



24th Annual Human Rights and People's Diplomacy Training for Human Rights Defenders from the Asia Pacific Region

'I have always worked for human rights but always was stressed that I'm not that knowledgeable and I am missing links how to help people. Now I know my directions.'

24th Annual Program Participant

Program Report

Nepal
November 3-19, 2014

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Executive Summary

The Diplomacy Training Program's (DTP) **24th Annual Human Rights and Peoples' Diplomacy Training for Human Rights Defenders in the Asia-Pacific** was held in Nepal in November 2014. Thirty one participants, seventeen male and fourteen female, representing fourteen countries (Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, South Korea, Thailand, Timor Leste and the United Arab Emirates) participated in the seventeen day residential program. The Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC) partnered with DTP in delivering the program.

Since DTP was founded in 1989 by Nobel Peace Laureate José Ramos Horta and Emeritus Professor Garth Nettheim the 'Human Rights and Peoples Diplomacy Training Program' has been held annually to provide human rights defenders in the region with training on the international human rights framework, the standards and mechanisms developed to ensure respect for common values of human dignity. This program, the longest running of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region, offers a unique contribution to building the knowledge, skills and networks of individuals on the human rights frontline. A particular highlight of this year's program was the special session delivered by the DTP founder and patron José Ramos Horta.

DTP's trainers led the intensive, interactive training sessions. They included UN Independent Expert, Professor Virginia Dandan and Dr John Pace (DTP Board Member), experienced local resource persons including Dr Gopal Krishna Siwakoti and Ms Ranjana Thapa, human rights academic Joshua Cooper and IT and media specialists Philip Chung (DTP Board Member) and Binota Bhattarai. DTP alumnus, Sayeed Ahmad, from Frontline Defenders led sessions on the protection of human rights defenders and DTP Executive Director, Patrick Earle facilitated sessions to strengthen the advocacy and campaigning skills of the participants. Nir Lama shared the monitoring and investigation procedures used by INSEC.

The participants gained a comprehensive understanding of international human rights principles, standards and mechanisms, the relationship between economic, social and cultural rights and development and technical skills for effective human rights advocacy. Ambassador Glenn White and Deputy Head of Mission Stephen Rowe, at the Australian Embassy in Kathmandu, and Håkon Arald Gulbrandsen Head of Mission at the Norwegian Embassy hosted practical lobbying meetings providing opportunities for the participants to apply knowledge and skills built up during the program. Nepal's National Human Rights Commission, hosted visits to its offices in Kathmandu and Pokhara and led sessions on the role of national human rights institutions in promoting and protecting human rights at the national level.

The program also provided participants with an opportunity to share their own experiences and skills, and to network with one another, governmental officials, DTP alumni and trainers. Participants prepared presentations on the human rights concerns in their own countries and on the work they are involved in. These presentations were shared throughout the program and were very much valued by participants, trainers and organisers.

DTP's 24th Annual Program was organised in partnership with one of Nepal's leading human rights organisations, Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC). INSEC Executive Director Bijay Raj Gautam, DTP alumna and head of INSEC's Human Rights Education program, Geeta Gautam and ICT Unit Chief Shailesh Sharma devoted considerable time and energy to ensure that all aspects of the program ran smoothly and participants were well cared for. Dr John Pace facilitated the 17 day program with Lorelle

Savage and his contributions from his extensive UN experience, his humour and his encouragement of the participants was greatly appreciated.

The program was made possible through funding from the Australian government, Forum Asia and the Ford Foundation – as well as the *Friends of the Diplomacy Training Program*.

The participants' feedback suggests they had a very positive experience which equipped them with the theoretical and practical understanding of the UN system and how to use particular mechanisms and strategic rights based approaches to improve the protection and promotion of human rights through their work as human rights defenders. [See Appendix 1]

DTP acknowledges and thanks the trainers and funders who made this program possible and the participants for their commitment and contributions.

2. Location

INSEC invited DTP to hold the 24th Annual Program in Nepal. The first and third weeks of the program took place in Nepal's capital, Kathmandu and the middle week in the more tranquil setting of Pokhara.

The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) has been including human rights defenders from Nepal in its courses since 1990 and alumni of these programs include some of Nepal's most well-known human rights defenders – including INSEC's founder, Sushil Pyakurel. The human rights movement in Nepal is very experienced and has played a key role in promoting human rights over the last two and half decades of economic and political upheaval in Nepal. DTP was very pleased to hold the 24th Annual in Nepal and to collaborate again with INSEC and the program was enriched through the inclusion of local expertise and experience.

We hope that the program's contribution to capacity building will be beneficial to the local organisations and individuals who work on the many human rights challenges in Nepal such as domestic violence, recognition of Indigenous peoples rights, extrajudicial killings, trafficking of women, and the widespread poverty that has contributed to a rapid rise in labour migration.

3. Participants

There was an open call for participants, distributed through DTP's alumni networks and partner organisations and through NGO networks. Selections were made by a panel, including the DTP Executive Director and DTP Program Facilitator. INSEC, Forum Asia and other partners in the region were consulted. INSEC and Forum Asia also nominated participants from civil society organisations in the region advocating on themes and issues covered in the program. A complete list of participant's biographies is included in Appendix 1.

4. Program Methodology and Materials

The DTP's training approach is based on the understanding that individuals working together have the power to effect change in their societies. The program methodology reflects a deep respect for the

knowledge, experiences and perspectives that participants bring to the program. The program balances development of knowledge and skills in an integrated way, and a teaching methodology that fosters interaction and participation. DTP places emphasis on the practical application of knowledge on human rights and advocacy skills, and encourages trainers to use participatory training methods such as role-plays and exercises wherever possible and encourages participants to share their own experiences.

DTP seeks to include real life advocacy exercises in its programs to enhance learning and build skills and confidence. Other activities such as welcome and closing dinners, solidarity and cultural nights are also designed to encourage collaboration and networking among participants in a less formal setting. Building networks and solidarity, and bonds of long-lasting friendship are encouraged outside the formal structure of the program.

At the start of the program participants are divided into groups to help manage the program. This facilitates participant ownership of the program, provides opportunity for public speaking and program management skills and generates on-going monitoring of the training. Participants are also encouraged to keep a daily diary for their own purposes.

Each participant is required to make a presentation during the program. These presentations are an important component of the training enabling all participants, including DTP staff and trainers, to build knowledge and understanding of the human rights issues in different countries and communities and in the region more broadly. The presentations provide a further opportunity for building skills in presenting information and messages clearly and concisely.

Participants are given an extensive manual consisting of a number of short chapters on the topics covered, written by experts in the field. The manual is designed to be a practical tool during the training and participants are encouraged to read relevant chapters prior to particular sessions. It is also designed to be a reference tool for participants in their work after the training. An electronic copy of trainer and participant presentations is distributed to participants at the end of the program.

Highlights - Week 1

Opening Ceremony

The 24th Annual Program began with a formal opening ceremony facilitated by INSEC Executive Director, Bijay Gautam. Subodh Raj Pyakurel, the Chair of INSEC, welcomed the guests and expressed his appreciation that, at this transitional period in Nepal's history, the Diplomacy Training Program had chosen the country for their Annual Program. Mukunda Kattel, the Director of Forum Asia, acknowledged in his welcome remarks that the DTP training was unique in its reach to human rights defenders on the ground. John Pace, DTP Board member, emphasised the integral role that civil society can play in the protection of human rights and the constant and ongoing need for civil society to be equipped to play an effective role. The importance of the training was reinforced by Shamila Karki, Chair of NGO Federation, and NHRC Commissioner, Hon Mohna Ansari, who emphasised the connection between strong activism and making change for women. The Australian Ambassador, Glen White, expressed his pleasure, on behalf of the Australian Government, in supporting the program and he commented on the scope of the vision and commitment the DTP brings to the region. The Chief Guest, Hon. Neelam KC, noted the pivotal role of the Nepali human right community, both in the past and the present in '*encouraging and coaxing the state to respect human rights*' and acknowledged the contribution of the DTP program to the human rights campaign of Nepal.

Introductory Session

When John Pace spoke to the participants about the vital role of civil society in finding solutions for some of the dire needs of society, such as the denial of human rights for migrant workers, Indigenous peoples, peoples with disabilities, gender discrimination he was speaking from over 40 years' experience for human rights. He emphasised that the international system had developed a number of possibilities that can be used individually or collectively to promote human rights but that these developments only occurred because of the advocacy of civil society.

John outlined the program structure, Week 1 focusing on the international system, week 2 economic, social and cultural rights and week 3 the technology to empower, and that the objective of the program was to ensure that participants would return to their work and to their communities with a strengthened '*human rights toolbox*' to bring to their work.

Local Briefing

Dr Gopal Krishna Siwakoti provided an overview of the human rights situation in Nepal, aspects of which are unique to Nepal and related to the country's history and aspects of which resonate with civil society across the region.

There remain a number of areas of concern for advocates of human rights in Nepal, including the seeming absence of political will to address past violations, the fate of those subjected to forcible "disappearances", the presence of splinter armed groups and the politics of appeasement and deception where justice is compromised.

