In every society there are individuals who are committed to actively challenging injustice and to promoting respect for human dignity, sometimes at great personal risk. I wanted to establish DTP as a practical way to help them. Respect for human rights is a shared dream that is made real by the efforts of individuals working together in their own communities and across borders. Enabling the sharing of experience, and building knowledge and skills are a practical contribution to these individuals and to building greater respect for human rights for all.

José Ramos-Horta

The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) is an independent, non-government organisation providing expert training in human rights advocacy to individual human rights defenders and community advocates in Indigenous Australia and the Asia-Pacific.

DTP was founded 25 years ago by Nobel Peace Laureate Professor José Ramos-Horta and Emeritus Professor Garth Nettheim. Its core principle is that advocacy, diplomacy and communication, together with sound knowledge of international human rights standards and inter-governmental systems, are some of the most effective tools human rights defenders can use to peacefully address grievances, challenge injustice and achieve better outcomes.

In 25 years operating out of the Faculty of Law at UNSW, DTP has run over 100 regional training courses all around the Asia-Pacific region. Courses focus on specific themes such as Indigenous peoples’ rights, migrant workers’ rights, human rights development and business, and human rights defenders.

Through these courses, DTP has empowered more than 2,500 human rights advocates in over 50 countries with the skills and knowledge to work more effectively in their home countries, to seek international solidarity, and to share knowledge with each other. The following panels highlight the work of 25 of these DTP alumni.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF BUILDING HUMAN RIGHTS KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND NETWORKS
In Sarawak, Malaysia, the Indigenous Kelabit claim a native customary right to land that they have occupied for centuries. But they are struggling with the Malaysian and Sarawak governments, as well as private corporations, which have taken much of their traditional territory – often without consultation or compensation.

Dr Ramy Bulan, a member of the Indigenous Kelabit community, is the Director of the Centre for Malaysian Indigenous Studies and a Professor of Law at the University of Malaya. She is also Regional Coordinator of the National Working Group for the Forest Stewardship Council. With a PhD on traditional land rights in Sarawak, she continues to research and advocate for Indigenous land rights both nationally and internationally.

Ramy joined DTP’s 2011 Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and Advocacy Program in the Philippines to learn more about practical advocacy and media skills, and to network with other professionals in the field.
Despite a 2001 ‘Land Law’ to recognise the rights of Indigenous peoples in Cambodia, economic concessions such as logging permits – often issued without proper process – as well as illegal logging and land confiscation continue to drastically impact their traditional stewardship of the land.

Since 2004, Sokha Am has been working as Case Coordinator for the Community Legal Education Centre in Cambodia’s Land and Natural Resources Program. He has worked on several high profile cases concerning the land of Indigenous peoples, forced evictions and economic land concessions, in turn raising public interest and awareness around these issues. He has also assisted with drafting recommendations on laws and policies to the Cambodian government.

As the advocacy coordinator for his organisation, Sokha joined DTP’s 2012 Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and Advocacy Program in Sabah, Malaysia to deepen his understanding of international human rights standards, and various methods of promoting human rights.
The Naga people are Indigenous peoples’ of North East India and have contested Indian sovereignty, and more recently mining developments and dam construction that threaten their livelihoods and custodianship of their traditional lands.

Thingreiphi Lungharwo is a member of the Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights (NPMHR). NPMHR has sought international concern for the struggle of the Naga people, and human rights violations including “disappearances” and extra-judicial executions by India’s armed forces. As a community organiser she coordinates training programs to raise human rights awareness and to mobilise community members to claim their rights. A focus of these programs is on natural resource use and the impacts of climate change and deforestation. Thingreiphi works with communities to ensure their voices are heard and to seek redress for harms.

Thingreiphi joined DTP’s 2011 Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and Advocacy Program in the Philippines to strengthen her understanding of Indigenous peoples’ rights and in the relationship between human rights, business and corporate accountability.
There is a significant health and life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people suffer undetected, treatable and preventable chronic conditions. Despite the Australian Human Rights Commission’s ongoing ‘Close the Gap’ campaign, their life expectancy remains around ten years lower than that of non-Indigenous peoples.

