25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE DIPLOMACY TRAINING PROGRAM

This year is the 25th anniversary of the founding of DTP by Nobel Peace Prize winner and former President of Timor Leste, José Ramos-Horta and Professor Garth Nettheim. We will be publishing a series of contributions reflecting on the new human rights challenges posed by political, economic, social and environmental changes since 1989 and what these mean for human rights and capacity building looking forward. We invite our readers and alumni to contribute to these reflections.

- In this issue we are fortunate to be able to publish a specially commissioned contribution from Professor Thomas Pogge who has senior positions at many universities including Yale and Charles Sturt University. He has written widely on topics such as world poverty and human rights, health, medicines and poverty, and forced labor. In this article “Poverty, Human Rights and Global Institutional Reforms”, he looks at pharmaceutical patents and global financial flows and demonstrates that “supranational institutional arrangements can ... be reformed” to redress “the horrendous current human rights deficit” that has resulted from the “emerging global order during the globalization period”.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

DTP Programs: 2014 Draft Schedule
- Feb 4-6 – Our World our Rights – Human Rights and Advocacy Training with Timorese and Australian Students. See brief report.
- Feb 10-14 – National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth Human Rights and Advocacy Summit with Oxfam Australia, UNSW Sydney.
- Feb 14-17 – Final Module: Nepal Special Capacity Building Program on Migrant Workers. See Final Report.
- May 1-4 – Regional Workshop on Ethical Business and Recruitment Practices in Labour Migration in the Middle-East - A Training Program for Practitioners Workshop (Dubai)
- May 19-28 - Regional Human Rights Advocacy, Business and Development (Myanmar/Thailand/Indonesia) See report in the UNSW Law website
- July 7-10 - Special Program: Sri Lanka Capacity Building for Advocacy for Migrant Workers and Safe Migration, Module 1, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- November 2-3, 2014 - Workshop on Reflections and Lessons Learned from 10 years of capacity building on Migrant Workers Rights with Migrant Forum Asia. (Check DTP web site for further information)
- November 2014 - 3rd Annual Regional GCC Program on the Rights of Migrant Workers in the MENA
- November 3-19 – 24th Annual Regional Human Rights and Peoples’ Diplomacy Training Program, Kathmandu, Nepal in partnership with INSEC. Brochure

We are pleased to advise that DTP Founder Dr. José Ramos-Horta, former President and Prime Minister of Timor Leste and Nobel Peace Prize winner will be conducting a master class at the 24th Annual Regional and Peoples’ Diplomacy Training Program in Nepal.
• Please check the DTP website for details, program information and application forms. Please send enquiries to dtp@unsw.edu.au

Program Report
• This report reflects on the Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) and Migrant Forum Asia’s (MFA) activities to build the capacity of advocates for the rights of migrant workers in Asia and the Middle East since 2004.

Other Training Programs
• Institute for the Study of Human Rights: 2015 Human Rights Advocates Program, deadline for applications 5 December
• HREA: Use of ICTs and Social Media for Human Rights Work deadline 1 December
• 1st Annual Participatory Course on Peace and Tolerance – Lahore December

PLEASE DONATE
• DTP trainers donate their time and expertise as do the many interns at the office who help with the DTP website, record maintenance and report-writing. However, in order to provide subsidies for the many applicants to DTP programs and to improve the frequency and quality of the programs, we need funding. Please send your donation to DTP now online, or by credit card or EFT with this donation form

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES – CALLS FOR SUPPORT – CALLS FOR COMMENT

• Petition, Malaysia: “Allow workers to form a union in the Sabah Forest Industry”
• Urgent appeal, India: Brutal police torture of Dalit human rights defender - perpetrators must be held accountable
• Urgent Appeal, India: Revoke Environment and Forest Clearance for 3000 Mw Dibang Multipurpose Hydroelectric Project in Arunachal Pradesh
• Urgent appeal, China: Detention of human rights defender Mr Guo Yushan
• CIVICUS, the global network of civil society organizations and activists dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society around the world invites applications from NGOs in the global South
• Urgent action, Malaysia: Detained student activist at risk of torture

