



DTP Australia Awards Fellowship Program



Australia Awards
Fellowships



2015 DTP Fellows with DTP Board and Staff

**Peoples Diplomacy and Economic Development:
building the capacity of civil society leaders.**

**Program
Report**

Sydney/Canberra

September 7-25, 2015

Executive Summary

In September 2015, during the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) by Professor José Ramos- Horta and Emeritus Professor Garth Nettheim, a new program was launched in Australia: the DTP Fellows Program. With funding from the Australian Federal Government under its Australian Awards Fellowship Program the Diplomacy Training Program brought 18 civil society advocates selected from across the region to Australia for an intensive and tailored training and networking initiative.

The DTP Fellows came from Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Nepal and Myanmar where they work on some of the most challenging issues in their respective countries. They are active on women's rights; the rights of migrant workers; Indigenous peoples' rights; corporate accountability and sustainable development. Most are alumni of previous DTP courses and were nominated by some of DTP's partner organisations in the region.

The Fellows Program, developed to respond to the needs and experience of each participant, was comprised of specialist training sessions with leading human rights and business academics and practitioners, field visits to build practical understanding of the application of standards and practices to promote sustainable and equitable development and opportunities to engage with and develop contacts with government, private sector and non-government representatives. Incorporated into the program were opportunities for the participants to prepare and deliver presentations to build their skills in advocating their issues of concern.

The Diplomacy Training Program, with a twenty five year history in providing quality training on human rights and advocacy, is advised and supported by some of Australia's foremost human rights practitioners and academics. Hosting the program in Australia enabled DTP to connect the fellows with a number of these highly experienced local resource people. DTP expresses its deep appreciation to the many trainers, resource persons and officials who contributed their time, expertise and skills to provide such a rich experience for the visiting fellows.

As reflected in the final participant evaluations, the training program successfully met the expectations of participants for new and valuable knowledge and skills. This report provides an analysis of these evaluations and a description of the program.

DTP also acknowledges the reciprocal learning for interested organisations and individuals in Australia who engaged with the DTP Fellows – a committed and courageous group working on the front lines of some of the key challenges and human rights issues in our region. We were very pleased to be able to work again with those in the group who were alumni of previous DTP programs and we thank our partnering organisations for introducing us to the first time participants. We look forward to future collaboration with all the fellows as we continue to explore opportunities to support, learn and share strategies to promote human rights in our region.

The program was made possible through funding from the Australian Government through the Australian Awards Fellowship program.

Participant Summary and Biographies

<u>NAME</u>	<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>ORGANISATION</u>
<u>Human Rights Focus: Corporate Accountability/Responsible Business</u>		
Aung Kyaw Soe	Myanmar	Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business
Thurein Aung	Myanmar	Action Labor Rights
La La Min	Myanmar	Spectrum
Thura Thura	Myanmar	Myanmar Alliance for Transparency & Accountability
Ko Lay Lwin	Myanmar	Dawai Development Association
Sunita Karki	Nepal	Independent Business News
Gopinathan Parakuni	India	Cividep-India, Bangalore
<u>Human Rights Focus: Democracy / Peace & Justice / Development and Poverty / Gender</u>		
Kositatino Tikomaibolatagane	Fiji	Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education & Advocacy
Sereima Mada Lutubula	Fiji	Citizens' Constitutional Forum
Analaisa Nacoladaubota	Fiji	Citizens' Constitutional Forum
Geeta Gautam Bhattarai	Nepal	Informal Sector Service Centre
Shyam Bahadur Chand	Nepal	Informal Sector Service Centre
Fay Evangeline Volatabu	Fiji	National Council of Women Fiji
<u>Human Rights Focus: Indigenous Peoples' Rights</u>		
Binodan Tripura	Bangladesh	Zabarang Kalyan Samity
Fadang Tang Randal	Bangladesh	Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti
E Pleeth Baung	Myanmar	Paung Ku
<u>Human Rights Focus Area: LGBT RIGHTS</u>		
Hla Myat Tun	Myanmar	Equality Myanmar and Colors Rainbow
Shelly Htwe	Myanmar	Kings N Queens and Myanmar LGBT Rights Network
<u>Human Rights Focus: Rights of Migrant Workers</u>		
Dev Chandra Rai	Nepal	Asian Human Rights & Culture Development Forum
Samrachana Shakya	Nepal	Asian Human Rights & Culture Development Forum

HUMAN RIGHTS FOCUS: CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY / RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS

Name: **Aung Kyaw Soe**

Country: **Myanmar**

Organisation: **Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB)**



Aung Kyaw Soe is the Program Support Officer at the *Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB)*, an initiative to encourage responsible business activities in Myanmar. Private sector investment in Myanmar is growing with hopes that the country is transitioning from military rule to genuine democracy. This investment promises development but also risks fuelling conflict and corruption, contributing to forced evictions, environmental destruction and abuse of labour rights. Engaging with the private sector to ensure investment and business benefits host communities and the poor is a key challenge that Aung Kyaw Soe is engaged with – including through the capacity building initiatives of the MCRB.

