



DTP – BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF ASIA-PACIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT 1990 – 2020

On Human Rights Day, December 10, [DTP's Executive Director Patrick Earle received the 2019 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award](#) on behalf of DTP from Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen at an official ceremony at the President's Guest House in Taipei. [Award acceptance speech](#) and [Taiwan Foundation for Democracy press release](#)

Continuation of our series on new human rights challenges and developments affecting political, economic, social and environmental challenges and what these mean for human rights and capacity building.

- The UN General Assembly is due to consider reform to the UN Treaty Body system in 2020. In this opinion piece [No more tinkering: real reform needed to UN human rights treaty monitoring](#) former Human Rights High Commissioner Navi Pillay makes a number of recommendations for reform including streamlining the reporting system.

PLEASE DONATE

- DTP relies on donations 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](#).

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

For [draft schedule for 2020](#) and [reports on completed DTP Training Programs](#)

- 24-25 February 2020, The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Building Capacity on Implementation and Reporting with a focus on implementation of the Committee's most recent [Concluding Observations \(Recommendations\) to Australia](#), A Workshop in Brisbane, 24-25 February, 2020. [Brochure and registration form](#).
- August 2020, 30th Annual Human Rights and People's Diplomacy Training for Human Rights Defenders from the Asia-Pacific Region, Timor-Leste. Click [here](#) to download application form and program brochure
- April/May 2020 – Regional Program on Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and Business – dates and location to be advised - [click here](#) to register interest
- November 2019 – [Business and Human Rights and SDGs in PNG](#) – Capacity Building Program with PIANGO, OHCHR, UNDP, UNSW Institute for Global Development - [Brochure](#) and [Program Summary Report](#)
- August 2019 – [29th Annual Regional Human Rights and People's Diplomacy Training Program](#) in Timor-Leste – [Brochure](#) and [Summary Report](#)
- July 2019 – [Capacity Building Program on the Convention of the Rights of the Child, Darwin Australia](#) - [Brochure](#) and [Report](#)
- [June 2019 Lebanon – MENA Regional Capacity Building Program on the Rights of Migrant Workers – Draft Summary Report, Final Report MENA programs 2015-2019, Final Report South and South-East Asia programs 2015-2019](#)
- [DTP 2018 Annual Report](#) and [2018/19 audited financial statements](#)

Other training programs

- [Applications open for Next Generation Leaders program in Arizona 2020-21. Closing 7 February.](#)

PROFILES AND NEWS OF DTP ALUMNI

- Profile of DTP alumna [Abbey Shillingford](#) from Australia - 2009 Human Rights Advocacy and Business Program – Thailand and 2009 Oxfam Indigenous Youth Program – Australia
- Profile of DTP alumnus [Jonathan Mesulam](#) from PNG – 29th Annual Program, 2019
- DTP congratulates DTP alumna Sumitha Kishna on her election as Chairperson of Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)
- DTP congratulates DTP alumna Ms. Lusia Lagilevu on her appointment as programme manager at DTP's partner NGO in Fiji, [Citizens' Constitutional Forum \(CCF\)](#)
- DTP congratulates alumna Bernie Goulding for starting a new position as Regional Advisory Committee member at the [Victorian Multicultural Commission](#)
- DTP extends its condolences to the family, colleagues and friends of [Patrick Lombaia](#), PNG DTP alumnus, human rights defender and campaigner for corporate accountability

ACTIVISM AND CAMPAIGNING

- DTP alumnus and current Commissioner in the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia [Jerald Joseph](#) took part in a [panel discussion](#) at the IOM [Global Migration Film Festival](#) in Kuala Lumpur
- [A message from participants](#) in DTP's most recent program in PNG regarding business and human rights was shown at the beginning of a special session at the [UN Global Forum on Business and Human Rights](#) in Geneva in November
- Online campaign to pressure clothing brands who are still keeping their supply chains secret thus denying their workers the opportunity to report violations directly: [Tell clothing brands to support workers by signing the Transparency Pledge](#)
- DTP alumnus [Dr. Subash Mohaptra](#) has sent us a [case study](#) on how his organization criminally prosecuted a coal company owned by the government of India
- DTP alumna from Bangladesh [Samita Robidas](#) has sent in this [brief report](#) on a human rights awareness campaign in Gaibandha districts of Bangladesh
- DTP alumnus [Jonathan Mesulam](#) (29th Annual Program) [interviewed](#) by the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre regarding the successful campaign to stop the Canadian miner, Nautilus Minerals, from commencing exploratory (first in the world) seabed mining in the waters off Papua New Guinea

EVENTS

- [The 3rd Advancing Community Cohesion Conference \(ACCC\) University of Western Sydney 10-13 February](#)

FUNDING SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITIES

- [Apply now! Women's Fund Asia SFM 2020-21 Call for Applications. Deadline 25 February](#)
- [UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture](#) and [UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery](#). Deadline 1 March 2020
- [8th Asia Pro Bono Conference and Access to Justice Exchange, Nepal September 2020](#)

