



## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

### **Diplomatic Outreach for Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights Defenders A Capacity Building Program on Diplomatic Outreach**

**May/June 2022**

*Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) and Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)*

#### SUMMARY

DTP and AIPP, in collaboration with other partners, are calling for applications for a special capacity building program ***Diplomatic Outreach for Indigenous People and Human Rights Defenders*** to be held online between May and June 2022.

This program will focus on enabling Human Right Defenders (HRDs) advocating for Indigenous people's rights in Asia Pacific countries to engage with the diplomats of countries that have policies on human right defenders and the rights of Indigenous peoples. Participants will learn from leading experts and practitioners, share knowledge with each other, and build networks. The course will involve 5 online sessions of 1.5 hours over 6 weeks, as well as an online or face-to-face (F2F) engagement with diplomats.

#### WHY THIS TRAINING?

According to a new report by CIVICUS at the end of 2021, safe space for civil society is shrinking, particularly in the Asia Pacific. HRDs and Indigenous peoples' rights defenders are increasingly at risk, especially where they contest land-grabbing, and resource development on their lands. Recognition of the rights of Indigenous peoples' rights is denied.

International support is very important to HRDs who have the right to pursue their work in safe and sustainable conditions. The UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders recognised the critical role of HRDs and the legitimacy of international cooperation and action to protect and promote human rights. The EU and other countries have adopted Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders that provide guidance to their diplomats to support and defender HRDs.

This program aims at enabling HRDs to engage with diplomats to exchange their concerns around Indigenous peoples' rights and HRDs. The program will increase the knowledge of HRDs on the international standards and guidelines on HRDs and promote knowledge of policies on the rights of Indigenous peoples. It will provide practical help and support to participants in their approaches to diplomats giving advice and support.

This training is an initiative to strengthen and support the role of civil society and HRDs at a critical time. It will lead to the participation of Indigenous peoples and HRDs in the development of effective strategies for safe space for civil society, and the promotion of the role of HRDs and the rights of Indigenous peoples.

### WHAT WILL PARTICIPANTS LEARN?

The program will be run in an interactive mutual learning format, with participants strongly encouraged to share knowledge and experiences. The content will be finalised to meet the needs of the selected participants and will reflect the specific context of the participants. Program content will include the following:

- Introduction to the UN Declaration on HRD + EU guidelines and other relevant policies
- Building of lobbying / influencing skills among the participants
- Short simulations / role plays as a preparation for the participants.

### TRAINERS AND TRAINING METHODOLOGY

DTP/AIPP trainers are experienced local, regional and international human rights practitioners, academics, and experts who believe in the philosophy of participatory training. The training will use an accessible and user-friendly online platform, with a combination of lectures, presentations, webinars, videos, exercises and group activities between sessions. Interaction and sharing experiences and lessons with others is actively encouraged. There will be 5 x 1.5 hour online sessions (one per week) and an estimated 2 hours per week of offline-activities/assignments over 6 weeks. If COVID restrictions permit participants may be able to train together at local/national level – and meet F2F with diplomats. Participants completing the training will receive a certificate from DTP and the UNSW Law & Justice Faculty.

### WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The program is aimed at Human Rights Defenders/Indigenous Peoples Rights Defenders from Asia Pacific countries who are advocating for Indigenous Peoples' Rights. Consideration will be given to ensuring a gender balance and other diversities amongst selected participants. Participant numbers will be between 25-30.

### HOW TO APPLY

Application forms can be downloaded from the [DTP website](#) or can be requested from [dtp@unsw.edu.au](mailto:dtp@unsw.edu.au). Deadline for the application is **April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022**. Applications will be acknowledged on receipt.

### ABOUT ORGANISERS

The **Diplomacy Training Program (DTP)** is an independent NGO affiliated with the University of New South Wales providing practical training in human rights and advocacy in the Asia-Pacific region. **Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)** is a regional organization committed to the cause of promoting and defending Indigenous Peoples' rights and human rights and articulating issues of relevance to Indigenous peoples.

**APPLICATION CLOSING DATE: April 25, 2022**



This capacity building program receives support from the Australian Government through the [Australian NGO Cooperation Program \(ANCP\)](#).