Name: **Thurein Aung**

Country: **Myanmar**

Organisation: **Action Labor Rights**



Thurein Aung is Chairman and Co-Founder of *Action Labor Rights (ALR)*, set up in 2012 to protect the rights of workers, promote corporate social responsibility (CSR) and to create space for emerging labour unions to engage and collaborate together with others to ensure businesses respect human and labour rights. The garment industry in Myanmar is seeing significant growth – employing many women workers in particular – with concerns about pay and conditions, including safety at work. Thurein’s work involves supporting workers to establish labour organisations and, in collaboration with ILO, training labour organisations. ALR has recently moved into the area of business and human rights by monitoring foreign direct investment and promoting CSR of local enterprises.

Name: **La La Min**

Country: **Myanmar**

Organisation: **Spectrum (Sustainable Development Knowledge Network)**



La La Min is on the program staff at *Sustainable Development Knowledge Network (Spectrum)*, an initiative established to encourage change in business practice and to support sustainable development and respect for the natural environment in Myanmar. Myanmar is a signatory to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative – which addresses corruption and seeks to ensure that revenue from the exploitation of natural resources benefits the wider society. To be effective it requires a level of financial and budget literacy from civil society and the media. La is a Spectrum trainer providing budget transparency workshops for professional journalists who can then use the information and skills in their reporting. La is also responsible for engaging with MPs to promote sustainable resource management and Spectrum’s contribution to the Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change Extremes and Disaster Program in Myanmar.

Name: **Thura Thura**

Country: **Myanmar**

Organisation: **Myanmar Alliance for Transparency and Accountability (MATA)**

Thura is regional coordinator for the *Myanmar Alliance for Transparency and Accountability (MATA)*, an alliance of civil society organisations advocating for greater transparency and accountability of the extractive industries in Myanmar. These include significant onshore and offshore oil and gas operations as well as mining. The issues around this sector have emerged as one of Myanmar's most significant development and human rights challenges – with operations taking place in conflict zones, and where property titles are unclear, governance regimes inadequate and powerful individuals seeking to profit. Thura is responsible for coordinating the work of MATA's Board, the national working group, regional working group and the technical group as well as the affiliated civil society organisations. He is also the contact point for international organisations providing technical support to the local working groups, and also links up with national and international media to promote Myanmar's adoption of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

Name: **Ko Lay Lwin**

Country: **Myanmar**

Organisation **Dawai Development Association (DDA)**

Ko Lay Lwin is one of the founders of the *Dawai Development Association (DDA)* and has been a coordinator since the organisation was founded in 2012. DDA is recognized as a key environmental and human rights protection organisation in the region. Ko Lay Lwin is responsible for community mobilisation and advocating on the impact of the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in DaWei division. He works with the media in documenting the environmental impact of the SEZs and has worked with the media to highlight the issues.

Name: **Sunita Karki**

Country: **Nepal**

Organisation: **Independent Business News**



Sunita Karki is the Program Producer for Independent Business News (IBN) where she is news reporter and program producer. Her responsibilities include reporting, interviewing, participating in press conferences, delivering daily briefings to her staff and news reading. She also undertakes field visits and research, writes news reports and produces and edits documentaries.

Name: **Gopinathan Kunhithayil Parakuni**

Country: **India**

Organisation: **Cividep-India**

Gopinathan Kunhithayil Parakuni is the General Secretary of *Cividep-India*, an organisation working to educate and empower workers and communities in India to ensure that businesses comply with human rights, labour rights and environmental standards. The organisation targets the garments, electronics, leather and tea/coffee sectors. Cividep is based in Bangalore, India and has campaigned

to protect the rights of vulnerable women working in the garment sector there. Cividep is a member of a number of international networks, including the Good Electronics Network, OECD Watch and the Asian Network for the Rights of Occupational and Environmental Victims. Gopinathan is also an Executive member of OECD Watch.

