



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

DTP Alumni Workshop on Business and Human Rights Network Building

December 12 – December 14, 2024, Bangkok, Thailand

Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) in partnership with Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), and Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

PARTICIPANT'S BIOS (Draft¹)

Bangladesh

Marina Sultana, (F), Program Director, Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU)

DTP alumna Marina Sultana Kalpona is an experienced migrant workers' rights advocate in Bangladesh. She is a Program Director at Bangladesh's prestigious Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) affiliated with Dhaka University. Marina and her team at RMMRU research, educate, campaign and advocate for safer migration practices in Bangladesh and in destination countries. RMMRU's research has highlighted that the abuses and vulnerability of migrant workers begins at home in Bangladesh, before departure – and then on return. Marina is particularly passionate about women migrant workers' rights. Her passion has led RMMRU to introduce pre-departure training, financial literacy programs, and skill enhancement for women migrant workers. Recognising the significance of reintegration for returning migrants, Marina also spearheaded programs aimed at their social and economic reintegration.

Cambodia

Sotheary Sao, (F) Policy Specialist, Environmentalist, and Human Rights Advocate

Sao Sotheary is an environmentalist and human rights advocate with over 20 years of experience in Cambodia. She has worked extensively on climate change, community rights, gender equality, livelihoods, forest protection, and environmental justice. As Deputy Chief of Party for USAID's Tech for Green Cities (T4GC) project, she led initiatives to mobilise youth engagement in environmental governance, using technology to enable real-time reporting on waste management issues and promote sustainable recycling and waste reduction. Her work also integrated climate resilience into urban development. Previously, as Policy and Gender Manager for USAID Greening Prey Lang, she supported gender-sensitive policies and climate change mitigation, ensuring equitable access to natural resources for local communities. She also worked as Policy Manager at WCS Cambodia, where she led campaigns advocating for community rights in conservation efforts, particularly against development projects that threatened both biodiversity and local communities. With a legal background, Ms. Sotheary is committed to advancing human rights and climate action by ensuring that vulnerable communities are central to sustainable development and environmental protection.

¹ These bios have been drafted by DTP based on the application forms received. Applicants gave permission for their information to be shared. We will seek their edits and approval for the final drafts. We apologise for any inaccuracy or offence.

Yun Mane (F), Attorney at Law and Executive Director, Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Organization

Yun Mane is an Indigenous Women from Monduliri in the North East of Cambodia. She graduated in law from the Royal University of Law and Economics, and holds Master's Degree from Cambodia University of Socialist. Currently, Ms Mane is attorney at law (lawyer) and Executive Director of Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Organization. She is member of Cambodia Indigenous women working group, the former chair board of the Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association (CIYA), Cambodia, Centre for Human Rights, Youth Council of Cambodia organization, and Promote Kui Culture organization. Ms. Mane spent three and a half years working with the United Nations Development Program Regional Indigenous People Program, and two years as a Program Officer with the International Labour Organization to support Indigenous Peoples Project. She spent a few months in 2004 and 2007 in the United States raising funds to support Indigenous people in Cambodia to support on IPs rights to land and education and efforts to promote and preserve Indigenous culture in Cambodia. In addition, she been working in different aspects with different IPs, UN agencies and NGOs and Government in the promotion and protection on IPs rights and cultural identity since 2001 until today

India

Gopinathan Kunhithayil Parakuni (M) General Secretary, Cividep-India

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

Rashmi Venkatesan (F), Assistant Professor of Law, National Law School of India University

Rashmi Venkatesan has been working in the field of human rights and development for more than a decade. Before joining NLSIU in 2016, she worked with international and domestic non-profits to promote better working conditions in global commodity supply chains, particularly garments, leather and electronics. She has extensive experience in working with business and human rights issues, international labour standards and codes of conduct, corporate social responsibility, international trade and economic law, and human rights. Apart from her international work experiences, Rashmi also brings with her years of litigation experience. As a practicing lawyer, she has represented a variety of clients in multiple legal forums including trial and appellate courts, tribunals and commercial arbitrations. As a legal practitioner, she has worked with an array of different organisations: law firms, NGOs, international organisations and civil society organisations. Her current academic interests and engagements deepen her rich practical experience. She continues to research and write on labour issues, human rights and development policies. She is also interested in how popular media constructs legal and developmental discourses. She consults with various civil society organisations, conducts training for lawyers and legal education seminars, is published in international academic journals and regularly contributes to newspapers and blogs.

