

Aid for Change

Submission to the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness by the Diplomacy Training Program

I. Summary

The Diplomacy Training Program welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to this inquiry into aid effectiveness. This submission draws on the Diplomacy Training Program's long practical experience of working with organisations and individuals involved with human rights and development issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

Over the past 20 years the Diplomacy Training Program has provided practical skills-based advocacy training to around 1800 human rights defenders and community advocates in Australia and the Asia-Pacific. It is the oldest established human rights training program in the region.

It has organised capacity building programs in Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, PNG, The Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste. All of these programs have been organised and facilitated in partnership with local and regional organisations that are closely involved with addressing issues of poverty, development, peace building, and human rights. The programs have included participants from over 30 countries including - in addition to major aid partners - countries such as Bhutan, Burma/Myanmar, Sri Lanka, China, Laos, Malawi, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Vietnam, which face particular development and human rights challenges.

The Diplomacy Training Program's work is based on the recognition of individuals - and civil society organisations - as dynamic agents of change. There is no better example of this than the story of the Diplomacy Training Program's Co-Founder and Patron, HE Jose Ramos-Horta. Among the alumni of DTP's programs there are other examples of human rights defenders going on to make contributions to their societies as senior government officials, leaders of democratic parties, members of the judiciary, and leaders of civil society organisations. Alumni have participated as hosts and trainers in subsequent programs, further amplifying the outreach of DTP's work.

Across the world the evidence of the impact of human rights organisations, social and democratic movements is evident, including in one of Australia's closest and most important neighbours, Indonesia. More than one human rights defender or peaceful opposition leader has been imprisoned, only to go on to lead a future government of their country. The last twenty years have seen democratic transformations in the Asia-Pacific region, significantly changing the development context. Civil society organisations, social movements and key individuals have propelled these changes. It follows from this that investing in people and civil society organisations should be integrated into effective development strategies. This is consistent with the conclusions reached in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

This submission addresses the terms of reference of the review. More generally, it emphasises the value of integrating a focus on civil society engagement into AusAID's country, thematic and regional strategies; on the need to respond to changes in the region that are seeing regional governance structures (e.g. ASEAN) place greater emphasis on human rights, civil society and people-centred institutions and strategies that recognise the relationships between human rights, conflict, security, social exclusion and marginalisation; and approaches to accountability that include the need to be accountable to the intended recipients and beneficiaries of Australia's aid.

The submission seeks to convey some of the conclusions the Diplomacy Training Program has been able to draw on the value of engaging with civil society in a dynamically changing region. Working with organisations and individuals in the region has strengthened the Diplomacy Training Program's understanding of the extent to which development challenges – of poverty, governance, security, stability, conflict, the environment and human rights – are related and interconnected; and the difficulty of measuring effectiveness over the short and long term. While the participants in our programs may have a focus on one or more of these specific issues, their work often contributes to broader efforts to build societies where governments function effectively to meet their responsibilities – and as individuals and organisations they are likely to work with other organisations and networks working on related issues. Some will move from working in civil society organisations to working in the private sector and for government where they will have other opportunities to apply their commitment to, and understanding of, human rights.

The Diplomacy Training Program recognises the significant and generous contributions of Australia, both through public donations and public funding through AusAID, to addressing the challenges of poverty and development in this region and beyond. It welcomes the commitment to increase the aid budget towards the accepted international target. It argues that some of this increase should be dedicated to supporting individuals and organisations as enablers of change, as important defenders of core values of human dignity and human rights. Supporting civil society and its capacity to engage with governments and hold them accountable is vital to the longer term objectives of supporting the capacity of governments to deliver sustainable development outcomes.

The submission also reflects on the Diplomacy Training Program's experience of seeking funding for this work in Australia and overseas, and how this might relate to the broader issues of aid effectiveness for AusAID. In making these reflections it recognises the risk that the submission will be seen as self-serving, although that is not its intention. Rather, the intent of submission is to contribute to the important consideration of how increasing much needed public funding to address international poverty can be put to most effective use in both the short and long term for sustainable outcomes. Poverty is a key human rights challenge that cannot be addressed without reference to issues of governance and addressing governance involves addressing questions of civil society.

Australia, and Australian organisations, cannot impose human rights standards or good governance on sovereign countries or on organisations within those countries. Australia can help empower those within our region seeking to promote these values – and has an interest in doing so. Non-government organisations in the Asia Pacific are the key to ensuring that these values are both 'owned' and promoted within the region. Asia Pacific human rights and development NGOs have direct relationships with their governments and their people and they understand the nuances of local cultural and political environments.

The submission focuses on only some of the terms of reference established for the review.

