


DTP Australia Awards Fellowship Program




**THE
DIPLOMACY
TRAINING
PROGRAM**

**WELCOME RECEPTION FOR THE
DIPLOMACY TRAINING PROGRAM
(DTP) FELLOWS PROGRAM**

Please join us to welcome to Australia 20 civil society advocates from Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh, India, and Fiji participating in the first *DTP Fellows Program* - and to support and celebrate DTP's 25 years of working with Indigenous communities and human rights defenders in the Asia-Pacific.

Special address to be delivered by the Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG

Date Wednesday 9 Sep 2015
Time 6.00pm
Venue Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Level 17, 8 Chifley,
8-12 Chifley Square, Sydney
RSVP Patrick Earle at ntp@unsw.edu.au or 02 9385 2277



Peoples' Diplomacy and Economic Development: Building the Capacity of Civil Society Leaders

Sydney / Canberra

7—25 September 2015

Program Report

Executive Summary

In September 2015, the Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) launched a new Asia-Pacific regional human rights capacity building program in Australia: *the DTP Fellows Program*. With funding from the Australian Federal Government under its Australian Awards Fellowship Program, DTP brought 18 civil society advocates selected from across the region to Australia for a three-week intensive and tailored training and networking initiative.

The program coincided with the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of DTP by Professor José Ramos- Horta and Emeritus Professor Garth Nettheim at UNSW Sydney, to develop the knowledge, skills and networks of human rights defenders and Indigenous peoples' advocates.

The DTP Fellows came from Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Nepal and Myanmar* where they work on some of the most challenging issues in their respective countries. They are active on women's rights; the rights of migrant workers; Indigenous peoples' rights; LGBTI Rights, corporate accountability and sustainable development. Most are alumni of previous DTP courses and were nominated by some of DTP's partner organisations in the region.

The DTP Fellows Program included sessions and engagement activities in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. The program was designed with the flexibility to respond to the needs and experience of each participant. It included specialist training sessions with leading Australian human rights and business academics and practitioners, field visits to build practical understanding of the application of standards and practices to promote sustainable and equitable development and opportunities to engage with and develop contacts with government, private sector and non-government representatives. Incorporated into the program were opportunities for the participants to build their skills in advocating their issues of concern and to prepare and deliver presentations to different audiences in Australia.

With 25 years of experience in providing quality training on human rights and advocacy, DTP draws on the advice and expertise of Australia's foremost human rights practitioners and academics. Hosting the program in Australia enabled DTP to connect the DTP Fellows with key human rights experts, as well as with representatives of NGOs, diaspora communities, business and government. DTP expresses its deep appreciation to the many trainers, resource persons and officials who contributed their time, expertise and skills to provide such a rich experience for the visiting fellows.

As reflected in the final participant evaluations, the training program successfully met the expectations of the DTP Fellows for new and valuable knowledge and skills.

DTP acknowledges the opportunity the program allowed for reciprocal learning with relevant organisations and individuals in Australia. The DTP Fellows are a committed and courageous group working on the front lines of some of the key challenges and human rights issues in our region. Most were alumni of previous DTP programs. Their willingness to share their knowledge, experience and perspectives with organisations and individuals is appreciated – and was one of the real advantages of this program. We look forward to future collaboration with the DTP Fellows as we continue to explore opportunities to support, learn and share strategies to promote human rights in our region.

The program was made possible through funding from the Australian Government through the Australian Awards Fellowship program. DTP would like to thank all of the trainers, volunteers and organisations involved in the program.

* The human rights and humanitarian crisis stemming from the attempted coup in Myanmar has led us to withhold the identities of the participants from Myanmar out of concern for their safety, if they are identified with work for human rights.

Program Objectives

Build the capacity of civil society leaders, including women, to:

- Use normative frameworks and good practice to address issues of discrimination, and guide policy and practice;
- promote cultures of engagement between civil society, government and private sector;
- Identify areas of collaboration with private sector, CSOs and governments.

