

# The Diplomacy Training Program: 20 Years of Commitment

Diplomacy Training Program

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THE ESTABLISHMENT of the Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) was largely the result of a chance encounter in 1988 in Geneva between Professor Garth Nettheim and José Ramos-Horta. The following year, they met again in Sydney, Australia where Mr. Ramos-Horta floated his brainchild for what became the DTP.<sup>1</sup> In his many years of representing the East Timorese struggle at the United Nations and elsewhere, he had needed to learn from the ground up what the international system was all about, how it functioned, and how to use it effectively. He noted that relatively few advocates from the Asia-Pacific region used the system as well as they might have. He thus conceived the idea of a human rights training program, particularly for non-governmental organizations in the region.

In the words of Mr. Ramos-Horta<sup>2</sup>

The idea came from my own experience over many years of representing the cause and plight of East Timor to the world. Those were very difficult years for people in East Timor, yet the people held great hope that the international community would live up to its promises and uphold their rights. I learnt that the fate of these hopes, of many lives, lay not just with governments, but depended on the skills and knowledge of committed advocates. I came to know many courageous individuals who carried the hopes and expectations of their people. I saw the need for a practical human rights training program that could help them to fulfil these hopes, to end conflict and to build peaceful solutions through dialogue.

The name '*Diplomacy Training Program*' expresses the aim of providing human rights defenders, representatives of disenfranchised peoples and communities, with the knowledge and skills of diplomats. I called it "peoples' diplomacy" to reflect the understanding that the causes of peace and human rights cannot be entrusted to governments alone. The name of the organization was also sensitive to the time, for in 1989, human rights advocacy was a less acceptable activity than it is now.

The DTP held the first four-week annual training from 8 January to 2 February 1990. It was followed soon after by the first of the many of the DTP's

specialized training programs on Indigenous peoples' issues, for Indigenous peoples within Australia, and throughout the Asia-Pacific region.<sup>3</sup>

The DTP is an independent non-governmental organization (NGO) which advances human rights and empowers civil society in the Asia-Pacific region through quality education and training, and capacity-building for non-governmental organizations, individual human rights defenders, and community advocates.

It is affiliated with the University of New South Wales (UNSW), through the Faculty of Law, which provides academic support. It links and partners with regional and international human rights and civil society organizations and conducts courses in partnership with respected organizations throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

### **Empowering Through Knowledge and Skills**

The DTP's work is based on the need to offer practical support to those involved in the difficult and often dangerous work of promoting and protecting human rights.

It builds knowledge and understanding of international human rights standards and monitoring mechanisms. Its programs explain how the United Nations (UN) system works in practice, and how human rights defenders can most effectively access complaints and grievance mechanisms. It develops the skills to seek peaceful redress for grievances through available mechanisms at the national level, through the UN system, and through appeals for public support. The programs also build practical skills in strategic advocacy using the media: exploring new technologies to practically promote and protect human rights—from mobile phones to video and the internet.

### **The Participants**

The participants in the DTP's programs come mostly from NGOs and community organizations working on the human rights frontline. They work to end torture, political killings and "disappearances." They work to end violence against women, to end the use of child labor. They work to defend the rights of domestic workers, migrant workers, and workers in free-trade zones. They work to defend their rights as Indigenous peoples, to protect the environment, and to stop forced eviction. They have come from

over thirty countries—from Afghanistan and Burma through to Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste.

Participants have come from diverse communities such as Aceh, Bougainville, Chittagong, Mindanao, Mizoram, Nagaland and West Papua. All across the region efforts to build peace and strengthen democracy and to protect human rights are being pursued—often at great personal risk—by advocates who are courageous enough to stand up against corruption, injustice and oppression. These advocates are making a real difference in their communities and in our region. The DTP delivers direct help to those who most need it, those at the frontline of efforts to make their governments respect, protect and fulfil human rights.

Participants are sought through an open application process with information about programs being distributed through DTP's alumni and partner organizations and networks within the region. Applicants are asked to explain how the training will be relevant to their work for human rights and how they might apply the training. Participants are selected on the basis of their application forms and references. Efforts are made to ensure that there is a gender balance within each program.