II. Summary of Recommendations

A. Sectoral focus of the program, comparative advantage and measured effectiveness

The Diplomacy Training Program recommends a greater sectoral focus on the following areas where Australia has actual or potential comparative advantage and which can positively enhance the effectiveness of development contributions:

Recommendation 1: Human Rights. That AusAID significantly expand its current budget allocation and program on human rights, including through longer term core funding of regional human rights initiatives and organisations, Australian organisations working in the region, human rights education initiatives, institutional strengthening

and support for the development and implementation of regional human rights instruments and mechanisms in ASEAN, the Pacific and Africa.

Recommendation 2: Indigenous peoples. That AusAID develop in-house expertise and draw on ATSI experience and expertise for dedicated interventions and programs to promote and uphold the rights of Indigenous peoples as part of its country and thematic development strategies.

Recommendation 3: Migration, Development and Migrant Workers. That AusAID develop a sectoral focus on migration, development and migrant workers, with the explicit aim of addressing and enhancing the human rights and development impacts of labour migration, and likely impacts of migration as a result of climate change.

Recommendation 4: Civil society. That AusAID significantly increase the allocation of resources dedicated to engaging and developing civil society, engage civil society organisations in the development and monitoring of country and regional strategies, and that these strategies integrate support for civil society, including through provisions of funding for capacity building of civil society organisations and their staff/members.

Recommendation 5: Human Rights, Peace and Regional Stability: Specific human rights objectives and programs should be integrated into AusAID sectoral strategies on regional cooperation and stability.

Recommendation 6: Support for Regional Governance: The Diplomacy Training Program recommends that the current sectoral focus on ASEAN, and regional governance in the Pacific include specific dedicated support for the development and implementation of regional human rights mechanisms and machinery and building the capacity of civil society to engage with regional mechanisms.

Recommendation 7: The Diplomacy Training Program endorses the views of ACFID and others in encouraging adoption of a human rights based approach to development.

B. The relative costs and benefits of different forms of aid, including the role of NGOs and appropriate balance between multilateral and bilateral funding

Recommendation 8: That increased resources be allocated to longer term funding of NGOs and other civil society organisations in Australia and internationally, that are focused on sometimes sensitive issues including for example supporting human rights defenders, combating corruption, and Indigenous peoples rights.

Recommendation 9: Australia should undertake a review of how it integrates implementation of its own human rights obligations into its participation in the Asia Development Bank and World Bank and what specific steps it might make to ensure that these standards are an explicit part of the operational work of these institutions. This review should include civil society representatives with expertise in human rights and development issues.

C. AusAID's organisational structure for aid delivery

Recommendation 10: That AusAID allocate a funding stream clearly focused on enabling Australian and regional CSOs to support civil society engagement with regional and other intergovernmental organisations (ASEAN, Commonwealth, UN) and

enabling civil society links, learning and experience sharing across Asia, the Pacific and Africa.

Recommendation 11: That AusAID establish a clearing house for accepting and considering new and innovative project and program proposals from civil society that are consistent with the overall objectives of the Australian government and its aid program, but that do not fit neatly into established program areas.

Recommendation 12: AusAID should consider establishing a stream of funding to enable Australian educational institutions to build collaboration and capacity for research and academic capacity in selected human rights and academic institutions in partner countries

D. Arrangements for the Coordination of ODA across the public service:

Recommendation 11: That the Australian Government issue a clear statement that Australian aid aims to contribute toward global efforts to end poverty and discrimination and to realise all human rights for all people.

III. The Terms of Reference of the Review

The Diplomacy Training Program makes the assumption that Australia’s aid program is the principal means by which the Australian government fulfils its commitments to international cooperation for the realisation of all human rights for all, including the human right to development. These commitments are made in a number of binding international treaties including the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights and through the Declaration of the World Conference of Human Rights in 1993 and other World Conferences held in the 1990s, and through the Millennium Development Goals. The Diplomacy Training Program also acknowledges that Australia’s aid commitment reflects the generosity of Australians that was seen most vividly in their response to the tragedy of the 2004 tsunami, and is seen more regularly in their contributions to NGO agencies such as Oxfam, Fred Hollows Foundation, Caritas, Save the Children and other organisations. Australia’s aid program is a reflection of Australia’s core values on equality, and a “fair go”, as well as an acknowledgement that its own security interests are best served by a functioning international order that addresses the inter-related challenges of development, security and human rights.

A. Sectoral focus of the program, comparative advantage and measured effectiveness

The Diplomacy Training Program believes that there is a need for a greater sectoral focus on the following areas, and that in these areas Australia has the potential for leadership, comparative advantage and increased effectiveness of country and program strategies.

1. Human Rights: Australia’s positive history of supporting human rights reflects very Australian values of tolerance and a fair go. Australia helped to draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and supported the establishment of the UN Human Rights Commission and its successor, the UN Human Rights Council. Following World War II, human rights were seen as a central element of the peace, security and development agenda. Eminent Australians have made important contributions to the development of the UN’s human rights machinery and to human rights in the region.