Rejimon Kuttappan (M), Forced Labor Investigator

Rejimon Kuttappan is a forced labor investigator, independent journalist, and migrant rights researcher specialising in migration narratives and labor issues. His work has been featured in global, regional, and Indian publications such as Al Jazeera, The Third Pole, Fair Planet, and The Hindu. As a forced labor investigator, Rejimon has exposed modern-day slavery in India's fish export industry, clothing sector, steel production, and mint farming. He has worked on projects with leading

organisations, including Migrant Forum in Asia, the U.S. Department of Labor, the International Labour Organization (ILO), Human Rights Watch, the International Trade Union Confederation, Corporate Accountability Lab, and Issara Institute. In addition, Rejimon has completed prestigious fellowships with the ILO and Thomson Reuters, focusing on labor migration and human trafficking. Rejimon completed DTP in 2012.

Indonesia

Iman Prihandono (M) Lecturer, Faculty of Law Universitas Airlangga

Iman Prihandono is a Lecture at the Faculty of Law Universitas Airlangga who teaches public international law and international human rights law. His area of expertise is in business and human rights issues, particularly on the right to the access to remedy. He finished his undergraduate in law program (SH) from Universitas Airlangga, and took his master of laws degrees at Universitas Indonesia (M.H.) and from the University of Sydney, Australia (LL.M). Finally, in 2012 he finished Ph.D in international law from Macquarie University, Australia. His Ph.D thesis is titled “Litigating FDI-induced human rights violations by TNCs: opportunities and challenges for Indonesia”. Prior to joining the University, he was a lawyer specialising in corporate law, financing, and capital market law. He published a book titled “Responsibility of Multinational Corporations under the International Human Rights Law, Airlangga University Press, 2016. In October 2024, he initiated the establishment of Business and Human Rights Law and Policy Journal (bhrlawply.org).

Imam Shofwan (M) Head of Community Network, Jaringan Advokasi Tambang (JATAM)

Imam Shofwan is an award winning Indonesian human rights defender, journalist and researcher. He is the Head of Community Network at Jaringan Advokasi Tambang (JATAM), a mining advocacy network comprising Indonesian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community groups dedicated to protecting mining workers, the environment, and the land rights of Indigenous peoples. Imam began his professional career in journalism, working for various media outlets, including Syir’ah Magazine and Pantau Feature Service. For over 20 years, he reported on pressing issues across Indonesia, covering conflict zones like Papua, East Timor, and Ambon, where he witnessed numerous human rights violations and injustices. He has dedicated much of his life to addressing the human rights issues connected to mining in Indonesia. This includes advocacy for the rights of miners, as well as Indigenous Peoples rights and communities impacted by mining. He works closely with grassroots communities affected by mining operations, defending communities from criminalisation, protecting Indigenous lands, and highlighting the environmental costs of mining activities.

Indriaswati Dyah Saptaningrum (F), Vice Chair of the Committee of Publisher Rights, Lecturer on Law and technology, Atma Jaya Catholic University Indonesia

She holds a Bachelor degree in Law from Gadjah Mada University (UGM), and her PhD from UNSW Law School. Before joining AJCUI, she has been working in human rights advocacy for more than fifteen years. She has worked with ELSAM for more than ten years, and was appointed as Executive Director of ELSAM from 2010-2015. She has broad experiences in leading national human rights advocacy, among others are, accountability of human rights violations in the past, led advocacy on the prevention against torture, including to led CSO's report to the UN and led the NGO delegation to attend the Committee's session. She initiated human rights and business in ELSAM through promoting UNGP framework and developed multi-stakeholder forum to promote the adoption of the UNGP principle. The advocacy has paved a foundation for the recently enactment of the Presidential Degree on the Indonesia National Strategy on Business and human rights. For the last five years she has been active in the area of human rights and technology, including accountability of digital platforms, human rights and the internets, privacy and personal data protections.

