



Hdff Annual Report 2023

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Human Development Forum Foundation

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A Message from the Chairman

Looking back on 2023, it was a big year for the Human Development Forum Foundation (HDFF). We got back on track with our training programs after the tough times of the Covid-19 pandemic. People from different countries and backgrounds joined in, making our programs more diverse, practical and beneficial.

One notable highlight of the year was the appointment of our new Executive Director, Col(Ret) Bunnarasi Chawansin. We're excited about the fresh ideas and growth she'll bring to HDFF, making us better at empowering people and organizations, both domestically and internationally.



Thanks to our amazing team and the friends we have from various backgrounds, 2023 was a success. Your support made a real difference. As we look ahead to 2024, we're hoping you'll stick with us on this journey. Together, we can keep making positive changes and helping more people.

Sincerely,
General (ret) Bunchon Chawansin
Chairman of the Board
Human Development Forum Foundation

A Message from the Executive Director

The year 2023 has been particularly significant for me as I started the position as HDFS Executive Director on the 2nd of October. The annual report for 2023 is marked by a variety of activities and changes following the Covid-19 pandemic. We had the opportunity to organize various training sessions, including both general management and stay-safe training. A total of ten training sessions were held this year, with participants joining from various organizations and countries such as Thailand, the Philippines, Myanmar, Korea, Japan, Kenya, Bangladesh, Nepal, Italy, and more. HDFS also seized the opportunity to participate in various external events to build a network with many organizations.



In the coming years, HDFS is committed to broadening our reach and influence to help more people. As a Thai foundation, we also plan to expand our market domestically by providing training programs for the people in Thailand. Moreover, HDFS plans to utilize more social media platforms so that we can reach bigger audience domestically and internationally.

The HDFS team acknowledges that these programs would not be possible without the teamwork of those involved, as well as the cooperation and support from many helpful partners and friends. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your continuous valuable support in the last year and ask for the continuation of your support in the future, as new challenges for HDFS lie ahead in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Col (Ret) Bunnarasi Chawansin

Executive Director

Human Development Forum Foundation

Annual Report 2023

Human Development Forum Foundation (HDFF)

Highlight of the year 2023

The highlight of 2023 was the welcoming of HDFF's new executive director. Bunnarasi officially assumed the role of executive director of HDFF on the 2nd of October 2023. The new executive director will lead HDFF in reaching a broader audience and expanding its influence domestically. HDFF is currently preparing new courses under the leadership of the executive director, including some specially designed for Thai nationals.

HDFF New Team Members

The year of 2023 is an eventful year for HDFF. It marked the year HDFF started running with full programs again after the Covid-19 pandemic. This year HDFF also proudly welcomes new personnel on board: Executive Director - Col (Ret) Bunnarasi Chawansin; Project Assistant - Phassakron Sukjan; Personal Assistant - Timpika Chawansin.



Col(Ret) Bunnarasi Chawansin
Executive Director



Phassakron Sukjan
Program Assistant

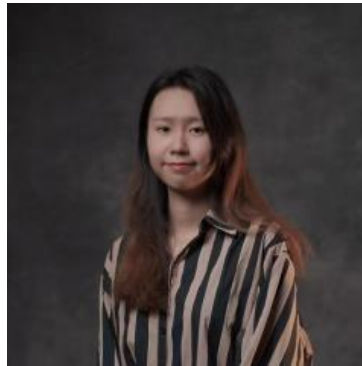


Timpika Chawansin
Personal Assistant

HDFF also reopened the research fellowship program this year. HDFF proudly accepted three research fellows this year - Timothy Mcgowan, Yilan Qiao, and Jessica Wibowo.



Timothy Mcgowan
MA in International Studies student
Indiana University Bloomington



Yilan Qiao
MA in Human Rights and Democratization
in Asia and the Pacific Student
Mahidol University



Jessica Irene Wong Wibowo
MSc in International Development
and Management student
Lund University



Program Activities

After the COVID-19 pandemic, HDFS made a strong comeback by resuming its comprehensive training programs. In 2023, the organization conducted two distinct training categories: 'Stay Safe Training' and 'General Management Training'. Under the Stay Safe Training category, two essential programs were offered: HEAT training and Stay Safe Training. Simultaneously, in the General Management Training category, participants had the opportunity to engage in financial management training and Monitoring and evaluation (MEAL) training. Attracting participants from diverse countries and various organizations worldwide, HDFS served as a valuable platform for enhancing knowledge, skills, and networking opportunities.