On particular human rights issues Australian governments have also taken a leading role – notably in efforts towards global abolition of the death penalty. When it was elected in 2007, the Australian government significantly reengaged with the multilateral system, including the human rights system. Yet dedicated funding in the aid program for human rights remains very small – and has until very recently been focused on providing support for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions. While there are historical reasons for this relative

neglect, including perceptions of the political sensitivity of human rights issues and of how best to promote human rights, many of these reasons are no longer present, at least to the extent they were. ASEAN has for example recently established the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and Indonesia has become a vocal proponent of human rights in the region. A number of countries in the region are making moves towards the abolition of the death penalty, including Indonesia, and every government in the region has signed and ratified at least two of the core international human rights treaties, agreeing to implement those treaties domestically. And there is now a widespread international perception that human rights can effectively be promoted by incremental change through investment in institution building and capacity building. In the current environment, increased aid funding to human rights could facilitate and encourage greater engagement between Australia and the Asia-Pacific region, in Africa and between Australians and others in the Asia-Pacific region and Africa.

More recently AusAID has established the Human Rights Grants Scheme with allocated annual funding of \$3.5m. This scheme is focused on supporting small, short term projects at the grassroots level and very competitive given the number of applications for the limited funds available. There is a need for longer term, strategic funding of human rights programs at the national, regional and international level.

Increased and dedicated human rights funding – including through provision of longer term support to human rights and civil society organisations (see below) and regional mechanisms is also likely to complement strategic priorities to building good governance, to addressing issues of corruption and the issues of discrimination and marginalisation that fuel civil conflict and political instability and the refugee flows that can follow.

Recommendation 1: Human Rights. *That AusAID significantly expand its current budget allocation and program on human rights, including through longer term core funding of regional human rights initiatives and organisations, Australian organisations working in the region, human rights education initiatives, institutional strengthening.*

2. Indigenous peoples: Broad measurements of economic growth, such as GDP, can mask patterns and pockets of systemic deprivation – and some processes of economic development can further marginalise vulnerable communities. Indigenous communities and peoples face distinct development challenges – including but not restricted to Bangladesh, Indonesia, and the Philippines. Indigenous peoples have distinct contributions to make to sustainable development, particularly in the context of policies and programs to address climate change.

Australia has acknowledged this in the domestic policy arena and as a consequence it is dedicating resources and specific policies and programs to “closing the gap” in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians – which also means addressing the social determinants of health. Australia’s National Apology to the Stolen Generations resonated and was applauded around the world. Australia’s experiences of, and commitment to, engaging with Indigenous communities are likely to give it some comparative advantage in developing a specific sectoral focus that is relevant to its broader development programs and engagement with developing countries.

Australia has some of the world’s foremost experts on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, has valuable experience in having begun to acknowledge traditional knowledge in natural heritage and environmental programs, has experience with shared land-use agreements including in relation to national parks and areas of biological diversity and value. These are important and emerging issues in the region and beyond. In the private sector, Australia’s extractive industries have also made significant efforts to changing the way that they engage with Indigenous peoples, and toward ensuring that local Indigenous communities benefit economically and socially from the extraction of resources on their traditional lands.

Recommendation 2: Indigenous peoples. *That AusAID develop in-house expertise and draw on ATSI experience and expertise for dedicated interventions and programs to promote and uphold the rights of Indigenous peoples as part of its country and thematic development strategies.*

3. Migration, development and migrant workers: Rapid and unequal economic development has helped to fuel an increase in the number of people crossing borders in search of work. This movement is both from the global South to the global North – and it is also South-South migration. The World Bank and others have given increasing focus to the relationship between migration and development – including to the flow of remittances, which amount to the second largest financial flow after foreign direct investment. Labour migration is a key development and human rights issue for many of Australia’s development partners – and migration as a result of climate change is likely to emerge as a key challenge in coming decades. It is important that responses to, and management of, migration are based on accepted international standards. As a nation built on migration, Australia has an as yet underutilised competitive advantage in working with its development partners to ensure that migration policy and practice contributes positively to development outcomes, is rules based and respects the rights of migrant workers and their families

Recommendation 3: Migration, Development and Migrant Workers. *That AusAID develop a sectoral focus on migration, development and migrant workers, with the explicit aim of addressing and enhancing the human rights and development impacts of labour migration, and likely impacts of migration as a result of climate change.*

4. Civil society: Engaging and supporting civil society in Australia, and in Australia’s development partners, is essential to ensuring sustainable development outcomes. Participation is increasingly recognised as both essential to achieving sustainable development outcomes and a human right in itself. The capacity to participate effectively increasingly relies on access to knowledge and skills.