Nukila Evanty (F), Chairperson, Inisiasi Masyarakat Adat (IMA); Executive Director, Women Working Group (WWG); and Chairperson of the Civil Society Coalition against Organized Crime (the Coalition)

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 Chairperson of the Civil Society Coalition against Organized Crime (the Coalition). 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 2023. 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. In 2024, Nukila joined as a fellow selected by the International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI). 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.

Prarthana Rao (F), Programme Manager, Business And Human Rights Programme at Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)

Prarthana is currently a Programme Manager at the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (also known as FORUM-ASIA), which is a regional human rights organisation with 87 members across 23 countries, working on issues of fundamental freedoms, democracy and the protection of human rights defenders. Prarthana specifically leads the programme on business and human rights and climate justice. Before joining FORUM-ASIA, Prarthana worked at a public organisation in Thailand on the issue of gender-responsive criminal justice in ASEAN countries, where her role primarily involved research and capacity strengthening of stakeholders in the prison system. She has also worked with a social enterprise on grassroots justice issues in India. Prarthana holds a Master's degree in Development Studies with a focus on Social Policy for Development from the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) of Erasmus University Rotterdam and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Symbiosis School of Economics.

Siti Badriah (F) Coordinator, Migrant CARE

Siti Badriyah is a former migrant domestic worker and a survivor of human trafficking. She is currently a lawyer and advocate for Indonesian migrant workers right with the organisation Migrant CARE, an organisation focused on issues surrounding migrant workers' rights, based in Jakarta. She has worked as a policy advocacy coordinator, and has focused on the struggle in constitutional court as a legal counsel that represented Migrant CARE and other organisation to judicial review CIPTA KERJA law, law number 11 year 2020.

Yuyun Wahyuningrum (F), Representative of Indonesia to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) / Executive Director, ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights

Yuyun Wahyuningrum is Representative of Indonesia to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) for years of 2019-21, 2022-24. In 2023, she chaired the AICHR. She is also Affiliated Researcher at the Asian Research Centre for Migration (ARCM) of the Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University. In July 2024, she joined the Asia Justice Coalition (AJC) as one of its Board Members for a project entitled 'Women Leaders In International Justice and Accountability: Increasing Avenues to International Justice and Accountability Through Women-Centred, Women-Led Legal Interventions' or WIJA project. She has more than 29 years of experience working in human rights organizations at the national, regional, and international levels, including Human Rights Working Group-HRWG (Jakarta), Oxfam International (Jakarta), Forum-Asia (Bangkok), Child Workers in Asia (Bangkok), the Solidarity Centre (Jakarta) and the National Commission on Child Protection (Jakarta). She recently was appointed Executive Director or ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights.

Japan

Anju Kozono (F), Business and Human Rights Officer, Human Rights Now (HRN)
Anju joined Human Rights Now, a Tokyo-based international human rights NGO, in 2021. She also serves as the Japan Researcher and Representative at the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre. In her role, Anju represents HRN in the Coalition Against Forced Labour in Trade, where she works to advance corporate accountability and combat forced labor in the global supply chain. She has extensive experience promoting responsible business practices aligned with the UNGPs and advocating for import ban and mandatory human rights due diligence legislation. Anju holds an LL.M. in International Human Rights and Economic Law from the University of Essex and a B.A. in Philosophy from Keio University.

Korea

Pillkyu Hwang (M), Executive Director, Transnational Human Rights Institute, Gonggam Human Rights Law Foundation

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.

Shin Young, (F), Lawyer, Advocates for Public Interest Law

Shin Young Chung is a public interest lawyer at Advocates for Public Interest Law, a non-profit organization of lawyers who assist vulnerable migrants. Shin Young is also a member of Korea Transnational Corporations Watch (KTNC Watch), a coalition of labor, environmental, human rights, and public interest law organizations that monitors and addresses human rights abuses by multinational corporations based in Korea. Shin Young has been actively engaged in research and advocacy through national and international human rights mechanisms for over 12 years. Her recent work has focused on investigating the human rights and environmental abuses of Korean companies in the supply chains of Korean investments in Indonesia, such as oil palm plantations and nickel mines, and urging the companies and the government to redress the harms they have caused throughout the supply chains.