Tania McLeod is a Senior Program Officer at the Fred Hollows Foundation and an experienced advocate for Indigenous peoples’ rights. Tania has worked in community services for over 10 years in Darwin and the Jawoyn region, working in the areas of health, housing, governance and human and Indigenous peoples’ rights awareness.

Tania joined her first DTP program in 2007 and has since become a very active DTP partner, helping to deliver Human Rights and Advocacy Programs for Indigenous Australians in 2011, 2012 and 2013. She represented DTP alumni in establishing the Indigenous Human Rights Network of Australia, of which she later became chair.
The right to life, liberty and security of person

SELF-DETERMINATION AND PEACE BUILDING

PHILIPPINES

Mindanao in the southern Philippines has a decade’s long history of conflict, involving the Philippines army, Muslim and communist rebels and different armed groups and disputed claims over sovereignty and the rights of Indigenous peoples. There is a peace process and a peace agreement, but the path to peace remains a complex and delicate journey.

Yasmin Busran-Lao has been working as a dedicated peace-builder and human rights defender in the area for more than twenty years, initially in an NGO and now as Secretary of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos under the Office of the President. She is a passionate advocate for the involvement of women and gender mainstreaming as an intrinsic part of peace processes, and has particularly championed the rights of marginalised Indigenous Moro women.

Yasmin joined DTP’s 2007 Annual Regional Training Program in New Zealand, with a strong focus on providing knowledge on international human rights frameworks and UN systems.

We cannot afford to have another displaced woman or a child who cannot finish schooling, whose future will be destroyed because they cannot live peacefully. The things that we see in the evacuation centers, their impact on women ... giving birth in very deplorable situations, having abortions in that situation, an adolescent girl in an evacuation center or in a conflict situation vulnerable to all other forms of violence including sexual violence – never again! 🙏

Yasmin Busran-Lao
Racial discrimination remains a key human rights issue in Australia, particularly in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Organisations including Oxfam and Amnesty International continue to expose discrimination, including significantly disproportionate rates of incarcerating Aboriginal children and adults and the withdrawal of government services to force the closure of remote communities.

Joshua Creamer is a Wannyi and Kalkadoon man and practises as a barrister in Queensland. From 2010-2014, he also served as the president of the Indigenous Lawyers Association of Queensland. Joshua has been working to address racism through education and positive action since his student days; his current practice areas include discrimination and human rights, as well as native title and Indigenous law. In 2008, he won Griffith University’s Rubin Hurricane Carter Award for Social Justice.

Joshua joined DTP’s Indigenous Youth Program in 2004, organised in collaboration with Oxfam’s International Youth Partnership Program. He has since returned as a presenter on a number of DTP courses.
In Bangladesh’s Chittagong Hills Tracts (CHT), hundreds of thousands of Indigenous people – known collectively as the Jumma – have been internally displaced by armed conflict, land theft and inter-communal violence across more than forty years. They have endured decades of human rights abuses. Although Jumma leaders and the Bangladesh government signed a peace accord in 1997 providing recognition and protection for the rights of the Jumma peoples, the CHT Peace Accord has not been implemented.

Binota Moy Dhamai, is a Jumma-Tripura, from the CHT. He was an active student leader in CHT, but left to take up a UN Fellowship. He is a Board Member of the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, Executive Council Member of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact and Assistant General Secretary of the Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum, Bangladesh.

Binota joined DTP’s 2004 Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and Development Program to learn more about human rights and development and international advocacy and has returned as a trainer on later DTP courses.
“Intersectional discrimination”, faced by a particular group based on their identity, is a key discourse for discussion today. Indigenous people with disabilities are entitled to the same human rights as all of us. Let’s unite to capture, reflect and focus on the heterogeneity of the human condition with respect, and fight to bring out the ‘voice of the voiceless’.