Civil society in Australia and in many other countries is recognised as an important partner with governments in the development of good policy, in the implementation of programs and services, and for peace-building and conflict resolution. Informed and effective civil society advocacy is also vital for ensuring government accountability, strengthening democratic processes, and promoting human rights cultures. Integrating a commitment to support civil society is likely to offer the prospect of enhancing program impact. Civil society organisations play a key role in exposing the corruption that erodes development outcomes and undermines good governance. Australia invests in the development of democratic institutions and independent human rights institutions – and the effectiveness of both relies on the extent to which they are supported by, and engaged with, civil society organisations. Supporting an active and engaged civil society is essential to strengthening healthy democracies. Working to strengthen civil society organisations, through supporting specific programs and projects, through encouraging engagement and capacity building initiatives helps to strengthen the demands for good governance – and accountable governments. Building capacity among civil society advocates and workers is likely to be more cost-effective than similar programs for other sectors as there is a generally higher level of commitment in civil society to sustained action.

Recommendation 4: Civil society. *That AusAID significantly increase the allocation of resources dedicated to engaging and developing civil society, engage civil society organisations in the development and monitoring of country and regional strategies, and that these strategies integrate support for civil society, including through provisions of funding for capacity building of civil society organisations and their staff/members .*

5. Regional Stability & Cooperation: Questions of human rights and discrimination are essential to understanding and addressing issues of political stability and security. Political stability depends, among other things, on the rule of law, toleration of diversity, the accountability of government, the rejection of impunity for human rights violations and effective avenues for redress of grievances. Human rights are relevant to understanding tensions over land and resources and the perceptions of inequality and injustice that feed into conflicts in many parts of the region and the world including Fiji, the Philippines, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Thailand, Nepal, Sri Lanka, India, Myanmar and the Solomon Islands. A perception of rights denied and grievances unaddressed feeds into dynamics of conflict. Human rights issues need to be recognised and addressed by development interventions. With climate change and increasing scarcity of resources (including water) the tensions are likely to grow – and transparent systems based on agreed standards in international agreements will become more important for managing these tensions.

Recommendation 5: Human Rights, Peace and Regional Stability: *Specific human rights objectives and programs should be integrated into AusAID sectoral strategies on regional cooperation and stability.*

ASEAN has recognised the need and value of establishing a new intergovernmental mechanism on human rights – the first in the Asia-Pacific region. It is also developing regional instruments and mechanisms focused on the rights of migrant workers and on women and children. It is reaching out to civil society and calling for the development of a people-centred ASEAN. Indonesia currently chairs the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and has committed to developing an ASEAN Declaration on Human Rights. In Africa there have been significant developments in relation to human rights – including the African Charter and the African Court on Human Rights. As Australia seeks to contribute towards development of regional governance arrangements in the Pacific then it will need to integrate consideration of development of a Pacific regional human rights instrument and mechanism.

Recommendation 6: Support for Regional Governance: *The Diplomacy Training Program recommends that the current sectoral focus on ASEAN, and regional governance in the Pacific include specific dedicated support for the development and implementation of regional human rights mechanisms and machinery and building the capacity of civil society to engage with regional mechanisms.*

6. Other sectoral areas and the Human Rights Based Approach to Development The Diplomacy Training Program believes that the sectoral focus on issues such as gender, health, education and water respond to key development challenges. It believes there is merit in implementing a more explicit human rights based approach and assessing the effectiveness of such an approach. Such an approach recognises the interconnectedness of these challenges – and the importance of targeting interventions to those most in need.

Recommendation 7: *The Diplomacy Training Program endorses the views of ACFID and others in encouraging adoption of a human rights based approach to development.*

7. The relative focus of the aid program on low to middle income countries.

The Diplomacy Training Program believes that this focus is appropriate given the principle that resources should be focussed on those in most need – those most deprived of their right to lives of dignity. At the same time, the aid program needs to recognise that, even as countries transition from being low and middle-income countries, inequalities, and discrimination within countries can lead to continuing needs to assist vulnerable and

marginalised communities and sections of society (see below) – including through engagement with civil society, smaller scale projects and policy dialogue.

B. The relative costs and benefits of different forms of aid, including the role of NGOs and appropriate balance between multilateral and bilateral funding

The Diplomacy Training Program acknowledges the dedication and professionalism of AusAID staff, and the considerable challenges they face in ensuring that Australia’s aid commitments are delivered effectively in complex and changing environments.

