



DIPLOMACY 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

THE DIPLOMACY TRAINING PROGRAM

In Partnership with Oxfam International Youth Parliament and Womyn's Agenda for Change

REPORT ON THE TRAINING WORKSHOP

WTO, HUMAN RIGHTS AND TRADE

14th – 22nd September 2005, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Just wanted to let you know that the workshop was great and I learnt a lot, especially from your sessions on human rights. I never quite looked at my work from the human rights perspective before. In fact I was quite against farmers as I believed that they were the root cause of the problem of deforestation. I must say that I don't think so any longer.

Vikram Aditiya, India

Summary:

In September 2005 the Diplomacy Training Program in partnership with Oxfam's International Youth Parliament (OIYP) organised and facilitated a program for young advocates on *Trade, Human Rights and the WTO*.

Twenty young advocates were brought to Cambodia from Gambia, Honduras, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, PNG, South Africa, Thailand, Timor Leste and Zambia. Most are engaged in grassroots advocacy on issues of HIV/AIDS and agricultural food security. All are concerned at the impact of global and bilateral trade agreements on vulnerable communities in their country. Few had any knowledge of the international human rights framework.

The nine-day program aimed to provide the young advocates with knowledge and understanding of both international human rights and international trade regimes, to explore the links between the two, and to develop their lobbying, advocacy and media skills. In addition the workshop aimed to help strengthen networks among the participants in the lead-up to the WTO Ministerial meeting in Hong Kong in December 2005 and the Global Summit on HIV/AIDS in 2006.

This was the first capacity building program that the Diplomacy Training Program has organised on the issues of trade and human rights and the first time it has conducted a program in Cambodia. Its success is a credit to the main facilitator Andre Frankovits, of the Human Rights Council of Australia, and to the support of Katalée Sikharangkura from the Asian Center for the Progress of Peoples who provided vital logistical support.

The program was initiated by OIYP and guided by Sanushka Mudaliar, the OIYP Project Coordinator. The program was positively evaluated by participants and the following report draws on their evaluations as well as input from Andre and Katalee and from OIYP. The project was substantially funded by Oxfam Australia with additional support provided by NZAID.

Background

The rapid growth in world trade associated with processes of globalisation is transforming societies and the world. Efforts to establish a global trading regime, to set clear rules and standards, are most clearly seen in the establishment of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Under its auspices specific trading agreements are being negotiated on agriculture, intellectual property rights, and services, for example. As some of the negotiations on these agreements have stalled, so there has been a mushrooming of bilateral trade agreements.

Advocates working on issues of HIV/AIDS, or with poor farmers in developing countries, or with women working in the garment factories of South-East Asia, have all become increasingly concerned with the negative impact on the poor and vulnerable of existing and proposed trade regimes. Some of this concern has found expression in the mass protests that have attended meetings of the WTO since Seattle.

There are multiple diverging opinions on how to respond to a trade agenda that is seen by many as favouring the already rich and powerful – nations and corporations. Major international NGOs such as Oxfam International are in favour of reform – of the creation of a fair, rules-based international trading system that enables the developing world to develop and benefit from trade. Others, including the think-tank *Focus on the Global South*, argue for the complete dismantling of the WTO.

Increasingly, concerned advocates are looking to the existing international human rights framework to see what it might offer when engaging with trade issues and emerging trade agreements. The human rights framework refers to the International Bill of Human Rights and the core human rights standards negotiated and adopted by governments since the end of World War II.

This framework sets out minimum obligations of governments in relation to individuals and communities and includes specific economic, social and cultural rights such as the right to health, and the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to food. It emphasises the need for participation in decision making, and civil and political rights such as the right to freedom of assembly and to freedom of association.

Advocates concerned that Intellectual Property (IP) regimes being negotiated through the World Trade Organisation will make anti-retroviral drugs expensive and inaccessible to the poor are, for example, interested in the relevance of government obligations to realising the right to health for all.