HUMAN RIGHTS FOCUS: DEMOCRACY/PEACE&JUSTICE/DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY/GENDER

Name: **Fay Evangeline Volatabu**

Country: **Fiji**

Organisation: **National Council of Women Fiji**



Fay Evangeline Volatabu is the General Secretary of the *National Council of Women Fiji*, a key forum voicing women's concerns in the country. The Council responds to the needs of women, including building of knowledge of rights and promoting tools for establishing businesses. As General Secretary, she is involved in planning Council activities and in implementing Council decisions. Fay is the focal point for the Council's engagement with its stakeholders, including women all over Fiji through its 70 affiliated women's organisations. Fay is also committed to empowering young women through its Junior NCW Fiji.

Name: **Kositatino Tikomaibolatagane**

Country: **Fiji**

Organisation: **Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy (ECREA)**



Kositatino Tikomaibolatagane is the Assistant Coordinator of the *Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy (ECREA)* an organisation dedicated to building an inclusive, just and compassionate Fijian society. Kositatino guides ECREA's work to educate and empower change agents in society. He is also responsible for monitoring ECREA's activities and evaluating the effectiveness of its work. Kositatino is passionate about supporting people to live peacefully and joyfully in Fiji.

Name: **Sereima Mada Lutubula**

Country: **Fiji**

Organisation: **Citizens' Constitutional Forum (CCF)**

Sereima Mada Lutubula is a Community and Field Officer with *Citizens' Constitutional Forum (CCF)*, a leading civil society organisation in Fiji with significant experience in community education and advocacy on Fiji's Constitution, democracy, human rights and multiculturalism. Fiji has recently had its first elections following years of military rule and Sereima manages CCF's community education program. This includes curriculum and training resource development, and innovative learning methodology. The programs are designed to empower community education leaders, and promote good governance through building understanding of human rights and active and responsible citizenship and the ability to apply these principles to Fiji's development challenges.

Name: **Analaisa Maramanivalu Nacoladaubota**
Country: **Fiji**
Organisation: **Citizens' Constitutional Forum (CCF)**

Analaisa Maramanivalu Nacoladaubota is an Education Support Officer with *Citizens' Constitutional Forum (CCF)* where she is involved in planning, coordinating and conducting community civic education workshops. She assists with curriculum development for training activities and developing training resources. Analaisa also plays a role in developing new networks and maintaining the established networks which are key to the success of CCF's education programs.

Name: **Geeta Gautam Bhattarai**
Country: **Nepal**
Organisation: **Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)**



Geeta Gautam heads the Human Rights Education Department of *Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)*, a key NGO in Nepal advocating the promotion and protection of human rights. INSEC was established to promote and protect the rights of the many poor Nepalese employed in the informal sector. INSEC is represented across each district of Nepal and has played a vital role in promoting and defending human rights through all the phases of Nepal's recent past – from absolute monarchy, through to constitutional monarchy and democracy, through civil war and a royal coup to the current consideration on Nepal's constitution. INSEC is a key member of the regional human rights network, Forum Asia,. As head of the training department Geeta is responsible for designing, planning and implementing INSEC's extensive human rights education program, the current focus of which is holding authorities responsible for meeting the basic rights of all groups in Nepal. INSEC's human rights program has a broad reach and Geeta works with grass roots communities, community leaders and with policy makers at a national level. Her role involves advocacy and lobbying for health, education and food rights, representing INSEC at national and international events and maintaining public relations and networks. Geeta and INSEC have been involved in relief efforts across Nepal following the devastating earthquake there.

Name: **Shyam Bahadur Chand**
Country: **Nepal**
Organisation: **Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)**



Shyam Bahadur Chand is responsible for the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation functions at INSEC. INSEC receives funds from a number of international donors and implements projects across the whole of Nepal on different issues at this time of transition for Nepal – as it seeks to deal with a legacy of human rights violations from the civil war and the poverty and discrimination that fuelled that conflict. A Constituent Assembly is in the process of drafting a new Constitution for Nepal – and one of the key issues is the recognition of Indigenous peoples' rights. Shyam's work includes developing concept notes and grant proposals and monitoring and evaluating projects and preparing reports for funding partners and INSEC's Annual General Meeting.

HUMAN RIGHTS FOCUS:

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS



Name: **E Pleeth Baung**

Country: **Myanmar**

Organisation: **Paung Ku**

Myanmar's transition to democracy and greater respect for human rights is uneven – conflicts continue with ethnic nationalities, sometimes fuelled by competition over access to natural resources and dissent is sometimes violently suppressed. E Pleeth is the Program Officer for *Paung Ku*, an initiative established in 2007 to strengthen civil society organisations in Myanmar. As Program Officer with responsibility for Shan State, Magwe Division and Mandalay City, E engages with communities to identify their concerns and needs before providing support to contribute to positive community change. E's work involves advocacy with local authorities, government and business, facilitating training with diverse ethnic nationalities and sectors.