Pratima Gurung

Indigenous people with disabilities, especially women and youth, are often some of the most marginalised, vulnerable and disadvantaged members of society. This is particularly the case in developing countries, where disability can still be seen as a social stigma. Of an estimated three million individuals with disabilities in Nepal, more than a third are Indigenous people.

Pratima Gurung, herself an Indigenous woman with a disability, is the General Secretary of the Nepal Indigenous Disabled Association, an NGO advocating for an inclusive, barrier-free society that respects human rights. She is also a teacher and researcher at the University of Nepal, specialising in areas such as disability and Indigenous research.

Pratima participated in DTP’s Human Rights Advocacy, Business and Development Program in Myanmar in 2014. She sought to gain information on human rights standards, new skills and approaches for engaging with the UN at local and international levels, and new methods for holding governments accountable in relation to the rights of Indigenous people.
Malaysia’s Indigenous peoples face many threats to their way of life and communal ownership of traditional lands – and threats of evictions from their traditional longhouses. Threats come from logging (legal and illegal), from the destruction of native forest for plantations, and from the construction of dams for hydro-power. Community advocates protest and campaign and try legal challenges to preserve their livelihoods, to stay on their lands and maintain their cultural and spiritual connections to land.

Gebril Atong works as a Community Leader for the Punan Bah Village Security and Development Committee and is a member of the Punan ethnic group from Sarawak, Malaysia. He participated in DTP’s 2012 Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and Advocacy Program in Sabah, Malaysia, which featured a special training session on the role of OECD guidelines and complaint mechanisms in the area of human rights and business.
The right to just and favourable conditions of work

WOMEN WORKERS IN GARMENT FactORIES

INDIA

The International Federation for Human Rights has highlighted serious human rights concerns in garment factories in India, including those supplying global brands. Key issues range from salaries below minimum wage to unsafe working conditions and physical abuse – as well as sexual harassment against vulnerable women workers.

Gopinath Parakuni is the General Secretary of CIVIDEP, an organisation concerned with workers’ rights and corporate accountability. In this role, he is responsible for the overall management of the organisation to achieve the goals of better working conditions for workers in global supply chains and to hold corporations accountable for their actions. Gopinath is also involved in building two grassroots organisations: Munnade (Women Garment Workers’ Front) and the Garment and Textile Workers’ Union.

Gopinath joined DTP’s 2008 Human Rights Advocacy and Business Program, with a particular focus on exploring international norms and mechanisms for advocacy in the face of human rights violations committed by businesses.

Most of our work is around the idea of ‘decent work’. Since 2000 we have been working with women in the export garment industry to help them organise their interests and negotiate with their management. We also work with international companies to put pressure on their brands to ensure their suppliers, the manufacturers, give proper working conditions to their workers.

Gopinath Parakuni
Sri Lanka’s export processing zones – free trade areas set up to promote industrial exports with certain regulatory exemptions – are notorious for weakening human rights protections. Pressure on labour activists and official intolerance of union activities leaves the predominantly female workforce exposed to sexual harassment, wage discrimination and oppressive working conditions.

Velayudan Jayachithra has worked as a Program Coordinator of the Women’s Centre, an NGO based in Sri Lanka, since 2002. The Women’s Centre aims to promote and protect workers’ rights in the Sri Lankan Free Trade Zones by collecting information about the conditions of workers, lobbying with concerned government agencies including the police, and organising workshops aimed at raising gender sensitivity and rights awareness.

Jayachithra took part in DTP’s 2009 Human Rights Advocacy and Business Program, developed to assist human rights advocates to respond practically to challenges posed by the growing power of multinational corporations and their subsidiaries.

“I look into the sea and it reminds me of the sweat of the factory workers, their hard work and suffering. Its salty taste is like their sweat that never turns sweet, just like their lives. They are the masses in the Free Trade Zone of Sri Lanka who support the backbone of our economy. When I look into the ocean I recall all that suffering while others only see its beauty.”