The intersections between trade and human rights and the international legal regimes established in relation to both have only recently been explored. Most of this attention has been at a high level, involving academic and legal experts. There has been little exploration of how grassroots advocates might incorporate an understanding of human rights into their advocacy for trade justice.

The Oxfam International Youth Parliament (OIYP) mobilises a global network of young leaders and activists to bring about positive and sustainable change. It does

this through supporting youth led initiatives, facilitating skills and capacity building programs and supporting young people to advocate for their rights and freedoms and those of their communities. Twice it has brought together hundreds of young people from across the world to explore issues and develop networks. The individuals have all undertaken to develop and implement their own personal action plans involving local issues of social justice, and OIYP has undertaken to support them.

Part of the OIYP program focusses on trade justice issues and, following an earlier collaboration with DTP, it requested DTP to conduct a training programme that would introduce the international human rights framework to young advocates and develop their skills in applying the framework to their advocacy around the WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong in December 2005 and beyond. The proposed programme was to include a detailed orientation of the WTO and its processes and means by which to influence the deliberations in Hong Kong. It was proposed that the program be held in Cambodia.

Selection of Participants

Course participants were largely selected by OIYP from its partners. OIYP developed clear selection criteria and engaged in a competitive selection process. The OIYP participants were chosen on the basis of their involvement with advocacy on two principal issues: HIV/AIDS and agriculture, two areas of particular concern to the OIYP cohort and areas that would be affected by decisions taken at the WTO Ministerial Conference.

OIYP has an ongoing relationship with its individual youth partners, and a commitment to assisting them to implement their personal action plans as OIYP partners. Eighteen OIYP youth action partners were provided with funding assistance to attend. Unlike other DTP courses, participants came from Africa and Latin America as well as from Asia and the Pacific.

Providing opportunities for building links, networks and solidarity is an essential aspect of DTP trainings. Since the training programme was centred on a forthcoming event, with the possibility of some or all the participants actually being present in Hong Kong, the networking aspect of the event was seen as important.

Invitations to nominate participants were also extended to Womyn's Agenda for Change (WAC) that was to assist with organizational matters in Cambodia, and regional NGO representatives including *Focus on the Global South*.

As with other courses participation in the course remained uncertain until the final days because of funding issues.

Online Course

It was agreed that the training program in Cambodia would be preceded by a four-week on-line training course designed and coordinated by OIYP. The online course would include introductions to the WTO and its workings, the controversies associated with the Agreements on Agriculture and on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights, the international human rights framework, and the enhancement of advocacy, targeting the WTO Ministerial Conference through the use of tools provided by the human rights-based approach.

DTP agreed to identify and approach experts to assist with the facilitation of the on-line course. Gillian Moon of UNSW Faculty of Law agreed to provide facilitation for

the online course specifically around trade issues. Andre Frankovits agreed to provide input and online facilitation for the human rights components of the course.

This is the first time that DTP has had any experience of online teaching methodologies, and of attempting to integrate them into preparation for one of its courses. DTP currently lacks the necessary capacity to do this, but this course was run by OIYP.

The on-line course was useful in a number of respects in preparing participants and providing a common grounding for them. It also revealed the relative lack of exposure of the participants to the principles and contents of the human rights framework, which helped the facilitators to prepare their sessions. It also provided the program facilitators with a preliminary introduction to the participants themselves.

Through the on-line course an emerging sense of solidarity among the participants was already apparent, fostered in no small part through the inspiration of the OIYP coordinators. Thus some of the people arriving in Phnom Penh already knew each other cybernetically.

Location and Local Partner

DTP always holds its programs in association with local partner NGOs. On this occasion the local partner was WAC. WAC works in particular with women garment factory workers in Phnom Penh and also with women sex workers. A DTP alumnus works with WAC, and the OIYP project coordinator used to work with the organisation as an Australian Youth Ambassador.

WAC is deeply concerned with the impacts of globalisation and of trade agreements. Many of the garment factories in Cambodia are now facing closure because of the removal of favourable trade subsidies that they enjoyed with the United States. Many companies are relocating, or considering relocating, to China to take advantage of lower production costs. Women garment factory workers are therefore involved in trying to hold on to their jobs as the only form of livelihood for themselves and their families.

