



DIPLOMACY TRAINING PROGRAM

AFFILIATED WITH THE FACULTY OF LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
A training program for peoples of the Asia-Pacific region

“we can make our voice heard”

Report of a Post-Training Survey of Participants in the *Human Rights, Indigenous Peoples, the Private Sector and Development, 2017 Regional Capacity Building Program*¹

Executive Summary:

In February/March 2017 the Diplomacy Training Program’s (DTP) and Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia (JOAS) organized and facilitated a capacity building program for Indigenous peoples advocates and human rights defenders in Asia. There were 23 participants from eight countries. The program was organized in collaboration with and support from the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The program aimed to build the knowledge, skills and networks of the participants. There was content on international human rights standards, the UN’s human rights system and advocacy skills. The program was positively evaluated at the end by the participants.

The training programs represent a significant investment of resources in individuals, by DTP, its trainers and the program funders. DTP’s efforts are driven by an understanding of the value of making this investment. At the same time, DTP is continually developing its monitoring and evaluation approaches, seeking a greater understanding of the value and impact of its courses, what is most useful in them, and what it might need to change.

An impact survey was sent to each of the participants in November/December 2017. Eleven responses (48%) were received from participants² in Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal and the Philippines.

The questions asked participants for examples of how they have used the training, what about the training was most useful, any direct impacts and outcomes they could identify from their participation in the program and whether the network building had been useful. It also asked what kind of follow-up from DTP or others would be/have been useful.

The following report summarises the survey, highlighting examples of how the training has been used by participants, and what they felt the benefits of the training to be. In addition to the survey some of the participants have also communicated directly with DTP since the training, sharing news of their work and more.

The following conclusions can be drawn from the completed surveys:

- The knowledge and information gained by program participants is shared with organisations, communities and networks, reaching a wider group of beneficiaries;
- Using the knowledge and skills gained participants have been able to have voice and representation at regional and global forums and to engage with UN mechanisms and procedures;

¹ Held in partnership with Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia (JOAS) Malaysia. February 27 – March 8, 2017

² Seven women and four men

- Participants feel more confident in their advocacy because of their increased knowledge of their rights and of the accountability mechanisms that are available to them;
- Participants greatly valued the opportunity to learn from the experiences of others in the region and are staying in touch and using the networks they established to varying degrees;
- Some participants would value follow-up, second-level training.

It remains difficult to objectively assess the impact of this training. The training involves individuals committed to addressing injustice and promoting positive change. It encourages reflection and analysis, collaboration with others. Anecdotally, the impacts last over the lifetime of the participants – through the friendships and connections made, the value of the different things learnt, and the skills developed.

Members of my organisations are more outspoken and know their rights to organise events related to Indigenous communities rights to practise herbal medicine openly without fear.

Since the DTP, I have spoken at the ASEAN People's Forum, participated in the pre-session of the UPR for Malaysia, and most recently, at the UN Global Forum on Business & Human Rights in Geneva³

..it make us brave to expect to dream about doing more bigger effort to solve our problem...

DTP thanks the alumni who responded to this survey. The information and advice will be incorporated into future program development. DTP also acknowledges the funders who made this training program possible and who share DTP's commitment to investing in the individuals and organisations committed to the rights of Indigenous peoples.

Summary of Responses to the Survey Questions

Q: Can you provide any examples of how you have used the knowledge, skills or contacts from the DTP program?

I have been using this legal knowledge that I have gain from DTP to share with other young lawyer from the Mekong country about the business and human rights principle.... We need to link the grassroots movement to the national, regional and international campaign level by using legal and non-legal mechanism.

Participants responded in diverse ways to this question. Some replied to say that they use the knowledge gained all the time with their organisations, communities and networks. Others identified that they had shared the learning in post program workshops, internal training and talks with young lawyers, university students and communities. The benefits of the program go beyond the participants to the wider group of targeted beneficiaries.

Through the DTP program, I gained more knowledge about the UNDRIP, which knowledge I was able to share with our own indigenous peoples ("Lumads"). With a lot of translation and explanation, I believe the Lumads were able to know more about their rights as indigenous peoples, which in effect, empowered them.

All the respondents were all able to identify ways in which the knowledge and skills gained through participation had been of value to them in working for human rights. Some respondents applied the information directly to engage with UN Special Procedures and subsequently in participating in national, regional and international forums.

³ The text in italics is taken directly from survey responses. Minor edits have been made to correct English and where in some cases worded inserted in brackets to clarify meaning. The completed survey is available on request.