There are also important opportunities and signs of hope – the country is moving towards a new draft constitution which is inclusive and human rights friendly, the country's treaty ratification rate is high and the national human rights institutions are currently engaged in discourse around Nepal's national human rights action plan.

Dr Gopal introduced Dr Surya Deuja, Head of Promotion, Advocacy and Collective Rights Division of the Nepal National Human Rights Commission and DPT alumnus and invited him to provide more specific information on both the rights of migrant workers in Nepal and the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Poverty and lack of opportunity continue to drive people outside the country to find work - 23% of Nepal's GNP is made up of the remittances which now provide the backbone of the country's economy. Some of the main concerns include exploitative recruitment processes, particularly of untrained migrants, the growing rate of trafficking and impact on mental and physical health of migrant workers and their families.

One of the key failings of the first constitutional assembly was its inability to find a resolution for the many nationalities whose identities are omitted from the Constitution. The ratification of ILO 169 and other conventions signed by the government, along with national human rights institutions working with Indigenous peoples provide some opportunities to address the grievances of Nepal's Indigenous peoples.

Geeta Pathak, the third panel representative, noted that the key challenges for women's rights include violence against women and the fact that the body of general law still reflects a discriminatory mindset. She saw the progressive recognition of women and the mainstreaming of women's rights within the constitution as areas witnessing improvements for women in Nepal.

Introducing the International Bill of Human Rights

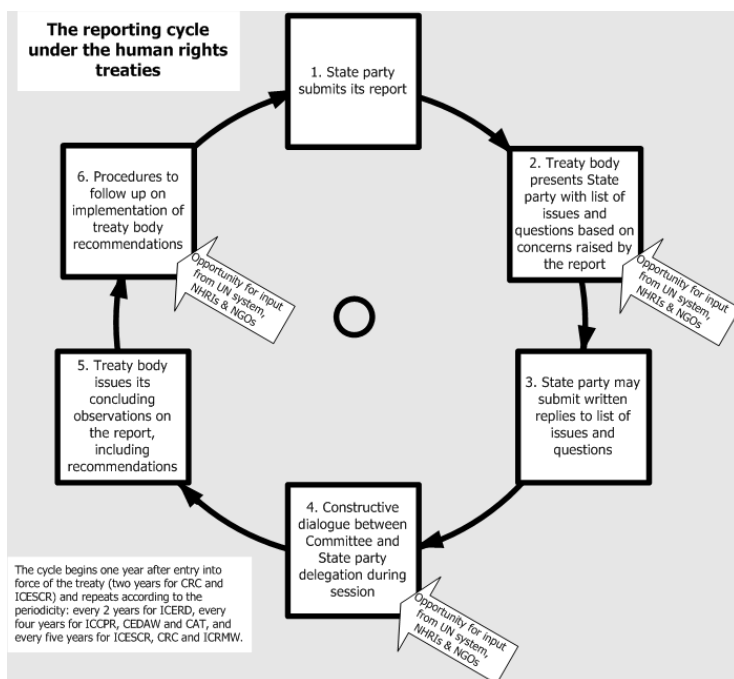
John Pace provided the context for the Week 1 sessions which would focus on international human rights standards and mechanisms and the national bodies which have been established to incorporate human rights principles and values into national legislation and policy.

He introduced the three instruments, (1) Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (2) International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and (3) International Convention of Civil and Political Rights which together are referred to as the Bill of Human Rights. A quick timeline was developed:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1944: | The Charter of the United Nations – at this time there was no mention of human rights, it was the pressure exerted by civil society which saw the addition of references to human rights. |
| 1945 | Charter of the UN
Universal Declaration of Human Rights |
| 1946 | UN Committee on Human Rights was set up to draft international law |
| 1948 | Universal Declaration of Human Rights |
| 1948-1966 | Drafting of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) |
| 1977 | It took over 10 years for states to ratify and begin the implementation of the 2 covenants |
| 1978 | Birth of the first UN human rights treaty body - ratifying countries become obliged to report to the monitoring mechanisms. |



The three core instruments, the UDHR, the ICCPR and ICESCR, together with the treaty bodies, comprise a collection of tools that were developed by the UN with the intention of trying to ensure respect for the dignity of all people. John reinforced the need for the constant involvement of civil society to ensure governments and business honour their commitment to human rights.



The UN Treaty Bodies

The focus then turned to the mechanisms for monitoring international human rights law - the reporting procedures to the treaty bodies and the recommendations and observations which follow.

Dr Gopal Siwakoti, Chair of Asia Pacific Refugee Rights network, and a focal point for ICCPR shadow reporting, provided valuable first-hand experience of the work of the treaty bodies. Governments, on signing and ratifying a treaty, are required to provide an initial report on their implementation of the obligations inherent in the treaty and

then subsequent periodic reports which report on progress and challenges in implementation and respond to the recommendations(observations) which have been made by the treaty body.

Dr Siwakoti acknowledged there were challenges impacting on the effectiveness of the treaty bodies- limited resources, no enforcement procedures, delays in reporting and the commitment of individual states to the process. He noted, *...it is up to the human rights community to make the government feel the moral imperative'* and he highlighted the opportunities inherent in the treaty body system for positive change. The treaties can be used to:

- raise awareness about human rights,
- engage civil society in the reporting cycle, preparation of shadow/parallel reports and lobbying of committees
- exert legal and moral pressure on governments to attend to treaty obligations
- use the recommendations to engage media and to strengthen advocacy strategies for policy development and funding.

Dr Siwakoti also explained that the **Special Procedures** which enable investigation and reporting on the situation of human rights in particular countries (country) or on a particular issues (thematic) close the gaps left by the treaties and that the **Special Rapporteurs** depend on civil society to assist their work.

To enable the participants to deepen their understanding of the application of the treaties and treaty bodies they were asked to discuss, from the perspective of governments, the obligations “ to take measures” that fall to governments as parties to the treaties/conventions.

Role plays

Role plays are an integral part of DTP’s participatory teaching process, enabling participants to engage with and explore the practical application of the information presented by trainers. John involved all

participants in an enactment of the reporting process under the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

*The chairperson opened the session with introductions of the **vice chairs, the rapporteur and the experts** and with an overview of the context. The government was congratulated on the significant progress that had been made in advancing the millennium development goals but it was noted that gaps remained in women's rights.*

*The **government** then submitted its report- a brief snapshot of the country was given and a number of positives were highlighted in relation to the implementation of CEDAW- a women's caucus in parliament had been established ; a civil society advisory group on gender equality was funded; and the percentage of women in parliament (38%) was highlighted. A number of achievements were tabled – equality of access to education, employment opportunities and equal remuneration, anti-harassment laws, maternity leave provisions and entitlement to health insurance and a summary as provided on the plan of action for the continuing empowerment of women. The government admitted there remained the challenge of entrenched stereotypes and trafficking of women and girls but emphasised that action was being taken.*

***Civil society** made their presentation and raised concerns and questions relating to the government report such as the lack of access to education for Indigenous women and the lack of consultation of women while decisions were being made.*

*The chair then opened the floor to the **treaty body** to ask questions of the government, such as if there were any special mechanisms nationally to support the implementation of CEDAW.*

*After an opportunity was given for comments to be made by **civil society** the **treaty body** delivered their final observations.*

OHCHR and the UN's Specialised Agencies

Ms Ranjana Thapa and two of her colleagues presented on the role UN Specialised Agencies have in promoting and realising human rights including the following up implementation of the recommendations of the treaty bodies and Special Procedures. Discussion followed and examples provided on how civil society has been able to work with these agencies to strengthen advocacy around human rights concerns.

The role of National Human Rights Institutions – Nepal National Human Rights Commission

The National Human Rights Commission hosted a visit by the participants. Suresh Malla, Human Rights Officer at the Commission, explained that the work done at the Commission is guided by the 1991 Paris principles and acknowledged the role of civil society in advocating for the establishment of national human rights institutions (NHRIs).

Suresh Malla outlined the roles and responsibilities of the Commission in receiving complaints, conducting investigations and submitting recommendations and reports to government and providing advice on existing and new legislation to ensure consistency with human rights. Prison monitoring, economic, social and cultural rights, collective rights of children, women, and people with disability; Indigenous peoples and those affected with HIV are some of the new directions for the Nepal National Human Rights Commission.

Participants were provided with a further opportunity to make the connections between their work as human rights advocates and NHRIs when they were invited to the Pokhara office of the NHRC for a dialogue on the work being done locally.

Reflecting later on the visit, it was emphasised that civil society should remain mindful of the relationship with NHRIs and to be active in providing input wherever possible and contributing to the building of strong and effective NHRIs.

Master class with Jose Ramos-Horta.

A highlight of the 24th Annual Program was the opportunity for participants to participate in a master class with DTP founder and patron, José Ramos Horta. A special session was organised which also involved invited NGO civil society leaders.