### **Approach to Training**

Through its trainers, the DTP places an emphasis on both academic rigor and the practical application of knowledge. The DTP's approach to training is based on a profound respect for the knowledge and experience of the participants in its programs. This is reflected in the participatory methodology and organization of the programs with the emphasis on small group work, exercises and role-plays. Time is provided for the sharing of knowledge and the building of links between participants.

The Diplomacy Training Program is an innovator and leader helping to bring about positive and lasting change in people's lives. It has lifted understanding of how to advocate effectively—of how bilateral and multilateral relations operate and where the entry points are for NGOs. It has created a powerful group of people—a talented and energetic alumni that, as well as making vital individual contributions to social and political causes, has become a community of mounting learning and experience which is advancing human rights and promoting development.—MARC PURCELL, Executive Director, Australian Council for International Development, and DTP Trainer

WITNESS has valued the opportunity to partner with the annual DTP training for human rights defenders for the past four years – the trainings bring together such a diverse range of advocates, and immerse them in learning and network-building, filling a vital space in the human rights training and support landscape for the Asia-Pacific region.—SAM GREGORY, Asia Program Director, WITNESS, and DTP Trainer

DTP strengthens the dynamics of international human rights standards for NGO activists. For example, in Indonesia we can now build advocacy capacity and lobby for Munir's case and the Aceh-Papua human rights violation case.—RUSDI MARPAUNG, Managing Director, Imparsial Indonesian Human Rights Monitor, Alumnus and DTP Trainer

### **Responding to the Challenges of a Changing World and Region**

The Asia-Pacific region has changed considerably since DTP was established in 1989. In some countries human rights defenders still risk their life and liberty when speaking out, in others they challenge the impunity of human rights violators and are seeking to build societies that respect and uphold values of human dignity. Accelerating processes of globalization, and increasing gaps between rich and poor are creating new challenges for human rights defenders. In recent years new international standards on the rights of migrant workers, Indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities have been adopted. New standards are being developed in relation to the human rights responsibilities of business, and the UN human rights system has been reformed. The spread of the internet, the mobile phone and communications technology has led to new possibilities for action. These challenges, and new opportunities for participation in decision-making processes at the national, regional and international levels mean that to make a difference, human rights defenders and community advocates need more specialized knowledge and skills.

### **Flagship Annual Training Program**

Each year the DTP organizes its comprehensive Annual Regional Human Rights and Peoples' Diplomacy training program - bringing together twenty

to thirty human rights defenders for an intensive three weeks of learning. This is the longest established program of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region and has been held in Bangkok, Colombo, Dili, Kathmandu, Sydney, Suva and Wellington. It provides participants with solid skills in human rights advocacy, as well as an opportunity to explore some new and emerging issues.

Since 2003 the DTP has introduced new thematic courses on Indigenous Peoples' Rights, Migrant Workers, Human Rights and Business and Human Rights and Trade to supplement its flagship Annual Regional Human Rights and Peoples' Diplomacy course. It has developed new course content on the rights of persons with disabilities, child rights, climate change, the environment and human rights.

DTP helped me link the dots between the concept and practice of human rights. Engagement of alumni of DTP has been significant in the human rights movement. I am optimistic that the regime of human rights will arrive soon in the region if we continue to build the capacity and knowledge of human rights defenders.—YUYUN WAHYUNINGRUM, Program Manager for East Asia, FORUM-ASIA Regional Office and Alumna

On behalf of the DTP alumni and the Burmese Community of Australia I wish to thank your team for your selfless commitment towards our cause to restore democracy in Burma and for Global Human Rights by sharing your knowledge and expertise. —DR KYAW-MYINT MALIA, Burma Campaign Sydney and Alumnus

### **Thematic Capacity Building Programs**

In response to international developments, the changing human rights challenges in the region and the needs of advocates, the DTP has developed specialist thematic training programs - on Human Rights Advocacy and Business, Human Rights and Trade, the Rights of Migrant Workers, and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It is currently exploring the development of new capacity-building programs in relation to the new UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and Human Rights and Climate Change.