Malaysia

Celine Lim (F), Managing Director, SAVE Rivers

Celine Lim, an indigenous Kayan from Sarawak, Borneo is the Managing Director of SAVE Rivers, a grassroots-based Civil Society Organisation (CSO) that advocates for Indigenous and Environmental Rights. SAVE Rivers strengthens Indigenous and Environmental rights through community mapping, agroforestry, heritage survey, and many more that are all Indigenous Peoples-led. All these aims to further strengthen the role of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) as a vital part of the climate crisis solution. In her role as managing director, she saw the success of the #stoptheSLAPP

campaign. A campaign that was launched to show solidarity for SAVE Rivers when they were served with a Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation (SLAPP) in June 2021 by a logging conglomerate. After much global pressure demanding that the company drop the suit, [they withdrew the USD1.12 million suit against SAVE Rivers in Nov 2023](#) This David vs Goliath story became a greater inspiration for the work of defending IPs and Environmental rights in Sarawak. She was the recipient of the Sustainability Leadership A-list of 2023 by Eco-business and named as one of the 9 Women in the Impact Industry empowering other Women in 2020.

Frederic Wilson (M), Programme Officer, Human Rights Campaign and Policy Advocacy Programme, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

An Indigenous Dusun Putih Llivagu, originally from Sabah, Malaysia, currently he is the Programme Officer for the Human Rights Campaign and Policy Advocacy (HRCPA) programme at the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP). AIPP is a regional Indigenous Peoples movement based in Chiang Mai, Thailand, promoting and defending Indigenous Peoples' rights in Asia. Before joining AIPP, he spent a year working with the Assistant Minister for Law and Native Affairs of Sabah State, Malaysia focusing on the training development and capacity building for the Head of the Village, and District, particularly with the component of leadership and the integration of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Since joining AIPP in 2019, Frederic's focus is strengthening the Indigenous Peoples' human rights defenders' network and contributes as a focal person in AIPP's engagement with ASEAN mechanisms including to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR). His work involves assisting Indigenous Peoples to engage with human rights mechanisms and processes at national, regional and international levels. He also monitors developments and updates from the various human rights mechanisms and processes, including summarizing and providing analysis and sharing the information with the IPHRD network members and programme committee members. Recently he has been working closely with Indigenous Environment Human Rights Defenders, providing technical and financial support and other forms of assistance to victims of human rights violations among IPHRDs and IWHRDs. Additionally, he is a chairperson for the Asia steering group members of the Zero Tolerance Initiative (ZTI) and current elected co-chair for the Global Indigenous Peoples Caucus engagement in the 13th session of UN Forum on Business and Human Rights.

Sumitha Shaanthinni Kishna (F), Director, Our Journey

DTP alumna and trainer Sumitha Shaanthinni Kishna is the Founding Director of Our Journey, a civil society organisation advocating for an internationally compliant migration system and migrant rights in Malaysia. Sumitha has also just finished her term as the Chairperson of Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA). She is an advocate and solicitor and the sole proprietor of Chambers of Sumitha. She holds an LLB (Hons) from University of East London 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.

Nepal

Avimansingh Lama, (M) Outreach Officer, Pravasi Nepali Coordination Committee (PNCC)

Avimansingh Lama is a Qatar returnee and seasoned development practitioner with over nine years of expertise in labor migration, human rights, and anti-human trafficking initiatives. His extensive experience spans project design, project management, strategic planning, data analysis, and fostering partnerships with national and international organizations. Currently, Avimansingh serves as a project coordinator for the Safer Migration (SaMi) Program, a bilateral initiative between the governments of Nepal and Switzerland at the Pravasi Nepali Coordination Committee (PNCC). His responsibilities include managing data systems, designing projects, preparing project plans, conducting field visits, and representing the organization on national and international platforms. He also has a strong track record in consulting, research, and program coordination for leading organizations like Amnesty

International. Avimansingh holds a master's degree in international cooperation and development from Mid-West University, where he focused on the social costs of migration and its impact on women left behind in rural Nepal. He has international exposure, having attended and facilitated workshops and consultations across countries including Switzerland, Italy, Qatar, Bahrain, Lebanon, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, and the UAE, addressing issues like fair migration, social protection, and access to justice.

