



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

Welcome Remarks for Opening Ceremony 33rd Annual Human Rights and Peoples' Diplomacy training program

Clare Sidoti, DTP Programs and Communications Manager

Thank you Japny. And thank you to UNTL for providing this beautiful auditorium for us today.

Good morning Professor Joao Soares Martins, Professor Maia, Mana Marcal, Adriano Remiddi, His Excellency the Ambassador for the Kingdom of Thailand, ladies and gentlemen and our participants of the 33rd Annual Human Rights and Peoples' Diplomacy training program. We are so happy to have you join us here in Timor-Leste for this very special program – the longest established human rights capacity building program in the Asia Pacific.

This year we have 31 participants from 14 different countries – from New Caledonia all the way across the region to Sri Lanka. You all bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the program. We have participants who are working on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, protecting human rights and human rights defenders in repressive and authoritarian governments, protecting civic space and freedom of expression, workers rights and the rights of migrant workers, the fight for self-determination and supporting refugees and asylum seekers.

Over the next two weeks, we will be joined by leading international and Timorese experts to build knowledge of international human rights standards and the UN system and skills in strategic advocacy. While you will no doubt learn a lot from these eminent leaders in the field, but we will also be learning from all of you. We'll share stories, challenges, successes and working methods. On completing the program, you will not only form lifelong friendships and bonds with each other, but you will also join DTP's network of 3500 alumni worldwide.

Timor-Leste is a very special place for DTP – our physical home may be in Sydney, Australia, but our spiritual home is Timor and it is always an honour to be here in Timor. And we are thrilled to be continuing our partnership of many years with the Judicial System Monitoring Programme and deepening our partnership with UNTL Human Rights Centre in delivering the program. I thank the staff at both organisations for their hard work and dedication in getting us to today. I also want to thank the Global Campus of Human Rights for their support for this program. DTP looks forward to continuing the relationship with you all, in addition to our regional partners FORUM-ASIA, PIANGO, Migrant Forum in Asia and the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact.

I would also like to thank the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy for their support of the program.

The next two weeks is going to be intense but hopefully a lot of fun. I'm looking forward to learning from you all and getting to know more about your countries, your organisations and your work.