1. Hostile Environment and Awareness (HEAT) training

Since 2010 HDFS has conducted “Stay Safe Training” courses for UN/INGO/Humanitarian personnel, with the HEAT being the main course. HEAT covers various topics, including situational awareness, fire safety, communication in crisis, first

aid training, and many more. The training uses simulation exercises with immediate feedback to give participants nearly similar experiences as being in the field.

a. HEAT - February 2023

The first HEAT of the year was conducted in February 2023 and was partaken by 14 participants.

b. HEAT - May 2023

From May 29th May to 2nd June, HFFF conducted the second HEAT with 14 Participants coming from 10 different countries - Kenya, Myanmar, Bangladesh, India, Austria, Thailand, Nepal, Pakistan, USA, and the Philippines.

c. HEAT - September 2023

From 4 to 9 September 2023, the third HEAT of the year was conducted. Ten participants joined the training. They come from various countries, such as Nepal, Italy, and the Philippines, which also allowed cultural knowledge exchange between participants.

d. HEAT - November 2023

Another HEAT was held from 13 to 17 November 2023 with 15 participants who came from different countries, though mainly from Southeast Asia and South Asia countries. The participants came from different backgrounds, such as media, humanitarian workers, and academics.

e. HEAT - December 2023

The huge interest in HEAT prompted HFFF to conduct one more HEAT in 2023. The training was held from 4 to 8 December 2023 and was participated by 5 people from different organizations and nationalities - Kenya, Japan, India, Thailand, and the United Kingdom.

2. Financial Management Training

The financial management training invited two external experts in financial management matters to better equip the participants with financial management knowledge. Then, our internal expert also shared his experience regarding good governance in non-government organizations. The training program received positive feedback from all the participants, wherein they enjoyed the practical experience provided in the training.

a. Financial Management August 2023

On August 19th and 20th 2023, HDFS conducted a financial management training with 8 participants representing 5 different countries - Myanmar, Cambodia, India, China, and Indonesia. The two-day training covers various topics, including understanding financial management and analysis, budgeting, audit, and good governance. Furthermore, the training was also filled with plenty of exercises to help the participants understand the topic better.



b. Financial Management December 2023

Another financial management training was conducted in December 2023. Although seven participants registered, only two managed to attend the training due to various visa issues. However, the participants still reported satisfactory experience during the training.

3. Stay Safe Training - September and December 2023

From 21 to 25 August, HDFF held a Stay Safe Training for one of the international organizations in Bangkok. Participants from Thailand, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Cambodia, Indonesia, and China attended the training, which was co-facilitated by HDFF staff from Germany, Indonesia, and China. The training covered theory topics such as risk awareness and humanitarian principles and practical skills such as first aid, cyber security protection, risk assessment, and planning. In addition, participants joined in an interactive session where they discussed, analyzed, and presented their risk priorities and coping methods as part of a regional team. Training participants greatly improved their awareness and abilities in risk assessment and management over the five-day course, and it is hoped that they will take this knowledge back to their offices to help frontline workers better protect themselves.

Aside from the training in September, HDFF also provided a Stay Safe Training in December 2023 by request of an organization based in Bangkok. The participants were mainly of Thai nationals, though there were participants from other countries too. The content of the training mainly focused on situational awareness, active shooters, and fire safety.

4. MEAL Training - October 2023

HDFF organized monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEAL) training from the 16th to the 20th of October 2023. The training program was attended by participants from both Asia and African continents - Thailand, Korea, Indonesia, China, Bangladesh, China, and Ethiopia. The five-day training program focuses on enhancing the participants' monitoring and evaluation knowledge and skills, more so due to the mix of participants, some with practical experience and some with academic backgrounds.

The training program provided extensive discussion and practice on logframe analysis (LFA), as it is not only important for project management but also for monitoring and evaluation. The topic is followed by monitoring and evaluation planning, then closed by discussing the future of monitoring and evaluation, which is the use of blockchain in monitoring and evaluation. The training program received numerous compliments from the participants, in which the practical aspect of the training was one of the best parts of it.



Bi-Weekly Report

In addition to its training programs, HDFS is actively involved in reporting the latest developments in the conflict along the Myanmar-Thailand border. The primary focus of these reports is on the Kayah State, Kayin State, Mon State, and Tanintharyi State.

Additional Activity

As part of the networking project, HDFS took the chance to attend various seminars and forum discussions. Attending these events offered valuable networking opportunities and enabled HDFS to engage in discussions with experts from various fields, including politics and economics.

1. Roundtable on Post-coup Experiences in Myanmar



On May 16th, HDFS representatives attended the roundtable on Post-coup Experiences in Myanmar hosted by the Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia (IRASEC) where three speakers expanded on three different perspectives on how life has shifted after the 2021 coup d'état in Myanmar.

2. Discussion on the Arbitrary Detention of Refugees



(Panelists from left to right: Yuhanee Jehka, Chawaratt Chawarangkul, Pia Oberoi, Kannavee Suebsang, Prima Sukmanop)

On 19 June, HDFS team went to a Foreign Correspondents Club Thailand (FCCT) organized discussion on the Arbitrary Detention of Refugees to Commemorate World Refugee Day, hosted

by the Coalition for the Rights of Refugees and Stateless Persons (CRSP), Amnesty International Thailand (AI Thailand), Asylum Access Thailand (AAT), the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), the Center for Asylum Protection (CAP), the Equal Asia Foundation (EAF), Host International, the International Detention Coalition (IDC), the Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS), the Peace Rights Foundation (PRF), and the Refugee Rights Litigation Project (RRLP), shed light on the inhuman treatment that refugees receive daily in the countries where they fled and called for actions to address the plight of refugee.

