

# 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Human Rights & Peoples Diplomacy Training



## Program Report

*"DTP not only trains us, it shapes us through its holistic approach. It is the best training program that I've ever attended and I hope that someday, I'll be able to do something for my people by applying this knowledge."*

DILI, TIMOR-LESTE

02 October - 13  
October 2017



The Diplomacy Training Program's 27th Annual Program receives support from the Australian Government through the [Australian NGO Cooperation Program \(ANCP\)](#).

## Executive Summary

The Diplomacy Training Program's (DTP) **27th Annual Human Rights and Peoples' Diplomacy Training for Human Rights Defenders in the Asia-Pacific** was held in Timor-Leste from October 2 to October 13, 2017 in partnership with the Judicial System Monitoring Programme (JSMP). Twenty-three human rights defenders from Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste participated in this two-week program of intensive learning, sharing and skills building.

DTP has long connections with Timor-Leste, through its Founder and Patron, HE José Ramos Horta and its many alumni in government and civil society. Holding the program in Timor-Leste is a rich experience for participants, trainers and organisers. There is much to learn from the concerted and strategic advocacy of the country's human rights defenders and the experience of establishing democratic institutions in a newly independent nation. HE José Ramos Horta welcomed the participants to the program during the Opening Dinner and provided a master class during the program. The participants were provided with opportunities to learn about the history of the Timorese struggle and to exchange experience and expertise and build links.

The program participants from the region work on a diverse range of human rights concerns including child labour and trafficking, land grabbing, LGBTIQ discrimination, rape and torture, rights of persons with disability, Indigenous people's rights, peace-building and struggles for self-determination. The program provided opportunities, formal and informal, for the sharing of experiences, knowledge, resources and advocacy strategies, and for establishing networks for continued solidarity amongst the participants.

The program began with a focus on international human rights standards, mechanisms and principles and the Sustainable Development Goals. Some of the specific issues the participants worked on were explored in sessions on the rights of women, Human Rights and Business and Indigenous peoples' rights, the impact of land conflicts and climate change. There was a strong focus on practical advocacy strategies and participants had the opportunity to apply program content in practical exercises including developing a short video, group role-plays on a land conflict scenario and the Universal Periodic Review, and lobby meetings with diplomats from the Australian Embassy.

The program evaluations were very positive. All participants felt that program objectives had been met and they shared enthusiasm for implementing the training in their work and with their organisations. As a result of the program the knowledge, skills and support networks of 23 participants, and their organisations, have been strengthened.

DTP's trainers are experienced and highly respected local, regional and international human rights leaders, academics, diplomats, media and UN professionals who understand and support DTP's philosophy of participatory training. Trainers, presenters and facilitators in the program included: HE José Ramos- Horta; Professor Virginia Dandan; Anjet Lanting; Joshua Cooper; Patrick Earle; Arul Prakkash; Todd Wassell; Bernardo Almeida; staff from the Australian Embassy; Cristina Fernandez; Horacio de Almeida; Manuela Leong Pereira; Luis de Oliveira Sampaio and Casimiro dos Santos. DTP records its thanks and acknowledges them all.

DTP also thanks the Australian Government, through the Australian Non-Government Cooperation Program (ANCP) and the Ford Foundation for the funding that made this course possible.

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DTP also acknowledges with appreciation the program partner JSMP. JSMP Director, Luis de Oliveira Sampaio, Deputy Director, Casimiro dos Santos, and staff including Jose Pereira and Jose Monez advised and assisted with all aspects of the program and ensured that participants and trainers had opportunity to experience the warmth of the Timorese people and the remarkable history and beauty of the country.

## Program Purpose

The program was developed to build participants' knowledge of:

- International human rights standards, including economic, social and cultural rights and the rights of women and their relationship to development and the SDGs;
- International human rights monitoring and accountability mechanisms;
- The UN Framework on Business and Human Rights.

