



DIPLOMACY TRAINING PROGRAM

AFFILIATED WITH THE FACULTY OF LAW & JUSTICE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
A training program for peoples of the Asia-Pacific region

Human Rights Capacity and Network Building in Asia

DTP Alumni Workshop on Human Rights Capacity and DTP Network Building

26-27 June, 2023, Bangkok, Thailand



1. Executive Summary and Key Recommendations:

In June 2023, the Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) organised its first workshop with DTP alumni in Asia. The two-day workshop was held in Bangkok, Thailand, with 28 alumni from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. There were alumni from the first program in 1990 through to the most recent program in 2023.

1.1 Workshop objectives:

- to reflect on the impact of DTP's human rights capacity and network building programs over the last 30+ years;
- to discuss and provide input on the current needs and priorities for human rights advocacy capacity building in Asia;
- to discuss how DTP could effectively support the development of DTP alumni networks, and support DTP alumni in their work for human rights;
- to provide input into DTP's future capacity building strategies.

1.2 Summary of Workshop Recommendations:

- **Increase DTP's investment in national / regional DTP alumni networks through:**
 - Establishing national / regional focal points (selected DTP alumni volunteers)
 - Bring DTP alumni together more regularly at national and regional level
 - Explore establishment of DTP Business and Human Rights Alumni Network
 - Facilitate more knowledge and skill sharing among participants / skills bank

- Explore connecting DTP alumni with Australia’s diplomatic missions
- **Develop more advanced / refresher training, including in the following areas:**
 - Use of technology for human rights
 - “Peoples Diplomacy” – Advocacy, engagement and campaigning skills
 - Engagement with ASEAN/UN other bodies
- **Develop DTP’s content/programs on:**
 - Climate change and human rights
 - LGBTQIA+
 - Gender
- **Develop repository of useful resources on human rights advocacy in DTP’s website**
 - Including case studies of advocacy by alumni and organisations
 - Resources shared / developed by alumni.

This report provides a brief description of the workshop and the reflections from the rich discussions of DTP alumni on the value of DTP’s work and its impact over time.

DTP acknowledges with appreciation the support and involvement of its partners, Human Rights Development Foundation (HRDF), Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), The Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), and Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA).

DTP also acknowledges the funding support for the workshop from the Australian Government’s Australian NGO Cooperation Program, the National Endowment for Democracy and DTP Friends.

2. Workshop Participants:

DTP worked with its partners to invite selected alumni from across the region, from the 3500 alumni of DTP’s different programs over the last 30 years, and representatives from different countries/regions. Gender balance and experience of working on different human rights issues and in different roles was also considered. Unfortunately, not all invited alumni were able to attend.

The participants currently work or have worked in non-governmental organisations (NGOs), social movements, trade unions, faith-based networks/organisations, national human rights institutions, government, universities and the United Nations (UN). In their different roles they work on a very wide range of human rights issues, including:

- Democracy and human rights
- The right to health
- Transitional justice and accountability
- Women’s rights and gender based violence
- Children’s rights
- Indigenous peoples’ rights
- Enforced “disappearances” and the impact on victims and their families
- Migrant worker’s rights, trafficking, modern slavery
- Human rights and business
- Human rights and social movements
- Social development and poverty



- Human rights in Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- Human rights and democracy in Myanmar
- Human rights education and advocacy

Also participating were DTP trainers, [Ruki Fernando](#) and [Arul Prakkash](#), and [William Gois](#) and [Guangchun Gangmei](#) from DTP partners, MFA and AIPP. FORUM-ASIA was also well represented by its Chair, [Jerald Joseph](#), and Executive Director, [Aileen Balcaso](#), both DTP alumni.

3. Program Overview:

The workshop was facilitated by the alumni working in pairs to facilitate different sessions. Some alumni knew each other, and for others the workshop was a reunion. Some have been more connected with DTP’s work, organising and facilitating DTP programs, while for others this was their first re-engagement with DTP since their program. Collectively the workshop participants represented many decades of accumulated experience of working in, and building, human rights movements in Asia. Participants shared this knowledge and experience generously with each other.

There was rich sharing of experiences and discussion over the two days. The following description of different sessions aims to capture the highlights.

3.1 Reflections on DTP’s impact

William Gois and [Anelyn de Luna](#) led the first session, encouraging participants to connect (and reconnect) with one another, and reflect on the impact of DTP’s training; on themselves individually and their movements. Many participants were able to provide specific examples:



- the knowledge and confidence to be involved in drafting and promoting the new international treaty on “enforced disappearances”
- being involved in development of a UN General Comment on migrant women workers
- engaging with human rights treaty bodies in advocacy
- submitting individual cases to national human rights institutions for remedy
- producing advocacy videos to build support
- forging new collaborations with different human rights movements.

There was also a broader and less definable impact of knowing or reinforcing that they were part of wider human rights movements in the region.

3.2 Benefits of the DTP Alumni Network

Participants highlighted the following benefits from their participation in DTP courses beyond building knowledge and skills:

- The programs give participants a network of experts (trainers and fellow participants) to access for support, advice and further capacity building.

- Alumni made friends and connections on the courses that helps them to manage risk and feel more secure. They emerge with a new group of people who will support them and make connections to organisations that can offer support.
- DTP provides access to a unique set of resources through its training programs, website and eNews. Access to these resources would benefit from more consideration.