Workers in Cambodia's sex industry are badly affected by the scourge of HIV/AIDS. WAC is concerned, like organisations working with people living with HIV/AIDS across the developing world, that the intellectual property rights regime being negotiated under the auspices of the WTO and in bilateral trade agreements will significantly restrict access to vital medicines by pushing prices up.

Cambodia in many ways exemplifies the challenges facing many developing countries that are being encouraged to trade their way out of poverty, but experience a trading system that is heavily weighted against them. Detailed analysis of the human costs of Cambodia's terms of accession to the WTO has been conducted by Oxfam and other agencies.

The training program was held, at WAC's invitation, on their boat that floats on the Tonle Sap which runs past Phnom Penh. WAC also made arrangements for accommodation, for administrative support and for the field trips.

The Training Program

The program was designed to establish the links between human rights and trade justice and to provide young activists working on such trade-related issues as

HIV/AIDS and the livelihood of agricultural workers with the human rights tools to further their advocacy.

As with other DTP courses it aimed to balance knowledge of relevant international standards, processes and institutions with skill development in advocacy, lobbying and media work.

(the training) has provided me with useful skills: media skills, lobbying skills, advocacy skills, campaigning skills...All these skills can be used and will assist me in my work.

Comment from participant evaluation

The timing of the program was determined by the schedule of the broader OIYP project and the timing of the WTO Ministerial in Hong Kong. An explicit outcome for OIYP was for each of the participants from their network to formulate a 'trade action plan' (TAP) – a personal advocacy campaign focusing on the WTO Ministerial in Hong Kong and beyond. The OIYP participants had already been asked to prepare this during the on-line course.

Description of the Program

The initial focus of the program was on the international human rights framework. All the case studies were based on a fictional country, Cyrenia, where a range of human rights issues were present either directly related to the current trade regime or as an outcome of a repressive regime. Participants were asked to identify the human rights at issue in Cyrenia, to analyse the root causes of the rights violations, to establish clear human rights objectives and to relate specific rights under threat to the two WTO agreements: agriculture as it relates to adequate standard of living, and intellectual property as it relates to the right to health. This process highlighted the usefulness of the advocacy tools provided by the human rights framework.

I am now knowledgeable on international human rights agreements my country is a signatory to such as the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Right to health and accessible medicine). This will make my work easier as I will have a basis to argue and support my concerns.

Will assist me to develop and implement a "rights-based" approach, particularly in relation with Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. For Example, increasing agricultural products and promoting friendly environment in order to meet the rights of my community.

Now I believe I have more competence in using the Human rights approach to programming activities on HIV/AIDS eg government as duty bearers have the obligation to provide accessible treatment due to peoples guaranteed right to life and health.

Knowledge of human rights taught me how to apply or use a human rights-based approach to development and how to use various human rights mechanisms to address the issues of trade injustices.

The most useful sessions were practical lobbying session and the visits to the embassy and Emerging Frameworks, the right-based approach to development. This was because I could establish the link between the work that I do, trade and human rights.

Comments from participant evaluations

The trade side of the curriculum was addressed principally by Mary Lou Malig from *Focus on the Global South* talked about her experiences of taking part in previous WTO Ministerial Conferences. She explained the 'inside-outside strategy' adopted by *Focus*. Her engaging style was much appreciated by the participants and they gained many insights from her in-depth knowledge of the ins and outs of the WTO processes. She established the basis for the participants' advocacy leading up to Hong Kong and enthused them into wanting to be present in Hong Kong.

Unfair trade means that people are not able to earn enough to support their families, take children to school, and have access to clean water, have balanced/sufficient meals in a day and have a health environment

Comment from participant evaluations

Ros Harvey from the ILO office in Cambodia focused on the ILO's Better Factories project that she has been coordinating in Phnom Penh and which is regarded as a model project within the region. This is an example of a practical program undertaken by an international agency to address some of the appalling working conditions that many in the region experience – especially in export manufacturing industries. The presentation was comprehensive, and there was good discussion with some of the Cambodian participants about their experiences of working with women garment factory workers. Regrettably there was insufficient time to go into the many other areas of corporate accountability and human rights – a key emerging area in the context of trade and globalisation.