3. Online panel discussion “Taiwan Strait Tensions: What to expect, what to fear”



(Panelists from left to right, top to down: Mr. Duc Quang Ly, Mr. Grant Newsham and Dr. Strobe Driver)

On 27 July, representatives from HDFF were invited to join “Taiwan Strait Tensions: What to expect, what to fear”, an online panel discussion held by The Center for Peace & Security of the German-Southeast Asian Center of Excellence for Public Policy and Good Governance (CPG). This panel featured Dr. Strobe Driver of Federation University (Australia), Grant Newsham of Japan Forum for Strategic Studies, Henning Glaser, and Duc Quang Ly of CPG, who gave an informative analysis of the tensions and prospects of Cross-Strait relations.

4. Activist Academy 2023 in Tallinn, Estonia

From 9 July to 16 July, the representative from the HDFS participated in the Activist Academy 2023 held in Tallinn, Estonia. The event was co-organized by International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer & Intersex Youth and Student Organization (IGLYO) and the Eurasian Coalition on Health, Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity (ECOM). Our representatives are empowered to hone comprehensive skill sets through expert workshops and teamwork presentations.

5. Seminar on the “75 Years of UDHR: Assessing the FOUR Freedoms Series #2: Right to Life”



(Panelists from left to right: Sriprapha Petcharamesree, Pawat Satayanurug, Mark Peter Capaldi)

On 15 September 2023, a team from HDFS attended the “75 Years of UDHR: Assessing the FOUR Freedoms Series #2: Right to Life” seminar to commemorate the International Day of Democracy at the Faculty of Law of Chulalongkorn University. This event, hosted by the Faculty of Law of Chulalongkorn University, the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies of Mahidol University, and the University of Swansea in the UK, invites scholars, advocates, representatives to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and member of the UN Committee on International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), shed light on a comprehensive understanding of the death penalty from the perspective of common interpretation, jurisdiction, media role, public opinion, and human rights law.

6. Public Lecture Japan's Economic Cooperation in ASEAN Outlook Indo-Pacific(AOIP)



(From left to right Jessica Irene Wong Wibowo, Phassakorn Sukjan, Mr.Hideyuki Tanaka(Guest Speaker), Dr. Wilfried A. Herrmann,Yilan Qiao)

On September 22, 2023, HDFS team attended “Japan’s Economic Cooperation on AOIP” lecture at the Social Innovation Hub in Chulalongkorn University. The event was hosted by the Institute of Security and International Studies (ISIS) and featured Mr. Hideyuki Tanaka, the Chair of the Subcommittee of Asean Economic Relations at Keidanren (Japan Business Federation), who gave a special lecture on ASEAN-Japan Partnership in The New Era. Dr. Thitinan Pongsudhirak from ISIS Thailand and the Faculty of Political Science at Chulalongkorn University moderated the event. The main topic of the lecture was Keidanren’s objectives and priorities in the future.



(From left to right: Phassakorn Sukjan, Yilan Qiao, Dr. Wilfried A. Herrmann, Dr. Thitinan Pongsudhirak (moderator), Jessica Irene Wong Wibowo)

7. HDFS Team Joined the Prospects of EU-Thai Relations: The way forward under the new government Forum Discussion



(From left to right: Ms. Gwen Robinson, H.E Mr. David Daly, H.E Mr. Asi Mamanee, H.E, Mr. Felipe de la Morena Casado, Dr Natthanan Kunnamas)

On October 2nd 2023, HDFS team attended “The Prospects of EU-Thai Relations: The Way Forward under the New Government” forum discussion held by Institute of Security and International Studies (ISIS) Thailand in Chulalongkorn University. The forum invited notable speakers, which are H.E. Mr. David Daly, the Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to Thailand, H.E. Mr. Asi Mamanee, the Director-General, Department of European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, H.E Mr. Felipe de la Morena Casado, the Ambassador of Spain to Thailand, as well as Dr Natthanan Kunnamas, the Jean Monnet Chair and Associate Professor in Political Science and Director for the Centre of European Studies in Faculty of Political Science in Chulalongkorn University. The discussion was moderated by Ms. Gwen Robinson, a senior fellow at ISIS Thailand, editor at Nikkei Asian Review, as well as former president at FCCT. The main topic of the forum was to discuss how the EU-Thai relations under the new Thai government will be.

8. Seminar “Climate Action Day: Gender, Environment and Displacements”



(From left to right: Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw, Mr. Voravate Chonlasin, Prof. Amena Mohsin, Prof. Paula Banerjee)

On 24 October, HFFF team was invited to attend the Seminar on Climate Action Day: Gender, Environment and Displacements, hosted by the Gender and Development Studies (GDS) of Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), featuring H.E Mr. Miika Tomi from Finland Embassy, Ms. Rebecca Napier-Moore from ILO in Asia and the Pacific, Prof. Kazuo Yamamoto, Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw, Mr. Voravate Chonlasin, Prof. Amena Mohsin, Prof. Paula Banerjee, and Dr. Philippe Doneys. This seminar shed light on the importance of addressing intersectionality when dealing with climate change, gender equality, and displacement both from academic research and practical experience.