Dr Ramos-Horta challenged the notion of ‘national interest’ which is used by governments to veto, as threats to national security, cultural and religious diversity. Professor Ramos Horta discussed the value of the concept of ‘preventive diplomacy’ the engagement in dialogue with oppositions at the time when early warning signs are detected. He cautioned governments against the mistake of overestimating their own strength and, without real understanding of the motivation, under estimating their opposition. He pointed to the example of the East Timorese leadership in never demonising the Indonesian people, culture or religion.

Developing Advocacy Campaigns – Patrick Earle

Patrick Earle facilitated a session which enabled the sharing of experiences, ideas and information on advocacy. Groups were tasked with developing a flow chart for a campaign strategy. The breadth of advocacy experience within the group was reflected in the comprehensive strategies compiled within the short time frame available.

Ten Point Campaign Checklist

1. Have a clear aim.
2. Identify the person/s who can give us what we want (campaign target audience)
3. Determine who influences them (campaign target audience)
4. Determine what influences the people who influence the targeted decision-maker/s
5. Identify the key timeframes – and key dates.
6. Focus your resources on key leverage points.
7. Identify what threatens your aim and how to counter them
8. Humanise public narrative – help others connect with the personal story
9. Broaden your coalition
10. Finalise your plan and mobilise resources to achieve your aim

Week 2 commenced in the new venue in Pokhara. Participants had taken the opportunity of the preceding free day to watch the projection of the rising rays of the sun on the Annapurna ranges and to become acquainted with lovely lakeside town where the program would be based for Week 2. John led the participants in a reflection on the substance of week 1 and a revisiting of expectations for the coming week.

Human Rights Defenders - Sayeed Ahmad.

Sayeed Ahmad, Protection Coordinator for the Asian region at Front Line Defenders, invited the participants to share some of the cases currently being defended in their countries. Sayeed noted that even in peaceful countries human rights defenders face certain threats. In countries experiencing armed conflicts, such as Burma/Myanmar it is even more difficult and some human rights defenders, such as those in North Korea, Laos and United Arab Emirates cannot work inside their country. Some of the challenges which human rights defenders face include funding restrictions and laws being enacted to restrict the work being done, detention, threats, intimidation and even killings,. By the very nature of the work being done, fighting against powerful groups for the less powerful, human rights defenders are involved in challenging work and it is very important to build solidarity, to work with others and to use whatever mechanisms are available.

Sayeed provided practical training on using a **risk assessment formula** to identify and build capacity to **mitigate risk.**

$$\text{RISK} = \frac{\text{THREAT X VULNERABILITY}}{\text{CAPACITY}}$$

RISK: the actual event that might bring harm to the human rights defender.
 THREAT: some sort of declaration, indication or pronouncement to cause harm
 VULNERABILITY: any factor which makes it likely or more possible that the threat becomes a reality.
 CAPACITY: resources that can be used to mitigate the threat/vulnerability
 Sayeed used a case study to demonstrate threats and vulnerability and most importantly to build ideas around capacity.

Economic Social and Cultural Rights - Professor Virginia Dandan

Professor Dandan discussed with participants the concepts of freedom and entitlement as being fundamental to human rights and the obligations on states (governments) to be accountable for the protection and realisation of human rights.

Participants were introduced to the General Comments developed and adopted by the UN human rights treaty bodies to clarify understanding on the content of specific human rights, such as the human rights to food, and the human rights to education. There is minimum obligation on the state to ensure that all people can live a life of dignity.

Professor Dandan set a task for groups to work with the General Comments, defining in one sentence the right contained in the General Comment and citing both a freedom associated with the right and the related entitlement.

General Comment	Key Element	Entitlement	Freedom
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14: Right to the highest attainable standard of health	Equal accessibility to quality medical treatment is fundamental to human survival	-right to primary health care	...from illness
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Professor Dandan shared the key principles of human rights: universal, inalienable, indivisible, inter-related and interdependent and explained the concepts of rights holders and duty bearers - the state being the principle duty bearer and having the obligation to create an enabling environment for human rights to be realised. She then referred to the UN Declaration on the Right to Development (1986) to emphasise the centrality of the human person as subject, agent and beneficiary in any analysis of development.

A human rights based approach to development integrates the basic human rights principles and values of:

Equality; Non Discrimination; Participation; Inclusion; Attention to Vulnerable Groups; Accountability; transparency and the rule of law.

Group Work - Using Human rights to Analyse Development Challenges

Participants worked in groups on a task which required them to integrate basic human rights principles and values in the analysis of development challenges.

Sustainable Development Goals - Professor Dandan

Professor Dandan updated the group on the progress to date to determine the development goals which will follow on from the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The sustainable development goals (SDGs) are intended to respond to the unfinished business remaining when the MDGs finish in 2015. The SDG Working Group has submitted their proposal to the United Nations – identifying 17 SDGs.

The definition of sustainable development (Brundtland Report) is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. There are three dimensions that need to be considered: environmental, social and economic and the concept of sustainable development whereby we see the world as a system that connects space and time and requires changing attitudes so that conservation becomes the way of life.

The participants were given a group exercise to develop three SDGs – one each with a focus on the social, the economic and the environment. They were challenged to develop goals which are practical, time bound, human rights and people centred and applicable to both developing and developed countries. The groups were also challenged to incorporate explicit human rights language either in the goals or the targets.

Monitoring and Investigation - Nir Lama (INSEC)

Civil society organisations and NHRIs have a duty to make sure the police are doing their job properly and to find ways to make sure that allegations of human rights abuse are followed up.

Drawing on the substantial experience in the group the session began with participants identifying some of the national practices which would require monitoring and sharing their personal experiences related to fact finding.

Nir elaborated on the steps involved in fact-finding of human right abuse.

Advocacy, Social Media and ICT - Philip Chung

After establishing the goals for the day Philip introduced Austlii. The Australasian Legal information Institute (Austlii) was established in 1995 to provide free access to legal materials. AustLII is one of the largest sources of legal materials on the net. AustLII's [policy agenda](#) is to convince parliaments, governments, courts, law reform bodies and other public institutions to make legal materials they control available free via the Internet.

Human rights related legal resources: Philip worked with the participants to strengthen their ability to use the internet to source relevant legal materials.

The types of legal materials available include:

- Primary Sources: defines what the law is nationally, case law and legislation
- Secondary Sources: law journal articles, commentaries, reports etc.
- International obligations: treaties, international conventions and agreements

Philip talked about the main ways of finding resources on the web:

1. browsing : clicking on links (Philip's tip was to resist the temptation to start typing into the box and instead to explore what is on the system)
Philip set tasks for the group to complete through browsing searching: Key word searching; phrase searching (a quotation mark tightens the search); complex search queries; and search operators

Creating simple web pages: (basically a word document with special tags)

Some of the free on-line website tools, such as word press, blogger.com, storify and, for more flexibility, sea monkey were listed and then Philip walked the group through the process of setting up their first page of their web page.

Web browsers: firefox; chrome; safari Internet protocols (ways of engaging) http: websites/page ftp: transferring files smtp URL (uniform resource locator) or web address http://www.austlii.edu.au

Using Social Media: Philip advised the group about some initial considerations before diving into social networking:

1. Privacy issues – it's very hard to remove all references to personal/private information if you later regret posting
2. Copyright issues –especially in relation to images, audio and video
3. The value in developing a social media plan and a content plan.

A brief overview of the features of the most popular social networking sites was provided by Philip – Face book, Twitter, LinkedIn and You Tube and Instagram– before he presented on the steps involved in developing a social media plan and a content plan.

Developing a Social Media Plan: purpose; outcomes; objectives; target market; evaluation

Developing a Content Plan: themes; written materials; audio content; websites

Philip concluded his sessions with some words of caution, and some helpful sites, about privacy on the web.

Indigenous Peoples Engagement with the UN - Joshua Cooper

The final week of the program began with Joshua Cooper providing an overview of the history of recognition of Indigenous peoples rights internationally.

Indigenous peoples have a long history of advocating internationally. In the 1920s there were attempts to raise concerns at the League of Nations but it wasn't until the 1970s, with the introduction of the UN Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the Martinez Cobo Study of the problem of Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations, that the rights of Indigenous peoples began to be addressed. The Working Group on Indigenous populations (WGIP) was formed in 1982 with the mandate to (1) review the current situation of Indigenous peoples and (2) provide advice on international standards relating to the human rights of Indigenous peoples. In 1985 the WGIP began to draft the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (*Declaration*). In 2007, and after many years of advocacy the General Assembly voted to support the *Declaration*.

The advocacy of Indigenous peoples focused on achieving a high level UN instrument they could utilise has also yielded significant results. . In 2001 the UN Human Rights Commission established the position of Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous peoples (currently Victoria Tauli Corpuz). In 2002, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), comprised of 16 experts (8 government selected and 8 Indigenous selected) was set up as an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council) and in 2007 the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) was established. The first World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, a high level meeting aimed at progressing the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was held in September 2014.