The Diplomacy Training Program notes the concerns that have been expressed elsewhere about the appropriate use of contracting out of programs, including concerns over the proportion of program budgets spent on levels of contracting through private companies, issues of value for money, and the use of consultants. The Diplomacy Training Program acknowledges that AusAID can face a difficult balance between ensuring financial accountability and the imposition of onerous reporting burdens that negatively impact on the output and effectiveness of recipient NGOs particularly in developing countries. A related issue is the contracting out of programs to managers who may not have expertise on the subject matter of the programs, no matter how skilled they may be as managers.

***Recommendation 8:** That increased resources be allocated to longer term funding of NGOs and other civil society organisations in Australia and internationally, that are focussed on sometimes sensitive issues including for example supporting human rights defenders, combating corruption, and Indigenous peoples’ rights.*

The Diplomacy Training Program notes that many of Australia’s key development partners, including UN agencies, DFID and the EU have formally adopted the human rights based approach to development and that the common framework provided by human rights should enable more effective coordination among different donors. Australia is also an important member of the Asian Development Bank. The governments of all of the other members of the Asian Development Bank have like Australia ratified at least two of the core human rights treaties – on the rights of women and on the rights of children. Australia’s approach in multilateral institutions such as the Asian Development Bank should ensure that human rights standards and goals are explicitly built into its programs and evaluations. Australian aid channelled through multilateral funding should ensure that the funding conforms with Australia’s and other member’s human rights commitments and responsibilities under international treaties.

***Recommendation 9:** Australia should undertake a review of how it integrates implementation of its own human rights obligations into its participation in the Asia Development Bank and World Bank and what specific steps it might make to ensure that these standards are an explicit part of the operational work of these institutions. This review should include civil society representatives with expertise in human rights and development issues.*

C. AusAID’s organisational structure for aid delivery

The Diplomacy Training Program notes here the difficulty it has experienced in finding an appropriate section of AusAID from which to seek support for its work. This may or may not be indicative of a wider problem of flexibility. Much of the Diplomacy Training Program’s work has a regional and thematic focus and there is a strong rationale for this. Much of its work addresses and complements AusAID priorities and focus areas and the priorities of the Australian government – yet its work does not seem to fit easily into any one area of AusAID’s organisational structure.

The Diplomacy Training Program has at various times been directed to seek support from the International Seminar Support Scheme, only to be advised that its programs are

ineligible. In any case this is piecemeal one-off funding that does little to enable the Diplomacy Training Program to fulfil its potential as the longest established human rights training NGO in the Asia-Pacific region.

Human rights funding was for a period located in the same section as the UN and multilateral development institutions. The human rights allocation was principally divided between the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions – both of which have themselves worked with and financially supported the Diplomacy Training Program. The former Human Rights Small Grants Scheme has been expanded and the criteria of eligibility widened. The focus of the program is mainly country based rather than regional. As it stands the focus of this scheme makes it unlikely that it can be a source of funding support for the Diplomacy Training Program's work. While the Diplomacy Training Program's courses take place in particular countries, they are regional programs aimed at encouraging the sharing of experiences and perspectives, and the building of networks of knowledge and support.

However the aid program is structured, it should have the flexibility to consider proposals and applications that do not neatly fit in established program areas – whether these proposals come from organisations with proven track records or from new organisations with innovative ideas.

Recommendation 10: *That AusAID allocate a funding stream clearly focused on enabling Australian and regional CSOs to support civil society engagement with regional and other intergovernmental organisations (ASEAN, Commonwealth, UN) and enabling civil society links, learning and experience sharing across Asia, the Pacific and Africa.*

Recommendation 11: *That AusAID establish a clearing house for accepting and considering new and innovative project and program proposals from civil society that are consistent with the overall objectives of the Australian government and its aid program, but that do not fit neatly into established program areas.*

There is also an important role for the Australian Government to fill in supporting educational initiatives by governments in the region in relation to human rights – including in building research and academic capacity and developing collaboration between Australian institutions and institutions in partner countries. One of the areas where many of Australia's development partners need support is in developing their own capacity in the field of research and teaching human rights in academic institutions. Australia has a number of outstanding university-based human rights institutes, some of whom already collaborate with academic institutions in Asia Pacific. The best-funded academic human rights program in Australia which engages with Asia is funded by the European Commission as part of its support for human rights and democratisation degree programs. Some funding for visits by human rights scholars to visit Australia is available under programs such as the ALA Leadership and Fellowship programs, and funds for academic collaboration are also available under other schemes. It should be possible to build on these initiatives.

Recommendation 12: *AusAID should consider establishing a stream of funding to enable Australian educational institutions to build collaboration and capacity for research and academic capacity in selected human rights and academic institutions in partner countries.*

D. Arrangements for the Coordination of ODA across the public service

The Diplomacy Training Program notes that in recent years an increasing amount of ODA has been delivered through different Australian public service agencies. There has been increased cooperation in the areas of justice, and the police. This trend highlights the need for clear strategies – and clear commitments - to human rights. One argument for adopting a clearer focus on human rights is that it will enable better coordination across agencies and

a clear basis for engagement with civil society. It is some years since the Australian government made a clear leadership statement about integrating human rights into and across its development programs, and the Diplomacy Training Program recommends that a clear statement on human rights and aid be made by the Australian Foreign Minister.