The agenda incorporated three practical "real-life" skills-building exercises. Lobbying skills were built through visits to four embassies in Phnom Penh: the European Union; Australia; UK and Canada. All four were willing to meet with delegations of participants in the training workshop, at relatively short notice. The training programme participants were divided into four groups and each had to prepare their delegation, who would be speaking, as well as the subject of their discussions. As preparation each was then to play their respective roles in a role-play commented on by the facilitators and the other participants.

The embassy visits were highly successful. All of the delegations were encouraged by the reception they received and their confidence was boosted by the fact that in each case they were well briefed and more than knowledgeable enough to engage the diplomats in substantive dialogue on the issues. In each, the meetings turned out longer than had been previewed and in one case the proposed half hour turned into an hour and half discussion. In at least two instances the meeting has been followed with a letter of confirmation from the young people with a request for a response from the respective diplomats. The Diplomacy Training Program is grateful to the Embassies concerned for their willingness to be involved in the project.

the Human Rights perspective is a good lobbying skill because it will always place a moral obligation to whomever you are lobbying to think about the people first before saying 'commercial benefits'. Eg, say in my shadow policy paper to the government the core phrase will be "before signing the country away to private investors, first think about the right to food, health and an adequate standard of living"

I will certainly now place more emphasis on human rights in my lobbying.

Comments from participant evaluations

Ros Sotha, from local NGO *Pact Cambodia*, delivered a session on the principles of media work. It was decided by the facilitators to expose the participants to real-life situations in facing the media on their issues of concern. The emphasis for the

media work, as for the Embassy visits, was to be a general one focusing on the significant debates at the forthcoming Hong Kong Ministerial Conference. In the end differences among the participants and organisational concerns for OIYP made it impossible to proceed. Accordingly, rather than a real life exercise, it was decided to change it to a role play. Predictably, this proved very entertaining and exposed the participants to the challenges of organising a press conference, controlling an unruly media contingent and arguing their case cogently.

To enhance media and presentation skills the DTP video camera was also put to good use in a separate exercise with each of the participants having to do a one-on-one interview according to a pre-determined format. The interviews were even edited with footage of the training workshop to provide a small memento for all the participants to take away with them.

Finally it was decided to invite some NGOs resident in Cambodia for an interactive session. In order to incorporate another skill, it was decided that the participants themselves would be in charge of facilitating this session and directing the interaction.

Field visits

Two field visits were incorporated into the agenda. WAC organised each of these, and its members accompanied and translated for the participants. One visit was to a rural community where the participants learnt about the plight of agricultural workers and their families in Takeo province. The other was to sex workers in Phnom Penh focusing on the issue of HIV/AIDS. The participants appreciated the opportunity for interaction with local communities, and the chance to explore issues and to draw the connection between what they saw and the impact of the current trade regime on poor people.

Participants visiting the farmers were especially shocked when they learnt from the farmers about the unavailability of water, low yields, holdings not above one acre, pest resistance due to uncontrolled usage of fertilizers, non availability of farm equipment, non inclination of market to procure local produce, mounting debt, lack of crop diversity etc.

Extract from participant report of training.

Action Planning

Built into each day of the training programme were specific times for the participants to either to describe the Trade Action Plan each had drafted prior to the workshop or an outline of their domestic advocacy campaigns. Each participant had the opportunity to brief their colleagues about the situation in their countries and the nature of their work. At the end of each day, participants were encouraged to keep a diary, that could be used in their reports back home. The time keeping and organisation of 'energisers' were allocated to four groups of participants in rotation. The 'energisers' were all inventive, with the embarrassment of the facilitators a particularly tempting and recurring objective.