RESOURCES

- [New guide to the UN Special Procedures](#)
- [Fighting To Exist: Legislative Protection for Human Rights Defenders in Asia](#)

DTP'S THEMATIC PRIORITIES

Human Rights and Business

- [2nd UN South Asia Forum on Business and Human Rights 18-20 March 2020, Nepal](#)

- [2019 Corporate Human Rights Benchmark published; most companies fail to meet basic corporate human rights expectations](#)
- [NGO Report Shows Widespread Human Rights violations in Wilmar's Palm oil operations in West Sumatra](#)
- [Indonesia: OECD Guidelines complaint filed against South Korean companies for human rights & environmental violations on palm oil plantations](#)
- [BankTrack Human Rights Benchmark 2019 shows 4 out of 5 banks are failing on human rights](#)
- [Facebook & Google's surveillance poses unprecedented danger to human rights says Amnesty International](#)
- [Lawless Ocean: The Link Between Human Rights Abuses and Overfishing](#)
- [Human Rights at Sea calls for immediate end to exploitative recruitment fees for seafarers & fishers](#)
- [Guide: "What can I do when a business has abused my rights?"](#)
- [New OECD Guidelines case alleges POSCO and financiers caused adverse human rights and environmental impacts on palm oil plantations in Papua New Guinea](#)

Indigenous Peoples' Rights

- [Burma's Indigenous Karen Communities Move to Protect Rivers, Forests](#)
- [Indigenous Knowledge, a Lesson for a Sustainable Food Future](#)
- [Indigenous peoples: Marginalized in Malaysia Baharu](#)
- [Global Mobilization to End the Criminalization of Land Rights Defenders](#)
- [Under threat for resisting an illegal mine in India](#)

Migrant Workers' Rights

- [12th GFMD: Civil society recommendations for the Summit and more news from the Summit](#)
- [Interview with PIANGO's Pefi Kingi QSM: Global Solidarity for the Implementation of Local Solutions to Climate Change Displacement](#)
- [Bangladeshi Migrant Female Domestic Workers Face Violence](#)
- [Migrant-Rights.Org has just published Mapping of Rights & Resources for Domestic Workers in the GCC, a useful comparative analysis](#)
- [Indonesia: For migrants, letter of law not always guarantee of protection](#)
- [Bangladesh: 166 recruiting agencies shut down after abuse and torture allegations from workers in Saudi Arabia surface](#)

Children's Rights

- [Convention on tourism ethics is major step towards tackling child exploitation, say UN human rights experts](#)
- [UN: Drop in child marriages in India drives decline in practice globally](#)
- [Australian Human Rights Commissioner calls for increase in age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14](#)
- [Samoa: The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child is set to meet in the Pacific Island nation in March 2020](#)
- [Child Marriages Unlikely to End by UN's 2030 Deadline](#)
- [Myanmar leads ASEAN on child rights and protection](#)
- [Waves of protests around the world are reminder that voices of children and adolescents must be heard and their rights protected](#)

HUMAN RIGHTS – GENERAL NEWS

- [UN official: Past decade has seen human rights 'backlash'](#)
- [UNGA 74: Global agreement on key elements of an effective defender protection policy](#)
- [Call for comments: Revised Draft General Comment No. 37 on Article 21 \(Right of Peaceful Assembly\) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#)
- [Asia-Pacific countries adopt declaration to advance gender equality and women's empowerment](#)
- [UN Secretary-General's remarks to the General Assembly on his priorities for 2020](#)
- [UNESCO highlights rising threat against journalists](#)
- [When UN's Cash Crisis Undermines Human Rights, Are the World's Torturers the Key Beneficiaries?](#)

Climate Change and Human Rights

- [UN: Fossil fuel polluters from U.S. to China far off climate targets](#)

- [Running from the Storm – How Bangladesh’s Climate Migrants are Becoming Food Secure](#)
- Vietnam: [Women are hit harder by climate change. Here, they are starting to fight back](#)
- [Women’s Groups Applaud Gender Action Plan Following COP 25](#)
- [UN: Women, girls, disabled most threatened by climate change](#)
- [Historic UN Human Rights case opens door to climate change asylum claims](#)
- [Increase in retaliation against environmental activists worldwide, linking protestors to extremists](#)

HUMAN RIGHTS – ASIA REGIONAL NEWS

- DTP alumna and trainer [Yuyun Wahyuningrum](#) statement on behalf of [AICHR highlights rise in religious-based intolerance in ASEAN](#)

HUMAN RIGHTS – PACIFIC ISLANDS NEWS

- [New portal shines a light on corporate human rights abuses in the Pacific](#)

HUMAN RIGHTS – COUNTRY SPECIFIC NEWS

Australia

- [Aberdeen Standard Investments, Westpac & CommBank rebuff government’s attack on the role of environmental groups](#)
- [Tiffany & Co has taken out a full page imploring Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison to take “bold and decisive climate action” in light of the national bushfire crisis](#)
- [Queensland anti-protest laws 'inherently disproportionate', UN human rights experts say](#)