Velayudan Jayachithra
The right to an adequate standard of living

DAMS IN THE MEKONG

CAMBODIA

The Sesan, Srepok and Sekong (3S) rivers in north-eastern Cambodia contribute more than 15% of the Mekong’s water flow and support a biologically diverse ecosystem. Many villagers living along the Mekong and its tributaries depend on the river for their food security and livelihoods. But they face an uncertain future in the shadow of the planned Lower Sesan 2 hydropower dam.

Phou Bunthann, a development and community rights program coordinator at the 3S Rivers Protection Network, argues that the project will have a disastrous effect on local communities – especially Indigenous people reliant on natural resources. Many will be forced to relocate and the dam will severely impact local fish stocks and the biodiversity of the entire Lower Mekong Basin.

Phou joined a DTP program in 2008 and continues to use the skills and contacts he gained in his advocacy work.

Phou Bunthann

“...This dam will completely change the lives and livelihood of the local people forever. Communities will be left poor and suffering, especially Indigenous people. And the impacts of this dam will be felt as far downstream as the Mekong Delta in Vietnam and as far upstream as Laos and Thailand. The Royal Government of Cambodia should cancel this project because it will not benefit Cambodia or the region.”
As part of economic globalisation, manufacturing has shifted to Asia, where trade unions face multiple challenges in organising workers. According to the International Trade Union Confederation, trade unionists in the Philippines face anti-union activities including harassment, violence and even murder. Trade unionists claim that integration of the Philippines into ASEAN is leading to retrenchments and loss of conditions.

Ronald Taggaoa is the Secretary-General of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers. This year, the union went on strike for salary increases claiming that despite the growing economy, its benefits have not flowed down to most Filipinos, including public school teachers. Low wages for many in the public and private sector impacts on the human right to an adequate standard of living and also contributes to labour migration.

Ronald is an alumnus of the DTP Human Rights and Trade Program in Kuala Lumpur in 2008. He has been able to apply what he learned with DTP directly to advancing employees’ rights in the workplace.
The rights of women
MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS
FREEDOM FROM PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE
LEBANON

The Kafala (sponsorship) system affects millions of migrant workers in the Middle East, making them even more vulnerable to abuse by employers and officials. Lebanon’s estimated 250,000 migrant workers are mostly women from developing countries in Asia and Africa – terribly vulnerable to discrimination, oppressive or unsafe working conditions, abusive employers and other human rights abuses. Conditions for some have been described as modern day slavery.

Hessen Sayah, a professional social worker, joined the Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre in 2003. Today, she manages the Centre’s Migrants Protection project, following up individual cases of migrant workers’ rights abuses across Lebanon with a professional team of social workers and lawyers. She also coordinates advocacy and lobbying efforts with a wide range of stakeholders and local authorities.

Hessen took part in DTP’s 2012 Migrant Workers’ Program in Beirut, organised together with Migrant Forum Asia and Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre designed to support migrant workers’ rights advocates in the Middle East.

“My family and friends couldn’t understand why I wanted to work with refugees and migrants. But in time, they came to be proud of my work. At CLMC we know every one of the stories of the migrants and refugees who come to us for assistance and we come to know the person behind those stories. This helps create a high degree of trust in us and the work we do and we take pride in serving them in the very best way we can.”

Hessen Sayah
It took years of campaigning by an array of NGOs to convince the Singapore government to pass legislation in 2013 guaranteeing migrant domestic workers one day of rest each week. Even now, migrant workers group Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2) continues to advocate to ensure employers comply with the legislation; a recent survey of maids by the Humanitarian Organisation for Migration Economics found that only 40% of respondents had a weekly day off.