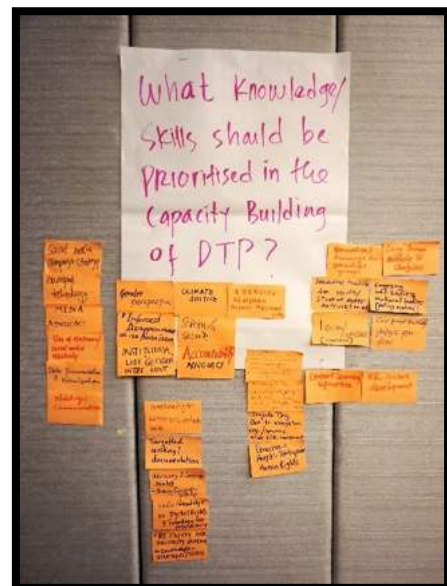


3.3 Identifying Capacity Gaps, Needs and Priorities

[Ellene Sana](#) and [Ravi Tissera](#) led this session which asked alumni to consider current gaps in knowledge and skills that DTP should prioritise.

Four key categories were identified:

- *Knowledge and Thematic Areas*
 - Lacking of gendered perspectives on human rights issues
 - Climate justice / climate
 - Advocacy for accountability
 - Safety and security of human rights defenders – including organisational development and risk management protocols
 - The connection of practice and theory by the publishing of case studies
 - Training for specialised groups – in particular youth / young people.
- *Soft Skills – “Peoples’ Diplomacy”*
 - Advocacy: tools for engaging with, and strategic use of, media and social media
 - Strategies: development of advocacy and campaign strategies, within a context of closing civil society space, and looking at long term goals.
 - Effective campaigning: how to build coalitions, knowledge sharing, and strategic relationships



- Advocacy for human rights-based development strategies / policies
- Tools for safety and security for human rights defenders
- Writing skills for targeting different audiences
- Documentation.
- *Technology Skills*
 - How to make best use of emerging technology
 - Use of information and communication technologies: in documentation, data collection and visualisations
 - Skills in and knowledge of digital rights
 - Staying safe and being secure online.
- *Collaboration / Networking / Highlighting work of alumni*
 - Sharing success stories
 - Developing training modules which incorporate the experiences of DTP alumni working on the ground
 - Systemising and sharing the tools, knowledge, skills and expertise of DTP alumni.

3.4 Looking ahead: Who should DTP prioritise for training?

For the past 33 years, DTP has prioritised training of NGO / CSO leaders and advocates across the Asia-Pacific and Indigenous Australia. Its thematic programs have focused on Indigenous Peoples, Migrant Workers, Human Rights and Business, and Child Rights. Participants were asked to look at who was present and then to consider who was not represented. While participants agreed that DTP’s current training priorities should continue, they also raised the following movements and sectors for development:



- climate activists
- LGBTQ+ activists (as opposed to lesbian, gay and bi-sexual?)
- children / young people
- trade unionists.

There was no suggestion that the focus should shift away from human rights defenders / civil society, although the value of involving government / business in programs was also raised. The focus for building capacity should be on rights holders – but consideration should also be given to the knowledge and capacity of duty bearers in

governments and business. One of DTP’s advantages as a specialised training / capacity building program is the space it provides for dialogue.

Participants also noted that the human rights landscape is currently changing and the DTP alumni can play an important role in ensuring DTP remains “fit for purpose”. They can help guide DTP regarding who it should prioritise for training needs. This would suggest the need to establish some representative or consultative process with DTP alumni.

3.5 Reflections on Networking and Networks

Picking up on the discussion in the first session, led by [Anselmo Lee](#) and [Nukila Evanty, Sumitha Shaanthinni Kishna](#) and [Guangchun Gangmei](#) facilitated further discussion on the value of networks and networking, challenges in maintaining networks, and the possible role of DTP alumni networks, in existing human rights networks in Asia.

There was consensus that there was value in having a DTP Alumni Network and that this network could play an important role in the region not just for individual alumni but their movements and organisations. They saw the current alumni network as having three functions: solidarity, moral support and the sharing of resources.

3.5.1 Why Network?:

Participants identified the following areas as being of particular benefit from being in the DTP Alumni Network.

- Networking – the opportunities to connect with others, across different human rights sectors which, in turn, provides opportunities to discuss common areas of concern for defenders from different groups. Facilitating dialogue between alumni, other human rights defenders, supporters / funders, governments and the UN system.
- Solidarity – “the feeling that you are not alone” and building people-to-people solidarity.
- Impact – through the network, alumni can promote their work to larger networks and audiences leading to greater collaboration and more concerted campaigns.
- Knowledge – a hub: acting as a valuable resource for activists. The sharing of ideas, knowledge and experience. The development of new methodologies.

3.5.2 Current DTP Networks:

DTP Alumni in Asia already connect with one another in different ways. Some connections are built around a particular DTP program, some are issue-based, and some are country-based. Currently this “networking” is largely informal. Some interesting examples were shared:

- [DTP Malaysia WhatsApp Group](#): This network was set up in 2018 following the DTP / MFA Malaysia Migrant Worker program (five modules over 14 months). Individuals share news and case studies, and seek assistance and advice. It is also a social group organising meetings in the country, celebrating birthdays, offering condolences etc.
- [MFA Network](#): MFA know which DTP alumni are involved in MFA member organisations and involve them in general and specific MFA activities and programs – providing support to implement their training. They reach out to MFA members for news and examples to share.

In recent years, DTP has invested in the DTP networks by:

- Hosting “in-country” meetings with DTP alumni to coincide with DTP courses
- Profiling DTP in the DTP eNews and website
- Sharing DTP alumni and partner news in the DTP fortnightly eNewsletter



3.5.3 Future DTP Networking:

Workshop participants also discussed ideas and options for future DTP alumni networking. The discussions focused on options for national, regional and thematic alumni networks.

