CSOs and NGOs working for the Rights of Migrant Workers

Name of Organisation: Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), The Philippines, 1994
Website of Organisation: http://mfasia.org/
Facebook of Organisation: https://www.facebook.com/migrantforumasia
Organisation of DTP Alumni Y/N: Yes

Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA) based in Manila, is a regional network of NGOs, associations and trade unions of migrant workers, and individual advocates in Asia who are committed to protect and promote the rights and welfare of MWs. MFA acts as a facilitator, a regional communication and coordination point between member-organizations and advocates, forging concerted action to address discriminatory laws and policies, violence against women migrants, unjust living conditions, unemployment in the homeland and other issues affecting migrant workers. It is guided by a vision of an alternative world system based on respect for human rights and dignity, social justice, and gender equity, particularly for migrant workers.

MFA mission is to

- Continue to fight and address violations of migrants' human rights;
- Intensify education and organizing work among migrants to challenge globalization, and help develop initiatives by migrants;
- Help create alternative sustainable economic models, processes and practices for migrants;
- Broaden and strengthen our alliances and solidarity among networks, organizations and groups working for migrants' issues, cutting across classes, sectors and nationalities;
- Launch coordinated initiatives and actions to build and strengthen popular movements and political momentum to promote a migrant agenda that shall include lobbying, petition, mass actions in the national, regional and/or international arena.

DTP and MFA have collaborated on capacity building for the rights of MWs since 2004, with a focus on delivery of regional capacity building programs in Asia and the Gulf region. Program participants include representatives of the private sector trade unions, as well as advocates of MWs.

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1 The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) is an NGO affiliated with the Faculty of Law at UNSW in Sydney. Since 1990, it has provided training to over 2600 human rights defenders and community advocates. These individuals work for a wide range of organisations working to promote shared values of human rights – in different ways. This profile is part of a series developed by DTP (www.dtp.unsw.edu.au) to illustrate the richness and diversity of the organisations working to promote the rights of migrant workers and human rights more broadly.