

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Business, Human Rights, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Pacific: A Civil Society Capacity Building Program

25 – 29 March 2019, Fiji

Diplomacy Training Program in partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO), Citizens Constitutional Forum (CCF) and Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC)

SUMMARY

The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) and partners are calling for applications for a Pacific regional civil society capacity building program on **Business, Human Rights and the SDGs in the Pacific** to be held in Fiji from March 25-29.

This 5-day program will build the knowledge, skills and capacities of advocates to protect and promote human rights and sustainable development in the Pacific. It will build knowledge of international human rights standards and mechanisms that can be applied and integrated into effective advocacy strategies. It will build practical skills for engaging with governments and business. Participants will learn from leading experts and practitioners, share knowledge with each other, and build practical skills and solidarity networks.

Trainers on the program will include Professor Surya Deva, member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, Professor Justine Nolan (UNSW Law), Amy Sinclair (Business & Human Rights Resource Centre) and Joshua Cooper.

WHY THIS TRAINING?

Across the island nations of the Pacific, communities are increasingly impacted by business. Foreign direct investment, and the private sector are promoted as key drivers of economic development, along with loans to fund key infrastructure development. Ensuring that economic development benefits communities and is economically and environmentally sustainable are major challenges. Extractive industries, including deep sea mining, forestry and fisheries, as well as infrastructure and tourism are impacting rural communities. Women, children, and persons living with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to negative impacts.

New global frameworks and guidelines on sustainable business practices and human rights are tools that NGOs and community advocates can use as they engage with governments and the private sector to address challenges. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a framework for partnership on development and human rights.

Knowledge of rights, and skills in representation and dialogue are vital to communities and NGOs advocating for their right to participate in decisions that affect them, and to engage effectively with government and business to influence policies and projects, and their impacts. Informed participation is critical to sustainable development. Successful applicants are encouraged to share examples of current cases for consideration during the program, should they wish. Please consider your case(s) in advance and, where possible, provide brief details on your application form.

This training can help bridge the significant knowledge gap in CSOs, government, and business of these new global standards on business and human rights and of the SDGs and their relevance to sustainable, equitable development consistent with the cultures of the Pacific.

WHAT WILL PARTICIPANTS LEARN?

The curriculum will be finalised to meet the needs of the selected participants. Program content will include the following:

- International human rights standards and mechanisms
- The new global development agenda – the SDGs
- The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises
- Skills in strategic advocacy and lobbying and engaging the private and government.
- Opportunity to document current cases for strategic action.

Participants completing the training will receive a certificate from UNSW Law Faculty.

TRAINERS AND TRAINING METHODOLOGY

Trainers are experienced local, regional and international human rights practitioners, academics, and officials who understand and support DTP's philosophy of participatory training. **Professor Surya Deva, member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights**, will be one of the trainers on the program. DTP recognizes and values the experiences and skills that participants bring to its programs. The training is interactive and sharing experiences and lessons with others is actively encouraged.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The program is primarily for community advocates from Pacific Island nations who work for and with NGOs/CSOs/TUs and who have the capacity to apply the training to their work. Consideration is given to ensuring a gender balance within each course.

COURSE FEES

The DTP is an independent NGO and course fees are an important source of income for its work. The course fee for the program is **US\$1500** and covers tuition, accommodation, food, field trips, and resource materials for the 5-day program. Travel expenses to and from Fiji are **not** included in this fee. **A number of scholarships (full or partial including travel) will be offered. Interested applicants are encouraged to enquire about subsidised spaces. DTP will help to ensure funding for successful applicants.**

HOW TO APPLY

Application forms can be downloaded from the [DTP website](#) or can be requested from ntp@unsw.edu.au. All applications must be received by DTP by **March 1, 2019**. Applications will be acknowledged on receipt.

ABOUT THE DIPLOMACY TRAINING PROGRAM AND PARTNERS

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. **Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO)** is the major regional non-governmental organization with membership in 23 Countries and territories of the Pacific Islands. For over 25 years, PIANGO has served the Pacific through strengthening and building the capacity of the civil society sector. **Citizens' Constitutional Forum (CCF)** is a NGO based in Suva with more than 10 years' experience in community education and advocacy on democracy, human rights and multiculturalism. **Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRR)** is a non-profit organisation that works to advance human rights in business through strengthening corporate accountability, building transparency, and helping empower advocates. **The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – Regional Office for the Pacific (OHCHR-ROP)** aims to ensure that the protection and enjoyment of human rights is a reality in the lives of all people. It provides assistance in the form of technical expertise and capacity-development in order to support the implementation of international human rights standards on the ground.

This program is supported by the **University of New South Wales' (UNSW) Institute for Global Development (IGD)**. The IGD acts as a catalyst for the UNSW community to deliver on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, working in partnership to positively transform lives and advance a just society.