- Regional / National DTP Networks could:
 - Share information on human rights issues
 - Share calls for action
 - Engage, as alumni, with the Australian and other diplomatic missions
 - Organise capacity building programs
 - Promote DTP courses and be involved in the selection process for DTP alumni
 - Organise briefing sessions for DTP participants.



Proposals to take this forward would include:

- Establishing national / regional steering committees of DTP alumni
 - Developing resources for alumni use
 - Establishing a DTP alumni focal point in each country to coordinate alumni network.
- Regional / National Networks on Business and Human Rights (BHR):

Participants noted that there is a strong pool of human rights advocates (DTP alumni) with expertise and experience in BHR. Unlike other thematic focus areas for DTP's work there was no established regional network or organisation on BHR. DTP alumni are involved in the increasing levels of BHR advocacy across Asia. It was suggested that DTP alumni explore initiating a BHR Network with a focus on:



- Identifying capacity building priorities
- Developing a BHR train-the-trainers program in Asia
- Sharing information on calls for action in relation to BHR issues
- Coordinating engagement around regional BHR / and SDG (processes)
- Strengthening the BHR capacity of Asia's different human rights movements.

- Indigenous Peoples (IP) Rights Networks:

It was acknowledged that DTP works in partnership with AIPP to assist them in building the capacity of their networks at national and regional level. Further work could be done to identify and link the alumni of DTP's Indigenous peoples' programs with AIPP networks at national and regional level, and into the AIPP's strategy of engagement with UN meetings at regional and global level.



It was further noted that there could be shared benefits of linking DTP Indigenous alumni with other DTP alumni to help build support for IP issues. Links with other thematic networks – especially business and human rights and climate change / environment – were seen as vital for the IP network.

At a regional level, the establishment of a WhatsApp or Signal group was also suggested. There was discussion about whether to expand the membership and include the Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Defenders (IPHHRD) networks even if they were not DTP alumni.

Country focal points could maintain the network nationally and regionally and engage with DTP secretariat.

Migrant Workers: It was suggested DTP establish a repository of resources on Migrant Worker's Rights as well as a registry of alumni skills.



3.5.4 Opportunities and Challenges:

All participants expressed a desire for a greater connection between alumni and between alumni and DTP. And that this would be beneficial. They felt a DTP alumni network would meet a currently un-met need and would be distinct from other networks.

Participants also discussed the challenges of establishing and maintaining an alumni network namely:

- Resources – human and financial
- Ideological divides
- Power dynamics and divisions among members
- Security concerns
- Representation
- Differing issues and priorities
- Duplication of efforts
- Self-interest and gate keeping.



4. Workshop Conclusions:

Participants stressed the importance of DTP's programs on human rights. Human rights advocacy by civil society is critical, especially given the failures and limitations of the UN system and UN mechanisms, the rise of authoritarian governments and increased impunity. Training programs helped to refresh and energise grassroots thinkers and advocates to generate ideas for advancing human rights. Their recommendations for DTP's program priorities included:

- A focus on climate change and human rights
- Integrating gender perspective / women's human rights into human rights issues and more time allocated in the DTP program
- Engagement with UN and Regional / ASEAN intergovernmental processes.

Participants were in favour of more formal DTP alumni networks being established and for DTP to tap into the expertise of its alumni. Recommendations included:

- Building and sharing the DTP alumni directory
- Setting up specialised thematic networking groups among alumni e.g. BHR
- Identifying alumni expertise and competencies
- Promoting DTP alumni networks across borders.

Specific requests to DTP included:

- Formalising a repository of human rights and training resources for alumni
- Creating / supporting programs for DTP alumni “at risk”
- Organising national and sub-regional alumni gatherings
- Assisting the establishment of connections with Australian Embassies / High Commissions
- Supporting funding for alumni initiatives.

The recruitment of a fundraising / resource position may be of benefit to DTP in delivering its programs and supporting alumni.

5. Next Steps:

DTP will develop an alumni network strategy to share with alumni based on this workshop and the Pacific alumni workshop, alumni survey and in-depth interviews. This strategy will be launched in 2024 with further alumni focused activities.



Appendix 1: Background to DTP Alumni Workshop:

DTP is an independent NGO based in Sydney, Australia. DTP has developed and delivered human rights and advocacy training programs in the Asia-Pacific region for over [33 years](#). These programs include DTP's Annual Human Rights and Peoples' Diplomacy Training Program, the longest running human rights capacity building course in the Asia-Pacific region. DTP has also delivered over 150 thematic and country-based programs for Asia-Pacific NGO and CSO leaders and advocates, with a specific focus in the Pacific on the areas of business and human rights, sustainable development goals (SDGs) and climate change.

DTP's programs are organised with local and regional partners in human rights movements, and with DTP alumni. DTP's training methodology is participatory. Since 2004, DTP has developed and delivered programs on the following priority themes:

- Human Rights Defenders
- The Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- The Rights of Migrant Workers
- Human Rights and Business
- Children's Rights.

In addition, it has developed programs on:

- Human Rights, the SDGs and Climate Change in the Pacific
- Myanmar
- Diaspora Communities.