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DTP ALUMNI

• From Dilshan Weerasinghe in Sri Lanka: Sealed Coffin from Saudi Arabia opened in Sri Lanka

WHERE ARE THEY NOW – NEWS OF DTP ALUMNI

• Swandaru from the Indonesian human rights NGO IMPARSIAL is an alumnus of the 2008 DTP Regional Program in Australia.
• We have learnt that one of DTP’s alumni from the earliest annual regional program, Paulo Remedios, has been elected President of the Timor Leste Bar Association. Paulo attended the recent celebration in Sydney of the awarding of the Honorary Companion of the Order of Australia to José Ramos-Horta.

• We are pleased to announce that DTP alumna Ms. Lily Doriarty Purba has been selected as the new Indonesian Representative to the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) for the next four and half years (2014-2019).

• We regret to inform our readers of the death of Ms. Thusita Samarasekara from the Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission. Thusita was an alumna of the 2012 DTP/MFA program in Lebanon. Another DTP alumnus, Francis Solomantine, has written a moving tribute to Thusita.

**INTERNATIONAL NGO PROFILE**

Each issue we will be profiling an international human rights NGO. Some take up individual cases and generate international action on the case. Others focus on research, always with an emphasis on advocacy to bring about change. Each of these NGOs play an important role in global and regional efforts to protect and promote human rights actively solicit and welcome information on human rights abuses.

• This issue we feature FIAN International. This organization with national sections around the world and its headquarters in Germany takes action on the violations of the right to food.

**DTP’S THEMATIC PRIORITIES**

**Human Rights and Business**

• Malaysia: Verité report offers evidence of widespread forced labour among migrant workers in electronics
• Rights and Accountability in Development (RAID) and Human Rights Law Centre bring OECD complaint against G4S over treatment of asylum seekers detained in Australian offshore processing centre
• Amnesty International: Chinese firms exporting tools of torture
• Report Finds Serious Violations of Fair Trial Rights for Cambodian Garment Workers
• Philippines: Global campaign defeats union-busting attack at Apple supplier NXP
• Sri Lanka: NGO calls on Bata shoe company to take responsibility for supplier’s dismissal of workers allegedly due to union activity
• Indonesia: Church joins escalating mining fight in Flores
• Global Witness launches "The Great Rip-Off" - global map of anonymous company ownership and abuse

**Indigenous Peoples’ Rights**

• UN Secretary-General's remarks at the Opening of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples
• Outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples
• Pacific Caucus at World Conference on Indigenous Peoples calls for implementation of international commitments on decolonization
• MRG: State of the World’s Minorities and Indigenous Peoples 2014
• Report: Indigenous Peoples and the Extractive Sector - Towards a Respecting Engagement
Migrant Workers’ Rights
- OHCHR fact sheet: Human Rights and Human Trafficking
- ILO launches new knowledge sharing platform on forced labour
- Media-Friendly Glossary on Migration

Women’s Rights
- Good Practices: Eliminating Violence Against Women and Children
- The Women’s Human Rights App, developed by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, contains a substantial database of key texts on women’s human rights
- Guide for the Evaluation of Programmes and Projects with a Gender, Human Rights and Intercultural Perspective
- Focus on women’s rights, capabilities, leadership and unpaid care work: “World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 2014: Gender Equality and Sustainable Development”

EVENTS
- RightsCon Southeast Asia 24-25 March 2015 – The internet and human rights, Manila

AWARDS
- Request for Nominations for the Sergio Vieira de Mello Award

NEW PUBLICATIONS WEB BASED RESOURCES
- The Right to Human Rights Education - A compilation of provisions of international and regional instruments dealing with human rights education
- Amnesty International: Human rights for human dignity: A primer on economic, social and cultural rights (second edition)
- FORUM-ASIA has published a paper entitled Understanding the role of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in human rights
- New guide on extraterritorial obligations in the context of corporate human rights violations