The OIYP coordinators facilitated the drafting of the Trade Action Plans – plans to address the two main foci of the OIYP concerns at the WTO Ministerial Conference – and elicited concrete and achievable objectives from all the participants. These were formulated in small working groups and subsequent email traffic demonstrates the effectiveness of their facilitation:

In a week or two, I am starting a radio programme on the road to Hong Kong. This will be in a series of 7 programmes. The first one will be an introductory session where we'll just talk about basically what the WTO is. Then the second one will involve representatives from civil society on what they're going to do there. A delegation has been selected and the people should know who these people are and what they're taking to Hong Kong. The third will look at the role of the media. The fourth one will have some govt. delegation representatives, I am hoping against hope to have the minister present here. The fifth one will have feedback and questions from the public. The questions will then be addressed in the sixth session. The 7th programme will emphasise on gathering people for the send off party and airing our expectations

Irene Banda, Zambia

There was a cultural evening that provided for a sharing on a more personal level. In any mixed group brought together from disparate parts of the world there are natural leaders, energetic clowns, shy retiring types and charismatic live wires. They were all represented in Phnom Penh. At the cultural evening Cambodian participants taught the rest the steps of popular club dances. The Indonesian 'emceed' the event loudly and got everyone to sing a song representing their nation – the Australians sang the Aeroplane Jelly song! The Hong Kong participant played a flute so well that there was not a dry eye in the house when she finished. The Timorese, the Gambian and the Nepalese had each brought and wore their national costumes.

Reflections on the Program

The workshop achieved its objectives of providing participants with the tools to enhance their advocacy campaigns. What became clear through interactions over the nine days was that many internalised the lessons they learned and were committed to using the tools provided in their work both at home and in their advocacy at the international level.

This training has given me a lot of resource material and negotiation skills

I now have a strong leverage upon which to hinge my actions ie use the human rights instruments to make compelling arguments and make the government to put more resources into healthcare and HIV/Aids programming activities.

The training has built my capacity and knowledge on how trade impacts negatively on our rights to food and health. [It has also shown me] how to use good strategies to effectively advocate for, educate and mobilise people against trade injustices.

My work involves campaigning and lobbying and I therefore view this training as a necessary incentive to my overall work. I will also impart these skills to my colleagues in my country.

(The) skills and resources I've gained will contribute a great deal to my work.

Through this training I can learn more about the HR framework related to trade justice and I can take action with the HR framework.

Comments from participant evaluations

The visits to the four embassies were highly successful. This was their first experience of engaging in policy dialogue with foreign diplomats. What can be a daunting and intimidating task was made an understandable and practical activity that emphasised the value of good preparation and clear objectives. Participants were able to argue their case effectively and gained considerable confidence from this. They came away understanding that diplomacy is too important to be left just to diplomats.

Lobby and Advocacy was so interesting and mind enriching because I was able to practically experience when we went to meet the European commissioner.

Comments from participant evaluations

Most of the young advocates had not been exposed to the details of the international human rights framework. Their advocacy was based to some extent on Oxfam's analysis and priorities. Among some participants a deep scepticism about the value of advocacy for reform through international mechanisms or institutions remains.

Most of the decisions taken by these systems are affecting human rights and I think human rights knowledge will enable me to challenge the decision-makers to revise their agreements by showing them clear linkages.

I know at least two kinds of human rights, such as political rights and economic, social and cultural rights. They have different potential, and should be used in different ways.

Before, I didn't have a deep understanding about HR and the UN, and now I can advocate [at the] grassroots with 1 strength – the HR framework.

The knowledge of HR gives a framework that can be used in all activism projects. It is an inclusive field, that offers a theoretic paradigm, applicable on many levels.

Comments from participant evaluations

There was good interaction among the participants and a measure of the success of this is the continuing personal and professional interchanges that have continued since everyone got home.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This was the first program that the Diplomacy Training Program has conducted to develop the capacity of advocates to understand the relationship between human rights and trade – and to develop their skills to apply this knowledge to their advocacy.