Over more than 30 years, DTP has made a significant contribution to regional human rights. DTP recognises the current regional context is very challenging for human rights defenders and human rights movements, 75 years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

It is time for DTP to take stock and reflect – on what it has achieved, and how it can be most effective in the future. The environment for human rights and human rights defenders in 2023 is very challenging. Poverty and inequality are increasing. Authoritarianism, populism and conflict are restricting space for civil society and human rights defenders. Universal values of human rights and dignity are challenged, including within the systems established to promote and protect them. Growing geo-strategic rivalry is leading to a dysfunctional international system and increased impunity for violations. New digital technologies, social media, artificial intelligence and the power of the private sector pose new challenges. The impacts of the climate emergency are accelerating.

Appendix 2: Participant Biographies

BANGLADESH

Sharmin Subrina, Director Program, Association for Community Development (ACD)

Migrant Workers Bangladesh Modules (2015-16) held in Bangladesh; 29th Annual Program held in Timor-Leste (2019)

Sharmin has been working with the Association for Community Development (ACD) since 2005 and serves in the senior management team. She works through the rights-based programming approach with the most disadvantaged and marginalised women, adolescents and children whose lives have been suppressed and shattered in traditional patriarchal social norms and power structures, through

poverty and sexual violence. Sharmin is one of the focal points of ECPAT International Child and Youth Advisory Committee (EICYAC). She is strongly involved in community-based interventions in child protection, women's participation, combating sexual gender-based violence by engaging men and boys and dealing with gender issues and positive forms of masculinities. Sharmin is responsible for coordinating and effectively implementing numerous projects including building of resilience for returning migrants through economic reintegration and community empowerment; the institutionalised implementation of tobacco control law at local administration, local government and ending / preventing the sexual exploitation of children online and in travel and tourism. Sharmin hopes to have specialized knowledge about the role that civil society and the UN system can play in the promotion and protection of human rights including the rights of indigenous and migrant workers.

Shohel Chandra Hajang, Human Rights Campaign and Policy Advocacy Program Officer, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

27th Annual Regional Human Rights and Peoples Diplomacy Training Program, Timor Leste (2017)

Shohel Chandra Hajang identifies as a member of the Indigenous Hajong community, Bangladesh. He worked for the Kapaeeng Foundation in Bangladesh, where he advocated for the rights of Indigenous peoples at the national level and improved the capacity of Indigenous children and young people, women and activists in his community against violence and discrimination. Shohel has conducted fact-finding and investigations into human rights violations in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and plains of Bangladesh. Shohel participated in the 11th and 12th sessions of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) in 2018 and 2019 respectively, and the 39th session of the Human Rights Council on Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Bangladesh in Geneva in September 2018. Shohel also lobbied the High Court in Bangladesh to immediately stop the illegal extraction of stones from Sangu and Matamuhuri in the Bandarban Hill district. In 2019, Shohel joined the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) as a Human Rights Programme Officer. He now has an important regional role working with a wide range of Asian Indigenous communities.

William Nokrek (M), Pax Romana, International Movement for Catholic Students (IMCS)

30th Annual Regional Human Rights and Peoples Diplomacy Training Program, Bangkok, Thailand (2023); 2022 Diplomatic Outreach for Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights Defenders (online)

William identifies as a member of the Garo Indigenous peoples of Bangladesh and works as the Asia Pacific Coordinator for the International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS). From 2017 to 2019 he served as the President of the Bangladesh Indigenous Students Action Forum (BISAF), the student wing of the Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum (BIPF). He organised the youth movement for Indigenous rights and social justice. He was Chief Coordinator at Adivasi Quota Sangrakkhan Parishad in 2018, a platform for Indigenous student leaders to restore the Indigenous quota in civil services after it was abolished by the Bangladesh government. He is involved in establishing the International Youth Training Centre (IYTC) of IMCS in Chiang Mai, Thailand for capacity building and empowerment of students of all ages, for social transformation for a peaceful, just, inclusive and a green world.

CAMBODIA

Jedy Oeung, Peace and Development Officer, The UN Resident Coordinator Office in Cambodia (UNRCO)

16th Annual Regional Human Rights and Peoples Diplomacy Training Program, Timor-Leste (2006); Human Rights Advocacy and Business: A Capacity Building Program for Community Advocates, Indonesia (2007)

Jedy is currently working as a Peace and Development Officer at the UN Resident Coordinator Office (UNRCO) in Cambodia, where he coordinates and provides thematic support and advice in relation to

human rights, legal and political analysis and civil society engagement for the UNRCO. Before joining the UN, Jeudy worked as a Program Officer at the Embassy of Sweden in Phnom Penh for seven years, where he coordinated Swedish funding support to several academic partners and civil society organisations working towards the promotion and protection of human rights in Cambodia. From 2003 to 2013, Jeudy worked as a Program Officer for the Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee (CHRAC), a coalition of 22 human rights NGOs responsible for coordinating the investigation of high-profile human rights cases and bringing them to the attention of the government and local authorities. His experience includes human rights monitoring and advocacy, legal aid, transitional justice, and local democracy and elections.

Sa Im Meas, Deputy Head of Women and Children Rights Section, Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC)

30th Annual Regional Human Rights and Peoples Diplomacy Training Program held in Thailand (2023)

Sa Im Meas has been working at ADHOC as a Deputy Head of Woman and Children Rights Section for the past 8 years. She has worked extensively on issues of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, rape, trafficking-in-persons, migration, and on advocacy and human rights violations in Cambodia. Her legal background and passion for women's and children's rights have allowed ADHOC to be at the forefront of discussions on issues relating to women and children, among other things. She conducts investigations and fact finding into violations of women's rights and intervenes with local, provincial, national and international authorities on behalf of victims seeking assistance from ADHOC. She is active in all aspects of safe repatriation missions for victims of human trafficking and labour exploitation in collaboration with NGO partners, embassies, relevant ministries, and other stakeholders. She is also an active speaker on radio and in the media more broadly, roundtables, consultations, and local, provincial, national, and international level meetings on gender-based violence, human trafficking and migrant issues.