Building the knowledge and skills of advocates is a vital task. Over the past six years, Migrant Forum Asia and the Diplomacy

Training Program have worked in close partnership to build the capacity of advocates for the rights of migrant workers from Asia and the Pacific. In Migrant Forum Asia, we know that applying international human rights standards to practice is an urgent need, and we have seen the difference that advocacy can make to the lives of migrant workers and their families. We have seen how our member-organizations across Asia have benefited from the partnership between MFA and DTP.—WILLIAM GOIS, Coordinator, Migrant Forum Asia, NGO Partner

### Country Focus

The DTP also organizes programs with a specific country focus. It has trained officials of the Tibetan government-in-exile, human rights NGOs in Taiwan, and many in the Burmese democracy movement. It has had a special focus on Timor-Leste, working with human rights defenders and officials of the newly independent country.

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIS) across the Asia-Pacific are now an important part of human rights promotion and protection in the region. The DTP has helped to build the capacity of staff on important issues such as the rights of migrant workers, and Indigenous peoples' rights and has helped to build collaboration between NHRIS and civil society. We always get great feedback about the training programs.—KIEREN FITZPATRICK, Director, Asia Pacific Forum (APF), and NGO Partner.

Since 1989 the DTP has organized regional and in-country human rights training programs in Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste. These human rights programs are held in partnership with many different organizations in the Asia-Pacific region.<sup>4</sup> These partnerships are based on a shared commitment to promoting the application of common values of human dignity in our societies. The DTP's work has been made possible through the quality of its partnerships in Australia and the region. In 2008, the DTP was able through these partnerships to hold eight programs, providing practical training to over two hundred human rights defenders and community advocates. Since 1989, the DTP has trained over one thousand six hundred human rights defenders and community advocates from over thirty countries in the Asia-Pacific re-

gion including Afghanistan, Australia, Burma, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tibet, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

The training programs are practical and participatory. They develop knowledge and understanding of human rights standards – and the relevance of these standards to the issues and challenges that are being faced by participants. Most courses begin with an introduction to human rights and to the UN system, before focusing on particular rights – such as the rights of migrant workers, Indigenous peoples, women and economic, social and cultural rights – and on specific skills such as strategic advocacy, lobbying, the internet and media skills. The programs are scheduled through the year – with DTP currently able to organize and facilitate four to five regional programs and six to seven Australian Indigenous peoples programs.

All the programs are organized in partnership with regional and local NGO partners. The role taken on by local partners varies considerably, but includes input into selection of participants, the program schedule and the trainers as well as advice on timing and location of programs and providing administrative support. Where possible, practical field visits are organized as part of each program – whether visits to particular communities or practical lobbying exercises involving government officials, diplomats or representatives of business.

## **Training Modules**

While each training program aims to mix knowledge and skills it does not have set training modules. The specific content delivered, including case studies, scenarios and exercises depends on the particular trainers in each program.

Each training program is supported by the DTP Manual which is regularly updated. The DTP Manual consists of many short chapters written in plain English by leading academic experts and practitioners. For any session in a DTP course there is at least one supporting chapter in the DTP Manual – which acts as an introduction to the issues and provides references and suggestions for further reading. Where the chapter has been written by the trainer delivering the session there is usually reference to it during the sessions. Increasingly in recent years, DTP trainers have also used PowerPoint presentations and these are also provided to participants.

## Shared Commitments

The DTP's work is made possible through the generous pro-bono contribution of its many trainers.<sup>5</sup> Leading academics, NGO practitioners and UN officials are among those who generously share their time, knowledge and expertise. They do so because of their belief in the value of the DTP's work, and their commitment to the important and often difficult and courageous work of human rights defenders in the Asia-Pacific region. Some trainers, including Sarah Pritchard, PhD, Philip Chung, Professor Paul Redmond, Ravi Nair, and Professor Garth Nettheim have contributed generously over many years. Their contribution enables the DTP to help others to make a real difference for human rights commitment. DTP would like to acknowledge the special contribution of Jose Campino, a senior UN official and long-standing friend of José Ramos-Horta who year after year travelled at his own expense to teach on DTP's programs. Jose Campino died in 2006. His generosity of spirit and commitment to the work of human rights defenders expressed well the mission of DTP and the values it seeks to promote.