Expected Program Outcomes

15—20 Fellows will use the knowledge, skills and networks developed through this

Program to:

- Integrate understandings of international standards and agreements related to business and human rights in their work as civil society leaders
- Share the knowledge through information and training sessions with their organisations and networks
- Increase the number of women in leadership and decision-making roles
- Engage with governments and business to promote stronger standards of accountability, transparency and inclusivity
- Continue to link with the individuals, institutions and networks for access to information and contacts to promote good governance and sustainable economic development

In the course of three weeks additional outcomes of the program were identified. Additional outcomes for the DTP Fellows were to:

- use the DTP training model to organise human rights training in their own contexts
- link with Australian companies investing in Myanmar
- establish connections with Australian retailers sourcing from India
- develop new approaches to engaging the private sector in Fiji to promote gender equality and women's participation in decision making.

Objectives and outcomes for the DTP Fellows program had focused entirely on the participating Fellows and their organisations. During the meetings and engagement with the Australian government representatives, private sector organisations and NGOs, the value of the contacts and the exchange of information and perspective and advice as a result of the Fellows program was highlighted. Additional Outcomes for Australian NGOs, academics, parliamentarians and government representatives:

- New information, perspective and insight related to their work and involvements. For example, Parliament's Human Rights sub-committee (JSCFDT) gained perspective related to the death penalty as a result of a presentation by the DTP Fellows, with examples, on the vulnerability of migrant workers in countries where the death penalty operates.
- Introductions to useful contacts for their work and involvements. For example, SBS television gained access to valuable contacts for stories, DFAT desk offices were briefed on developments country level, Australian NGOs received valuable advice related to their development activities, the David Jones Ethics Department was introduced to a valuable contact in the garments, electronics, leather, coffee/tea sectors in India.

Knowledge

The knowledge of participants was enhanced through the involvement of leading academics and practitioners in delivery of formal sessions, through the participatory methodology of the training that encourages the sharing of knowledge and experience between participants, through a range of field visits and engagements and through structured opportunities to use their knowledge in presentations and engagement opportunities with representatives of government, parliament, the private sector and civil society.

The formal sessions on human rights, and international standards and frameworks on human rights and business were related to the work of the Fellows and they were encouraged to apply this new knowledge to their own context and needs. Their knowledge of how business, government and civil society works and relates to each other was enhanced through personal engagements. They developed knowledge of how the media works and the role and function of national human rights institutions. They met with representatives from the private sector and trade unions to share knowledge.

Skills

The DTP Fellows built their skills in analysis, dialogue, engagement and presentation through preparing and making formal presentations to Federal MPs, the Amnesty International Parliamentary Group, the Human Rights Sub-Committee of Parliament, DFAT representatives, the International Commission of Jurists and the DTP Board – and during receptions with the diplomatic community among others. They participated in roundtable discussions with non-government organisations.

DTP facilitators assisted with preparation and provided feedback. The DTP Fellows participated in IT workshops focused on building their research skills and on designing and developing websites.

Networks

Efforts were made to link participants with individuals and organisations in Australia with shared interests and concerns. Through the wide range of meetings and engagements in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne the DTP Fellows built their personal and organizational networks. For some this included connecting with Diaspora communities here. The DTP Fellows were introduced to number of Australian NGOs including Oxfam Australia, IWDA, Diaspora Action, Sports Matter, APHEDA, Human Rights Watch, ICJ and Stop the Traffic. The activities enabled valuable linkages to be made for the DTP Fellows that would otherwise have been impossible

The DTP Fellows identified that they would follow up opportunities and connections made - including through contacts with the Australian Embassies in their countries. This provided opportunities both to make connections between the Fellows and the Australian NGOs and also encouragement for the Fellows to link up with the NGOs operating in their home countries. Each of the fellows brought diverse experience, expertise and skill and contributed to the knowledge, ideas and the practise of the others. They plan to maintain the DTP Fellows network that they established during the program.