Business and Human Rights- Joshua Cooper and Kania Mezariyani Guzaimi (Elsam, Indonesia)

As the power and influence of the private sector has grown with economic globalisation there has been a growing focus on the human responsibilities of the private sector – including a proliferation of codes of conduct. The UN Human Rights Council adopted a new framework on human rights and business and a set of guiding principles (GPs) on their implementation. This framework does not provide any mechanism for accountability or redress, and there are calls for the development of a binding international human rights treaty on business and human rights.

Joshua Cooper provided an overview of these developments while Kania presented on the recent experiences of Elsam in Indonesia, in campaigning on business and human rights and in bringing cases of land grabbing by companies to the courts.

Some of the relevant standards, codes of conduct and guidelines which are now available, including as a result of global advocacy of civil society:

1. OECD Guidelines
2. ILO Declaration
3. Voluntary codes (industry, sector, company specific)
4. UN Global Compact
5. UN Norms on Responsibilities on Business
6. UN Framework on Human Rights and Business

Kania shared the recent experience of Elsam. After unsuccessfully challenging a case of *land grabbing* in the Indonesian courts, Elsam decided to develop a strategy for using the UN Guiding Principles to engage with businesses to promote corporate responsibility. As part of this strategy, Elsam has developed a video for corporations to promote awareness of the UN Framework and GPs.

This strategy of engagement has presented a reputational challenge for Elsam, an organization with a history of taking cases against corporations. There is a risk that it will be seen as having compromised – and that to maintain engagement it may be unwilling to take cases.

Lobbying Exercise

Engaging government officials is an essential part of civil society efforts to promote and protect human rights. Developing the skills for successful engagement is a key part of DTP's courses and where possible this includes a practical exercise, involving the participants in meeting representatives of governments, including diplomats. The exercise involves participants preparing their objectives and their arguments and the roles of different members of their delegations.

Participants spent an intense couple of hours preparing for lobbying visits to the Australian and Norwegian embassies. They found these visits interesting and useful and were pleased to have achieved some concrete outcomes as a result of the meetings.

Media Skills and Human Rights - Binod Bhattarai

Media work is an important part of much advocacy and can play a crucial role in influencing attitudes and ideas in society.

Binod Bhattarai, an analyst and journalist and consultant on media and communications, provided the participants with an overview of the opportunities provided by the various forms of media for promoting human rights. Binod shared strategies to build the capacity of the group for more effective use of media.

Universal Periodic Review – 'Framing and Claiming' Joshua Cooper

The Universal Periodic Review process was established by the UN Human Rights Council as an accountability mechanism to promote and support the protection of human rights. All member states of the UN participate equally in this process. Each state's progress in fulfilling its human rights obligations and commitment is peer reviewed through interactive discussions between member states during the UPR working group meetings. Joshua Cooper has worked with NGOs and community organisations to ensure that the concerns of civil society are integrated in the UPR process.

While there is little formal space for NGOs to participate in the UPR process, NGOs can be involved in all stages of the review process through contributing information on issues of concern through reports, by interacting with other governments to lobby them to raise particular questions and to provide recommendations for their consideration and to organize side events to raise awareness of human rights concerns. NGOs can also influence the adoption stage as governments are more likely to adopt recommendations if they perceive there is pressure to do so.

In participating in a role play on the UPR process participants have the opportunity to utilize the information and the skills which they have acquired or strengthened throughout the program. As the participants take on the roles of governments, of NGOs with particular country and thematic focus and

engage in strategic lobbying, developing recommendations etc. the knowledge and skills built in the previous program sessions are drawn on.

Evaluation

Overall, the participants' feedback suggests they had a very positive experience which equipped them with the theoretical and practical understanding of the UN system and how to use particular mechanisms and strategic rights based approaches to improve the protection and promotion of human rights through their work as human rights defenders. [see Appendix 1]

Participants had the opportunity to evaluate the training program through a variety of methods and at different points throughout the training. Participant groups, formed with consideration for geographical and gender balance, met daily with the program organisers to provide feedback on all aspects of the program. Evaluation surveys were completed by all participants following key topics. An extensive anonymous end-of-program questionnaire and a whole-of-group sharing were completed during the evaluation session on the final day of the program. ⁱ

The objectives for each of the key program topics were developed with significant input from participants both prior to and during the program. It is pleasing to be able to report that the participants felt that the program had been very successful in achieving its objectives.

Human Rights and the United Nations: Key Trainer John Pace

Workshop objectives for the topic of Human Rights and the United Nations were achieved for all participants. A significant shift in the level of knowledge was indicated by the fact that prior to the presentations the majority of participants (78.5%) said they had only Poor or Fair knowledge of Human Rights and the United Nations whereas after the presentations an overwhelming majority of participants (96.4%) expressed that they had either a very good or good knowledge of the topic. All participants found these sessions relevant to their needs.

It was such a valuable learning experience for me, I got all my objectives and I am enthused to work with more knowledge and experience.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Human Rights Based Approach to Development, Human Rights and SDGs: Key Trainer Professor Virginia Dandan

For an overwhelming majority of participants (96.4%) the workshop objectives were met for the sessions on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Human Rights Based Approach to Development, Human Rights and Sustainable Development Goals. All participants strongly agreed or agreed that having completed the session they could use the CESCR General Comments to identify the obligations of governments to respect, protect and fulfil human rights. All participants except one felt the session enabled them to integrate human rights principles and values to development policies and practice as well as understand and participate in dialogues about post 2015 sustainable development goals. As with the first session, participants experienced a significant increase in their level of knowledge of the topics covered, with the majority of participants (96.4%) expressing that their knowledge after the presentations was very good or good despite the majority having entered the sessions with only a fair knowledge of the topics. This suggests that the sessions were effective in familiarising and providing participants with an understanding of how to use a human rights based approach in their work in the field of sustainable development. A majority of participants indicated that the relevance of the presentations to their work/interests was very good or good (75%).

I came in wanting to build on my knowledge of international human rights principles

and mechanisms and I believe I have been able to retain most of it. Also the session on sustainable development goals was particularly helpful as it relates to the work I am interested in.

Developing Skills for more effective advocacy: Key Trainers Sayeed Ahmed; Nir Lama; Phillip Chung; Patrick Earle; Binod Bhattarai

A number of the participants expressed appreciation for the holistic nature of the DTP training, referring to the importance of the practical sessions in enabling a deeper understanding of the theoretical content and for building confidence.

Thank you very much for taking the time and the thought to make this training session a holistic experience. I genuinely feel that I am walking away with new knowledge and experience and a lot of optimism.

The majority of participants (96.4%) reported that the objectives related to the development of skills for more effective advocacy were achieved and that as a result of the training they were better equipped to advocate on behalf of human rights defenders, to monitor and investigate human rights violations and more confidently lobby government on their issues of concern. Participants found the sessions on using the media and information technology and social media very useful, although we did receive suggestions that the effectiveness of these sessions would be further maximised by tailoring sessions to respond to the diversity of experience within the group.

It is not only that we were learning theories but we also got some practical sessions, which helped us to have a clear idea of the subject matters

The Universal Periodic Review: Key Trainer Joshua Cooper

The sessions focusing on the Universal Periodic Review centred on a role play exercise of the UPR process. The UPR, as explained by trainer Joshua Cooper, provides human rights advocates with the opportunity to bring not just complaints but also their recommendations and solutions to the United Nations.

All the participants felt that the objectives for this topic were met. All participants either strongly agreed or agreed that, as a result of having completed the UPR training, they were able to explain the UPR process as one of the UN's human rights accountability processes, and its relationship to UN treaty bodies and Special Procedures. Prior to the training only 6 participants felt they had a good understanding of the process and no one assessed their knowledge as being very good so it was particularly pleasing that following the role play 96% of the participants believed they had the potential to participate in the UPR process when their government was next reviewed.

The End of Training Evaluation contained a number of open ended questions which enabled participants to provide more personalised responses and feedback relating to the aspects of the program they enjoyed and found useful as well as their suggestions for areas for improvement. By the end of the training participants identified plans for applying the training – many intended to return to their organisations and share the knowledge with colleagues, other human rights advocates, in community training and in developing training materials and activities for their organisations. Some participants planned to incorporate the knowledge to strengthen their advocacy work, to contribute meaningfully in their country's civil society engagement with the UPR process, to apply the social media skills to campaign planning and to apply rights based approach in developing future programs and projects. One participant felt that if the opportunity arose to be involved in developing post 2015 sustainable goals they would be equipped to bring a human rights vision to this. DTP will reconnect with the 24th Annual alumni in the coming months to learn more about how the plans to apply the training have been put into practice.

I would use the knowledge gained to educate my fellow peers and colleagues, I would educate clients who come to see me and inform them better of their rights and the mechanisms available on how we can hold the state accountable

In addition to sharing their learning with their local networks, participants expressed their enthusiasm and intention to use the regional network gained through attending the DTP program with participants from 14 different nations to create international solidarity and to support each other.