While human rights education is a foundational pillar for the achievement of human rights, it often is not undertaken or is under-recognised in Australia. The DTP program is unique and invaluable in filling this gap. The recent training on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth rights demonstrated how effectively the program supports and harnesses the talents and commitment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women towards the achievement of human rights.—ALISON G AGGARWAL, Senior Policy Officer, Social Justice Unit, Australian Human Rights Commission, and DTP Trainer

DTP is very relevant to the urgent human rights issues confronting peoples now. DTP highlights empowerment of Indigenous peoples which is essential in the defense of and claiming of human rights. The training program also tackles corporate accountability which is an urgent concern considering threats to human rights posed by corporations.—DR. AURORA PARONG, Executive Director, Amnesty International Philippines, and DTP Trainer

Each year I look forward to participating in [the] DTP training. The commitment and enthusiasm of the human rights defenders present, and their eagerness to learn new ideas and ap-



proaches stands out, as does the care that the DTP organizers take to identify a diverse range of participants from across the Asia-Pacific region. This makes working with them on how to use video and related online technologies in their campaigns a real mutual learning experience.—SAM GREGORY, Asia Program Director, WITNESS and DTP Trainer.

## **Empowering Others to Make A Difference**

Since 1989 the DTP has trained over one thousand six hundred human rights and community advocates from over thirty countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Many of its alumni make major contributions to human rights at national and international levels.

All across the region efforts to build peace and strengthen democracy and to protect human rights are being pursued—often at great personal risk—by advocates who are courageous enough to stand up against corruption, injustice and oppression. These advocates are making a real difference in their communities and in our region. The DTP delivers direct help to those who most need it, those at the frontline of efforts to make their governments respect, protect and fulfil human rights.

The impact of the DTP's training depends on its ability to attract talented, self-motivated individuals, committed to working with others to promote and protect human rights. These individuals return to their organizations and communities and share their knowledge and experience, and continue their work to build societies that respect and protect human rights.

The Diplomacy Training Program was of great help to my work as a human rights defender, and now as a real diplomat for independent Timor-Leste. The Diplomacy Training Program was there for us in East Timor, and it is wonderful that it is there now for others, helping them to work more effectively for their people and communities, to promote and protect human rights in the region. - His Excellency Abel Guterres, Consul-General of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Australia, and Alumnus

Looking back, DTP really helped me on the things I do, whether it's photography or video, or being in an organization or as an individual...I will be pursuing a photo documentary on child labor at the mining sites in my province.—TOTO LOZANO, photojournalist and human rights advocate, the Philippines, and Alumnus

The training I received from DTP has proved invaluable. I have gained a more 'in depth' knowledge and understanding of international human rights instruments and the UN system. I am now able to participate in these forums and processes in a more meaningful way. Knowledge gained of international human rights has also informed the work and approach of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organization (NACCHO).—DEA DELANEY THIELE, Chief Executive Officer, National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organization (NACCHO), Alumna and DTP Trainer

The lessons learnt at the DTP have provided me with good experiences and knowledge to share with my colleagues. The different themes of its programs are designed in accordance with the important human rights situations today. Therefore, I am very supportive of the ongoing effort by DTP to mobilize and strengthen the NGO workers to advocate for a better situation for human rights within my country and the Asia-Pacific region.—JUDY OEUNG, Executive Secretary, Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee (CHRAC), and Alumnus

The DTP material/manual is a big help. I'm using it right now as a resource for our regional consultation on effective implementation of our Anti-Trafficking Law—specifically the rights-based approach. I'll be coming up with project proposals soon, and I hope to make use of the network, knowledge and material from DTP.—Cristina Sevilla, the Philippines, Child Justice League Inc., and Alumna

