

DIPLOMACY TRAINING PROGRAM E NEWSLETTER

November 2012 Issue 21

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CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

DTP Programs

DTP's scheduled Capacity Building Programs 2012

- DTP's 22nd Annual Regional Human Rights Peoples' Diplomacy Capacity Building Program will be held in Timor-Leste from 26 Nov – 10 Dec 2012
- Panel on Capacity Building on Human Rights and Business, at the inaugural UN Global Forum on Human Rights and Business, Geneva 4-5 December 2012

2013 Draft Schedule

- 1. **February**: <u>Human Rights of Migrant Workers Special Program for Civil Society Advocates in Nepal</u> 1st session, Kathmandu, Nepal
- 2. **March**: Human Rights Advocacy and Indigenous Peoples in Australia Program Southeast Queensland or South Australia (TBC)
- 3. **April**: Regional Capacity Building Program on Human Rights, Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Business Cambodia (TBC)
- 4. May: Human Rights Advocacy and Indigenous Peoples in Australia Program Broken Hill/Wilcannia NSW
- 5. **May**: Regional Capacity Building Program on Advocacy and the Human Rights of Migrant Workers in the Middle East Jordan (TBC)
- 6. August: Human Rights Advocacy and Indigenous Peoples in Australia Follow-Up Program Darwin/Katherine
- 7. **September**: Regional Program on the Human Rights of Migrant Workers in the Middle East Kuwait/Oman/UAE (TBC)
- 8. October: DTP's 23rd Annual Regional Human Rights Defenders Program will be held in Timor-Leste (TBC)

Please check the <u>DTP website</u> for details, program information and application forms. Please send enquiries to dtp@unsw.edu.au

Other Training Programs

• Equitas 2013 International Human Rights Training Program June 9 – June 28, 2013 Montreal, Canada

DTP'S THEMATIC PRIORITIES

Human Rights and Business

- Myanmar: <u>Stakeholder meeting on extractive industry develops human rights recommendations for the</u> sector
- India's farmer suicides: film indicts US corporate greed
- Mongolia: <u>Unclear responsibilities between government and business and weak enforcement threaten to leave human rights on the sidelines, says UN human rights expert group</u>
- The UN Working Group on business & human rights welcomes information relevant to its mandate: <u>Information on how to make submissions</u>
- First issue of The Business and Human Rights Review published by international legal firm, Allen and Overy

- Stop Child Labour accuses four companies Bata, Bugatti, Clarks and Marks & Spencer of making use of child labour in their Indian supply chain
- Conference report: Business and human rights: implementing the Guiding Principles one year on
- Corporate Legal Accountability Quarterly Bulletin highlights key developments and case studies
- 200 Penan and Kenyah women, men and children block construction works on mega-dam in Malaysian rainforest
- UN Working Group on business & human rights welcomes information relevant to its mandate

Indigenous Peoples' Rights

DTP publishes a regular Indigenous Peoples' Newsletter. We urge our readers to check out this Newsletter. The latest issue can be accessed by clicking this link

- The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: <u>Questionnaire requesting information about</u> Indigenous Peoples' strategies to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- The Expert Mechanism is seeking submissions from Indigenous Peoples, academia, national human rights institutions, civil society and other interested groups and persons relevant to its study on access to justice in the promotion and protection of the rights of Indigenous peoples contact by 11 Feb 2013

Migrant Workers' Rights

- Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants Newsletter: <u>Deportation of undocumented in Malaysia continues</u>
- Indonesian Government under fire over migrant workers on death row in Malaysia
- Asia Pacific Forum on DTP's recent regional training program in Qatar: <u>Cooperation the key to advancing the rights of migrant workers</u> <u>Promoting and Protecting the Rights of Migrant Workers: A Manual for National Human Rights Institutions</u>
- National Human Rights Commission, Nepal: <u>An International Conference on the Rights of Migrant Workers, Kathmandu, Nepal will be held 26-27 November 2012</u>
- Migrant Forum Asia: Parliamentarians to attend World Social Forum on Migration in Manila, 23-26 Nov 2012
- ITUC on the Rights of Migrant Workers in Qatar:
 - Shibu and Geetha from India: What's wrong with working in Qatar?
 - o Narayan: Most Nepalese are despised and treated like slaves
 - o Devendra Dhugana: <u>Living in apartheid era conditions, workers risk being fined by police when</u> they leave the labour camps
 - o Global unions have issued a formal complaint to the ILO

Women's Rights

- Private company helps confront the problem of violence against women in the Porgera Valley, Papua New Guinea
- Panel Statement of the Asia-Pacific Regional Women's Hearing on Gender-Based Violence in Conflict
- Women Challenge Philippine and Cambodia Heads of State to make ASEAN at the Forefront of Human Rights
- <u>UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women underscores the need to address violence against women</u> with disabilities

Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Asia-Pacific countries adopt landmark strategy for building disability-inclusive societies

Contributions from DTP Alumni

- From Candy Diez in the Philippines: Gold, Copper and Death in Tampakan! Stop the Killings! End the Violence!
- From Bidhayak Chakma in Bangladesh: Chittagong Hill Tracts: Communal Attack Leaves Many Injured
- From Surya Deuja in Nepal: <u>International Conference on the Rights of Migrant Workers, to be held in Nepal on 26-27 November 2012</u>

Calls for action

- Petition: Drop "public morality" from the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration
- Appeal on death penalty in India: Commute All Death Sentences and Abolish Death Penalty in India!
- Appeal, India: Police kills three Dalit youth in Thangadh of Surendranagar in Gujarat
- Appeal, India: Stop the forceful eviction of indigenous villagers affected by the Mapithel Dam in Manipur
- Petition, Indonesia: PT Stella Maris International Education violates the law and human rights of workers
- Appeal, Indonesia: Police arbitrarily arrest five Papuan activists over their political activities
- Petition, Malaysia: Support for Penan communities against the Murum Resettlement Plan
- Appeal, Malaysia: Harassment of several members of Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM)
- Petition, Malaysia: Call for the Abolition of the Death Penalty in Malaysia
- Appeal, Philippines: <u>Killing of family members of a B'laan tribe leader opposed to the entry of Sagittarius</u>
 Mines Incorporated (SMI) in their ancestral domain area
- Appeal, Sri Lanka: Balasingam Jeyakumar, detained for three years without being charged
- Petition, Sri Lanka: Stop the Execution of Rizana Nafeek in Saudi Arabia
- Petition, Qatar: 200 Nepali workers die each year Qatari authorities should do the right thing for workers and allow them to form and join a trade union

Have your say

- UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing invites participation in a consultation on security of tenure
- ESCR Net: Formation of a New Working Group on Monitoring of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Invitation to contribute: <u>Civil society's role in building the Independent Governance and Oversight Mechanism</u> for the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Providers

Events

Migrants Tribunal on the Global Forum on Migration and Development, Manila November 28-9

New Publications/Web-based resources

- A Guide to Indigenous Women's Rights under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women 2nd Edition
- ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights new web site
- New UNHCR Guidelines on Immigration Detention
- Manual on Conducting a National Inquiry into Systemic Patterns of Human Rights Violation
- Video Advocacy Resources & Tools: <u>useful tips for determining which WITNESS resources will best fit your</u> needs
- Measuring Social Change: Principles to Guide the Assessment of Human Rights Based Approaches to Development
- Center for Economic and Social Rights: new document to support human rights advocates in holding states
 accountable for their obligation to fulfill economic and social rights under the International Covenant on
 Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- UPR Info has published a new report, "On the Road to Implementation" analyzing over 3,000 recommendations at the UPR based on 253 contributions from civil society, 6 contributions from National Human Rights Institutions and 7 States' mid-term reports

Where are they now? News of former DTP alumni

'A lifetime of positive changes if we give peace a chance': <u>Yasmin Busran Lao of the Philippines comments on the peace negotiations in Mindanao</u>

Awards/appointments

- Former head of the Australian Human Rights Law Centre has been appointed Director of the Geneva-based International Service for Human Rights
- United Nations honours disability rights champions on eve of new regional decade

Jobs/Internships

- Australian Leadership Awards Fellowships submission procedures
- FIDH: Job Announcement Head of Asia Desk, Bangkok

Nomen push for revisions in draft ASEAN Human Rights Declaration



Jelen Paclarin from Philwomen on ASEAN said her group wished to have issues such as violence against women, sexual health and rights and human rights cooperation incorporated in the declaration, to include action plans on how to address them.

Human Rights - General

- The UN is moving towards a finalization of a UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas
- Reports of the Special Rapporteurs to the 67th session of the UN General Assembly 2012
- Enforced disappearances: <u>UN expert body to study more than 400 cases from over 30 countries</u>: <u>How to submit cases</u>
- Special Rapporteur says death penalty may amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment

UN Human Rights Council

- Highlights of the 21st session of the Human Rights Council Video from the International Service for Human Rights
- Amnesty International: "States must recognize and not undermine the content of the rights to water and sanitation"
- Progression and regression at the 21st session of the Human Rights Council
- NGOs write Open letter to candidates to the Human Rights Council on their cooperation with the Council
- UPR Info has published a new report, <u>"On the Road to Implementation"</u> analyzing recommendations at the UPR

