

# Human Rights & ASEAN

## 25 Years After the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights



*Pictured (L-R) : Patrick Earle, Yuyun Wahyuningrum & Indri Saptaningrum*

On Friday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, DTP hosted a Roundtable Discussion with Special Guest & DTP Alumna, Ms Yuyun Wahyuningrum from Indonesia on human rights in ASEAN 25 years after the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights.

Yuyun gave a compelling analysis of the slow development of human rights within the ASEAN system. There is a continuing legacy from the battles over cultural relativism and Asian Values in the early 1990s – even though the Vienna Declaration reaffirmed the universality of human rights, the human right to development and the need for international cooperation to realise human rights. ASEAN adopted its own human rights declaration and established the its Independent Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the ASEAN commitment to consensus and non-interference has been strained by recent human rights crises such as killings in Rakhine, Myanmar. Civil society has fought for its place at the table and to be listened to with partial success. Space for human rights and civil society is increasingly restricted in many ASEAN countries however.