

Human Rights, Advocacy and Business

A Capacity Building Program for Advocates in the Asia-Pacific Region

In partnership with Human Rights Working Group, Business Watch Indonesia and Oxfam Australia





Indonesia 13-18 June 2011

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

"After joining this training program I learnt a lot on advocacy work at the corporate level which is completely new for me. I gathered knowledge on it which really changed me." Quote from 2010 Participant

The Diplomacy Training Program is calling for applications for its 6th regional program on *Human Rights, Advocacy and Business.* The program has been developed to assist human rights defenders and community advocates as they respond to human rights issues associated with the growing power and influence of corporations, particularly multinational corporations. This program aims to explore how existing and emerging standards can be applied in practice, to share knowledge and lessons learnt in this area and to build the skills necessary for engaging in effective advocacy on business and human rights.

This is a 6-day intensive residential program that provides specialist training on the application of existing and emerging international standards, including labour and environmental standards, corporate social responsibility and voluntary initiatives by governments and corporations. The program will also equip participants with practical knowledge of relevant issues such as corporate structures, supply chains, corporate decision-making and investment processes that are important for devising effective advocacy strategies. It will develop practical skills such as strategic advocacy and media skills to enable participants to better engage with governments, corporations, and international solidarity networks to achieve change in corporate behaviour on human rights.

This year's program will have a focus on the "Protect, Respect, and Remedy" framework developed by the UN SRSG John Ruggie. Guidelines to operationalize the framework are now before the UN Human Rights Council and aim to provide greater clarity on state and corporate obligations on human rights. The program will also explore how advocates can use existing human rights standards and UN mechanisms. There will be a focus on the OECD Guidelines on multinational enterprises - which are currently being revised with a view to strengthening their human rights content. There will be a focus on access to remedies – including through use of voluntary guidelines and reporting processes, examples of NGO advocacy, and the role of National Human Rights Institutions.

The program will also take into account developments at the regional level, in particular the development of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR). AICHR has signalled its commitment to take a more active role promoting human rights in the region and encourage engagement with civil society and NGOs.

The program will provide opportunities to share their experiences and knowledge and to develop their support networks in this challenging area of human rights advocacy.

WHO SHOULD APPLY FOR THE TRAINING?

The program is for advocates from the Asia-Pacific who work with non-government and community based organisations and applications from NHRIs will also be considered. Applicants should have an interest in learning more about the relevant standards and advocacy strategies in relation to the human rights responsibilities of business and a commitment and opportunity to apply what they learn from this program. Applications are particularly invited from those with experience of campaigning on corporations. Applications from women, Indigenous peoples are encouraged. The training will be conducted in English.

WHAT WILL PARTICIPANTS LEARN?

- Up to date information and analysis of existing and emerging human rights standards, codes of conduct, and voluntary initiatives relevant to corporations
- Available remedies or recourse mechanisms available to human rights victims and their advocates
- Practical skills for holding business accountable to its human rights responsibilities, including strategic advocacy, research skills, lobbying and working with the media
- Lessons from different strategies used by NGOs and the experiences of other advocates in the region

THE DTP AND ITS PARTNERS

The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) was established by HE Jose Ramos-Horta and is the longest established NGO providing practical training in human rights and peoples' diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific region. The DTP is affiliated with the Faculty of Law at UNSW in Sydney. DTP is holding this program in partnership with Human Rights Working Group, Business Watch Indonesia and Oxfam Australia.

TRAINERS & TRAINING METHODOLOGY

Trainers at DTP programs are experienced and highly respected local, regional and international human rights practitioners, academics, and officials who understand and support DTP's philosophy of participatory training. The DTP recognises and values the knowledge that participants bring to its programs. The opportunity to share experiences and lessons with other participants and trainers is one of the real benefits and highlights of attending the program. The training is both knowledge-based and practical, emphasizing the use of group work, role plays, case studies and discussions enhancing participant's capacity to work for issues in their communities.

COURSE FEES & APPLICATIONS

There is a course fee of **US \$2000** which covers tuition, accommodation, food, field trips, and resource materials during the training. Travel expenses to and from the training are *not* included in this fee. **Interested applicants are encouraged to enquire about subsidised spaces.** Application forms can be downloaded from the DTP website <u>www.dtp.unsw.edu.au</u> or can be requested from <u>dtp@unsw.edu.au</u>.

All applications must be received by DTP by Friday, 25 March 2011. All applications will be acknowledged. For further information contact <u>dtp@unsw.edu.au</u> and website: <u>www.dtp.unsw.edu.au</u>.

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