Durga Mani Rai (M), Lawyers Association for Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples (LAHURNIP)

Durga is an Indigenous lawyer and human rights defender associated with the Lawyers' Association for Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples (LAHURNIP), an organisation of Indigenous lawyers working for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Indigenous peoples in Nepal. His human rights legal experience includes casework and policy advocacy in both international and domestic settings. He provides legal aid to communities whose collective and individual human rights have been violated, facilitates community mobilization, and engages in strategic litigation. He also has experience engaging with UN mechanisms and the accountability mechanisms of International Financial Institutions.

Taiwan

Hsin Hsuan Sun, (F), Director of Corporate Accountability & International Affairs, Environmental Rights Foundation

Hsin Hsuan Sun is the Director of Corporate Accountability and International Affairs at the Environmental Rights Foundation, an environmental legal non-profit based in Taiwan, where she works on issues related to corporate accountability and environmental rights. Prior to this role, she was a news assistant at CNN New York and earned her master's degree from Columbia Journalism School. In her current position, she conducts legal and value chain research, engages in policy and investor advocacy, and performs field investigations, working closely with communities impacted by Taiwanese investments and business activities both domestically and internationally. Her recent work has focused on the effects of the nickel and petrochemical industries on local communities, environmental and climate change issues, and the role of Taiwanese businesses within these sectors. Her current areas of focus include ESG legal frameworks, supply chain concerns, business and human rights, and climate change and just transition.

Thailand

Atittaya Ngampradit (F), Paralegal and legal assistant, Community Resources Center (CRC)

Atittaya Ngampradit is a recent law graduate from Ramkhamhaeng University currently working as a paralegal and legal assistant at the Community Resources Center (CRC) Foundation in Thailand. At CRC, she actively engages in legal cases related to environmental and human rights, including challenging mining projects, opposing water diversion projects, and fighting against illegal construction. Her work aligns with DTP's focus on Business and Human Rights (BHR) by addressing issues such as environmental impact, community rights, and corporate accountability.

Boonthan Verawongse (M), Human Rights Defender, Campaign Committee for Human Rights (CCHR)

Boonthan is one of Thailand and ASEAN's most experienced and respected human rights defenders and leaders. He has contributed to human rights promotion and protection through different roles in different organisations over three decades. He currently holds positions in five different organisations. He is a member of the ASEAN Watch Thailand, Thai Working Group for ASEAN Human Rights

Mechanism and the Campaign for Popular Democracy (CPD). Moreover, 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 sitting as the council member of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD). Boonthan participated in DTP's 1991 training program in Thailand. Since then he has been centrally involved in advancing human rights in Thailand – following the coup and subsequent democratic rising in 1992, and in promoting the rights of farmers and the poor as a new constitution was drafted. At the same time he was active in the Asian NGO mobilisation for the UN's World Conference on Human Rights in 1993 – that rejected the efforts of authoritarian regimes in the region to promote cultural relativism – Asian values in opposition to the universal values of human dignity in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The 1993 Bangkok NGO Declaration on Human Rights was an important step in building and coordination human rights movements in Asia. Boonthan became one of the core leaders of the Asia-Pacific Human Rights Facilitating Team – and subsequently regional efforts to develop an ASEAN Human Rights mechanism.

Prakaidao Phurksakasemsuk (Tian) (F), Project Manager, Cross Cultural Foundation (CrCF)

Tian's work at CrCF includes leading project planning and management, building relationships with local communities, government agencies, CSOs, and other relevant partners, collaborating with program teams (Legal, Communication, and Operations) in project planning and execution, and participating in project meetings and conducting research with key stakeholders. She is active in organising public events to raise awareness of the prevention of torture and ill-treatment, including the #SafeinCustody campaign, Dawn of Justice art exhibition, and International Day of the Disappeared. In addition, she is involved in hosting capacity building events for authorities, the general public, CSOs partner, and victims' communities about the issues such as human rights, transitional justice and safeguards in custody. One of CrCF's missions is to extend their advocacy to the international community, and while they frequently work with embassies, they still face difficulties convincing them of the importance of their core missions, such as helping minorities in the deep south or the Karen Indigenous group.