After the DTP program I started the Foundation for Dialogues on Indigenous Culture and Environment (DICE Foundation). I must say that the conceptualization and the formation can be attributed to the ideas and exposure developed during my stay in East Timor. Since 2006 DICE has been working on mobilizing the communities in the oil bearing areas in Nagaland to challenge the various oil corporations against exploitations and environmental degradations.—MMHONLUMO KIKON, Director, Dialogues on Indigenous Culture and Environment (DICE Foundation), and Alumnus

The DTP is the first international human rights institution which has trained and inspired me to learn about the international human rights instruments and mechanisms. It has inspired me to work on [advocating for] human rights and fundamental freedoms for Indigenous Peoples. I am very much grateful to DTP for the training which has helped me to move forward as a human rights defender.—BINOTA MOY DHAMAI, Human Rights Advocacy Coordinator, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, Chittagong Hill Tracts Student Council (PCP), Bangladesh, and Alumnus

You are never too old to learn something new that you can personally benefit from. DTP training has done this for me at the tender age of 56 where I was a trainee in Wellington, New Zealand.—BRIAN WYATT, Executive Director, Goldfields Land and Sea Council, Alumnus and DTP Trainer

## **Future Direction**

The context for DTP's work has changed considerably since it was established, and there are new challenges for human rights to add to the old ones. The DTP needs to respond to these changes through both the content and focus of its courses, and its training methodology. New technology is opening up new avenues and opportunities for strategic advocacy and mobilizing global civil society—and for training and capacity-building. With over twenty years of experience in working with the broad movement for human rights in the Asia-Pacific region, and having provided training to over one thousand six hundred human rights defenders and community advocates, DTP needs to work out how it can best play a role in supporting those working for human rights on the ground across the region. The only thing that can be said with certainty is that there is more need than ever to build the knowledge and skills of human rights defenders and community advocates.

## **Endnotes**

1. Garth Nettheim, "Chance Beginnings – The Establishment of the Diplomacy Training Program," in *The Diplomacy Training Program - Marking 20 Years of Commitment to Building Human Rights Capacity in the Asia-Pacific - 1989–2009* (Sydney: The Diplomacy Training Program, 2009).

2. José Ramos-Horta, “Promoting Shared Values – A Message from Founder and Patron,” in *The Diplomacy Training Program - Marking 20 Years of Commitment to Building Human Rights Capacity in the Asia-Pacific - 1989–2009*, *ibid.*, page 1.

3. Nettheim, *op. cit.*

4. Working in Partnership across the Asia-Pacific Region DTP’s programs have been held with the following partners in the region:

- Action for Economic Reforms (AER), Philippines
- Amnesty International New Zealand
- Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum Asia)
- Asia-Pacific Regional Resource Center for Human Rights Education (ARRC)
- Australian Human Rights Centre
- Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education, Australia
- Business Watch Indonesia
- CARAM Cambodia
- Caritas Australia
- Centre for Indonesian Migrant Workers
- Cividep-India
- Council for International Development (CID), New Zealand
- Forum Tau Matan, Timor-Leste
- The Fred Hollows Foundation, Australia
- Human Rights Working Group (HRWG), Indonesia
- Institute of Human Rights, University of the Philippines
- Lawyers for Human Rights and Development (LHRD), Sri Lanka
- Mahidol University, Thailand
- Malaysian Trade Union Congress (MTUC)
- Migrant Forum Asia
- Northern Land Council
- Oxfam Australia
- Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, Fiji
- Peace and Democracy Foundation, Timor-Leste
- Philippine Association for Inter-Cultural Development
- Pusat Komus (Community Communication Centre), Malaysia
- Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, University of Dhaka
- South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre, India
- Welfare Association of Repatriated Bangladeshi Employees (WARBE)

##### 5. DTP Trainers

- Aderito Soares, Director , Sahe Institute for Liberation , Timor -Leste
- Alison Aggarwal, Senior Policy Officer , Social Justice Unit , Australian Human Rights Commission
- Alison Tate, International Officer, Australian Council of Trade Unions
- André Frankovits, Director , Human Rights Council of Australia
- Annie Pettitt, Child Rights Specialist, Save the Children, Australia
- Aurora Parong, Director , Amnesty International-Philippines Section