Recommendation 13: *That the Australian Government issue a clear statement that Australian aid aims to contribute toward global efforts to end poverty and discrimination and to realise all human rights for all people.*

Appendix 1: The Diplomacy Training Program.

The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) is an independent, non-government organisation providing education in human rights advocacy. It seeks to advance human rights and empower civil society in the Asia-Pacific region through quality training, and by building skills and capacities in non-government organisations. It is affiliated with the Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales, Sydney.

DTP's work is funded by grants, donations and training fees. In 2009 DTP received DGR status through specific listing in Parliament. Trainers provide their services pro bono. In-kind support is provided by UNSW. Funders include Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Commonwealth Foundation, Melbourne Community Foundation, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NZAID, Caritas Australia, Oxfam Australia, Fred Hollows Foundation, and Friends of the Diplomacy Training Program.

It provides training in international human rights law, in accessing the UN and other diplomatic channels, including ASEAN in lobbying, networking, and using the internet and media to promote human rights issues at local, regional and international levels. Knowledge of the international human rights system is taught as a means to enable its operation locally in the various countries represented in the trainings.

Since its establishment in 1989 it has provided training to around 1800 human rights defenders, community advocates and staff from National Human Rights Institutions from over 30 countries. With leading regional and local partner NGOs it has organised and facilitated 20 Annual Regional Human Rights and Peoples' Diplomacy Courses for NGO and civil society leaders from across the Asia-Pacific region, and over 35 specific country and thematic trainings in countries including Australia, East Timor, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand.

In every society there are individuals and organisations working to promote and uphold shared and universal values of human dignity. For twenty years, the Diplomacy Training Program has been working with them, providing practical help. Through this track record of working in partnership, the DTP has strong relationships across the region. The participants in DTP's programs are committed individuals determined to contribute to their societies, and to working with others inside their country and beyond to promote shared values of human dignity. The issues they work on daily include the range of human rights and development challenges in the region: *poverty and discrimination; trafficking in women and children; violence against women; child labour; forced displacement and evictions; illegal logging, the environment; sustainable livelihoods; conflict, peace-building and reconciliation; arbitrary detention; labour rights, rights of migrant workers and domestic workers; impunity and rule of law; corruption; the death penalty; racism and religious intolerance; torture, police brutality; political killings.*

The Diplomacy Training Program's work complements the efforts of the Australian government, the UN and others to promote and protect human rights, through dialogue, training, and enabling civil society interaction with the UN Treaty Bodies, UN Special Procedures, the Universal Periodic Review and the UN Country Teams and governments. The specialized human rights and advocacy training provided by the Diplomacy Training Program builds the capacity of human rights defenders and civil society advocates to engage with democratic institutions, National Human Rights Institutions and their own governments to promote equitable and sustainable development. Through building the capacity of civil society organizations and committed individuals, it addresses the demand side of calls for better governance across the region.

ORGANISATION PROFILE

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| Founder and Patron | HE José Ramos-Horta, President, Timor Leste, Nobel Peace Prize Recipient, |
| Year established | 1989 |
| Achievements | Over 1800 human rights defenders from more than 30 countries have been trained. 20 Annual Regional Training Programs for NGO leaders from across the Asia-Pacific region, and over 40 specific country and thematic trainings in countries including Australia, East Timor, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand. |
| Identity and Purpose | DTP is an independent, non-government organisation providing education in human rights advocacy. It seeks to advance human rights and empower civil society in the Asia-Pacific region through quality training, and by building skills and capacities in non-government organisations. |
| Funding source | DTP is a non-profit organisation that relies on grants, donations and fees. In 2009 DTP received DGR status through specific listing in Parliament. Trainers provide their services pro bono. In-kind support is provided by UNSW. Funders include Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NZAID, OHCHR, Commonwealth Foundation, Oxfam Australia, Fred Hollows Foundation, Caritas Australia, <i>Friends of the Diplomacy Training Program</i> . |
| Affiliations | Affiliated with the Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales, Sydney, which provides academic and in-kind support. |
| Summary of Training | Training in international human rights law, in accessing the UN and other diplomatic channels, governments and regional organizations, in lobbying, networking, and using the internet and media to promote human rights issues at local, regional and international levels |
| DTP Board of Directors | Emeritus Prof Paul Redmond , former Dean, Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales (Chair); Ms Louise Sylvan , Commissioner, Australian Productivity Commission; Mr Philip Chung , Executive Director, Australasian Legal Information Institute, Sydney; Emeritus Professor Garth Nettheim AO , Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales, Sydney; Dr John Pace , former Secretary to the UN Commission on Human Rights and Chief of Branch Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; Dr Sarah Pritchard , Barrister, Selbourne Chambers, Sydney; Mr Roewen Wishart , Development Manager, Australian Bush Heritage Fund; Professor Andrew Byrnes , Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales. Associate Professor, Megan Davis , Director, Indigenous Law Centre, University of New South Wales, Member UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. |
| Executive Director | Mr Patrick Earle |

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Mr Michael O’Flaherty, Director, Centre for Human Rights, Nottingham University, Nottingham, Member of United Nations Human Rights Committee.