And skills in:

- Strategic advocacy and engagement skills
- Using the media, including social media, in human rights work
- Human rights monitoring and documentation

## Program Methodology and Materials

*"In this training we didn't only read and listen but we practiced, so we really understand about the process."*

DTP's training approach recognises of the power of individuals working together to effect social change. Program methodology reflects a deep respect for the knowledge, experiences and perspectives that participants bring to the program. The program balances its knowledge- and skills-based curriculum with a teaching methodology that fosters interaction and active participation among course participants.



This approach is complemented through integrating other program activities, including the welcome and closing dinners, film nights, solidarity and cultural nights. These activities are all designed to promote collaboration and networking among participants.

## Program Overview

**Introduction to Human Rights; Economic Social and Cultural Rights and Human Rights in Development**

**- Professor Virginia Dandan**

Virginia discussed the key components of human rights, they are universal and inherent, inalienable, indivisible, interrelated and interdependent, and the principle of universality. She highlighted the significance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the standards, norms and principles enshrined in the UDHR.

In a practical exercise the participants discussed some of the concerns and issues facing their communities through a human rights lens – identifying the UDHR principles/standards which are not being respected.

### **Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - Professor Virginia Dandan**

Virginia followed her introduction to human rights with an overview of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). She provided an overview of the content of the 5 sections of ICESCR and the State obligations which flow from ratification of the covenant. Participants learnt that States (government) must refrain from acts of violation, they must meet the minimum levels for each of the rights (e.g. basic health care), they are committed to non-discrimination and equality and they are obligated to progressive realisation i.e. to allocate the maximum available resources to progress the full realisation of human rights.

### **Human Rights in Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. -Professor Virginia Dandan**

Having established the principles and core components of economic, social and cultural rights, Virginia led the participants through a session on human rights in development and the new global development agenda- Agenda 2030 the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

A practical exercise on the human rights based approach to achieving development goals enabled the participants to apply the program content to their contexts and identify the responsibilities of government and other stakeholders.

### **An Introduction to Human Rights in the UN System – The Human Rights Council, The UN Special Procedures and the UPR - Anjet lanting**

Anjet's session provided the participants with an overview of the United Nations human rights standards and mechanisms and the ways they can support the work of the participants and their organisations. Anjet distinguished between the legally binding UN standards, the nine core treaties, and the declarations, codes, guidelines etc that, while not legally binding, have strong moral force and so are useful for advocacy. She presented on the UN 'people' – in the charter based and treaty based UN bodies -who are responsible for monitoring States on their implementation of human rights standards.

### **National Human Rights Institutions- Horatio de Almeida**

Horatio linked the international human rights standard setting and accountability mechanisms to the mandate and work of national human rights institutions. NHRIs monitor the progress of States in meeting their human rights obligations and human rights defenders may find value in building relationships with their national human rights institutions.

### **Human Rights Advocacy and the UN System – Joshua Cooper**

Joshua's sessions focused on the opportunities afforded by UN standards and mechanisms to progress advocacy on human rights issues. He outlined the advocacy that has both influenced the work of the United Nations, particularly in relation to Indigenous Peoples who have made significant inroads into the UN, and is made possible through current mechanisms such as EMRIP (Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous peoples) and UPR (Universal periodic Review).

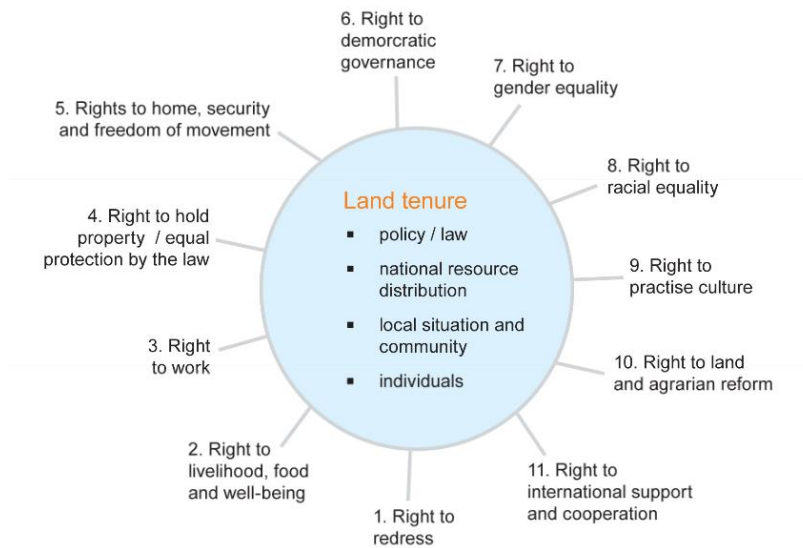
The participants took part in a UPR role-play which involved them in preparing for and conducting a simulated UPR meeting. This provided an opportunity to identify the opportunities for lobbying and advocacy prior to, during and following the review process.