In conducting the background research for developing this program there were few resources to call on, although some of the resources that exist are very good. It is clear that trade regimes have a major impact on the capacity of individual governments to fulfil their human rights obligations – and a major influence on human rights in all societies.

It is therefore important that human rights advocates develop their understanding of the institutions and processes that set the framework for trade policy, negotiate trade

agreements and monitor their implementation, as well as develop their skills to interact with these institutions and processes.

For those community advocates already involved in trade justice issues, concerned at the impact of subsidy removal, or tariff barriers, on poor rice farmers, or reduced access to vital medicines for the sick, the potential of the existing human rights framework to address these concerns remains largely untapped.

From DTP's perspective this was a very valuable collaboration, a first step for the organisation in exploring how it might engage in developing human rights advocacy in relation to one of the key aspects of globalisation.

The partnership with OIYP in working with young advocates focussed on a specific process – the WTO Ministerial – also offers the potential of some longer term follow-up with participants to explore the impact of the training program and future training needs.

From the evaluations of the participants, the feedback from facilitators and from partner organisations, it is clear that this was a very successful program. It was also a valuable learning experience for DTP.

From the experiences it is possible to draw out the following recommendations:

Recommendations:

1. DTP should collaborate with OIYP over the possibility of a longer term evaluation of the impact of this training, perhaps using the online methodology developed by OIYP
2. DTP should have further discussion with OIYP and others about how DTP might increase use of online methodologies/resources in relation to its programs
3. Greater lead time and collaboration in selection of participants in order to enhance the potential networking value of the program.
4. DTP should develop modules on trade and human rights for inclusion in its other training programs
5. DTP should consult with its regional partners about future needs for capacity building programs on these issues in a regional context.

Acknowledgements

The Diplomacy Training Program is indebted in particular to André Frankovits and Katalee Sikharangkura for ensuring the success of the program in Cambodia. The program itself was a result of the initiative and commitment of the OIYP Project Coordinator, Sanushka Mudaliar. Nicole Breeze, Coordinator of OIYP oversaw the development of the project and offered valuable support to its implementation in Cambodia. Brett Solomon developed the materials for the online course and assisted in a voluntary capacity with program facilitation in Phnom Penh.

The Diplomacy Training Program would also like to thank the staff and volunteers at WAC who were such helpful and accommodating hosts in Cambodia. Former DTP staff member Naomi Hamilton worked very hard to get everyone to and from Phnom Penh from most parts of the world.

The Diplomacy Training Program is an independent NGO affiliated with the Law Faculty at UNSW, which provides valuable in-kind assistance. The support of its Dean, Leon Trakman is much appreciated as was the pro-bono input and support of

the Law Faculty's Gillian Moon, one of Australia's foremost experts on the relationship between trade and human rights.

The Diplomacy Training Program would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Ms. Mary Lou Malig, Ros Harvey, Ros Sotha, and Dr Ama Marston for donating their time and freely sharing their knowledge and expertise. This generosity and the shared commitment to human rights and justice that it signifies is vital to the work of the Diplomacy Training Program.

This program was made possible through funding from Oxfam Australia and from the New Zealand Agency for International Development.

Finally the Diplomacy Training Program would like to acknowledge the participants in the program who left family and friends, took time out from pressing commitments and travelled great distances to come and learn and share with each other.

Program participants

Cambodia	Ms. Pisey Ly Ms. Sokunthy Ros Mr. Vorsak Bou
Gambia	Mr. Lamin Camara
Honduras	Ms. Norma Carías Montiel
Hong Kong	Ms. Cissy - Lui Yick Sze
India	Mr. Vikram Aditya
Indonesia	Ms. Sanggam Mauli
Kenya	Ms. Faith Cheruiyot Ms. Constance Georgina K. Walyaro
Nigeria	Mr. Azubike Nwokoye Dr. Chukwumuanya Igboekwu
Malawi	Mr. Kenneth Msiska
Morocco	Ms. Hind Ottmani
Nepal	Mr. Sudyumna Dahal
PNG	Ms. Bessie Maruia
South Africa	Mr. Duncan Moeketse
Thailand	Ms. Sajin Prachason
Timor Leste	Mr. Erkulanu De Sousa
Zambia	Ms. Irene Banda Mr. Evans Musonda