Participant Summary and Biographies

NAME	COUNTRY	ORGANISATION
Corporate Accountability / Responsible Business		
Sunita Karki	Nepal	Independent Business News
Gopinathan Parakuni	India	Cividep-India, Bangalore
Democracy / Peace and Justice / Development and Poverty / Gender		
Kositatino Tikomaibolatagane	Fiji	Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education & Advocacy
Sereima Mada Lutubula	Fiji	Citizens' Constitutional Forum
Analaisa Nacoladaubota	Fiji	Citizens' Constitutional Forum
Geeta Gautam Bhattarai	Nepal	Informal Sector Service Centre
Shyam Bahadur Chand	Nepal	Informal Sector Service Centre
Fay Evangeline Volatabu	Fiji	National Council of Women Fiji
Indigenous Peoples' Rights		
Binodan Tripura	Bangladesh	Zabarang Kalyan Samity
Fadang Tang Randal	Bangladesh	Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti
Rights of Migrant Workers		
Dev Chandra Rai	Nepal	Asian Human Rights & Culture Development Forum
Samrachana Shakya	Nepal	Asian Human Rights & Culture Development Forum

Corporate Accountability / Responsible Business

Sunita Karki (Nepal), Independent Business News

Sunita Karki is the Program Producer for Independent Business News (IBN) where she is news reporter and program producer. Her responsibilities include reporting, interviewing, participating in press conferences, delivering daily briefings to her staff and news reading. She also undertakes field visits and research, writes news reports and produces and edits documentaries.

Gopinathan Kunhithayil Parakuni (India), Cividep-India

Gopinathan Kunhithayil Parakuni is the General Secretary of *Cividep-India*, an organisation working to educate and empower workers and communities in India to ensure that businesses comply with human rights, labour rights and environmental standards. The organisation targets the garments, electronics, leather and tea/coffee sectors. Cividep is based in Bangalore, India and has campaigned to protect the rights of vulnerable women working in the garment sector there. Cividep is a member of a number of international networks, including the Good Electronics Network, OECD Watch and the Asian Network for the Rights of Occupational and Environmental Victims. Gopinathan is also an Executive member of OECD Watch.

Democracy / Peace & Justice / Development & Poverty / Gender

Fay Evangeline Volatabu (Fiji), National Council of Women Fiji

Fay Evangeline Volatabu is the General Secretary of the *National Council of Women Fiji*, a key forum voicing women's concerns in the country. The Council responds to the needs of women, including building of knowledge of rights and promoting tools for establishing businesses. As General Secretary, she is involved in planning Council activities and in implementing Council decisions. Fay is the focal point for the Council's engagement with its stakeholders, including women all over Fiji through its 70 affiliated women's organisations. Fay is also committed to empowering young women through its Junior NCW Fiji.

Kositatino Tikomaibolatagane (Fiji), Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy (ECREA)

Kositatino Tikomaibolatagane is the Assistant Coordinator of the *Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy* (ECREA) an organisation dedicated to building an inclusive, just and compassionate Fijian society. Kositatino guides ECREA's work to educate and empower change agents in society. He is also responsible for monitoring ECREA's activities and evaluating the effectiveness of its work. Kositatino is passionate about supporting people to live peacefully and joyfully in Fiji.

Sereima Mada Lutubula (Fiji), Citizens' Constitutional Forum (CCF)

Sereima Mada Lutubula is a Community and Field Officer with *Citizens' Constitutional Forum* (CCF), a leading civil society organisation in Fiji with significant experience in community education and advocacy on Fiji's Constitution, democracy, human rights and multiculturalism. Fiji has recently had its first elections following years of military rule and Sereima manages CCF's community education program. This includes curriculum and training resource development, and innovative learning methodology. The programs are designed to empower community education leaders, and promote good governance through building understanding of human rights and active and responsible citizenship and the ability to apply these principles to Fiji's development challenges.

Analaisa Maramanivalu Nacoladaubota (Fiji), Citizens' Constitutional Forum (CCF)

Analaisa Maramanivalu Nacoladaubota is an Education Support Officer with *Citizens' Constitutional Forum* (CCF) where she is involved in planning, coordinating and conducting community civic education workshops. She assists with curriculum development for training activities and developing training resources. Analaisa also plays a role in developing new networks and maintaining the established networks which are key to the success of CCF's education programs.