Joshua summarised the key steps that advocates should incorporate into their strategies:

*Preparation; Integration; Consideration; Adoption; Implementation*

## Land and Resource Conflicts - Todd Wassell & Bernardo Almeida

In this session the centrality of land in the realisation of human rights was acknowledged.



While there is currently no human rights convention on land within international law there is relevant international law relating to HLP -Housing (including the UDHR Art 25; General Comment 4: Adequate Housing and General Comment 7: Forced Eviction) Land (ILO 169 and UNDRIP) and Property (Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests).

Todd and Bernardo led the group in a role play which involved community, NGO, company and government representatives negotiating a land use agreement for "Asiania". The groups were not able to reach a solution and the negotiations broke down. Todd and Bernardo identified some of the options that could have been utilised to build the trust that is a prerequisite to agreement.

### Human Rights and Business – Matthew Coghlan

Group discussions on corporate human rights violations occurring in their countries established some particular case studies for the sessions on Human Rights and Business.

The "Protect, Respect and Remedy" framework of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights was described and the groups applied the pillars to their case studies to discuss State and company responsibilities.

The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the complaints/grievance procedures using the OECD National Contact Points and the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil complaints system were outlined.

In a role play the participants were given the opportunity to prepare for a simulated OECD mediation involving representatives from the affected community, the company involved in...and the OECD national contact.

### Human Rights and Climate Change -Joshua Cooper

## **Case Study :Rana Plaza**

Rana plaza Tragedy (2013)  
5 factories in the building – 6,500 working. 1032 people died and more than 3,500 injured.

Corporate Responsibility to **Respect, Protect and Remedy**  
audit the factory check and implement national law and policy  
adopt corporate code of conduct and an effective monitoring system  
Implement UN Guiding Principles on Human Rights  
Pay just compensation for accidents

Recognising that many economic, social and cultural rights are linked to the environment and its protection Joshua presented on the Paris Agreement on Climate Change which aims to promote unified action on limiting temperature rise and strategies to deal with the impact of climate change. Joshua shared the inspirational story of of Hokulea -the voyage in a replicated ancient Polynesian canoe to collect and share global knowledge on protecting the environment.

### **CEDAW, Gender and the Rights of Women-Cristina Fernandez**

Cristina commenced her sessions with a practical activity to demonstrate the impact of power imbalances as a powerful introduction to the importance of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). She outlined the key components of CEDAW and the three overarching principles of - substantive equality, non-discrimination and state obligations. Participants applied these principles to case studies.

### **Video Advocacy -Arul Prakkash**

*It starts with advocacy not with the video. Video supports the advocacy, existing campaigns and strategy.*Prakkash began his sessions with discussion on the value of video as an advocacy tool. The global phenomena of people filming events and sharing videos via social media continues to grow and will likely exceed the use of text in face book in the next few years.



Prakkash's sessions aimed at building the participants' understanding both of how video can be a useful tool for advocacy and their technical skills in making effective films. He provided some essential information regarding the security and the preservation of video material and he took the participants through the steps involved in digital story telling -the selection of the story teller, gaining permissions, the 1-2 key film messages, developing a compelling story, uploading onto face book and preserving original files.

The participants were sent out to the surrounding Maubara communities to seek out and video local stories. Given the short time frame the groups were all very successful in capturing stories and implementing the lessons and tips that Prakkash had shared. In feedback Prakkash highlighted technical points and emphasised the importance of constructing questions and of staying mindful of the action/s that the film is hoping to promote.

