



DIPLMACY TRAINING PROGRAM

AFFILIATED WITH THE FACULTY OF LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
A training program for peoples of the Asia-Pacific region

MEDIA ADVISORY:

Australian NGO awarded the 2019 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award

The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) has been recognised for 30 years of service to human rights across Asia, through training more than 3000 human rights defenders in over 50 countries in practical courses that build knowledge, skills and networks.

DTP will receive the prestigious 2019 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award in Taipei from the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD), on international human-rights day, December 10th. The award honours individuals or organisations that have demonstrated long-term commitment and outstanding leadership in advancing democracy or human rights through peaceful means in Asia. This is the first time the award has been given to an Australian organisation.

DTP was founded in 1989 by José Ramos-Horta, 1996 Nobel Peace Laureate with the late Emeritus Professor Garth Nettheim from UNSW Law. It is the longest running human rights training program in the Asia Pacific, with a comprehensive annual training program complemented by specialist training on key issues such as Indigenous peoples, migrant workers' rights, and human rights and business. For 30 years it has been supporting courageous individuals working for human rights and democracy across Asia.

DTP alumna **Yuyun Wahyuningrum**, Representative of Indonesia to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), 2019-2021 wrote in nominating DTP:

I believe that over 30 years DTP has made a uniquely valuable contribution to human rights and democracy in Asia... If our region seems to be resilient despite rampant human rights abuses and violence, perhaps that is because of DTP's contribution to our capacity to cope and resist the challenges.

DTP relies on grants and donations. Human rights practitioners and academics provide their services pro bono. The award's US\$100,000 grant will support DTP's ongoing work.

"DTP would like to thank the Foundation for this award. It means so much to us to have this recognition from the region. We would like to thank our partners, alumni and supporters that have sustained this work over 30 years," says Patrick Earle, DTP's Executive Director.

"Human rights have become a sensitive issue in our region again, and human rights defenders in many countries are under increasing pressure with shrinking space for civil society. It is more important than ever to provide support to human rights movements in Asia and the Pacific. This award will help us to do that."

For more information contact: **Patrick Earle** on +61 401 932 196 / p.earle@unsw.edu.au / www.dtp.unsw.edu or **Clare Sidoti** on + 61 9385 3549 / dtp@unsw.edu.au

A Unique Australian Organisation in the Asia-Pacific

Promoting Shared Values of Human Dignity – A Proven Track Record

The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) promotes human rights as shared values across the Asia-Pacific region. Human rights can transcend divisions of religion, history, ethnic, cultural and national identity and provide a common basis for cooperation to address challenges.

In every society, there are individuals and organisations working to promote and uphold shared and universal values of human dignity. They work to prevent torture and executions, to prevent the destruction of rainforests and rivers, to end child labour and modern-day slavery; to promote free-speech and democracy; to end discrimination, racism and violence against women.

Over 30 years, the DTP has been working with them, providing practical knowledge and skills, working in partnership, enabling them to be more effective and developing strong relationships across the region. There are now over 3000 alumni of DTP's courses.

In 2015, the Australian Council for International Development, recognised DTP and DTP's alumni with its Sir Ron Wilson Human Rights Award.

Building Capacity on the Major Challenges of our Times and Region

DTP's capacity building programs address some of the key challenges of the region:

- ***Human Rights Defenders:*** Across the region human rights defenders are at risk for their peaceful advocacy on human rights, good governance, corruption, gender discrimination and the environment
- ***Migrant Workers Rights and Modern Day Slavery:*** The treatment of many migrant workers has been defined by many as modern day slavery.
- ***Indigenous peoples' rights:*** Indigenous peoples have often been left behind by development, as the resources on their lands have been exploited.
- ***Human Rights and Business:*** Enabling individuals and organisations to engage the private sector to prevent environmental and social harms and to hold corporations to account.

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030 provide a new impetus and framework for these challenges to be addressed.

Adding Value - Civil Society Advocacy in the Asia-Pacific Region

DTP invests in civil society advocates, building their knowledge and skills to engage effectively with governments and institutions at the national and international level.

Civil society is a critical partner to governments in the development of good policy, in the implementation of programs and services, and for peace-building and conflict resolution. Informed and effective civil society advocacy is also vital for ensuring government accountability, strengthening democratic processes, and promoting human rights cultures.

Supporting Peoples' Diplomacy – Building Partnerships and Links in the Asia-Pacific

Since its establishment at UNSW in 1989, DTP has developed rich relationships and people-to-people links across the Asia-Pacific, conducting programs in partnership with NGOs in the region, and with academic institutions. Its programs build the skills of *peoples' diplomacy* – and relationships and collaborations across borders and sectors.

Human Rights Dialogue and Cooperation

DTP's work has demonstrated the possibility for positive human rights dialogue and cooperation across the Asia-Pacific region. Its courses typically involve NGOs interacting with government officials, and the private sector. Its courses break down barriers and build the skills and confidence of community advocates to engage in dialogue effectively. As an education and training organisation, its neutrality is respected and valued.

Maximising Impact and Value

DTP receives in-kind support from the Law Faculty of UNSW, Sydney. Many organisations and individuals provide financial and in-kind support, reflecting the value they see in DTP's work. DTP's trainers provide their services on a pro-bono basis. This all keeps costs down.

Working with others – Increasing Impact through Partnerships in Australia and the Region

DTP is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and compliant with its Code of Conduct. DTP is accredited with DFAT and receives funding through its NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). DTP works with other Australian NGOs including Oxfam, Caritas and Fred Hollows Foundation.

In Asia and the Pacific, DTP works with regional NGO networks such as Migrant Forum Asia, Forum Asia, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact and the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO).

Globally, DTP has developed collaborations and partnerships with WITNESS – Video for Change (New York), Frontline Defenders (Dublin) and the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC).

DTP also works closely with the UN, including the UN's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the International Labor Organisation (ILO).