..I have met participants who handle similar cases which can be developed into research or studies that could help raise issues

Participants from 14 countries are now my network; also I have been exposed to DTP family which is in itself a huge network; also I have been able to establish networks with Forum Asia and the Norwegian Embassy after the reception... I hope to benefit from it in the days to come.

When asked to comment on the usefulness of the manual participants overwhelmingly endorsed the value of the manual, both for use throughout the training and also as a future reference and as a training tool. A number of participants suggested that the content be expanded, that participants have access prior to the training for preparation and that pagination would make it more user friendly.

I have always worked for human rights but always was stressed that I'm not that knowledgeable and I am missing links how to help people. Now I know my directions.

Closing ceremony

At the conclusion of the program, participants were awarded certificates of participation by DTP and the UNSW Faculty of Law by Subodh Raj Pyakurel, the Chair of INSEC.

Appendix 1: Participant Biographies

AUSTRALIA

Cathryn Eatock, Aboriginal Rights Coalition – Australia (Female, 52)

Cathryn is the chairperson of the Aboriginal Rights Coalition, an organisation that seeks to advocate for the human rights of the original peoples of Australia both in the international arena, and within Australia. This includes conducting public awareness campaigns on Aboriginal rights, holding conferences and public forums on human rights issues and drafting submissions to the Federal Government. Cathy's role is to direct political campaigns and act as an international advocate. To this end, she has drafted and presented reports for the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and presented to the Office on the Status of Women's Survivors Panel. Cathy has completed a Master of Human Rights and intends to undertake PhD study on Indigenous access at the UN. Through this program she aims to build her knowledge of existing human rights norms and the United Nations mechanisms, and to learn about how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can best utilize these mechanisms for rights promotion.

BANGLADESH

Fayez Ahmed, Centre for Human Rights Studies, Bangladesh, (Male, 24)

Fayez is currently undertaking an FK fellowship program, and is working at the SAMATA Foundation Nepal. In this position, his role is to analyse case studies in Nepal on human rights advocacy and the use of law by organisations in Nepal. This involves studying cases, interviewing organisations on their advocacy strategies and field visits. The focus of the field visits is looking at how people use community radio as a tool for human rights protection and to raise awareness as well as social changes. When he finishes the fellowship program Fayez will be returning to the Centre for Human Rights Studies in Bangladesh where he has volunteered as an organizer and trainer of human rights programs and events. As a staff member Fayez will be working with the training programs, human rights based radio program development and advocacy related activities. By joining the program Fayez hopes to develop his knowledge of human rights law and principles, human rights based approach to development and skills in practical strategic advocacy, lobbying and the use of the media.

Fadang Tang Randal, Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) (Male, 28)

Fadang is a staff member at the Central Office PCJSS, which advocates for the rights of Indigenous Peoples of the Chittagong Hills Tract. The key responsibilities of his role are raising political and economic awareness amongst the Indigenous Peoples, establishing and maintaining networks with similar organisations and carrying out lobbying, advocacy and capacity-building activities for the rights of Indigenous Peoples. He also conducts research into human rights situations and economic development in the CHT. Through this program, he hopes to gain better understanding of international human rights mechanisms, with regard to Indigenous Peoples, and learn more lobbying and advocacy strategies to improve his skills as a community advocate. He looks forward to sharing experiences with the other participants, and to sharing what he learns from the program with his friends, colleagues and fellow activists after completion.

Abu Ahmed Faijul Kabir, Ain o Salish Kendra (Male, 38)

Kabir is a Senior Investigator and in charge of the Human Rights Defenders Forum for Ain o Salish Kendra, a legal aid and human rights organisation that has a commitment to creating an environment of accountability and transparency of governance institutions, and to ensure that women enjoy full dignity and security in their life. Kabir's role includes regularly investigating and reporting on various human rights violations (including those related to minority rights, women's rights, workers' rights and state violence), campaigning, communicating with and lobbying government officers and departments, lawyers, journalists, and civil society leaders. He also mobilises local human rights defenders to initiate community response for protection and promotion of human rights. Through this program he hopes to improve his theoretical and practical knowledge of Human Rights, and establish international networks to share ideas and understand the human rights situation in other countries.

Shohag Biswas, Odhikar (Male, 27)

Shohag is a Fact Finding Officer at Odhikar, an organisation whose objectives are to raise awareness of human rights abuses and to create a vibrant democratic system through election monitoring. Shohag is responsible for conducting fact-finding missions in the field of torture, enforced disappearances and extra-judicial killings. In this role, he prepares fact finding reports, writes press releases, and organises district level advocacy meetings, rallies and human chains. Shohag wishes to supplement his knowledge on advocacy and people's diplomacy, and is very interested to learn about the human rights approach to development and poverty.

Manik Soren, Kapaeeng Foundation (Male, 27)

Manik is a Research Associate for Kapaeeng Foundation. His research involves the political participation of indigenous women in Bangladesh. He is also responsible for connecting the Kapaeeng Foundation with other activities related to indigenous people's rights and reporting on land related issues. Manik also is involved with indigenous youth and students, serving as information and research secretary for a national assembly of Indigenous peoples in Bangladesh locally called Jatiya Adivasi Parishad-JAP. He writes articles on indigenous peoples, highlighting their rights in national and local newspapers, as well as conducting an online newspaper as editor (www.adasinews.com). He aims to gain more knowledge and a better understanding of International human rights instruments and how these pertain to Indigenous peoples, as well as equipping him with different strategies for advocacy for Indigenous peoples rights.

Kachi Chakma, Bangladesh Indigenous Women's Network (BIWN) (Female, 25)

Kachi is a member of the Bangladesh Indigenous Women's Network, an organisation that works for the promotion and protection of indigenous women's rights. The major goals of BIWN include ending violence against indigenous women. Kachi's role in this organisation includes arranging public programmes and communicating with human rights organisations, civil society organisations and Indigenous peoples organisations, and has a strong advocacy component. Through her work she has arranged public meetings, organised training sessions relating to the issues faced by Indigenous women, and assembled public demonstrations. Kachi works with Indigenous women throughout Bangladesh, seeking to foster a strong network among them. Through this programme Kachi hopes to increase her understanding of international human rights instruments and their application, as well as learning new

strategies for campaigning, lobbying and advocating BIWN's cause. She also hopes to meet and establish a network with people throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

CAMBODIA

Sopheak Khuon, Cambodian Centre for Independent Media (CCIM) (Male, 35)

Sopheak is the Provincial Coordinator at CCIM. CCIM is an independent media organisation that aims to develop an independent and pluralistic media environment promoting good governance and human rights protection in Cambodia. Sopheak's role is to oversee radio production and is involved in selecting topics, inviting spokespeople and preparing content. He also is responsible for organising human rights and democracy training. Through this program, Sopheak aims to build his capacity through learning more about human rights in the region and building his NGO networks which he will share with CCIM.

INDIA

Shiyani Wangkheirakpam, Indigenous Perspectives (Female, 24)

Shiyani is the Co-ordinator of the Documentation and Human Rights Program at Indigenous Perspectives, which is an organisation that provides advice to victims of human rights violations and their families, for example, advising on filing court cases or police reports. The organisation shares documented cases with other organisations working on human rights issues in order to raise awareness of the specific violation, as well as establishing and maintaining a support network with those other NGOs. Shiyani monitors newspapers and other media for human rights violations, and conducts fact-finding visits regarding instances of extra-judicial execution and torture. Her work contributes substantially to awareness of human rights violations in her local region. She hopes that this program will enable her to learn more about international human rights mechanisms in order to improve her ability to help those affected by human rights violations in her region. She hopes to gain useful insights and improve existing skills in human rights advocacy at an international level particularly at the UN, as well as in the area of women's rights.

Hubertson Tomwilson, Justice Ventures International (Male, 34)

Hubertson is a Program Manager with Justice Venture International, which is an organisation that seeks to secure freedom, justice and restoration for the poor and oppressed. It aims to do this through strengthening undertakings that promote justice. Hubertson manages the implementation of Chennai Justice Resource Centre's advocacy and human rights initiatives, as well as utilising direct legal intervention, legal consultation and rights-based community programmes in conjunction with the National Leadership Team to secure justice for victims of oppression. Hubertson also provides free legal assistance and counselling on migration issues and other human rights issues for the National Domestic Workers Movement, the offices of Members of the Legislative Assembly, related Killiyoor and Colachel Constituencies of Tamil Nadu and to the Tamil Nadu Narikuravar (Jipsi) Sangam on the issues of land tenure and also to get Scheduled Tribe Status for the Tribal Narikuravar community. The knowledge he gains from this program will assist him to generate more awareness among social workers, legal counsel and human rights activists about the rights of and issues surrounding migrant workers. This information will also assist lobbying the government to provide more assistance for the welfare of local migrant workers located across the globe.

