

# Mapping UNSW Impact Global Development

<b>Primary SDG</b>	<b>10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES</b>
<b>Broad theme</b>	Education and training
<b>Research</b>	Educating and training human rights defenders to enable them to fight for justice
<b>Impact region</b>	The Pacific, Asia, Middle East, North Africa
<b>Faculty</b>	Law
<b>School/Institute</b>	Diplomacy Training Program (DTP)
<b>Academics</b>	Patrick Earle (Executive Director), Justine Nolan (Board), Andrew Byrnes (Board), Philip Chung (Board), Paul Redmond (Board), David Dixon (Board)
<b>Project partners</b>	Australian Government (for every dollar of Australian community support received, the Australian Government provides \$3), Swiss Government, UNSW (provision of facilities), revenue from philanthropists and training fees
	Pacific: PIANGO, Citizens Constitutional Forum and the Pacific Regional Office of the High Commission for Human Rights
<b>Related SDGs</b>	16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
	4: Quality Education
	5: Gender Equality
	8: Decent Work

## Elevator pitch

The Diplomacy Training Program educates human rights defenders and advocates. In the Pacific, the DTP is looking to build the capacity of communities to influence and negotiate better terms and conditions with private companies who may be negatively impacting land, livelihoods and environments.

## The Challenge: Pacific Island countries and communities are at risk from foreign companies

Inequality and abuses of human rights are widespread in developing and developed countries. Torture, LGBTI rights, political killings, Indigenous rights, migrant exploitation, and violence against women are just some of the issues people are faced with. The poor, who lack financial means and influence, are often most at risk of suffering injustices.

In Pacific Island countries, private companies are exploiting locals' lack of negotiating power in mining, forestry, and land ownership arrangements. This includes local Indigenous peoples who are not being consulted. The UN has indicated support for the private sector in its Sustainable Development Goals (8: Decent Work and Economic Growth) and it has recognised the rights of Indigenous peoples. How can these rights be applied

and used in practical terms in The Pacific? How can standards on human rights and business be integrated into the private sector's role in implementing the UN's SDGs?

**UNSW's solution: Train local community representatives to advocate and influence policy and practice**

The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) was founded in 1989 by HE José Ramos-Horta, 1996 Nobel Peace Laureate and former President of Timor-Leste, and UNSW Emeritus Professor Garth Nettheim. It is an independent, Australian NGO committed to strengthening the knowledge and skills of community advocates and human rights defenders. Since 1989, the DTP has provided human rights training to over 3,000 human rights defenders in the Asia-Pacific and MENA region. Past students include civil service workers, lawyers, and representatives of migrant workers and trade unions. The DTP's global network is vast and it has an outstanding reputation in the international human rights community.

DTP's teaching methodology is participatory, providing space for course participants to share and learn from each other's experiences and to develop mutual support networks. Each program has a different human rights focus depending on the needs of program participants, such as women's rights, the rights of children, and human rights at work. All programs provide participants with knowledge of internationally agreed human rights standards and of the UN system, along with practical advice on how to engage this system to protect human rights. Training, which is held in country, typically runs for 2.5 weeks or five four-day sessions over a year.

The DTP has recently turned its attention to The Pacific, a neglected region among NGOs. It is interested in helping human rights advocates and defenders there to negotiate better terms with private sector companies. How can they hold these companies accountable? How can they negotiate for better terms and conditions? What power do local regulatory authorities have, and what role can the UN play? With further funding, they can increase the number of people trained, take UNSW students to countries for in-field training, facilitate more with UNSW researchers, and invest more time re-engaging with their prestigious alumni.

**The Impact: Improve the rights of Indigenous people, more just and sustainable company activity**

With a sharper understanding of the practical steps that can be taken to improve human rights, graduates of DTP's training programs can enact change that improves the lives of the marginalised and disadvantaged. Graduates go on to inform and educate their networks, help lobby for and change laws, create and change development policies of NGOs and local governments, and make representations to the UN.

In the Pacific, the DTP is looking to enable local organisations and community representatives to negotiate with foreign companies for better terms and conditions. Local indigenous peoples will receive more just and equitable outcomes, and company activity will be more sustainable for the local population and the environment.

**Director**

Patrick Earle has been the Executive Director of the Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) since 2003. He has over 20 years of experience working in the human rights movement, both in Australia and internationally. In 2009, the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions became a partner of the DTP. This partnership has successfully facilitated programs in Fiji, PNG, Timor Leste and across Asia and the Middle-East, always working sensitively with local partners.

Ben Falkenmire 05.03.18