HUMAN RIGHTS - GENERAL NEWS
- New High Commissioner for Human Rights deplores the funding short fall facing OHCHR (video)
- Arms Trade Treaty Reaches 50 Ratifications during 2014 Treaty Event, Triggering Entry into Force

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Budgeting for Human Rights: What the obligation of progressive realization means for government budgets
- New ICJ Guide online: adjudicating Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at national level

Human Rights Council
- Rather than a cause for pessimism, polarization over human rights are an indication of progress in the Council
Nepal: Council should exert pressure to abolish Haliya practice, a form of slavery
Caste-based discrimination highlighted at the UN Human Rights Council
Human Rights Council Calls on States to Protect Civil Society Space

UPR
Pre-sessions are an opportunity for civil society organizations and permanent missions to discuss the human rights situation of States to be reviewed (the 21th UPR Working Group session is January - February 2015). UPR Info Pre-session 21 coming up in December will include Kiribati and Lao People’s Democratic Republic.
Australia’s human rights record is scheduled to be reviewed under the UN’s Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process in 2015.

Development
Land communities take on World Bank “The World Bank is violating its own laws”
Draft World Bank safeguards “a step backwards”
Timor Leste Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao: “Ebola Is Not Just West Africa’s Crisis”
UNFPA: Human rights, dignity must form cornerstone of future sustainable development
Is the World Bank Helping the Poor—or the World’s Banks?

HUMAN RIGHTS – REGIONAL NEWS
ASEAN Parliamentarian for Human Rights: Thai military’s contempt for human rights and the rule of law poses a threat to democracy across ASEAN

HUMAN RIGHTS – COUNTRY SPECIFIC NEWS

Australia
Archbishop Tutu’s Prayer For The Rights Of Aboriginal Peoples
Human Rights Watch: A new refugee agreement between Australia and Cambodia does not meet Australia’s commitment to send refugees to a “safe third country”
UNHCR warns Australia-Cambodia agreement on refugee relocation could set worrying precedent
Torture and cruel treatment: 77 organizations slam Australia’s declining standards
Extraordinary changes to counter-terrorism laws encroach on fundamental human rights

Bangladesh
Kapaeeng Foundation: Training workshop on UPR monitoring process and implementation of UPR recommendations held in Rangamati

Burma/Myanmar
Myanmar Revamps Human Rights Panel Amid Criticism from Rights Groups
Land grabbing tops list of rights violations
Rohingya human rights defender Mr Kyaw Hla Aung sentenced to one-and-a-half years of imprisonment
HRW urges World Bank to address Myanmar major rights issues
Six Myanmar journalists have been jailed by a Yangon court for "state defamation"
Cambodia
- CHRAC Calls for Urgent Consultation with Civil Society Organizations on Cambodia’s Refugee Resettlement Agreement with Australia
- Cambodian Human Rights Defenders Decry Human Rights Abuses at the UN Human Rights Council
- International Criminal Court preliminary examination requested into crimes stemming from mass land grabbing

China
- Front Line: Disappearance of human rights defender Ms Liu Xizhen

India
- Solidarity Statement: End Martial Law Governance, Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Violations and Development Aggression in Manipur
- High Level Committee of Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change walks out of Public Consultation in Bangalore

Indonesia
- Front Line: Human rights lawyer Ms. Latifah Anum Siregar attacked in Papua province
- Joint NGO Statement on West Papua delivered before the Human Rights Council

Laos
- ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights: “Lao government’s deceptive game on Sombath investigation must end”

Malaysia
- Amnesty International: Sedition investigation into opposition leader politically motivated
- SUARAM and FIDH: Repeal the Sedition Law and stop the crackdown on freedom of expression

Nepal
- National Human Rights Commission seeks justice for victims of enforced disappearances

Thailand
- Court of Appeal upholds ten-year prison sentence for human rights defender Mr Somyot Prueksakasemsuk
- Community based Human Right Defenders at Risk of violence and eviction by ‘mafia’ with links to land-grabbing scheme in Klong Sai Pattana Community

October 2014 E Newsletter compiled, edited and designed by André Frankovits and Patrick Earle