INDIA

Pankaj Teron, Chief Convenor, Karbi Human Rights Watch (KHRW)

Indigenous Peoples Program held in Thailand (2010)

Pankaj is a member of the Karbi people and is from Assam, a state in the North East of India. Pankaj is the Chief Convenor of the Karbi Humans Rights Watch (KHEW). This organisation has recently been formed to promote peace, justice, equality and freedom for the Karbi people, with a particular focus on the right of the Karbi people to self-determination. KHEW performs lobbying and advocacy work and runs workshops and seminars to promote human rights among the Karbi people. Pankaj has been an active advocate for the rights of his people since his days as a student leader of his community while in college.

Dr Rana Sengupta, Managing Trustee and CEO, Mine Labour Protection Campaign (MLPC)

Regional Indigenous Peoples Rights Program, Thailand (2010); and Regional Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and Business, Thailand (2019)

Rana comes from the City of Jodhpur in the State of Rajasthan, the largest state in India which has the highest number of mining leases in India, employing over 3 million people. Rana has been the Managing Trustee for the Mine Labour Protection Campaign Trust since 2007. His organisation works for the rights and entitlements of mine workers, most of which are Indigenous peoples. By building a cooperative movement in the informal mine sector, Rana through his advocacy was able to influence the Government of Rajasthan to establish the first Mineworker Welfare Board in India. His organisation was instrumental in negotiating the setting up the Silicosis policy in Rajasthan and is now moving towards advocating for a National Policy for Silicosis Control in India. Rana is

simultaneously working with different policy makers for improving occupational health safety and compliance for artisanal and small-scale mining. Rana is also interested in the implementation of state laws and increasing the accountability of government agencies, mine owners and contractors. In this way, Rana strives to bring accountability to all stakeholders in the mining industry.

INDONESIA

Nukila Evanty, Chairperson, Inisiasi Masyarakat Adat (IMA); Executive Director, Women Working Group (WWG); and Country Director, RIGHTS

27th Annual Regional Human Rights and Peoples Diplomacy Training Program, Timor-Leste (2017), Regional Migrant Workers Program, Qatar (2016)

Nukila is Chairperson of Inisiasi Masyarakat Adat (IMA), an Indigenous movement organisation based in Riau province, Indonesia. She is Executive Director of the Women Working Group (WWG), a feminist organisation working towards gender equality. Nukila is also Country Director of Regional Initiatives for Governance, Human Rights and Social Justice (RIGHTS). Nukila's work includes research, advocacy and capacity building for Indigenous Peoples in Riau province, and for marginalised, minorities and vulnerable groups in Indonesia. She represented Indonesia on the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at the UN in New York in April this year. She is the 2021 Resilience Fellow for her outstanding advocacy on Indigenous peoples and crimes of extortion, and she received a grant from the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime for advocacy regarding the protection of female migrant workers against human trafficking in Indonesia. Nukila is always thankful for the knowledge and skills she gains from DTP training, which has strengthened her work and helped her lead human rights organisations.

Nurul Qoiriah, Inclusion and Victim Rights Director, ASEAN-Australia Counter-Trafficking

Regional Migrant Workers Program, Malaysia (2006)

Nurul Qoiriah is the Inclusion and Victim Rights Director at ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking, where she combats human trafficking. She has worked previously with the USAID Counter-trafficking Program, the IOM and the UNHCR. She is focused on ensuring anti-trafficking projects and programs in ASEAN address gender equality, disability, social inclusion and victim rights in accordance with the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and other ASEAN and international human rights commitments. Nurul completed her Masters in Human Rights Law at the University of Hong Kong. She says she wants to see a more equal and plural ASEAN region where the rights of all disadvantaged people, including women, children, LGBTQIA+ identifying people, persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees, are more appreciated and legally protected. Nurul and the DTP are currently collaborating on issues of modern slavery, trafficking and migrant workers' rights in ASEAN's fishing fleets.

MALAYSIA

Adrian Pereira, Executive Director, North South Initiative (NSI)

Regional Migrant Workers Program, Malaysia (2006); Regional Migrant Workers Program Cambodia (2007); and co-facilitator the 2017–2018 Migrant Workers Malaysia Modules

Adrian is the Executive Director of the North South Initiative (NSI). Over time his work has focused on peace, human rights and solidarity, through which he supports the development of regional networks in Asia. His work supports those seeking peaceful resolution to conflicts in Southern Thailand and West Papua, and advocacy in Malaysia on the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and refugees, the rights of Indigenous peoples and small farmers. Adrian tries to build cooperation amongst movements of communities that experience intersectional issues and have common goals of social justice. Adrian

says that through the skills he gained in DTP workshops, he and his colleagues managed to bring all parties together to collaborate and build strong solidarity networks among different actors especially in responding to migrant workers' rights violations and proposing joint policy reforms at grassroots, national, regional and global levels. Together with migrant worker leaders, Adrian has helped ensure they are represented at the ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour and even in policy discussions with the Malaysian Ministry of Human Resources.

Arul Prakkash, Senior Program Manager, WITNESS

Human Rights and Peoples' Diplomacy; Indigenous Peoples – Asia Pacific; Rights of Migrant Workers (Trainer, 2009—2019)

Arul found himself behind the lens during a series of evictions and at the start of the reform movement in Malaysia. He filmed the ongoing demonstrations of the Malaysian people in their struggle to end injustice. Through this experience, he learned the power of media and popular communications to create change. He now works with KOMAS training the urban poor, Indigenous communities, and other grassroots communities on how to use the media as an organising and empowering tool to fight for their rights. He has also been involved in setting up community media centres and training various NGOs and communities on video, popular communication, and human rights.