Mohan Mansing Jadhao, Society for Rural and Urban Joint Activities, Nagpur (SRUJAN) (Male, 32

Mohan Mansing Jadhao is a Block Coordinator for SRUJAN's Child Right and Child Protection project. This project works with migrant families and families that are excluded, raising awareness through campaigning, instigating village level meetings, providing workshops and training, aimed at community members, folk leaders and youth. They also educate women and girls on issues such as school attendance, health, reduction of infant and maternal mortalities, and domestic violence. Mohan Mansing Jadhao's role is to work with specific tribes, linking the families with social protection schemes provided by the government. He also helps to provide access to government child protection schemes. He hopes to gain more knowledge about human rights so that he can use to assist him in his work of securing the rights of the children and women in his tribal community.

Irshad Ahmed Nasrat Ullah, Peoples' Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (Male, 29)

Irshad is the Advocacy Coordinator at Peoples' Vigilance Committee on Human Rights, a non government organisation that fights for the rights of marginalised people in North-Indian states, particularly in relation to caste based injustices. Irshad's role involves lobbying and advocacy with local, state and national human rights institutions. He also takes on human rights violations cases, making the plight of the voiceless known through the avenues of government, media and the internet. Irshad hopes that he will gain more knowledge about active advocacy and lobbying processes at national and international levels through this program. He also hopes that the program will serve as a platform for learning and networking with other human rights defenders.

INDONESIA

Kania Mezariani Guzaimi, Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy (ELSAM) (Female, 24)

Kania is an Assistant Program Officer in the Human Rights Advocacy for Justice Division at the Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy (ELSAM). The organisation's driving objective is the development, protection and promotion of civil, political and other human rights in Indonesia and the empowerment of civil society through advocacy and promotion of human rights. Kania assists the program officer in advocacy and promotion related to business and human rights; preparing publication materials, including books, campaign kits, and videos; organising human rights training for lawyers, and training focused on business and human rights. She is also responsible for organising meetings with and educating stakeholders (academia and corporations) about the importance of business and human rights. She would like to participate in this program in order to increase her skills, networks and knowledge at the regional level, as well as learning about advocacy and diplomacy, aspects which are key to her day-to-day activities at ELSAM. She is also interested in learning about international human rights law and principles, as well as the UN system. Finally, she hopes that this program will provide her with the opportunity to network and share her experiences with like-minded individuals in the region.

Rei Amalia, KontraS (The Commission for The Disappeared and Victims of Violence) (Female, 24)

Rei works on the international desk of KontraS, an organisation that aims to promote awareness of victims of abuse and political violence, working towards a just and democratic Indonesia where people

are free from repression and discrimination. Rei's role is to advocate on a regional and international level, and make the international community aware of human rights cases that occur in Indonesia. This involves submitting cases for special procedures through appeals to Special Rapporteurs, writing shadow reports, joining regional networks for advocacy for human rights and criticising government decisions that are not in line with international human rights standards. She hopes to develop new advocacy skills and ideas through this program, and share as well as learn from other participants to increase her skills in international advocacy.

MALAYSIA

Michelle Darlene, Lawyers for Liberty - Human Rights and Law Reform Initiative (Female, 27)

Michelle is the Legal/Campaign Coordinator at Lawyers for Liberty, an organisation that pushes for law reform through the courts. Lawyers for Liberty focus on cases that deal with state violence, police brutality, civil liberties violations and statelessness. Michelle's work includes strategic litigation, campaign coordination and advocacy work. This involves lobbying parliamentarians, holding sit-ins and policy analysis. She is also exploring the use of communications such as social media as a tool to promote public awareness and to create a rights based community. Michelle hopes that this program will teach her new approaches to human rights advocacy to supplement what Lawyers for Liberty already does. She is also keen to learn to fine tune different approaches to different audiences and issues in a cohesive, consistent and effective manner.

Sudhagaran Stanley Kanaga Sundaram, Migration Working Group Malaysia, (Male, 29)

Stanley works for a number of organisations that focus on the rights of migrants and refugees. As well as working for the Migration Working Group (Malaysia), Stanley is also involved in the Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and the Life Bridge Learning Centre School for Refugees. In these roles he oversees the management of the migrant ministries in Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei. He also co-ordinates the Migration Working Group Malaysia, which consists of members from over 30 Human Rights NGOs in Malaysia. In these positions he is involved in a number of activities, ranging from conducting training sessions for volunteers working on migrant and refugee rights, to organising peaceful protests and campaigns, as well as interaction with the media. He hopes that by participating in the program he will equip himself with knowledge and networks that will complement his legal studies, with the ultimate aim of taking up human rights cases against the government to hold them accountable for human rights abuses.

MYANMAR

Myo Win, Smile Education and Development Foundation (SEDF) (Male, N/A)

Myo Win is the Executive Director of SEDF, an organisation that focuses on education and through this, aims to promote women's empowerment, interfaith harmony, youth leadership, as well as civil society capacity building. SEDF aims to be a voice for the voiceless and to address human rights concerns as a representative of civil society in Myanmar. As executive director, Myo Win helps his staff with project design and implementation. He also focuses on ensuring that all projects of SEDF have interfaith measures, and that basic workshops have been designed to encourage an increase in interaction between majority and minority religious groups. As well as this, he provides workshops in all aspects of being an effective organisation, both to staff and Myanmar civil society. Myo Win is also a consortium

member of Freedom of Religion or Belief in ASEAN on behalf of Myanmar Civil Society. Myo Win hopes to learn new and innovative ideas through this program to increase the communication between the people of Myanmar, International NGOs, and the Myanmar government, as well as working towards interfaith harmony and human rights implementation in Myanmar.

E Pleeth Baung, Paung Ku (Female 27 yrs)

E Pleeth Baung is a program officer at Paung Ku, part time director of MINE and facilitator on NNER. Her work involves providing funding, mentoring and linking learning platform support to civil society organisations to strengthen their capacity to contribute to positive changes within their community. In her work E is involved in supporting civil society groups with project design and management, networking and coordination with stakeholders to strengthen their ability to influence policy and practice. She advocates with local authorities, government and business on behalf of civil society. She delivers training with different ethnic groups and is involved in monitoring and evaluation. E is hoping to gain knowledge and skills and to build her networks through participating in the program. She is looking forward to the exchange of experiences and developing advocacy strategies around land rights, human rights, economic rights, political rights and women's rights.

NEPAL

Rajesh Maharjan, Narcotics Control Bureau (Male, 37)

Rajesh has noticed that human rights violations can often occur from human error and knows that knowledge of human rights will help to limit this. He aims to learn more international human rights standards and how human rights apply, both in society and throughout the court system. He aims to increase his understanding of the mechanisms protecting human rights and how to access these. Rajesh aims to ensure that human rights are observed, as well as ensuring human rights protection for his workplace.

Srishti Adhikari, Alliance for Social Dialogue (ASD), Social Science Baha (Female, 25)

Srishti is the Programme Associate at the ASD. Her job of assisting Nepali students who are applying for Master's Degree scholarships has sparked an interest in human rights. Further, her recent work of assisting the Human Rights and Women's Rights Program Officers with a position paper on the Post 2015 Development Framework has increased her human rights knowledge. She is also currently producing a working paper on the role of NGOs/civil society in development, as well as working on issues such as gender equality and social justice. Srishti hopes to enhance her knowledge of international human rights laws and principles, and increase her practical skills in strategic advocacy, people's diplomacy and media.

Binod Gautam, Informal Sector Service Center (Male, 25)

Binod works for the Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC), a human rights organisation with the goal of protecting peoples engaged in informal sectors. In his role as supervisor for the Human Rights Education Program (HRE), Binod is engaged in forming community based organisations and providing them with training so that these organisations may in turn raise local human rights awareness, protection and promotion. Binod has also participated in various national human rights campaigns with the aim of fostering dialogue between local people and government authorities. Binod hopes that this program will

sharpen his knowledge on human rights and social justice, and equip him to strengthen the organizational capacity of INSEC to work in collaboration with other organizations. He also hopes to develop project management skills including program design and proposal writing.

Pratistha Koirala, Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB), (Female, 23)

Pratistha works for the Central Child Welfare Board. Her role includes liaising between office staff and the Executive, and developing concept papers for issues around Child Rights. She is also a youth member of the Institute of Human Rights Communication Nepal, and has worked as a fact finding youth activist in the National Human Rights Observation Committee. She is committed to human rights, especially to those related to children, youth and women, and believes that the education of girls is crucial to promoting human rights within Nepali society. Pratistha looks forward to this program as a platform to learn about human rights issues, and to share experiences with people from different situations to gain knowledge, and to develop her knowledge around Child Rights and the Rights of Women.

Bishnu Lal Shrestha, Nepal Indigenous Disabled Association (NIDA) (male 46)

Bishnu Lal is a general member of NIDA providing assistance with mediation, capacity building training, strategic formulation and coordination with the different authorities. He uses his professional involvement in the finance sector to provide economic management advice and promoting the economic rights of persons with disabilities. Bishnu Lal hopes to build his knowledge and skills relating to human rights to strengthen his advocacy work with NIDA. He sees the importance of gaining knowledge of international human rights standards and principles in order to share this information with the NIDA community.

