sessions with OHCHR and feedback from trainers/participants led to DTP/AIPP developing a new pilot program for Indigenous Peoples advocates on UNDRIP and the SDGs;
- All of the participants reflected that the program had exceeded their expectations in knowledge, skill and network building;

Expectations and Future Priorities:

Program participants were asked to give input to DTP on their expectations of their relationship with DTP following the program, and also for their views on what areas of capacity building DTP should prioritise in the future.

Expectations of DTP: *Some of the participants raised the need for on-going technical support.* They had plans to conduct workshops on the program content with their communities and to engage with their governments on their issues but there were some concerns about the support they may need. Some participants felt there was value in taking their cases to court but they too were concerned about the need for additional technical support. Another area in which some of the participants expressed the need for further support and engagement was engagement with the UN, including submission of cases to UN Special Procedures.

DTP emphasised that DTP's trainers donate their services because of their belief in the value of the work that Indigenous peoples' advocates are doing and likely would be willing to provide follow-up advice/technical assistance. There may also be DTP alumni in the participants' countries who would be willing and well positioned to provide support and DTP committed to assisting in connecting people.

Future priorities for capacity building: The priority issues that participants' identified for future DTP programs included climate change; food and sustainable livelihoods; politics and law; speaking skills /delivery of messages; research methods and documentation. They also identified the need for more specialised training-engaging with the special procedures; influencing government.

DTP responded that it might be useful to link participants with other organisations providing the training that was being identified and also with some of the alumni who have very valuable experience in some of these areas.

The sessions provided by Saranbataar, Katia and Morse from OHCHR on the SDGs and their relevance for Indigenous Peoples and for human rights generated discussion on the need for training to build the capacity of Indigenous Peoples advocates to engage with SDG planning, programming, budgeting and monitoring in their countries. Further discussions involving the trainers and JOAS facilitating team on key content, resources, trainers and stakeholders led to a partnership between DTP and Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) in developing a subsequent program.