Exposure to UN mechanisms and platforms available to advancing the rights of IPs have given me confidence to raise the issues at the international and global level.

I took part in the 37th preparatory meeting of persons living with disability in September 2017 Geneva. I applied my skills and knowledge which I had gained through DTP

Other respondents reflected that it was the advice they received about how to do advocacy that was significant – how to think of their allies and possible opponents and the importance of relationship building – including with the media to influence mainstream media coverage of Indigenous peoples.

since my participation in the DTP, I am often invited to be a resource speaker on the rights of the indigenous peoples or be called upon to shed light as the legal aspect of a case involving them

Q: What was the most useful thing for you about your participation in the program?

Responses to this question were also varied – emphasising the knowledge gained, and the skills and networks developed. Some emphasised the contextualisation of their work – the value of understanding the global and regional context and the history of struggles for recognition of Indigenous peoples’ rights. Also, the role that they as advocates can play in this context.

The most useful thing for me is create network with the other people from different countries and perspectives. Moreover, I have learnt some international mechanism that would be really useful for future campaign.

Some listed specific information, such as human rights and business, human rights mechanisms, treaty bodies and Indigenous Peoples’ rights. Others highlighted the value of learning about how the UN system works, others emphasised the opportunity to meet and learn from other participants and to build networks with others from different countries.

A number of the respondents also identified the value of the teaching methodology and practical sessions as being very effective. One respondent reflected the value of developing a better understanding of the role of a human rights defender – and of being able to link and communicate from sub-national, national, international to have their voices are heard.

Q: Can you share any impacts or outcomes for you and/or your organisation from your participation in the program?

Overall there is a clear sense from the respondents that the value of the program extended beyond themselves to their organisations and the way they worked with their organisations and communities

The big impact for me is making me aware about Indigenous Peoples’ rights in International (law/relations). So, my work and my organisation campaign are not stop in local or national level, but it make us brave to expect to dream about doing more bigger effort to solve our problem and struggle.

A good thing for me is to know how to link the grassroots campaign as I normally base in the field to the regional campaign.

Since the majority of JOAS staff attended the DTP in Sabah earlier this year, there is a better sense of understanding and application of the knowledge to our empowerment and capacity building programmes for Women and Youth.

Some respondents were able to give specific examples – such as the case of campaigning on the impacts of a cement factory on health and the environment, and on being successful in securing a fellowship and on further media training for staff in their organisation.

I am applying my knowledge about business and human rights especially focusing on cement factory case in Nepal. in Makawanpur district of Nepal

For one participant the additional knowledge and confidence has strengthened her, and her organisations, profile within the Indigenous community and she is increasingly being engaged by the community to provide input on their matters of concern.

Respondents emphasised the value of learning from the experiences of others and building networks:

Sharing the knowledge of the importance of Indigenous land and collaborating with other experts in finding alternative practices in protecting Indigenous land, the villages awareness increased, sharing the common issue of Indigenous Peoples in other countries increases solidarity.

Q: Do you think the networks developed during the program will assist you with your work?

Providing the opportunity and space for participants to build their networks – with each other and with trainers is an important objective of DTP’s programs. Some of this takes place on the program. Participants established a Facebook group, and participants also join the DTP alumni network, receiving regular monthly updates. The contacts with trainers and resource persons assisted two of the organisations in their work as they were able to gain advice which “helped tremendously”. Another organisation has been included, through the nomination of JOAS, in a caucus on business and human rights.

Respondents clearly valued the opportunity to learn from each other during the program, and this has continued since the program concluded:

Yes! Because of DTP, we were connected to the OHCHR speakers, I have met Katia in Bangkok, and Mores in Geneva; and this helped tremendously for JOAS's preparation for the (UN) Voluntary Fund application, and preparing for UPR next year.

Yes indeed. Through our online updates of what each of the members were doing I learn new approach to handle complex issues relating to human rights and incorporate some of this learning in our organisation outreach.

While communication has continued to varying degrees among the participants, sharing news and information about Indigenous peoples in the region, there were no examples or feedback on any collaborative or solidarity advocacy resulting from the program.

Q: Is there any follow-up that you would like DTP to provide?

Most of the responses called for follow-up training – a second level of training that would refresh/deepen knowledge or focus on specific issues and develop skills in advocacy/campaigning.

Q: Any advice on how DTP might improve future program included:

Respondents emphasised the value of using visuals, videos, games and quizzes in the training and of having more specific content on women and child rights, media and on campaigning and social media and protection and the techniques of effective diplomacy or advocacy.