HE José Ramos-Horta, Founder and Patron.

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Prof Marcia Langton, Dept. of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Melbourne, Melbourne.

Mr Pat Walsh, UN Administration (CAVR), East Timor, fmr Human Rights Director, Australian Council for Overseas Aid.

PARTNERS

Since 2003 the Diplomacy Training Program has worked with the following organisations the Asia-Pacific in organising and hosting capacity building programs in Indonesia, Thailand, Fiji, New Zealand, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Australia.

Migrant Forum in Asia (Manila);

Pacific Concerns Resource Centre (Suva);

Action for Economic Reforms (AER - Philippines);

Cividep-India (Bangalore);

Business Watch Indonesia (BWI - Central Java);

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP - Thailand)

Institute of Human Rights, University of the Philippines (Manila);

Amnesty International (New Zealand & Australia)

Oxfam Australia

Cordillera Peoples’ Legal Centre (DINTEG)

Asia Pacific Forum on NHRIs (APF - Sydney)

Serikat Buruh Migran Indonesia (SBMI Indonesia)

Mahidol University (Bangkok);

Council for International Development (CID) New Zealand (Wellington);

The Fred Hollows Foundation;

Peace and Democracy Foundation Timor Leste (Dili);

Asian Regional Resource Center for Human Rights Education (ARRC) (Bangkok);

Batchelor Institute for Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE) (Batchelor);

Lawyers for Human Rights and Development (LHRD) (Colombo);

CARAM Cambodia (Phnom Penh);

Malaysian Trade Union Congress (MTUC) (Selangor);

The Welfare Association of Repatriated Bangladeshi Employees (WARBE) (Dhaka);

RMMRU, University of Dhaka (Dhaka)

TRAINERS

Following are some of the trainers and expert resource people that have provided their time and expertise, on a pro-bono basis in programs over the past five years:

Mr Bill Barker, fmr Director, DFAT Human Rights and Indigenous Issues section.

Prof Ineke Boerefijn, Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM), School of Law, Utrecht University, Netherlands.

Prof Andrew Byrnes, UNSW, Sydney.

Ms Joan Carling, Director, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Prof Hilary Charlesworth AM, Director, Centre for International Governance and Justice, ANU, Canberra.

Mr Joshua Cooper, Director, Hawaii Institute for Human Rights

Mr Philip Chung, Executive Director, Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII), Sydney.

Professor Virginia Dandan, Former Chairperson, UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Ms Shanthi Dairiam, Expert Member, CEDAW Committee, Kuala Lumpur.

Rafendi Djamin, Chairperson, ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights

Prof Mick Dodson AM, Director, National Centre for Indigenous Studies, ANU, Canberra, Australian of the Year 2009.

Dr Elizabeth Evatt AC, fmr member UN Human Rights Committee.

Mr Kieren Fitzpatrick, Director, Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, Sydney.

Mr André Frankovits, Director, Human Rights Council of Australia, co-author, *The Rights Way to Development: Policy and Practice*.

Ms Glenda Gloria, Chief Operating Officer, ABS-CBN News Channel, Manila.

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

Mr Sam Gregory, Program Director, WITNESS, New York.

Mr Graeme Innes, Human Rights Commissioner and Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission, Sydney.

Mr Michihiro Ishibashi, Senior Specialist on Workers' Activities, ILO.

Mr Jerald Joseph, Director, Dignity International, Kuala Lumpur.

The Hon Michael Kirby, Former Judge, High Court of Australia

Mr Les Malezer, Chairperson, Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action (FAIRA).

Mr Jose Molintas, member, UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Mr Ravi Nair, Director, South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre, New Delhi.

Emeritus Prof Garth Nettheim AO, UNSW, Sydney.

Dr John Pace, Fmr Secr, Commission on Human Rights.

Mr Gerald Pachoud, Special Adviser to Prof John Ruggie, the United Nations Secretary General's Special Representative for Business and Human Rights.

Dr Aurora Parong, Director, Amnesty International-Philippines Section, Manila.

Dr Sarah Pritchard, Barrister, Sydney.