### **Building Advocacy and Campaign Strategies – Patrick Earle**

Patrick Earle facilitated a session on advocacy and campaigning which drew on the knowledge, experiences and ideas of the group on how best to effect change. This led onto a planning and preparatory session for a lobbying exercise as part of a wider campaign strategy developed to respond to human rights concerns from within the group.

Six members of the Australian Government Mission in Timor-Leste came to the John Paul II Centre to engage in a real-life lobbying exercise with the group. This experience was built on during an evening reception hosted by the Australian Ambassador to Timor- Leste, Ambassador Peter Doyle. A number of diplomats and international and national sector leaders were present and the participants had opportunities to discuss their work and to raise possibilities for collaboration.

### **Documentation – Manuela Leong Pereira**



Manuela presented on the Participatory Action Research methodology that was implemented by ACbit (Asosiasaun Chega! ba Ita) to collect stories from Timorese victims from the Indonesian occupation. She explained how the process achieved the dual objectives of gathering information and of healing and empowering the victims.

### **Timor-Leste: Lessons and Reflections on the Struggle for Independence**

**JSMP & Centro Nacional Chega!** An afternoon was spent at Chega! (Stop. Enough) a powerful exhibition, set in the buildings and cells of the former prison where resistance figures were interned by the Indonesian military, of human rights abuses from 1974 -1999. Following a tour of the exhibition, a panel presentation provided the participants with an overview of some of the current human rights concerns in Timor-Leste and the work of three prominent civil society organisations. Casimiro dos Santos, the deputy director of JSMP, provided an overview of the challenges, historical and current, to achieving compensation and justice for the victims of human rights abuses during the invasion and occupation of Timor-Leste by the Indonesian military. Marila Alves discussed the continuing high level of gender based violence in Timor-Leste and the impact of attitudes towards women and women's leadership in maintaining the violence. La'o Hamutuk staff presented on the connection between the corrupt system of land titling, introduced by the Portuguese and continued by the Indonesians, forced displacements and the levels of poverty in Timor-Leste.

In **Liquicia**, members of the Liquica Victims Association spent the morning with the participants chronicling the events leading up to, and during the April 6, 1999 massacre of people who had come to the church to seek refuge from the intimidation and violence of militia and Indonesian army personnel. The victims and their families continue to advocate for justice.

A visit and tour of the **Resistance Museum in Dili** documented the history of Timor-Leste's 24-year struggle against the Indonesian occupation.

### **Master Class with HE José Ramos Horta**

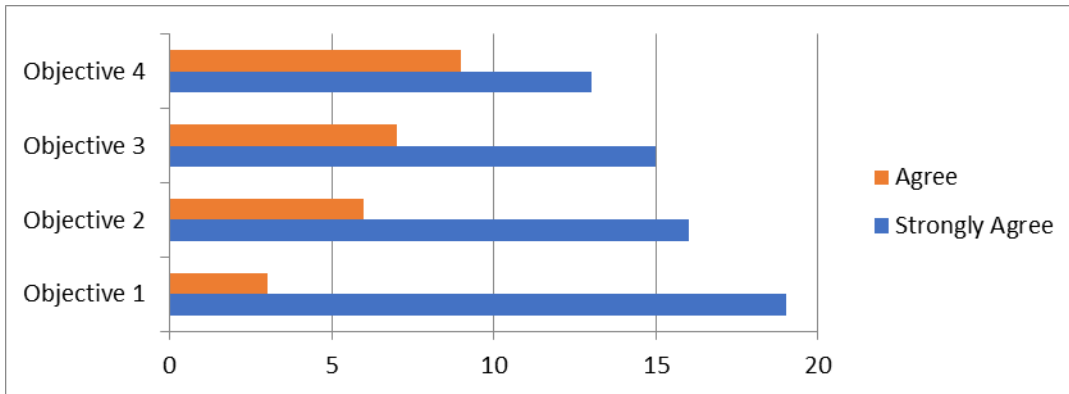
José provided a global snapshot of the challenges facing what is an increasingly diverse world- the South China Sea and Syria, the rise of North Korea as a nuclear power, the secession attempts in many countries, climate change impacts, instances of ethnic and religious intolerance and so on. Jose reminded the participants of the role that we all have in providing solutions – that it is not enough to blame governments and the United Nations. He pointed out that with the access to social media even the most powerful regimes today must listen to civil society. Jose urged for the need to engage peacefully and pointed to the example of Timor-Leste of peaceful co-existence. Jose encouraged the participants to use the information they had gained in the program and to be mindful of the role that the UN system can play in supporting advocacy for change.