PAKISTAN

Gulnaz Shaikh, Neglected and Insecure Citizens Empowerment (NICE) Pakistan (Female, 40)

Gulnaz is the Chief Executive Director at NICE Pakistan, a locally based human rights advocacy initiative. The organisation provides support to vulnerable groups in civil society, which enables them to live with peace, security and dignity through advocacy, awareness and promoting sustainable development. Gulnaz's interests in human rights advocacy began while she was in college, where she noticed that people around her were being taken advantage of due to their inadequate awareness about their basic rights. Since then, she has completed a Masters in Media and Communication, which allowed her to improve her personal advocacy skills and build on her experience as a local elected representative. Using this knowledge, she has been involved in various human rights movements and community service projects. In future, she hopes to be able to grow her local movement to end trafficking into a national movement; working towards her vision of a world without slavery, gender and other discrimination. Through this program, Gulnaz hopes to learn about international law and UN Treaties concerning human rights, as well as different human rights movements around the world. This knowledge will then allow her to understand human rights issues and come up with solutions suitable to Pakistan's local context and circumstances.

Muhammad Shahzad Murtaza Langah, Centre for Human Rights Education (Male 26)

Shahzad Murtaza is a Training Coordinator for the Centre for Human Rights Education, an organisation that works to promote the awareness of human rights through education and training. Shahzad

Murtaza's role is to facilitate training, seminars and conferences in different provinces of Pakistan. He has trained a group called the Democracy Support Council which consists of roughly 40 young people acting as human rights defenders and spreading human rights in their areas. He continues to work with this group to organise study circles, press conferences and to train others in human rights. He is also developing a network of human rights activists to collectively protect human rights in Pakistan. Shahzad Murtaza has been elected CEO for two years for a human rights defenders youth group named VOICE for Next Generation. This program will help Shahzad Murtaza to transfer knowledge to locals in Pakistan, and to train other human rights activists to spread knowledge about human rights.

SOUTH KOREA

Wenise Kim, World Coalition to Stop Genocide in North Korea (WCSGNK) (Female 32)

Wenise works with the WCSGNK. The WCSGNK seeks to engage with defector communities in South Korea and abroad with the aim of assisting them in settling in their countries of exile and in training them up as human rights defenders for North Korea, *"as an investment toward much anticipated reconciliation of the two Koreas and inevitable democratisation of North Korea."* Working in a voluntary capacity as a strategy and advocacy officer, Wenise has been focusing on ways to engage with the international community so that the plight of North Koreans is heard and considered in the context of the UN Genocide Prevention Convention. Wenise lives in Australia and is currently completing her dissertation titled, 'Beyond Semantics of Genocide as the Gold Standard: Rethinking the 1948 UN Genocide Convention through Crimes Against Humanity in North Korea. Wenise is hoping to gain skills relevant for building an effective outreach strategy.

THAILAND

Suparat Phranoret, Thai Volunteer Service Foundation (Female, 29)

Suparat works for the Thai Volunteer Service Foundation (TVS), a non-government organization that works to support other NGOs and Peoples movements by building the capacity of young development workers in Thailand and internationally. Suparat works for TVS in the role of Project Coordinator. . She is responsible for supporting and promoting the development of the new generation of human rights volunteers who work with NGOs on community and social development projects. Through this program Suparat is keen to develop her knowledge and skills in relation to human rights, share her own experiences, and network with other human rights workers. In the future she hopes to design training courses to support volunteer workers in their quest to solve human rights issues.

TIMOR-LESTE

Antonieta Maia (Neta), The Asia Foundation (TAF) (Female, 34)

Neta is a Senior Program Officer for TAF. In her role, she supports district based NGOs who advocate for the implementation of public policy at a district level. She is also responsible for capacity building and providing training for civil society organisations to effectively engage with the government in the policy making processes. As well as this, Neta is a women's rights activist and campaigns on the advancement of women's rights and gender equality. Because of this, she hopes to increase her knowledge of

diplomacy skills, transferring them to NGOs engaging with government policies and using them for international campaigning for women's rights.

Jose Maria Moniz, Judicial System Monitoring Programs (JSMP) (Male 35)

Jose Maria is the outreach coordinator at JSMP, representing the organisation in formal and informal meetings and on television and radio. He facilitates training for community leaders and students on access to justice. Following the referendum Jose Maria has had experience in advocacy having been involved in the Commission Truth and Friendship, the draft law on reparation, the memorial institute and the signing and ratifying of the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Jose Maria is hoping to increase his knowledge on international mechanisms in order to be more effective in protecting and promoting human rights in Timor- Leste. He believes his work will be assisted through building skills in lobbying government, embassies and relevant institutions.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Riji Joy, Middle East Centre for Training and Development (Female, 31)

Riji is the secretary of the Middle East Centre for Training and Development. Riji's work involves co-ordinating training events being conducted by the centre and overseeing the functions of the centre as a whole. She is also involved in research relating to labour and immigration issues, and prepares a newsletter providing an overview of new events and developments that are taking place in this field of law, both regionally and internationally. Riji hopes that by participating in this program she will be able to broaden her knowledge base by interacting with the instructors and other participants. She then plans to utilise this knowledge, experience and network when running programs at the training centre.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Kuri Tumul, Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea (Male, 30)

Kuri is an investigator for the Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea in the Anti-discriminatory and Human Rights unit of the Ombudsman Commission. This department aims to strengthen the Ombudsman Commission's ability to establish a human rights protection mechanism and to observe Papua New Guinea's international human rights commitments. Kuri's role includes assessing complaints, interviewing those relevant to investigations and recommending actions to be taken regarding those complaints. He also organises complaint gathering and investigation trips, as well as conducting detention cell inspections and site inspections at government bodies. Through this programme Kuri hopes to increase his advocacy skills and build relationships with key stakeholders in government as well as non-government areas. He also hopes to increase his knowledge of UN conventions and ratification processes to be able to apply this knowledge to Papua New Guinea.

TRAINER BIOGRAPHIES

Sayed Ahmad, *Project Coordinator (Asia) at Frontline Defenders, Bangladesh*

Sayed is the Project Coordinator for the Asian region at Frontline Defenders, Bangladesh. He has been active in the Human Rights field for over twelve years, specialising in education, research and advocacy. Previously, he was the Program Manager at Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA). He was also the Public Information and Training Expert at the National Human Rights Commission's Bangladesh (NHCR) branch, and is an alumnus of our 2006 Annual and 2011 Migrant Worker programs. Sayeed has also worked with Forum Asia in 2012 as the Program Manager for South and East Asia Program, where he held the position of Director in March 2014.

His work at the NHRC included assisting the Commission in planning and implementing its Public Information and Capacity Development activities. He planned, developed and implemented activities designed to raise awareness on particular topics; for example seminars, workshops, consultation meetings and training sessions. He was also responsible for developing training modules and relevant material for the Commission in their training programs.

In addition to his work in developing training activities, he was also responsible for designing and implementing the NHRC's various campaigns through developing publications, drafting articles, connecting with social media as well as organising public events.

Joshua Cooper, *Academic in Human Rights Law*

Joshua 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 also 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 of America.

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.

She 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.

John Pace, *Diplomacy Training Program Board Member and Trainer*

John Pace and is a Diplomacy Training Program Board Member and Program Trainer. His career in the UN (1966-1999) was dedicated to Human Rights. During that period he served, among other capacities, as head of Special Procedures, of Technical Cooperation, Research and Right to Development. He was also entrusted with a number of ad hoc assignments in various countries.

Among other duties since then, he has served as Chief of the Human Rights Office of the UN Assistance Mission to Iraq (2004-2006). He was responsible in monitoring the human rights situation and participating in the reconstruction of Iraq, where he liaised closely with the US and Iraqi authorities and supported the establishment of a National Centre for Missing and Disappeared Persons as well as clinics for rehabilitation of victims of torture.

He was Secretary to the Commission on Human Rights from 1978 to 1991 and again from 1993 to 1994. In between those periods, he was the coordinator for the landmark World Conference on Human Rights which brought together 171 of the world's nations, hundreds of non-governmental organisations, and made important decisions on the future of human rights, including the establishment of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

He was also Director of the Australian Human Rights Centre at the University of New South Wales from 2000 to 2002. Since finishing his duties in Iraq, John has held senior positions in the human rights/humanitarian field in Lebanon and Liberia and conducted missions to various other countries including Indonesia, Sudan and Cambodia.

Patrick Earle, *Diplomacy Training Program Executive Director*

Patrick 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 ground-breaking 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.

Gopal Krishna Siwakoti, *President of INHURED International*

Gopal is the President of INHURED International and is the Chair of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), a coalition organizations and individuals dedicated to promoting the rights of refugees across Asia-Pacific. He has served as international consultant for IOM, and is one of the founding members of Peoples’ SAARC.