Resource persons

ACPP, Ms. Katalee Sikharangkura
Focus on the Global South, Ms. Mary Lou Malig
HRCA, Mr. André Frankovits
ILO, Ms. Ros Harvey
OIYP, Mr. Brett Solomon
OIYP, Ms. Nicole Breeze
OIYP, Ms. Sanushka Mudaliar
PACT, Mr. Ros Sotha

EXTRACTS FROM A REPORT FROM ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS

OIYP Action Partners Trade Justice Workshop – A Report

The shared concern for universal and collective human rights, and the significance of the global trade regime in their work, saw the involvement of 25 young activists around the world, belonging to the OIYP family and otherwise, in the World Trade Organization Trade Justice Training Workshop.

Resource persons included Andre Frankovits, a Hong Kong-based HR activist working with the Human Rights Council of Australia. Andre delivered excellently while introducing the entire concept of HR as a foundation to the participants, and his sessions mainly focused on the principles of strategic campaigning and the international HR framework. This included the International Bill of Rights which incorporated the Universal Declaration on HR, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Civil Rights. Andre introduced the participants to the HR accountability and practical aspects of HR through the Complaints mechanisms included in the Framework.

The key human rights principles of Universality, Accountability, Non-discrimination and equality, Indivisibility and participation, and the obligations of states parties to these agreements, to respect, protect and fulfill them, were also highlighted by Andre. In addition to HR complaints mechanisms, the concept of country mandates and special rapporteurs on HR to the UN HR Commission were also dealt with.

Participants were initiated to the four A's of HR with respect to the Right to Food and Health: Availability, Accessibility, Affordability and Accountability. Andre also discussed the importance of a reasonable and coherent national strategy for realization of the right to food and health by formulation and implementation of effective national policies. As a practical exercise in HR training, Andre provided the participants with a scenario of a fictitious country with a hegemonic government, Cyrenia, where there were several HR abuses. Participants divided themselves into working groups through the course of the workshop, frequently looking at Cyrenia as a convenient example to examine its HR abuses, tools that could be used to address them, the duty bearers, claim holders and possible agents of influence.

Mary Lou, working with Focus on the Global South in Thailand, illustrated (literally and figuratively) to the participants the Ministerial experience at Cancun and the preparations within the WTO in the lead up to Hong Kong. Mary further discussed Investment, regional agreements and bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTA's) and their mechanisms, such as banning of National Treatment and Performance Requirements for TNC's and Capital Control by countries. She also gave an insight into the available dispute settlement mechanisms such as ICSID and UNCITRAL and exemplified the case of NAFTA.

Apart from the in-house facilitators, participants also had several visiting speakers, e.g. Dr. Ros Harvey, working with the International Labour Organization on the empowerment of garment workers and their rights in Cambodia, from whom participants appreciated the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility with respect to labour standards, especially within the context of the Garment Manufacturing Sector of Cambodia. Media training for practical lobbying was also given to the participants by a guest speaker from PACT-Cambodia. Another speaker was Dr. Arma from the United States, who facilitated a session on women and trade.

Participants generally experienced satisfaction at what they had learnt at the workshop. Some like Erkulanu Desousa from Timor-Leste, experienced a changed

perspective with regard to HR in sustainable development issues that he worked on... Faith Cheruiyot from Kenya describes the workshop as having been an eye opener and says she has appreciated the fact that HR and trade are very interrelated in spite of being distinct. She says that the workshop formed a very good background for her awareness building plans.

Extract from Email Correspondence Following the Program:

Dear All,

I hope you are doing well with your TAP. Great work Vikram. I will be attending the WTO National Consultative Conference that will held in Johannesburg. I have been invited to take part in contributing in the government's preparation for the ministerial.

Regards,
Duncan