Name: **Binodan Tripura**

Country: **Bangladesh**

Organisation: **Zabarang Kalyan Samity**



Binodan is programme coordinator at *Zabarang Kalyan Samity*, an organisation working with Indigenous peoples of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). The CHT is an area of Bangladesh severely affected by long running conflict and tensions over land and resources between its Indigenous peoples and settlers from the majority Bangla community. A Peace Accord to bring an end to armed conflict was signed in 1997, but has not been fully implemented. Reports of violence against women, violent evictions and community conflict continue against a background of poverty. Binodan's organisation is one of many in the CHT that is working to peacefully address these issues. He is actively involved in the work with the community leaders, organising training, facilitating opportunities for community leaders to dialogue with government officials and liaising with community organisations to address human rights concerns.

Name: **Fadang Tang Randal**

Country: **Bangladesh**

Organisation: **Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS)**



Fadang is a staff member with *Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS)* an organisation which has been working for the rights of Indigenous peoples of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) since 1972. As a staff member at the Central Office of PCJSS, Fadang's key responsibilities are to raise political and economic awareness among the Indigenous peoples in the CHT, establish and maintain networks with different Indigenous Peoples' Organisations and to advocate for the rights of Indigenous peoples in the CHT. Fadang also conducts research on human rights situations and economic development and is a general member of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum.

HUMAN RIGHTS FOCUS:

LGBTI RIGHTS

Name: **Hla Myat Tun**

Country: **Myanmar**

Organisation: **Equality Myanmar and Colors Rainbow**



Hla Myat Tun is a program officer for *Equality Myanmar* and *Colors Rainbow*. Colors Rainbow, a leading LGBTI organisation in Myanmar, is the founder and secretariat of the Myanmar LGBT Rights Network representing community based organisations and advocates from 25 regions. At a time when the LGBTI community in Myanmar is subjected to continuous legal and social discrimination and human rights abuse both from the state and in the domestic sphere, Colors Rainbow is working to empower advocates to implement a rights based approach in their work and to ensure that LGBTI issues and visibility are respectfully raised in the country. Hla Myat Tun oversees the operations of project activities – managing staff and work plans, reporting, supervising advocacy campaigns and capacity building. He sits on the management committee of Equality Myanmar and is a core member of ASEAN SOGIE Caucus.

Name: **Shelly Htwe**

Country: **Myanmar**

Organisation: **Kings N Queens and Myanmar LGBT Rights Network**

Shelly Htwe is a core member of the Myanmar LGBT Rights Network. While advocacy for the rights of LGBT community is increasingly visible in other ASEAN countries, there are very few Lesbian activists in Myanmar. Shelly is involved in the organising of campaigns and community events to raise the profile of Kings N Queens and awareness of LGBTI rights. In addition to her counselling work with lesbians and trans-men Shelly collaborates with other groups and organisations and assists with organising advocacy campaigns and community events.

HUMAN RIGHTS FOCUS:

THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS

Name: **Dev Chandra Rai**

Country: **Nepal**

Organisation: **Asian Human Rights and Culture Development Forum (AHRCDF)**



Dev Chandra Rai is a Program Officer at the *Asian Human Rights and Culture Development Forum* (AHRCDF) where his work is focused on responding to the significant challenges related to the abuse of migrant workers' rights that take place in the countries of origin, transit and destination. These include inadequate planning, lack of policy, poor access to information or justice, nationality and gender discrimination and the absence of re-integration planning. Dev Chandra is involved in planning, implementing and monitoring projects, and conducting outreach activities aimed at identifying safe and productive foreign employment and alternatives. He also oversees coordination with concerned stakeholders including government agencies, civil society organisations, international NGOs and local community leaders, and supports alliance building amongst migrant workers and their families.

Name: **Samrachana Shakya**

Country: **Nepal**

Organisation: **Asian Human Rights and Culture Development Forum (AHRCDF)
(Migrants' Centre)**



Samrachana Shakya is the administration officer at AHRCDF (Migrants' Centre) and plays a key role in the organisation efforts to ensure that Nepal's migrant workers are safe and protected. Ensuring migrant workers have access to the information that enables them to make informed choices about labour migration and to access support and information is one of the key challenges. Gathering documentation and evidence to enable interventions on individual cases and advocacy for change is another. Samrachana is responsible for case documentation and follow-up and oversees Migrant Centre's administration. She also participates in program work including monitoring and evaluating program activities and writing reports and proposals. AHRCDF is involved in case work – seeking compensation for abuses, the safe return of workers stranded in Malaysia and the Middle-East and the return of the bodies of the growing number of migrant workers killed while working overseas.