UN Treaty Bodies news

- Australia: <u>Draft 5th Report by Australia on the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment</u>
- Philippines: <u>UN Human Rights Committee review revealed "several areas of deficit" in the Philippine human rights records</u>

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

- <u>UPR of Japan: minimal progress as recommendations</u> to end death penalty are repeated
- UPR of Pakistan: ongoing concerns include violence against women and blasphemy laws
- UPR of Sri Lanka: rhetorical aspirations fail to mask lack of progress and obstructive approach
- UPR of Republic of Korea: concerns remain on death penalty, gender equality, and military service
- Deadlines for NGO participation in the UPR: China 4 March 2013, Malaysia 11 March 2013

Development

• Indonesia: 60 NGOs warn financial institutions not to fund forest destruction

Regional News

ASEAN

- NGOs Ask ASEAN for More Say on Human Rights
- Human Rights Working Group: NGOs hope for more responsive, independent body
- Yuyun Wahyuningrum: First ASEAN human rights declaration criticized
- Amnesty International Press Release: Postpone deeply flawed ASEAN Human Rights Declaration
- <u>UN rights chief welcomes focus on human rights and democracy, calls for review of ASEAN draft human rights declaration</u>

Country-specific news

Australia

- Human Rights Watch: Australia has found a new export product: punitive asylum policies
- ASEAN Chief Rejects Australia's Abbott's Refugee Boat Policy
- Australia wins a seat at the UN Security Council
- <u>UNHCR Statement on Australian Migration Amendment (Unauthorized Maritime Arrivals and Other Measures)</u> Bill 2012
- Race Commissioner launched on 4 October the <u>Principles to promote and protect the human rights of</u> international students

Bangladesh

- Australia Asia Worker Links: Children in Bangladesh forced to work in toxic workplaces
- Phulbari: Video: "We Don't Want the Coal Mine"

Burma/Myanmar

- FIDH: Renewed Arakan State violence underscores government's failure to protect minorities and to prevent ethnic cleansing
- Not in Theory, Not in Practice: Freedom of Assembly and Association in Burma
- New Violence in Arakan State: Satellite Imagery Shows Widespread Destruction of Rohingya Homes, Property
- UN Special Rapporteur welcomes progress in Myanmar but says there is much more to be done

Cambodia

- Frontline: <u>Human rights defenders Messrs Ou Virak, Pen Bonnar, Chhay Thy and Sok Ratha summoned for questioning for their land rights work</u>
- Frontline: <u>Harassment and intimidation of members of Cambodian Center for Human Rights during fact-finding mission</u>
- Media release: Concern over Cambodian authorities' disturbance of ACSC/APF 2012

China

- Frontline: Whereabouts of Tibetan human rights defender Mr. Jigme Gyatso unknown, believed detained
- Ongoing detention of human rights defender Mr. Zhu Yubiao eleven weeks after due release date

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

• UN Special Rapporteur: <u>The human rights situation in the DPRK showed "no sign of improvement" over the</u> past eight months

Fiji

• Amnesty International: Fiji reform process flawed – denies participation to women and young people

India

- <u>Historic Victory for Landless and Homeless communities Government of India Agrees for National Land</u> Reforms Policy
- AHRC: Villagers face imminent forced eviction at a dam site in Manipur
- Letter of Concern on Arrest for "undisclosed reasons" of Indigenous activist Ms. Dayamani Barla
- Human Rights Features: "Ignoring the Disappeared of Kashmir with Impunity"
- Frontline: Death threats and intimidation against human rights defender Mr Azimuddin Sarkar and his family

Indonesia and West Papua

- Indonesian Government Must End Violence Against Journalists, Activists in Papua
- Statements on Papua coming out of the Indonesian House of Representatives are of great concern
- Opening remarks by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay at a press conference during her mission to Indonesia

Malaysia

• 78 NGOs Call for the Abolition of the Death Penalty in Malaysia

Nepal

• OHCHR: An analysis of conflict-related violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law between February 1996 and 21 November 2006

Philippines

- Frontline: Threats against Indigenous human rights defender Ms Erita Capion Dialang after the killing of relatives in an army attack
- Ambush of Surigao anti-mining leader condemned
- Amnesty International: <u>Call on PNOy and new DILG Secretary Mar Roxas to investigate the killings of</u> <u>Indigenous Peoples in Zamboanga</u>

Singapore

• <u>Singapore Management University cancels launch and opening of 'Handa Centre for Global Governance and Human Rights' over use of the words 'Human Rights' in the title</u>

Sri Lanka

• Frontline: Public threats and harassment against human rights defender Dr Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu

Thailand

• Surapak Puchaisaeng, first case of lese majeste prisoner found not guilty

Vietnam

• FIDH: Imprisonment of musicians a new low for freedom of expression