Frederic Wilson, Programme Officer, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and Business Program held in Thailand (2019)

Originally from Malaysia, Frederic works with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where he assists Indigenous Peoples from Asia engage with human rights mechanisms and processes at national, regional and international levels. He also helps maintain the Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Defenders (IPHRDs) Network website and social networking sites. Frederic also monitors developments and updates from various human rights mechanisms and processes, including summarising and providing analysis that is shared with the IPHRD network and programme committee members. Frederic has recently been working closely with IPHRDs and the Indigenous Environment Human Rights Defenders, providing technical and financial support and other forms of assistance to victims of human rights violations. Frederic's work interacts with the AIPP and ASEAN mechanisms, including but not limited to coordinating activity with the Indigenous Peoples Task Force, and attending and facilitating ASEAN Members in AICHR meetings, the ASEAN Civil Society Conference / ASEAN Peoples Forum and other ASEAN-related meetings.

Jerald Joseph, Chairperson, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)

Regional Indigenous Peoples Program, Australia (2006)

For over 20 years Jerald has been a human rights defender and trainer consultant at both local and international levels. He specialises in human rights issues concerning the rights of Indigenous peoples, elimination of racial discrimination, economic, social and cultural rights. He mobilises the Human Rights Based Approach in Development (HRBA) in his work. Pioneering the programme of non-discrimination, Jerald's work culminated in visits by the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the UN Independent Expert on Minority Issues, to Malaysia. He was involved in leading the Malaysian NGO's reporting to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group in Geneva and engaged with key stakeholders during Malaysia's previous UPR process. Jerald has had active engagement with the ACSC / ASEAN People's Forum (APF) and became Chair of the Regional Steering Committee for APF in 2015. Previously Jerald served as Human Rights Commissioner with SUHAKAM.

Sumitha Kishna, Founding Director, Our Journey, Chairperson Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)
Regional Workshop on Ethical Business and Recruitment Practices in Labour Migration, UAE (2014),
co-facilitator the 2017—2018 Migrant Workers Malaysia Modules

Sumitha Shaanthinni Kishna is an advocate and solicitor and was called to the Malaysian Bar in 2005. She is a qualified mediator and on the mediators' panel of the Bar Council Malaysian Mediation Centre. She is the Founding Director of Our Journey, an NGO platform for experts on migration issues to lobby government and private stakeholders to develop a supportive migration system for non-citizens incorporating international standards and norms. Sumitha is the current Chairperson of Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), which advocates for the protection of migrant workers. Sumitha serves in many national, regional and international groups / coalitions / networks to advocate for the protection and rights of migrants, domestic workers, refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, trafficked persons, and foreign spouses as well as foreign nationals on death row.

KOREA

Anselmo Lee, Regional Coordinator, Asia Civil Society Partnership for Sustainable Development (APSD)

6th Annual Regional Human Rights and Peoples Diplomacy Training Program, Bangkok, Thailand (1995)

Anselmo Lee is currently the Regional Coordinator of the Asia Civil Society Partnership for Sustainable Development (APSD) founded in 2016 as a regional umbrella network of international CSOs engaged with the SDGs in Asia. He has been engaged in international advocacy and capacity building programs on human rights and SDGs for more than 30 years in various international CSOs in Hong Kong, Geneva and Bangkok. He is currently involved with PyeongChang-Odaesan-Peace (POP) Dialogue and PEOPLES' 20 on the G20 Summit to promote dialogue and advocacy on human rights, peace and SDGs in the face of the global climate crisis. He has been teaching about global governance, NGOs, human rights and SDGs at the Master of Arts in Inter-Asia NGO Studies (MAINS) in SungKongHoe University, Ajou University in Korea as well as Kyunghee University. He was Executive Director of the Korea Human Rights Foundation from 2010 to 2019, after working for the National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK).

Dr Pillkyu Hwang, Executive Director, Transnational Human Rights Institute, Gonggam Human Rights Law Foundation

2nd Human Rights Advocacy and Business: A Capacity Building Program for Community Advocates, Indonesia (2007)

Dr Pillkyu Hwang is Executive Director of the Transnational Human Rights Institute at Gonggam Human Rights Law Foundation and a former Adjunct Professor charged with oversight of the International Human Rights Law Clinic at Seoul National University (SNU) Law School. His research, advocacy and field work include international human rights, migration, refugees, business and human rights, international adoptees, alternative childcare, North Korean escapees, disaster and human rights, and access to justice in general, both in Korea and abroad. He was a visiting academic at the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) of Oxford University in 2007, and a visiting fellow at the Human Rights Program of Harvard Law School in 2011 to 2012. He has been the Human Rights Committee coordinator of the Korean Bar Association (KBA) for 8 years and is now the chair of the KBA's Special Committee on International Human Rights. He was a member of the Reform Committee within the National Human Rights Commission in 2017 and has been a President-nominated Commissioner of the Special Commission on Social Disasters in Korea from 2018 to 2022.