Cambodia

- [Cambodian Protester Dies in Custody](#)
- HRW: [Drop Charges Against Opposition Leader](#)
- [UN Human Rights Experts Decry ‘Irregularities’ in Cambodian Opposition Chief Kem Sokha’s Trial](#)

China

- Front Line: [China Must Free Huang Xueqin and End Harassment Against Women Human Rights Defenders](#)
- [Human Rights Watch Blasts China for Rights Violations at Home and Abroad](#)
- **Take action:** [One-month incommunicado detention of four human rights defenders](#)

India

- [India’s Top Court Orders Government to Review Kashmir Internet Ban](#)
- [UN Rights Official Urges India to Scrap New Citizenship Law](#)
- [UN Secretary General raises concern about crackdown on CAA protesters](#)

Indonesia

- [Indonesia Rights Body Condemns LGBT Raids Ordered by Mayor](#)
- [Alliance of Independent Journalists: Police ‘enemy of free press’ in Indonesia](#)
- [Indonesian minister calls for probe into 1965 killings](#)
- [Freedom of religion suffers in divided nation](#)

Laos

- [HRW Condemns Lao Government for Continued Detention of Elderly Landowner Over Property Dispute](#)
- [Police Detain Eight Would-be Protesters in Lao Capital Vientiane](#)
- [Woman jailed for five years for criticizing the government online](#)
- [The Loss of the Ou River threatens sources of food, water, income, and social and spiritual well-being](#)
- [Young Laotian blogger gets five years in prison for criticizing the government](#)

Malaysia

- [Malaysia’s 2019 human rights record](#)
- [Police harassment against SUARAM Executive Director Sevan Doraisamy](#)

Myanmar

- HRW: [More Jail Time for Satirical Troupe](#)
- [UNGA condemns human rights abuses](#)
- [ICJ genocide hearing on Myanmar: step towards justice for the Rohingya](#)
- [Aung San Suu Kyi's Defence Of Tatmadaw at the ICC Normalizes Violence Against Muslims in Burma](#)
- [UN Special Rapporteur for Myanmar Urges China, Russia to Join Calls for Accountability on Rohingya](#)
- [U.N.'s Top Court Orders Myanmar to Take All Measures to Prevent Genocide Against Rohingya](#)
- [Independent Commission of Enquiry \(ICOE\) Final Report](#)

Pakistan

- [The international community must take notice of the humanitarian crisis in Balochistan](#)
- **Take action:** [Human Rights Defender Manzoor Pashteen arrested](#)

Philippines

- [From NGO Kalumaran: Lumad group calls for release of Higaonon leader incarcerated on fake charges](#)
- [Recent Crackdown on Progressive Groups in the Philippines](#)

Singapore

- [Singapore abusing fake news law to muzzle critics](#)

Thailand

- [ASEAN lawmakers disappointed by court ruling stripping Thailand opposition leader of parliamentary seat](#)
- **Take action:** [Stop judicial harassment of Ms. Angkhana Neelapaijit](#)
- [Thailand's disappeared Karen activist Billy and the burned village](#)
- **Take action:** [Stop judicial harassment against Ms. Suchanee Cloitre](#)
- [Women in 'model' prisons face conditions below international standards, new report finds](#)
- [Drop Criminal Complaint Against Fortify Rights Senior Human Rights Specialist Puttanee Kangkun](#)

Vietnam

- [Vietnam Arrests Well-known Independent Journalist amid Increasing Crackdown on Local Bloggers](#)
- **Take action:** [Arbitrary detention of journalist Pham Chi Dung](#)

NEWSLETTERS/REGULAR PUBLICATIONS

In this section, we list contributions that appear on a regular basis that may be of interest to our readers

- BANGLADESH: [Kapaeng Foundation](#)
- CAMBODIA: [Cambodia Center for Human Rights \(CCHR\) Fair Trial Newsletter](#)
- CHINA: [Chinese Responsible Investment Overseas Newsletter](#)
- MYANMAR/BURMA: [Burma Human Rights Network Monthly Situation Updates Registration](#)
- MYANMAR/BURMA: [Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business \(MCRB\)](#)
- NEPAL: [Centre for Migration and International Relations \(CMIR\)](#)
- VIETNAM: [Vietnam Human Rights Defenders Weekly](#)
- WEST PAPUA: [Human Rights and Peace for Papua – The International Coalition for Papua](#)
- [Forest Peoples Programme Newsletter](#)
- [HREA Upcoming E-Learning Courses](#)
- [Hurights-Osaka: Asia Pacific Human Rights Information Center](#)
- [Mekong Eye News Digest](#)
- [OHCHR UN Human Rights Civil Society Weekly Newsletter](#)
- [SDC Migration Network Newsletter](#)
- [Stop Child Labour Newsletter](#)
- [United Nations Democracy Fund Monthly Newsletter](#)

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