Braema Mathiapiaraman founded and led TWC2. She is now the Coordinator of MARUAH, a human rights advocacy group in Singapore that serves as the country’s focal point for the Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism. She is a tireless advocate for migrant workers’ rights and participated in the 2006 and 2008 DTP Migrant Workers’ Programs to further her skills in human rights training and offer her own insights into trafficking discussions.
Almost 300 Indonesian migrant workers currently face the possibility of execution overseas. As recently as April 2015, two such workers – Siti Zainab and Karni Binti Medi Tarsim – were beheaded in Saudi Arabia.

Anis Hidayah leads Migrant Care, an NGO fighting for the rights of Indonesian migrant workers across the world and for the lives of those on death row. She has been advocating tirelessly for almost twenty years and received the Yap Thiam Hien human rights award in 2014. Her work has been made more difficult by Indonesia’s own support for executions, but she continues to fight against the death penalty at home and abroad – reasoning that the lives of Indonesians overseas are more likely to be spared if Indonesia opposes the death penalty in all cases.

Anis is an alumna of DTP’s first regional program on Migrant Workers’ Rights in Jakarta in 2004. Indonesia has since ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families.

“I learned that migrant workers’ rights had been violated even before they went abroad. They were treated as prisoners here in migrant worker shelters and this was a fact that everyone ignored. They are not considered humans or worthy enough to get attention. The recent executions of death-row inmates in Indonesia have made it difficult for us to fight for migrant workers who are facing death penalties abroad. How can we expect other countries to respect the lives of Indonesians when our own government fails to do the same.

Anis Hidayah
As victims of human trafficking, mothers are delivering babies on boats without medical assistance while crossing the Andaman Sea; men and women are enslaved on Thai fishing boats; while underage girls are forced into the sex trade. We should not tolerate these types of abuses anywhere in the world in the 21st century. All parties must work together to provide legal and humanitarian assistance to migrants.

Htoo Chit

Myanmar is a source country for women, children and men trafficked for forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation. The victims are trafficked to Thailand, China, Malaysia and Macau. Even those who migrate voluntarily can find themselves in situations of forced labour, including sex work.

Htoo Chit works for two human rights organisations based in Thailand that focus on the rights of Burmese migrant workers. He is Executive Director of the Foundation for Education and Development, one of the largest Burmese NGOs, and Chairman of the Mekong Migration Network. He was recognised in Thailand as an Ashoka Fellow in 2008.

Htoo took part in DTP’s Annual Human Rights and Peoples’ Diplomacy Program in Thailand in 2003 and the Migrant Workers’ Program in Jakarta in 2004. On each course he was able to work with other participants from NGOs across the region, sharing best practice guidance and bringing back new skills and concepts for human rights advocacy.
Torture is still commonly used with impunity by Indonesian security forces in West Papua against those they suspect of supporting independence and against political prisoners. We work to document and expose its use, to support its victims and survivors and to bring an end to torture, even though there have been threats and intimidation.

Ruth Ogetay

Since the military occupation of West Papua by Indonesia half a century ago, there have been continuing reports of torture and other human rights violations carried out by Indonesian forces, including against independence activists. It is estimated that hundreds of thousands of West Papuans have been killed or died as a result of the occupation.

A member of the ethnic Mee community, Ruth Ogetay works with the Jakarta-based Pantau Foundation in Papua, helping to organise humanitarian assistance for political prisoners arrested by the Indonesian military and to raise awareness of their plight.

Ruth joined DTP’s Annual Human Rights and Peoples’ Diplomacy Training Program in 2013 in order to understand how human rights issues are developing in other countries, and to develop new strategies for tackling human rights violations in Papua.
Every time I look into the eyes of their families, I can see indefinable pain and sorrow. I can see the shade of a hundred sleepless nights and numerous untouched meals, and the shadow of a gazillion tears already shed and still waiting to pour. Yet they endure, and they yearn and hope to one day see their loved ones again. We gain our tenacity to fight for justice and seek to bring home the disappeared from the unwavering hope and strength of their families in the face of their sufferings.