Sor.Rattanamanee Polkla, (F), Lawyer and Executive Coordinator, Community Resource Centre

Sor.Rattanamanee Polkla is an esteemed Environmental and Human Rights Lawyer with over two decades of dedication to public interest lawyering in Thailand and the Mekong region. As a co-founder and the Executive Coordinator of the Community Resource Centre (CRC), Sor has led transformative legal work supporting communities impacted by large-scale development projects. Her expertise spans transboundary environmental issues, human rights advocacy, and community rights protection, with a focus on setting legal precedents in public interest cases. Recognizing the need for a more robust organizational platform, she co-founded CRC in 2010 with Prashant Singh. Under her leadership, CRC has become a prominent non-governmental organization, representing over 30 communities in more than 200 cases. These cases address critical issues such as mining projects, land disputes, industrial pollution, hydropower, irrigation schemes, and environmental degradation, often involving transboundary impacts within the Mekong region. In addition to her role at CRC, Sor coordinates the Mekong Legal Network (MLN), fostering regional collaboration among legal professionals addressing human rights and environmental challenges. Her advocacy extends to empowering local communities, advancing environmental justice, and defending the rights of environmental and human rights defenders. Sor's work has garnered national and regional recognition for its impact on policy, legal reforms, and grassroots empowerment. By combining legal acumen with an unwavering commitment to justice, Sor has significantly contributed to the protection of human rights and the environment, positioning herself as a leading voice in the intersection of business, human rights, and environmental law.

United Arab Emirates

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

Riji is the secretary of the Middle East Centre for Training and Development. Riji's work involves coordinating training events being conducted by the Centre with private and government sectors in the emirate of Dubai. By overseeing the functions of the Centre as a whole, Riji's work is also involved in collaborating with the research department for studies related to labour and cross-cutting issues. In addition to conducting regular sessions on the Post Arrival Orientation program for low-income workers in the construction and hospitality sectors, her constant engagement with like-minded entities whom MECTD engages have attributed to institutional development and broadening scope on labour migration discourse.

ORGANISING TEAM BIOS

Matthew Coghlan

Matthew Coghlan is an experienced international development specialist with over 16 years of experience based in Southeast Asia. With senior leadership roles in non-profit organizations in Southeast Asia, Matthew possesses advanced skills in strategic planning, program development, and fundraising. His expertise spans corporate governance, legal compliance, and risk management, along with project management, stakeholder coordination, and donor reporting. Matthew's extensive background includes policy research, advocacy, and training, focusing on international trade and investment, the rule of law, access to justice, human rights, and modern slavery. His passion for human rights and Southeast Asian politics has been honed through roles with NGOs, UN agencies, and universities, covering areas such as trade justice, good governance, and anti-corruption. Committed to capacity building, Matthew generously donates his time to organizations like the Diplomacy Training Program (DTP), recognizing their crucial role in providing human rights training in the Asia-Pacific region. Through his expertise, he empowers leaders, communities, activists, and advocates to address human rights issues effectively, utilizing frameworks like the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises. Matthew's holistic approach emphasizes leveraging accountability mechanisms to combat human rights abuses and promote justice. Most recently he was the Financial Sector Engagement Lead of the Walk Free initiative at the Minderoo Foundation. He coordinated the Investors Against Slavery and Trafficking Asia-Pacific initiative of 49 investors from Australia, NZ, Singapore, HK and Japan committed to finding, fixing and preventing modern slavery in their portfolios.

Patrick Earle, Executive Director, Diplomacy Training Program

Patrick Earle has over 20 years of 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 a Visiting Fellow at the Faculty of Law at UNSW.

Clare Sidoti, Program Coordinator, Diplomacy Training Program

Clare Sidoti has been working with the DTP since the beginning of 2019. Prior to that she was the Executive Officer of the Australasian Council of Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (DASSH), the authoritative agency on research, teaching and learning in these disciplines in Australian and New Zealand universities. Clare graduated from the University of Essex, UK with an MA Theory and Practice of Human Rights. She has worked with the University of Western Sydney, the British Academy, and the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex in a variety of research, communications and administrative positions.