Emeritus Professor Paul Redmond, UNSW, Sydney, Chair, Diplomacy Training Program.

Prof. Harry HL Roque, Director, Institute of International Legal Studies, University of the Philippines, Manila.

Ms Chandra Roy, Chair, Secretariat, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Prof Dalee Sambo Dorough, University of Alaska, Anchorage.

Mr Charles Santiago, Member of Parliament, Malaysia.

Mr Aderito Soares, Director, Anti –Corruption Commission, Timor Leste

Mr Filomeno Sta. Ana, Coordinator and Co-Founder, Action for Economic Reforms, Manila.

QUOTES FROM DTP ALUMNI

"The lectures from trainers, interactive group exercises, practical field visits for lobbying—all were unique and useful methods, a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet with the prominent figures in academia—Awesome planning from the DTP."

Quote from participant evaluations DTP's 18th Annual Program

"Since graduating from DTP in 1991, I have worked in advocacy arena, often working with the media and diplomats. The DTP program opened up the world for me, to be able to understand the basis of international diplomacy—an essential quality to work in advocacy."

Quote from DTP 2009 Alumni Survey (1991 Alumni, Burma)

FUNDERS

In the past five years DTP's work has been supported by many organisations through grants or support to individual participants, including the following:

The Asia Foundation (Mongolia and Cambodia);

The Body Shop (Australia);

Bread for the World;

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Caritas Australia & New Zealand;

Comite Catholique Contre la Faim (France)

Commonwealth Foundation (London)

Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen in Deutschland (Germany);

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Greenpeace (Australia);

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Melbourne Community Foundation;

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NOVIB (Netherlands);

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);

Oxfam Australia and GB;

The Scully Fund;

United Nations Development Program;

UNIFEM;

Save the Children

SOME DIPLOMACY TRAINING PROGRAM ALUMNI

Diplomacy Training Program alumni are now making a difference in key positions throughout Asia and the Pacific, both in civil society and government. These are just some:

Agio Periera, East Timor, Secretary of State, Council of Ministers, Timor Leste

Mr Chope Paljor Sterling, Tibet, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama for Australia, New Zealand and South East Asia.

HE Mr Abel Guterres, East Timor, Timor-Leste Ambassador, to Australia.

Mr FX Supiarso, Indonesia, Co-ordinator for Human Rights Research and Democracy Studies, Indonesia Legal Aid Foundation, (Yayasan Lembaga Bantuan Hukum: YLBHI).

Mr Khuensai Jaiyen, Burma, Leader in Shan ethnic movement based in Nonghoi, Thailand.

Ms Ursula Rakova, PNG, Oxfam regional representative, Bougainville, assisting the international peace process for the province, and former Manager, Environmental Law Centre, PNG.

Mr Lopeti Senituli, Tonga, Fmr Director, Tongan Human Rights and Democracy Movement, and now Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister of Tonga.

Mr Narad Adhikari, Bhutan, General Secretary of the Druk National Congress, Bhutan.

Justin Mohammed, Australia, Chairperson, National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), Canberra.

Ms Irene Banda, Zambia, Coordinator Oxfam International Youth Partnerships, Sydney.

Mr Brian Wyatt, Australia, Executive Director, The National Native Title Council, Australia

Mr Filomeno St Ana III, Philippines, Coordinator, Action for Economic Reforms, Quezon City.

Mr Waheed Ahmad, Pakistan, Secretary, Coordinating Committee of World Jurist Association for Pakistan and member Lahore Bar Association: Human Rights Committee.

Mr David De Vera, Philippines, Executive Director, Philippine Association for Intercultural Development (PAFID)

Mr James Tan, Hong Kong, Chair of the Asian Centre for the Progress of Peoples, Hong Kong.

Mr Gopinathan Kunhithayil Parakuni, India, Director, CIVIDEP, Bangalore. Executive Committee OECD Watch

Ms Milena Pires, Timor Leste, CEDAW Committee

Also: **Aung Naing Oo (Burma)**; **Chum Phally (Cambodia)**; **Dina Nuriyati (Indonesia)**; **Dorji Dolma (Tibet)**; **John Ondawame (West Papua)**; **Moses Havini (Bougainville)**; **Bini Bichori (Indonesia)**; **Nurul Qoiriah (Hong Kong)**; **Pradhir Talukder (India)**; **Pranom Somwong (Thailand)**; **Salai Za Bik (Burma)**; **Saama Rajakaruna (Sri Lanka)**; **Sou Chiam (New Zealand)**; **Vani Dulaki (Fiji)**; **Willy Mandowen (West Papua)**; **Win Min (Burma)**; **Jerald Joseph (Malaysia)**; **Paula Makabory (West Papua)**; **Binota Dhamai (Bangladesh)**; **Joao Pequinho (East Timor)**.