In the Philippines, human rights groups representing Indigenous peoples in the Cordillera have reported continuing cases of enforced “disappearances” and extra-judicial killings by state military forces with NGO leaders and human rights defenders amongst the victims.

Mary Ann Manja Bayang works as a human rights lawyer at Cordillera Human Rights Alliance, and as a legal officer for Cordillera Indigenous Peoples’ Legal Centre. In 2006, she joined DTP’s Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and Advocacy Program in Australia’s Northern Territory, seeking to develop the knowledge and skills to arm her for the most challenging tasks in her line of work. Mary Ann helped with hosting DTP’s 2011 regional Indigenous peoples course in the Cordillera.

Mary Ann looked to DTP training to give her the necessary knowledge to utilise international standards and national bodies, and to more effectively use the internet and media in advocating for the rights of Indigenous peoples.
The rights of children

ELIMINATION OF
CHILD LABOUR

INDIA

Human rights defenders in India face an enormous challenge in working to protect the rights of the child, particularly in relation to child labour. Although the government officially banned child labour in 2012, millions of children between the ages of 5-14 are still part of the workforce.

Arunugam Karpooram is the Director of the NGO Upakar Educational Society, which has been operating in the southern part of Tamil Nadu since 1996. He has worked on a number of national and state level projects for the advancement of children’s rights, especially for the elimination of child labour.

Arunugam joined the 2006 Annual Human Rights and Peoples’ Diplomacy Training Program in Timor Leste to expand his knowledge of UN Systems on Human Rights, current human rights issues at the global level, and international approaches and programs in fighting for child and human rights.
In many villages in Nepal, menstruating women are exiled for several days every month to cramped, squalid caves or huts because they are said to be impure – a ritual called chaupadi. Though banned by the Supreme Court ten years ago, the practice is persistent. A recent UN report found more than 95% of women subjected to chaupadi in the Accham region. Chaupadi has led to mental health disorders, disease, animal attacks, rape and death.

Pashupati Kunwar is the Chairperson of Samabikas Nepal, an NGO working for the political, socio-economic and cultural empowerment of marginalised women in Accham. She uses rights-based advocacy and lobbying to effect tangible change in local and national government policy – and to establish ‘chaupadi-free zones’ in Nepal.

Pashupati joined DTP’s 2013 Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights Advocacy and Development Program to gain more exposure to emerging trends in dealing with women’s rights and reproductive health issues, and to build practical skills for engaging with duty bearers.
Bougainville’s struggle for self-determination and independence from Papua New Guinea followed centuries of colonisation by foreign powers. But the cost has been high: years of political conflict and civil war have claimed thousands of lives.

Moses Havini, born in Bougainville, was a dedicated campaigner for self-determination. Fleeing civil war in 1990 after the island declared independence, he spent 15 years in Sydney as the representative of the Interim Government of Bougainville for the region and the world. When the war ended and the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) was established, Moses’ diplomatic links with Australian politicians and the UN helped drive the Bougainville Peace Agreement. By 2005, negotiations with the PNG had established autonomy on Bougainville; Moses returned home to mentor the ABG.

Moses was a DTP alumnus who used the many contacts and friends he made through DTP to promote autonomy and independence for his birthplace. Sadly, Moses Havini passed away on May 2nd 2015.
In my role as a human rights investigator and human rights defender with the Ombudsman Commission of PNG, I find it challenging that in spite of many protective measures I have initiated and carried out, such as human rights awareness about the rights of people, women, children and girls and boys being beaten up, raped and so forth, do not in any way deter the daily occurrences of inhuman treatment and abuse of women.

Patrick Niebo

One of the most serious human rights challenges in Papua New Guinea is a systematic abuse of the rights of women, girls and children. There are daily reports of wives being beaten by their spouses, women and girls raped at home by close relatives or guardians, and kidnappings leading to gang-rapes and murders. Local law enforcement agencies struggle to combat these crimes, hamstrung by uncooperative witnesses and corruption within their own ranks.