He has attended various UN forums relating to human rights and SAARC Summits including UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations. He has also been conferred several awards including Person of the Year-2008; Global Nonviolence Advocate-2010 along with National Peace Award-2010. One of the founding members of South Asia Forum for Human Rights (SAFHR), he has pioneered civil society positions in terms of durable solutions to the protracted refugee situation in Nepal. Recently, he led the drafting of a model national legislation on refugees in collaboration with UNHCR and other CSOs.

As an international trainer and observer under Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL), he has joined several exploratory and observation missions in post-conflict societies like Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Philippines. Formerly convicted for exercising freedom of expression during repressive the royal regime in the eighties, his personal biography has featured in the documentary “Courage and Conviction” as a recognition civil liberty, peace, democratic freedom and advancing refugee protection within and beyond border.

Philip Chung, Executive Director of the Australian Legal Information Institute

Philip is an Executive Director of the Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII). AustLII is one of the most informative websites in the world providing free access to legal materials. Apart from lecturing in the computerization of law, he has also computerized legal research and cyberspace law at the University of Technology, Sydney.

Philip is a member of the international consultant team for the Asian Development Bank which works on the project of Internet Development for Asian Law. His work on this latter project has led him to many Asian countries where he took part in training judicial and legal professionals. He has also provided training to many previous DTP Annual Programs and has composed a specialized DTP Internet training manual provided to participants. His extensive knowledge of the varied experiences of DTP trainees allows him to tailor his training to maximize the benefits for the participants.

Ranjana Thapa

Ranjana has worked in the human rights field for more than a decade. She specialises in the coordination of different human rights issues for national and international advocacy campaigns. Her work includes analysing the implementation of international human rights standards and preparing the reports to various UN committees.

As a graduate of law, she has worked in many NGOs, the Nepal Bar association, at INSEC and in the UN Resident Coordinators Office, OHCHR –Nepal office. Her areas of interest are the rule of law, transitional justice, minority rights and gender justice. She holds a master degree in law and has won awards in public international law and human rights, including the Queen Aishwarya Gold Medal and Lokraj Gyawali Gold Medal.



**DTP 24th Annual Human Rights & Peoples' Diplomacy Training
Program**

**Nepal
3 November – 19 November 2014**

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	Monday 3 November	Tuesday 4 November	Wednesday 5 November	Thursday 6 November	Friday 7 November	Sat/Sun 8-9 November
8:30 – 9:00am		Participant Presentations Recap	Participant Presentations Recap	Participant Presentations Recap	Participant Presentations Recap	
Morning 1 9.00 to 10.30	Opening Ceremony – DTP 24 th Annual Program Mr. Subodh Raj Pyakurel, (INSEC) Mukunda Kattel Forum- Asia Mr John Pace (DTP) NHRC Commissioner Hon. Mohna Ansari H.E. Mr Glenn White –Australian Ambassador Sharmila Karki -NGO Federation Chief Guest: Minister Nilam (K.C)	Human Rights in the UN System - Overview Charter & Treaty Based	Human Rights in the UN System – Human Rights Council Special Procedures OHCHR/UPR	Human Rights Accountability - The role of NHRIs in the protection of human rights	National Human Rights Commission	Sat 8 Nov Travel to Pokhara
Facilitated by	Bijaya R Gautam	John Pace	John Pace	Nepal Human Rights Commission	John Pace	
Break 10:30-10:45						
Morning 2 10:45-12:30	Participant Introductions – Human Rights Challenges, Expectations, Course Outline and Logistics	Human Rights accountability: Introduction to the UN Treaty Bodies	Human Rights accountability: Introduction to the UN Special procedures/individual complaints/country visits and more.	Building NGO-NHRI Collaboration	Special Procedures	
Facilitated by	INSEC/DTP	John Pace	John Pace & INSEC	Nepal Human Rights Commission	John Pace	
Lunch 12:30-2:00						
		Participant Presentations	Participant Presentations		Participant Presentations	
Afternoon 1 2:00-3:30	Human Rights Opportunities and Challenges in Nepal - Dr. Gopal Krishna – Overview/History - Surya Deuja- Migrant Workers and Indigenous Peoples - Geeta Pathak: Women	Engaging with the UN Treaty Bodies – Reflections from Nepal and Practical Exercise -	OHCHR, Specialised Agencies – UN Country Teams and Human Rights	Special Session: Master class by Jose Ramos Horta	Human Rights Challenges and Developing Advocacy Campaigns	Sunday – Free Time
Trainer(s)	Dr Gopal Krishna	John Pace/ Dr Gopal Krishna	Ms Ranjana Thapa & colleagues		Patrick Earle	
Break 3:30-3:45						
Afternoon 2 3:45-5:30	Introducing Human Rights-What are human rights? Values and principles of human rights The International Bill of Human Rights	Engaging with the UN Treaty Bodies – Practical Exercise Cont'd & Reflections – Integrating Treaty Body Engagement into Advocacy Strategies	OHCHR, Specialised Agencies – UN Country Teams and Human Rights – Practical Exercise		Practical Exercise: Case Study: Developing an Advocacy Campaign	
Trainer(s)	John Pace/DTP	John Pace/ Dr Gopal Krishna	Ms Ranjana Thapa & colleagues	Prof. Ramos Horta	Patrick Earle	
Evening	Welcome Dinner		Dinner Out at Bhojan Griha		Participants Cooking	

WEEK 2	Monday 10 November	Tuesday 11 November	Wednesday 12 November	Thursday 13 November	Friday 14 November	Sat/Sun 15-16 November
8:30 – 9:00am	Participant Presentations	Participant Presentations	Participant Presentations	Participant Presentations	Participant Presentations	
Morning 1 9:00-10:30	Human Rights Defenders – the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and the Responsibilities of Governments	Recap Guided group work	Recap Guided group work	The UN Development Agenda Beyond 2015: The Proposed SDGs, Sustainable Development and Human Rights	Recap Advocacy ICT and social media	Return trip to Kathmandu
Trainer(s)	Sayed Ahmad. Front Line Defenders	Prof Virginia Dandan	Prof. Virginia Dandan	Prof Virginia Dandan	Phillip Chung	
Break 10:30-10:45						
Morning 2 10:45-12:30	Acting to Protect Human Rights Defenders – Practical Exercise	Group reports	Group reports	Group work: "Crafting self-determined sustainable development goals	Advocacy ICT and Social Media	
Trainer(s)	Sayed Ahmad. Front Line Defenders	Prof Virginia Dandan	Prof Virginia Dandan	Prof Virginia Dandan	Phillip Chung	
Lunch 12:30-2:00						
	Participant Presentations	Participant Presentations	Participant Presentations		Participant Presentations	
Afternoon 1 2:00-3:30	Human Rights: understandings, protections and challenges including topics of broad application Recap, revise and clarify	The Right to Development –An Introduction	Human Rights Fact Finding, Monitoring and Investigation	Crafting self-determined sustainable development goals (cont'd)	Advocacy, ICT and Social Media	
Trainer(s)	Prof. Virginia Dandan	Prof Virginia Dandan	Nir Lama/NHRC- Pokhara	Prof Virginia Dandan	Phillip Chung	
Break 3:30-3:45						
Afternoon 2 3:45-5:30	Treaty Body General Comments: understanding the normative content of human rights	Human Rights & Development: Using Human Rights to Analyse Development Challenges	Practical Exercise: Documenting a case	Group reports Commentary by Prof Dandan	Advocacy, ICT and Social Media	
Trainer(s)	Prof. Virginia Dandan	Prof Virginia Dandan	INSEC/ NHRI Pokhara		Phillip Chung	
Evening	Human Rights and The Right to International Solidarity Prof Virginia Dandan		Dinner Out		Cultural Night	

WEEK 3	Sunday 16 November	Monday 17 November	Tuesday 18 November	Wednesday 19 November	Thursday 20 November		
8:30 – 9:00am		Participant presentations	Participant presentations				
Morning 1 9:00-10:30	Free morning	Indigenous Peoples Engagement with the UN	Practical Exercise - Lobbying visits	UPR Role Play Exercise	Participants Return Home		
Trainer(s)		Joshua Cooper	Australian & Norwegian Embassies; GEFONT; Asia Foundation	Joshua Cooper			
Break 10:30-10:45							
Morning 2 10:45-12:30	Free Morning	Business and Human Rights	Practical Exercise - Lobbying visits	UPR Role Play cont.			
Trainer(s)		Joshua Cooper and Kania Guzaimi		Joshua Cooper			
Lunch 12:30-2:00							
		Participant Presentations	Participant Presentations				
Afternoon 1 2:00-3:30		The Universal Periodic Review – Introduction Integrating UPR Engagement into Advocacy Strategies	Media Skills and Human Rights	Feedback and Evaluations			
Trainer(s)		Josh Cooper	Binod Bhattarai	DTP			
Break 3:30-3:45							
Afternoon 2 3:45-5:30	DTP Alumni Meeting	Lobbying: Tips for Effective Lobbying	Media Skills and Human Rights	Closing ceremony			
Trainer(s)		Patrick Earle	Binod Bhattarai	INSEC			
		Diary Exercise	Diary Exercise				
Evening		Reception at the Australian Embassy					