- Bill Barker, Former Director, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Human Rights and Indigenous Issues Section, Australia
- Brian Wyatt, Executive Director , Goldfields Land and Sea Council , Australia
- Ced Simpson, Former Executive Director, Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand
- Charles Santiago, Member of Parliament , Malaysia
- Clarence Dias, President, International Center for Law in Development , New York
- Dalee Sambo Dorough, University of Alaska , Anchorage
- Darren Dick, Director, Social Justice Unit, Australian Human Rights Commission
- Dea Delaney Thiele, CEO, National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), Australia
- Elizabeth Evatt, AC Fmr Member UN Human Rights Committee, Commissioner, International Commission of Jurists
- Filomeno Sta. Ana, Coordinator and Co-Founder, Action for Economic Reforms, the Philippines
- Garth Nettheim AO, Emeritus Professor, University of New South Wales (UNSW) Faculty of Law
- Gerald Pachoud, Special Adviser to Professor John Ruggie, UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Business and Human Rights
- Glenda Gloria, Chief Operating Officer, ABS-CBN News Channel, the Philippines
- Graeme Innes, Human Rights Commissioner and Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission
- Hilary Charlesworth AM, Director , Centre for International Governance and Justice , Australian National University-Canberra (ANU), Canberra
- Ineke Boerefijn, Research Fellow, UNSW Faculty of Law, Associate Professor, Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM)
- Jacqui Katona, Former CEO, Lumbu Indigenous Community Foundation, Australia
- Jane McAdam, Associate Professor , UNSW Faculty of Law
- Jane Stratton, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility , Gilbert + Tobin Lawyers
- Janelle Saffin, MP Federal Member for Page
- Jerald Joseph, Board Member of Pusat Komang (Community Communication Centre), Malaysia
- John Pace, Former Secretary, Commission on Human Rights , Geneva
- Justine Nolan, Deputy Director of the Australian Human Rights Centre , UNSW
- Katie Kiss, Senior Policy Officer, Australian Human Rights Commission
- Kavi Chongkittavorn, Assistant group editor of Nation Multimedia Group, Thailand
- Khaldoun Hajaj, Researcher, Financial Services Consumer Policy Centre, UNSW

- Kieren Fitzpatrick, Director, Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, Australia
- Kirsty Parker, Editor, Koori Mail , UNSW
- Larry Jagan, Freelance Journalist and former Asia affairs editor for the BBC
- Les Malezer, Chairperson, Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action (FAIRA)
- Louise Williams, Associate Director, UNSW International Office
- Marc Purcell Executive Director, Australian Council for International Development
- Megan Davis, Director , Indigenous Law Centre , UNSW
- Michihiro Ishibashi, Senior Specialist on Workers' Activities , ILO
- Mick Dodson, AM Director, National Centre for Indigenous Studies , Australian National University
- Nicola Bullard, Focus on the Global South, Thailand
- Nicholas Howen, Secretary-general, Management Team leader, International Commission of Jurists
- Philip Chung, Executive Director, Australasian Legal Information Institute (Aust LII), Sydney and Director of the DTP
- Paul Hunt, Former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health
- Ravi Nair, Director, South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre , India
- Richard Boele, Founder and Managing Director, Banarra Sustainability Assurance and Advice, Australia
- Robynne Quiggin, Lawyer, Sydney
- Sam Gregory, Program Director, WITNESS, New York
- Sam Maresh, Former Adviser to the Victorian and NSW Governments
- Sarah Pritchard, Barrister -at -law and Director of the DTP
- Scott Leckie, Executive Director, Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE)
- Serena Lillywhite Mining, Ombudsman, Oxfam Australia
- Shanthy Dairiam, Expert Member, CEDAW Committee, Kuala Lumpur
- Theresa Limpin, Former Coordinator, Asia-Pacific Regional Resource Center for Human Rights Education (ARRC)
- Tyler Gianini, Earth Rights International
- Vitit Muntarbhorn, Former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale of children , child prostitution and child pornography
- William Gois, Regional Coordinator, Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)