

# **CALLING FOR PARTICIPANTS**

## **Regional Training on the Human Rights Based Approach to Development and Indigenous Peoples**



**Venue:** Sabah, Malaysia

**Date:** 12 - 18 October 2009

### **Eligible Countries:**

**Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam**

## **BACKGROUND**

In Asia Pacific indigenous peoples continue to be disproportionately represented in the poorest and most vulnerable sections of society, experiencing a history of discrimination and marginalization. Despite years of indigenous advocacy – with many positive outcomes – this situation continues to worsen in many countries. Strong economic growth in the majority of Asian countries has failed to bring significant benefits for indigenous peoples, and indeed levels of poverty and dispossession from lands and resources are rising. Development has further exacerbated this situation in many countries, with the appropriation of indigenous lands for development purposes, and large scale plantation and forestry projects a major contributor.

UNDP has responded to the development challenges facing indigenous peoples in the Asia Pacific region with the establishment of a regional initiative on indigenous peoples' rights and development. The aim of the programme is to facilitate dialogue and strengthen the framework for regional cooperation. To this end, this initiative, the Regional Indigenous Peoples' Programme (RIPP), works with a range of sectors to promote the recognition and protection of indigenous peoples' rights.

In 2005, RIPP initiated a project entitled: *Indigenous Peoples and the Human Rights Based Approach: Engaging in Dialogue* to focus on the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) and its relevance to indigenous peoples. The aim of the project is to strengthen the application of HRBA to development by building greater awareness of the principles of HRBA and its value as an advocacy and implementation tool to strengthen indigenous peoples' rights and development approaches. A planning workshop in October 2005 identified the key components to this initiative, which are inter-linked:

- A Training Manual on the HRBA to Development and its application to indigenous peoples;
- Trainings on the HRBA specifically oriented to indigenous peoples for indigenous representatives in Asia; and
- Gap analyses on the impact of development projects on indigenous peoples to provide practical examples and lessons learned on HRBA (publication finalized with follow on assessments in process).

To strengthen the application of the Human Rights Based Approach to Development (HRBA), UNDP-RIPP contributes by building greater awareness of its principles and its value as an advocacy and implementation tool to strengthen indigenous peoples' rights and development.

As part of this ongoing programme, RIPP organized training workshops in 2007 and 2008. This is a continuation of this programme, and will take place in Sabah, Malaysia from 12-18 October 2009.

The programme will cover four main areas: (1) conceptual framework of indigenous peoples: (2) international human rights systems relevant to indigenous peoples: (3) the HRBA to development and indigenous peoples; and (4) international financial institutions.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- a. To provide indigenous peoples and indigenous peoples' organizations with an understanding of their rights protected by international human rights law to build their capability to protect and assert their rights;
- b. To provide indigenous peoples and indigenous peoples' organizations with a broader comprehension of relevant policies and mechanisms on indigenous peoples;
- c. To enhance the capacity of indigenous peoples' organizations in responding to development challenges;
- d. To strengthen the capacity of indigenous peoples to more effectively dialogue and negotiate with governments, donor agencies, financial institutions and other development partners to ensure greater respect and recognition of their rights; and
- e. To facilitate indigenous peoples' networking and exchange of experiences.

### **CRITERIA & REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Indigenous leaders and/or representatives of indigenous organizations;
2. Proficiency in English;
3. Familiarity with human rights issues;
4. Commitment to share knowledge with colleagues/community; and
5. Commitment and willingness to follow-up the program and to form part of UNDP RIPP's Human Rights Community of Practice network; and
6. Letter of endorsement from her/his organization.

Indigenous women are strongly encouraged to apply.

### **PROCESS OF SELECTION:**

1. **Application:** UNDP RIPP would like to invite representatives of indigenous peoples and organizations to apply for the training programme. Please fill out the attached application form.
  - Deadline for receipt of completed application forms: **Thursday, 3 September 2009.**
2. **Selection of Participants:** The HRBA Task Force will select the candidates.
3. **Announcement of Participants:** UNDP RIPP will inform the selected participants by **Monday, 14 September 2009**  
NB: If selected, participants are required to arrange their own passport/travel document.
4. **Quota:** Approximately 25 participants will be selected

Interested candidates, please send completed application form to [rukka.sombolinggi@undp.org](mailto:rukka.sombolinggi@undp.org) and [jenifer.lasimbang@undp.org](mailto:jenifer.lasimbang@undp.org) no later than 3 September 2009.