## **Evaluation and Feedback**

In recognition of the key role of civil society advocates in ensuring that human rights are respected, protected and fulfilled the purpose of DTP's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Human Rights and Peoples' Diplomacy Program was to build the knowledge, skills and support networks of 25-30 carefully selected civil society advocates and human rights defenders from the region. The end-of-program questionnaire was used to evaluate the extent to which the program objectives had been met. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Full copies of the completed participant evaluations are available on request.



All the participants agreed or strongly agreed that they had gained knowledge of international human rights law and principles (objective 1) and that they had built knowledge and skills in engaging the UN human rights accountability mechanisms and UN system (objective 2). They also agreed they had gained practical skills in strategic advocacy, video advocacy, lobbying and ‘people’s’ diplomacy (objective 3), with the video advocacy and lobbying training being given special mention as particularly useful for advocacy.

*“I’ve built a great network with people from different countries and some diplomats. I’ll also love to share what I’ve learnt with my colleagues.”*

A core objective of DTP’s programs is to enable the sharing of experience and knowledge between human rights defenders (objective 4). In this program the opportunity to meet and share with people working on similar issues in other places was evaluated highly and participants felt that they had stronger networks in the region to enable the sharing of information and support.

Participants overwhelmingly responded that they could see opportunities to integrate the training into their work and advocacy. Participants mentioned ideas regarding how they would share what they had learnt from the training with others in their community and organisation.

Participants plans for follow-up included:

- to arrange seminars and workshops for their colleagues, communities and local schools to share their new knowledge and skills;
- to share the knowledge with their local youth community, to assist them in their advocacy for Indigenous people’s land rights.
- to meet with local parliament and government to share the information gained.

The participants agreed that the training met their expectations and several participants noted that the training surpassed their expectations. Participants particularly valued the combination of theoretical and practical sessions which ensured that they came away from the training with a sound understanding of how they could apply the training to their work.

Those participants who suggested improvements proposed the following:

- For more time to be provided for the video advocacy training;
- For DTP lectures and training to be recorded for future reference for participants;
- For organisers to prepare for disabled participants through providing, for instance, vision and hearing aids;
- For more resource persons and experts from UN and ILO to be involved.



When asked what issues DTP should focus on in future programs for human rights advocates, participants responded with a wide range of suggestions, including business and human rights, the rights of persons with disabilities, climate change and religious minorities.

In their closing comments, many participants praised the program, trainers and DTP, with one noting that they enjoyed learning from Timor-Leste people and recommending the country for future training sessions.

*“Thank you to all the trainers. It was a life changing program for me. My mind was changed. Now, I am going to do what I need to do.”*