PHILIPPINES

Abigail May Guevara, Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)

Advocacy and Human Rights in ASEAN for Human Rights and Democracy in Myanmar held in Thailand (2023)

Anelyn de Luna, Member, Survivors Hub; Advisor of the Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma (ALTSEAN-Burma)

1st Annual Regional Human Rights and Peoples Diplomacy Training Program, Australia (1990)

A long-time human rights activist in the Philippine human rights movement, Anelyn worked with the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP) from 1980 to 1996, and as a TFDP representative to the Philippine International Center for Human Rights in Brussels, Belgium. She also served on the Presidential Committee on Human Rights, the precursor of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP). Anelyn joined ALTSEAN-Burma in 1997 and served as its Program Officer for 18 years in Bangkok, during which she helped develop and implement the organisation's programs. She had a key role in building and strengthening ALTSEAN's networks and solidarity work in the ASEAN region. She was also involved in the Solidarity for Asian Peoples Advocacy (SAPA). Anelyn returned to the Philippines in 2015 and served as Executive Assistant in the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines until 2021. Anelyn currently a member of the Survivors' Hub (Martial Law 1972 to 1986) and will start as a consultant in a civil society organisation on children. She is also an Advisor to ALTSEAN-Burma.

Edeliza Hernandez, Executive Director, Medical Action Campaign

3rd Regional Human Rights Advocacy and Business, Philippines (2008)

Since 2001, Edeliza has been the Executive Director of the Medical Action Group. She was previously a Gender and Institutional Officer with the Development Center for Filipino Workers and also Executive Director of the San Pablo Apostol Labor Institute. She has particularly been interested in the rights of the urban poor and was a Program Coordinator for KAPPAG and the Social Action Foundation for Rural and Urban Poor (SAFRUDI). Edeliza is also a Council Member of the International Rehabilitation Council for Victims of Torture.

Ellene Sana, Executive Director, Center for Migrant Advocacy

Human Rights and Peoples' Diplomacy; Rights of Migrant Workers (Trainer, 2009—2019)

Ellene is the Executive Director of the Center for Migrant Advocacy Philippines (CMA). CMA is an independent policy advocacy group promoting the rights and development of Filipino migrants and their families. CMA works to improve migrant's economic, social and political conditions through policy advocacy, information, networking and partnership, capacity building and direct assistance to distressed migrants. Ellene serves as CMA's resource person and representative in many forums on migration-related issues, governmental and otherwise, both in the Philippines and abroad. Her recent activities include heading the NGO delegation to the 10th session of the UN Committee on Migrant Workers which examined the Philippine government as a State party to the UN Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Ellene is currently the Chair of the Executive Committee for Migrant Forum in Asia.

Mary Aileen D. Bacalso, Executive Director, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)

8th Annual Regional Human Rights and Peoples Diplomacy Training Program, Australia (1997)

Mary Aileen D. Bacalso is Executive Director of Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA). She is known for her work on enforced disappearances having worked on the issue nationally, regionally and globally for three decades. Aileen continues this advocacy as President of the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances. Because of her advocacy for the cause of victims of enforced disappearances and their families, she received the Emilio F. Mignone International Human Rights Prize conferred by the Argentinian government in 2013, and the Franco-German Prize for Human Rights and the Rule of Law in 2019. Aileen is also a part-time senior lecturer at the Asian Center at the University of the Philippines.

William Gois, Regional Coordinator, Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)

Human Rights and Peoples' Diplomacy; Rights of Migrant Workers (Trainer, 2004—2019)

William Gois is the Regional Coordinator of the Migrant Forum in Asia, a regional network of migrants' organisations, NGOs, advocates, grassroots organisations, and trade unions working to promote the rights and wellbeing of migrant workers and members of their families. He also chairs Migrants Rights International (MRI), an international non-government organisation with consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Over the last twenty years, he has been at the forefront of international advocacy efforts engaging and influencing international and multilateral organisations to promote equitable and fair migration and development policies. He works closely with UN Treaty Bodies, with the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Committee on Migrant Workers and other special mandates. He also heads a team to the International Labour Conference (ILC) of the International Labour Organization to monitor the development of labour migration issues within the ILO framework. The last such team was during the June 2011 ILC where the Conference adopted ILO Convention 189, a landmark Convention that recognises domestic workers as workers with the same rights as other workers.

NEPAL

Sushil Pyakurel, Former Expert (Adviser) to The President Of Nepal; Former Commissioner, National Human Rights Commission, Nepal

3rd Annual Regional Human Rights and Peoples Diplomacy Training Program, Australia (1992)

Sushil Pyakurel is a winner of the Kwangju Prize for Human Rights, awarded by the May 18 Memorial Foundation in Korea. He served as Human Rights and Political Advisor to the President of Nepal. Sushil played a leading role in the movement to establish the National Human Rights Commission in Nepal, of which he became a Commissioner. He is also founder of the Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC), a Nepalese human rights organisation (and DTP partner). Sushil is always on the front lines in the struggle against a culture of impunity, to establish accountability for human rights violations and crimes committed by non-state parties. He participated in a number of human rights courses and trainings including with the DTP in Sydney, Australia. Sushil is also the Founder President of the Accountability Watch Committee (AWC), an informal initiative of civil society. In his efforts as a prominent member of civil society, Sushil promotes discussion on urgent issues related to peace, human rights, and democracy.

SRI LANKA

Lucille Abeykoon, Coordinator-Legal, Human Rights Office Kandy

27th Annual Regional Human Rights and Peoples Diplomacy Training Program, Timor-Leste (2017)

Lucille works with the Human Rights Office in Kandy, Sri Lanka. She advocates on behalf of the victims of torture, rape and other human rights violations in Sri Lanka, which includes holding perpetrators accountable for their crimes through a just judicial system. Lucille also assists in the rehabilitation of

prisoners and their families, as well as the families of people who have ‘disappeared’. Her work includes assisting in legal matters for the victims who are struggling to attain justice, as well as accompanying victims to court.