Geeta Gautam Bhattarai (Nepal), Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)

Geeta Gautam heads the Human Rights Education Department of *Informal Sector Service Centre* (INSEC), a key NGO in Nepal advocating the promotion and protection of human rights. INSEC was established to promote and protect the rights of the many poor Nepalese employed in the informal sector. INSEC is represented across each district of Nepal and has played a vital role in promoting and defending human rights through all the phases of Nepal's recent past – from absolute monarchy, through to constitutional monarchy and democracy, through civil war and a royal coup to the current consideration on Nepal's constitution. INSEC is a key member of the regional human rights network, Forum Asia. As head of the training department Geeta is responsible for designing, planning and implementing INSEC's extensive human rights education program, the current focus of which is holding authorities responsible for meeting the basic rights of all groups in Nepal. INSEC's human rights program has a broad reach and Geeta works with grass roots communities, community leaders and with policy makers at a national level. Her role involves advocacy and lobbying for health, education and food rights, representing INSEC at national and international events and maintaining public relations and networks. Geeta and INSEC have been involved in relief efforts across Nepal following the devastating earthquake there.

Shyam Bahadur Chand (Nepal), Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)

Shyam Bahadur Chand is responsible for the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation functions at INSEC. INSEC receives funds from a number of international donors and implements projects across the whole of Nepal on different issues at this time of transition for Nepal – as it seeks to deal with a legacy of human rights violations from the civil war and the poverty and discrimination that fuelled that conflict. A Constituent Assembly is in the process of drafting a new Constitution for Nepal – and one of the key issues is the recognition of Indigenous peoples' rights. Shyam's work includes developing concept notes and grant proposals and monitoring and evaluating projects and preparing reports for funding partners and INSEC's Annual General Meeting.

Indigenous Peoples' Rights

Binodan Tripura (Bangladesh), Zabarang Kalyan Samity

Binodan is programme coordinator at *Zabarang Kalyan Samity*, an organisation working with Indigenous peoples of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). The CHT is an area of Bangladesh severely affected by long running conflict and tensions over land and resources between its Indigenous peoples and settlers from the majority Bangla community. A Peace Accord to bring an end to armed conflict was signed in 1997, but has not been fully implemented. Reports of violence against women, violent evictions and community conflict continue against a background of poverty. Binodan's organisation is one of many in the CHT that is working to peacefully address these issues. He is actively involved in the work with the community leaders, organising training, facilitating opportunities for community leaders to dialogue with government officials and liaising with community organisations to address human rights concerns.

Fadang Tang Randal (Bangladesh), Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS)

Fadang is a staff member with *Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti* (PCJSS) an organisation which has been working for the rights of Indigenous peoples of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) since

1972. As a staff member at the Central Office of PCJSS, Fadang's key responsibilities are to raise political and economic awareness among the Indigenous peoples in the CHT, establish and maintain networks with different Indigenous Peoples' Organisations and to advocate for the rights of Indigenous peoples in the CHT. Fadang also conducts research on human rights situations and economic development and is a general member of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum.

The Rights of Migrant Workers

Dev Chandra Rai (Nepal), Asian Human Rights and Culture Development Forum (AHRCDF)

Dev Chandra Rai is a Program Officer at the *Asian Human Rights and Culture Development Forum* (AHRCDF) where his work is focused on responding to the significant challenges related to the abuse of migrant workers' rights that take place in the countries of origin, transit and destination. These include inadequate planning, lack of policy, poor access to information or justice, nationality and gender discrimination and the absence of re-integration planning. Dev Chandra is involved in planning, implementing and monitoring projects, and conducting outreach activities aimed at identifying safe and productive foreign employment and alternatives. He also oversees coordination with concerned stakeholders including government agencies, civil society organisations, international NGOs and local community leaders, and supports alliance building amongst migrant workers and their families.

Samrachana Shakya (Nepal), Asian Human Rights and Culture Development Forum (AHRCDF) (Migrants' Centre)

Samrachana Shakya is the administration officer at AHRCDF (Migrants' Centre) and plays a key role in the organisation efforts to ensure that Nepal's migrant workers are safe and protected. Ensuring migrant workers have access to the information that enables them to make informed choices about labour migration and to access support and information is one the key challenges. Gathering documentation and evidence to enable interventions on individual cases and advocacy for change is another. Samrachana is responsible for case documentation and follow-up and oversees Migrant Centre's administration. She also participates in program work including monitoring and evaluating program activities and writing reports and proposals. AHRCDF is involved in case work – seeking compensation for abuses, the safe return of workers stranded in Malaysia and the Middle-East and the return of the bodies of the growing number of migrant workers killed while working overseas.