## Appendix 1: Participant List

Name	Organisation	Country
Ms Tiarni Burns	PriceWaterhouse Coopers Indigenous Consulting (PIC)	Australia
Mr Shohel Chandra Hajang	Bangladesh Jatiyo Hajong Sangathon	Bangladesh
Mr Nahidul Nayan	Awaj Foundation	Bangladesh
Mr Khemara Em	Sahmakum Teang Tnaut (STT)	Cambodia
Ms Kim Chishi	Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights (NPMFHR)	India
Ms Retina Rongpipi	Karbi Human Rights Watch KHRW	India
Mr Mirza Beg	Forum for Peace and Development	India
Ms Ruth Ohoiwutun	BPK J IMBIRI - YADUPA	Indonesia
Ms Nukila Evanty	ISDS and AMAN (the Indigenous Peoples' Alliance of the Archipelago)	Indonesia
Mr Yurino Juwanda	Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy (ELSAM)	Indonesia
Mr Jellin Payai	Yapen Tribes Council	Indonesia
Mr Esra Mandosir	Tiki Papua (Papuan Women's Human Rights Network)	Indonesia
Ms Ya Min Phway	Taungyoe Literature and Culture Association	Myanmar
Mr Peter Biak Cin Thang	Mercy Corps Organisation	Myanmar
Mr Aung Koko	Equality Myanmar	Myanmar
Mr Myint Thein Aung	Burma Lawyers Council	Myanmar
Mr Krishna Neupane	People Forum for Human Rights (People Forum)	Nepal
Ms Lucille Abeykoon	Human Rights Office	Sri Lanka
Maria Assuncao Barreto Gama	HATUTAN	Timor-Leste
Mr Gaspar Afonso	AHDMTL	Timor-Leste
Mr Celestino Gusmão Pereira	La'o Hamutuk	Timor-Leste

Mr Martinho da Costa Ribeiro	Young People United for Future Development	Timor-Leste
Mr Cesario Da Silva	Timor-Leste Disability Associations	Timor-Leste
Ms Dalia Das Regras	Fokupers	Timor-Leste

	October 2	October 3	October 4	October 5	October 6	October 7
<b>8.30 to 9.00</b>		Recap & Participant Presentations	Recap & Participant Presentations	Recap & Participant Presentations	Recap & Participant Presentations	
<b>Morning 1 9.00 to 10.30</b>	Opening Ceremony – DTP 27 <sup>th</sup> Annual Program  Welcome and Introductions	An Introduction to Economic Social and Cultural Rights & State Duties to Respect, Protect and Fulfil	Human Rights in Development and The SDGs	An introduction to human rights in the UN System – The Human Rights Council, The UN’s Special Procedures and the UPR	Climate Change & Human Rights	Free Morning
<b>Facilitated by</b>	DTP/JSMP	Virginia Dandan	Virginia Dandan	Anjet Lanting - OHCHR	Joshua Cooper	
<b>Break</b>						
<b>Morning 2 10:45-12:30</b>	Introductory Session: Expectations, Course Outline and materials. Logistics Local Orientation	Understanding Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – The General Comments	Human Rights in Development – Practical Exercise	Human Rights Advocacy and the UN System	Human Rights Advocacy and the UN System - The UPR	
<b>Facilitated by</b>	DTP/JSMP	Virginia Dandan	Virginia Dandan	Joshua Cooper	Joshua Cooper	
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>12:30-1.40</b>					Visit Liquica
<b>1.40 – 2.00</b>		Participant Presentations/Energiser	Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation - Guided Tour & Reflections on the Struggle for Independence -Building International Solidarity	Participant Presentations	Participant Presentations	Meeting with Liquica Victims Association
<b>Afternoon 1 2:00-3:30</b>	Introduction to Human Rights - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Bill of Rights	Practical Exercise		Human Rights Advocacy and the UN System	UPR Role Play Exercise	Lunch
<b>Trainer(s)</b>	Virginia Dandan	Virginia Dandan	JSMP	Joshua Cooper	Joshua Cooper	Visit Beach / Swimming (optional)
<b>Break 3:30-3:45</b>						
<b>Afternoon 2 3:45-5:30</b>	The human rights issues where we live? – Practical Exercise	Practical Exercise	Human rights and Development Issues in Timor Leste today – Poverty, Gender, Land and Justice and more	Human Rights Advocacy and the UN System	Travel to Maubara	
<b>Trainer(s)</b>	Virginia Dandan	Virginia Dandan	JSMP	Joshua Cooper		
	Diary Exercise	Diary Exercise			Participants Presentations	
<b>Evening</b>	Welcome Dinner- with Jose Ramos Horta	Dinner Out	Cultural Night	Free Evening	Dinner in Maubara	

