



Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and Business

A regional capacity strengthening program for Indigenous Peoples Advocates

June 8-11, 2019

Bangkok, Thailand

Summary Report

The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) partnered with the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA) and Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) to organise and facilitate a training program for human rights defenders and Indigenous advocates in Bangkok in the lead-up to the OECD's Global Forum on Responsible Business and Human Rights in June, 2019.

Over 20 participants from 10 countries participated in this specialist program aimed at building knowledge of international standards and laws on human rights and business, and of grievance mechanisms and advocacy approaches to influence businesses and hold them accountable for their impacts.



The program was opened by DTP alumna and Indonesian AICHR Commissioner, [Yuyun Wahyuningrum](#), who highlighted the importance of civil society advocacy (and capacity building). There was [a special focus on gender](#) – and the way that [business impacts differently on women, and ways that gender affects access to remedies when harms occur](#).

Trainers included [Professor Surya Deva](#) of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, Professor Justine Nolan, [Yuyun Wahyuningrum](#) of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights; [Debbie Stothard](#) of FIDH, [Bobbie Sta Maria](#) of the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC) and John Southalan.

Participants shared experiences of land grabbing, and of the impacts of mining, dams, logging and palm-oil plantations. The loss of land leads to the loss of cultures, languages and livelihoods linked to these lands. Potential benefits of development are undermined by the lack of participation by Indigenous peoples in decision making, the failure of companies to obtain Free, Prior, Informed Consent from Indigenous peoples, and the lack of benefit sharing.

Participants shared moving personal stories – of seeing their pristine environments destroyed, of being displaced and of threats and harassment. They also shared knowledge and practical tips – inspiring each other and building their networks of support.

I would like to thank DTP, Forum Asia and AIPP for organizing such a very important Training for the Indigenous Peoples Human [Rights] Defender in Asia. The knowledge and skills that I learned from this training are very crucial for me, as I am myself directly involved in constant struggles and land dispute related problems in my own area in Sarawak. DTP and its allies really equip and empower us with the relevant knowledge, networking and new alliances in our struggles.



Quote from follow-up email from participant

The program combined two of DTP's thematic priorities, Business and Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples, and nine of the participants went on to participate in the OECD Forum – with alumni of earlier DTP courses.

Our deepest thanks to DTP, FORUM-ASIA, and AIPP for organizing the training in Bangkok and for providing opportunity to participate and engage in the annual OECD forum. It was truly helpful that the OECD Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum has somehow served as a post-training practicum experience – putting into practice the salient lessons gained from the training as to human rights instruments/mechanisms relating to business.

Quote from follow-up email from participant



Summary prepared June, 2019. Full report to follow.



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