Patrick Niebo is a senior investigator in the Anti-Discrimination and Human Rights Unit of Papua New Guinea’s Ombudsman Commission, where he investigates and seeks redress for all types of human rights violations.

Patrick participated in DTP’s 2012 Annual Human Rights and Peoples’ Diplomacy Training Program in Timor Leste to network with other human rights defenders in similarly challenging conditions, and to develop practical strategies such as human rights training for law enforcers.
After years of campaigning against honour killings, I have learned that the right strategy to fight negative traditions is not by standing against the values and beliefs of someone, but getting to sit together with them and letting them understand the reasons why some traditions and beliefs are right and some are wrong. This is what we are doing today with the tribal women of Pakistan through Sughar.

Honour killing is the murder of a person by members of their own family or social group, believing that the victim has brought dishonour on their family or community. In Pakistan, there are hundreds of honour killings each year and in most cases the victim is female, with her attackers being male relatives.

In 2009, Khalida Brohi founded the Sughar Empowerment Society, a non-profit social enterprise in Pakistan dedicated to providing tribal and rural women opportunities to grow their skills and learn leadership skills. Khalida Brohi was named one of Newsweek magazine’s 25 under 25; one of the “100 Women Who Matter in Pakistan” by Newsweek; and awarded the “Woman of Impact Award” by the Women in the World Foundation. Brohi has addressed numerous global forums, and received recognition from Oprah Winfrey, Christiane Amanpour, and Bill Clinton.

Khalida joined DTP’s 2008 Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and Advocacy Program in Australia’s Northern Territory, developing new skills to train members of her local community in Indigenous human rights.
The ten countries that make up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations face a wide variety of human rights challenges. Ultimately, protecting human rights across the area will require regional cooperation and commitment, as well as strong organizations for advocacy in each individual country.

For over eighteen years, Yuyun Wahyuningrum has been working on human rights issues throughout the region including the rights of women, children and migrant workers. She is a Senior Advisor on ASEAN and Human Rights at the Indonesian Human Rights Working Group, and an Advisor to ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights. She has also been Indonesia’s Coordinator for the Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect at the University of Queensland since September 2014. Yuyun is currently researching regional approaches to transitional justice and the role of regional organisations in promoting accountability.

Yuyun took part in DTP’s Annual Human Rights and Peoples’ Diplomacy Training Program in Timor Leste in 2005 and has since returned as a trainer for DTP.
The work of DTP is more important now than ever. The challenges of our region require us to find new ways to work with each other. All across the region, courageous individuals are working to build and strengthen democracy, to protect human rights, to stand up against corruption, injustice and oppression. As we work to equip them with the skills and knowledge they need, our alumni keep working away at the issues. Many return as partners, facilitators and trainers in DTP programs, and their tremendous achievements inspire us and the next generation of participants.

Patrick Earle,
DTP Executive Director

For 25 years, Diplomacy Training Program alumni have been making a real difference in Australia and all around the Asia-Pacific region. Beyond the work represented at this exhibition, they have played roles in securing Timor-Leste’s independence, in the democratic transformation of Indonesia, and in the release of Aung San Suu Kyi. They advocate for the rights of children, migrant workers and Indigenous peoples, and to end human trafficking and discrimination against women. Some take great personal risks; some have received international awards for their work. Some have succeeded in achieving their goals, others are still working towards achieving theirs.

Today, DTP must help human rights defenders and community advocates respond to new human rights challenges. The growing gap between rich and poor, both within and between countries, is further marginalising the already vulnerable. This divide also fuels ethnic tensions, religious intolerance and political instability. Economic development, forestry and mining can lead to conflicts over land, which particularly affect Indigenous peoples. Today’s challenges cross borders more than ever before – climate change, the impacts of corporations and the movement of refugees and migrant workers. DTP will continue to empower new alumni to tackle these challenges – and, ultimately, to uphold the values of human dignity we all share.