Ravi Tissera, International President (2020-2023), International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS)

Human Rights and Development (IPs): Building Civil Society Advocacy Capacity, Myanmar (2015)

Ravi serves as the International President of IMCS Pax Romana for the mandate of 2020 – 2023 where he works with students, Indigenous communities, women and migrant workers. ICMS has ‘special consultative status’ with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which means Ravi plays an integral role in bringing together negotiations and consultative discussions between intergovernmental bodies and civil society organisations (CSOs).

Ruki Fernando, Human Rights Advisor, INFORM Human Rights Documentation Centre

Human Rights and Peoples’ Diplomacy; Rights of Migrant Workers (Trainer, 2016—2018)

Ruki Fernando has been working with leading Sri Lankan human rights organisations such as the Law & Society Trust and INFORM Human Rights Documentation Centre. He is a prominent human rights defender from Sri Lanka, who has been involved in human rights and social justice issues since 1997, working with church groups initially and then with secular groups. Since early 2007, as human rights violations within Sri Lanka began to escalate, he worked on human rights education and advocacy. He documented human rights violations such as land grabbing and enforced displacement through writing in online journals as well as the national press, and giving interviews. Ruki has also worked as coordinator of FORUM-ASIA Human Rights Defenders Department.

Velayudan Jayachithra, Programme Coordinator, Women's Centre

18th Annual Regional Human Rights and Peoples Diplomacy Training Program, Australia (2008), 4th Human Rights Advocacy and Business, Thailand (2009)

Velayudan Jayachithra has been a Programme Coordinator of the Women’s Centre in Sri Lanka since 2002. The Women’s Centre aims to promote and protect workers’ rights in the free trade zones in Sri Lanka by collecting information about the conditions of workers, lobbying with concerned government agencies including the police, and organising workshops aimed at raising gender sensitivity and rights awareness. The Women’s Centre also organises programmes that promote sensitivity to minorities and women’s rights, peace and gender issues at the local and national levels. Velayudan was also a Senior Project Officer at the Women and Media Collective from 2019 to 2023. She managed a project on unpaid care work that aimed to recognise, reduce and redistribute care labour performed by women. Velayudan also coordinated short film competitions and a children’s art competition to better document stories on unpaid care work. She further developed social media interventions to raise awareness on matters such as the spike in care work during the pandemic, the toll COVID took on vulnerable communities, how society views gendered roles, and diversity and inclusion realities in Sri Lanka. Velayudan is an independent short advocacy filmmaker and social media influencer.

THAILAND

Boonthan Verawongse, Secretary General, Human Rights Development Foundation (HRDF) and Campaign Committee for Human Rights (CCHR)

1st In-Country Diplomacy Training Program Thailand (1991)

Boonthan is one of Thailand and ASEAN's most experienced and respected human rights defenders and leaders. Boonthan holds the position of Secretary General at the Human Rights and Development Foundation (HRDF) and Campaign Committee for Human Rights (CCHR). He is also a Council Member at the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD). In 2018, his candidacy for the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand was opposed by the Thai military junta constituted in the National Legislative Assembly. He was active in Asian NGO mobilisation for the UN World Conference on Human Rights in 1993. Boonthan became a core leader in developing an ASEAN Human Rights mechanism. Boonthan's solidarity work for human rights in Timor-Leste through the 1990s was recognised in 2019 when he was invited to be one of Timor-Leste's special guests for the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Independence Referendum, held in Dili.

Guangchunliu Gangmei, Programme Coordinator, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

Indigenous Peoples – Asia Pacific (Trainer, 2020)

Guangchunliu Gangmei is a Naga Indigenous woman from Manipur, India. She is currently working as a Programme Coordinator for the Human Rights Campaign and Policy Advocacy Programme. Her primary interests include Indigeneity, Indigenous peoples' movements, Indigenous data sovereignty, land rights, and Indigenous human rights defenders. She also has an interest in understanding multiple marginalities experienced by persons from diverse social and gendered identities.

Pornpen Khongkachonkiet, Director, Cross Cultural Foundations

Regional Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and Advocacy Program, Australia (2008)

Since 2005, Pornpen has been working as a human rights activist with the Cross-Cultural Foundation (CrCF). CrCF is a non-profit NGO that aims to promote understanding across different cultures, human rights and democracy. In Thailand, it works closely with partner organisations like the Muslim Attorney Center and the Thai Volunteer Services Foundation. Recently, Pornpen has been co-ordinating a project called 'Access to Justice and Legal Protection' which provides a voice to victims of abuse from Southern Thailand with the aim of bringing peace to this region. Alongside this, they have also been assisting Thai lawyers in cases for political refugees.

Usa Lerdsrisuntad, Executive Director, Association for the Promotion of the Status of Women (APSW)

6th Annual Regional Human Rights and Peoples Diplomacy Training Program, Thailand (1995)

Usa Lerdsrisuntad is the Executive Director of the Association for the Promotion of the Status of Women (APSW) in Bangkok, Thailand. She has been a women's rights activist for over 30 years and a former Director of the Foundation for Women, Thailand. Usa joined the Home for Battered Women and Women's Information Centre, projects of the Foundation for Women. Usa continues to campaign and advocate and provides trainings not only to women's leaders but also to leaders of various sectors including members of local administrative organisations, and schools and youth groups. Usa values DTP's training highly, and believes that DTP training was a good opportunity for her to inform and influence and also learn from the participants.