WEEK 2	Oct 8	October 9	October 10	October 11	October 12	October 13
8:30 – 9:00am	Video Advocacy: Telling Stories – Developing Communication Strategies	Participant Presentations Recap	Participant Presentations Recap	Participant Presentations Recap	Participant Presentations Recap	Participant Presentations Recap
Morning 1 9:00-10:30		Video Advocacy Cont.	Recap Quiz -	Building Advocacy & Campaign Strategies - Business & Human Rights Protect, Respect, Remedy Framework	Human Rights and Business – OECD Guidelines	Advocacy Master class with Jose Ramos-Horta
Trainer(s)			DTP	Matthew Coghlan	Matthew Coghlan	DTP
Break 10:30-10:45						
Morning 2 10:45-12:30		Building Advocacy & Campaign Strategies	Human Rights and Business – Protect, Respect, Remedy Framework – Case Studies	CEDAW, Gender and Rights of Women	National Human Rights Institutions & Documenting Violations	
Trainer(s)		Patrick Earle	Matthew Coghlan	Cristina Fernandez - UN Women	Horatio de Almeida	
Lunch 12:30-1.40						
1.40 – 2.00		Return to Dili	Participant Presentations	Participant Presentations	Participant Presentations	
Afternoon 1 2:00-3:30		Land and Resource Conflicts – Human Rights Analysis and Solutions Advocacy Strategies and Approaches	Building Advocacy & Human Rights Diplomacy Skills – Lobbying Exercise	Human Rights and Business – Protect, Respect, Remedy Framework – Case Studies	Human Rights and Business – Mediation Exercise Using OECD Guidelines	Documentation
Trainer(s)		Todd Wassell & Bernardo Almeida (The Asia Foundation)	DFAT -	Matthew Coghlan	Matthew Coghlan	Manuela Leong Pereira
Break 3:30-3:45	TAF					
Afternoon 2 3:45-5:30	Land and Resource Conflicts – Human Rights Analysis and Solutions Advocacy Strategies and Approaches	Practical Exercise Continued & Lobbying Tips	Human Rights and Business – Protect, Respect, Remedy Framework – Case Studies Preparation for Embassy Function	Visit to Resistance Museum	Feedback and Evaluations  Closing Ceremony	
Trainer(s)	Todd Wassell & Bernardo Almeida (The Asia Foundation)	DFAT - & DTP	Matthew Coghlan		DTP	
		Diary Exercise		Diary Exercise		
Evening			Reception with Australian Ambassador:6pm -7.30pm	Screening of “The Opposition” at HAK	Solidarity party at JSMP	

### **Appendix 3: Trainer Biographies**

#### **Dr. José Ramos-Horta, former Foreign Minister, Prime Minister and President of Timor-Leste**

DTP was founded in 1989 by Nobel Peace Laureate Professor José Ramos-Horta. Ramos-Horta began his career in journalism in 1969 in Timor-Leste. He was a co-founder of FRETILIN, the Revolutionary Front for the Independence of Timor-Leste. In 1975, José Ramos-Horta left Timor-Leste for New York, and he addressed the UN Security Council, which adopted a unanimous resolution demanding that Indonesia withdraw its forces from Timor-Leste. From 1975 to 1999, Ramos-Horta was the permanent representative for FRETILIN at the United Nations, the youngest diplomat in the history of the UN. He travelled extensively lobbying governments and creating networks of supporters for the cause of his people. In December 1999 Ramos-Horta returned to his homeland for the first time in almost 25 years. He was appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in 2002. On 10 July, 2006, he was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste and in 2007 he was elected President of the country.

#### **Virginia Dandan, UN Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity**

Virginia served as an independent expert on the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) from 1990 to 2010. In this role she was responsible for monitoring state performance on economic, social and cultural rights, and engaging in dialogues with state officials, NGOs and independent experts. She passionately believes that human rights education is a powerful tool for social transformation and has conducted extensive research on issues concerning the right to take part in cultural life. She has also served as the National Program Manager for the Human Rights Community Development Project, a bilateral program between the Philippine and New Zealand Human Rights Commissions, which works with grassroots Indigenous communities in the Philippines.

Virginia is also an accomplished artist having delivered solo exhibits of her paintings and sculptures in the Philippines and abroad. She was the former Dean of the College of Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines.

#### **Anjet Lanting UN human rights adviser to the UN in Timor-Leste**

Anjet Lanting is the UN human rights adviser to the UN in Timor-Leste, seconded by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). She was part of the human rights component of different peace mission in Timor-Leste from 2003-2012, involved in monitoring, transitional justice and capacity development of the national human rights institution, government and civil society. She facilitated sessions for the Diplomacy Training Programme several years ago on human rights monitoring. Anjet has a law degree from The Netherlands and a master's degree in international relations in the UK. She is a member of Amnesty International, and has worked with Human Rights Watch in Cambodia, as well as the OHCHR in Cambodia on monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation.

#### **Joshua Cooper, Academic in Human Rights Law, USA**

Joshua Cooper is an academic in political science and journalism, non-violent social movements, ecological justice in Oceania and Indigenous peoples' rights. He lectures at a number of universities and educational institutions throughout the world including the University of Hawaii and the International Training Center for Teaching Peace and Human Rights in Geneva. He has had a number of leadership and supervisory roles, including as an Asia Pacific Leadership Program Fellow at the East-West Center, Area Coordinator for Amnesty International USA, Senior Advisor to the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization in The Hague, Board member of Peace Action, Board member of the Human Rights Task Force for the United National Association of the USA, and former Chair of the AIUSA Indigenous Peoples Task Force. Joshua has

also been selected to work with Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and U.S. Vice-President Al Gore on The Climate Project.

He has most recently been appointed the US Human Rights Network Universal Periodic Review Geneva Coordinator for the historic first review of the human rights record of the United States.

**Arul Prakkash, Program Manager at WITNESS Asia and the Pacific**

Before joining WITNESS, Arul Prakkash served as the executive director and senior program staff member of Pusat Komnas, a human rights and popular communications NGO in Malaysia. Prakkash has a background in grassroots community organizing with urban poor youth, indigenous communities and plantation workers with a focus on the use of popular media to empower and advocate for human rights. Prakkash played a vital role in setting up community-based media centers and training NGOs and communities on using video for change.

Prakkash's expertise also extends to other popular communications tools for information dissemination, community education and using internet and social media technology for human rights in Southeast Asia. He founded "code4change" - an initiative to empower and support non-profit organizations and communities with digital information and communication technologies to effect social and environmental change. He was also a member of the first steering committee of BERSIH 2.0, a civil society movement advocating for free and fair elections in Malaysia and later helped set up and co-coordinate a nationwide election observation body (using a web based platform) that trained hundreds of independent observers during the 2013 Malaysian general elections.

**Patrick Earle, Executive Director at Diplomacy Training Program**

Patrick Earle has over 20 years' experience working in the human rights movement, both in Australia and internationally. Since 2003 Patrick has been the Executive Director of the Diplomacy Training Program, and in this role has developed and facilitated human rights courses in the region – including new thematic courses focusing on human rights business, human rights and migrant workers and the rights of Indigenous peoples.

From 1996 until 2003, Patrick worked with the Human Rights Council of Australia with a focus on its groundbreaking project on the relationship between human rights and development and is co-author of "The Rights Way to Development – Policy and Practice". Prior to that he worked for Amnesty International in London and produced their first International Campaigning Manual. Patrick is on the Steering Committee of UNSW's Initiative on Health and Human Rights, a member of the Human Rights Council of Australia, and Visiting Fellow at the Faculty of Law at UNSW.

**Matthew Coghlan**

Matthew Coghlan is an Australian lawyer who has worked on economic justice and human rights in South East Asia for 10 years. He was a Trade Policy Officer for Oxfam America in Phnom Penh for 3 years, and supported civil society advocacy on access to medicines in particular. Matthew has assisted donors on labour migration and INGOs on business and human rights issues. He has a strong interest in the role that access to justice can play in protecting human rights. He lives in Singapore with his wife and two children, and enjoys trying out new cuisines and learning about new cultures

