



ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY

HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER

FOUNDATIONAL COURSE ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

NARRATIVE REPORT

- 1. Project:** Foundational Course on Business and Human Rights
- 2. Name of Project Partner:** Ateneo Human Rights Center
- 3. Venue:** Bernas Center, 4/F Ateneo Professional Schools, Rockwell Drive, Makati City
- 4. Period:** 20 October 2015, 8:00 AM to 23 October 2015, 4:00 PM
- 5. Other organizers/Co-sponsors:** Ateneo Law School and Ateneo Graduate Legal Studies Institute

6. Objective/s of the Project/program:

This foundational course on Business and Human Rights aimed to complement the efforts by ASEAN to further understand the intersections between business practices and human rights, on the international, regional, national, and local levels. The course considered an assessment of the usefulness and practicality of the frameworks developed by the UN, as well as examination through case studies on CSR in ASEAN using the complementary approaches of human rights and gender.

The objectives of the program were as follows:

1. To clarify and define the concepts, principles, instruments on Business and Human Rights, and international human rights law, in relation to ASEAN models, and the Philippine model;
2. To share knowledge and build capacity on business and human rights, particularly by discussing and assessing case studies and application;
3. To strengthen ties with partners, both from government, private sector, the academe, and civil society, on the advocacy of strengthening human rights promotion and protection in the region; and
4. To build awareness among the public in general of the need to strengthen human rights promotion and protection in the ASEAN region, especially in the context of the regional integration.

The main goal of the project was to capacitate participants with basic knowledge, and a gender perspective on Business and Human Rights principles using a multi-sectoral approach to mainstream human rights, gender equality, sustainable development and environmental protection in their line of work, in order to effectively identify and address gaps in the interplay between human rights protection and business operations in the region.

The structure of the course integrated the concepts of business and human rights, emphasizing that they are not mutually exclusive. The aim of the course was to help the participants realize that the protection of human rights is possible and necessary in operating a business, and to contextualize the discussions, both in the national and regional setting, especially in light of the ASEAN integration. Lastly, the course used a multi-sectoral



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approach, engaging participants from different sectors, namely: the government, private sector, civil society, and the academe.

7. Short description of the event (additional pages if required may be attached)

The course ran for four days, from 20-23 October 2015, with a total of 25 hours of course work. It was held in Bernas Center, 4/F Ateneo Professional Schools, Rockwell Drive, Makati. Originally, the course should have ran for 5 days, starting on 19 October 2015. However, due to the inclement weather and the suspension of classes and even work in some areas of Metro Manila, the organizers decided to suspend the first day of the course, and sought to integrate the missed sessions into the subsequent sessions.

There were 23 participants who joined the course. There were four from the academe, seven from the NGOs, eleven from the government and one from the business sector. They were systematically divided into four groups for the case studies and workshop during the course.

The following were the topics discussed during the different sessions in the four-day course:

- Introduction to Human Rights
- Business Concepts and Operations
- International Human Rights Law
- United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
- 10 Principles of the Global Compact
- ISO 26000
- National Framework in relation to Business and Human Rights
- ASEAN Integration
- Thematic Issues on Indigenous Peoples, Labor and Environment
- Role of Businesses
- Role of Civil Society
- Role of Government
- Developing National Action Plans

At the end of every session, participants and speakers were given time to open the floor for questions and discussion. The final activity was the workshop and presentation of National Action Plan made by each group of participants.

For a detailed description of the conduct of the course, please refer to the **Documentation** of the Course, attached as **ANNEX A.**

8. Organizers & Resource persons

Organizers:

Name	Organization	Function	Theme of Presentation/
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			Topic of report
Atty. Ray Paolo Santiago	Ateneo Human Rights Center	Executive Director	
Atty. Jaymie Ann Reyes	Ateneo Human Rights Center	Working Group	

Resource persons:

Name	Organization	Function	Theme of Presentation/ Topic of report
Atty. Ryan Jeremiah Quan	Ateneo Graduate Legal Studies Institute	Coordinator	UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
Atty. Julito Sarmiento	Puno & Puno Law Offices	Senior Partner	Social License: The Compelling Power of Immersion as an Irreversible Force for Personal, Business and Societal Transformation
Atty. Millette Asuncion-Arnado	Pfizer Asia-Pacific-China	International Legal Lead	Inside the World of Business and Productivity
Atty. Teodoro Y. Kalaw	Ateneo Law School	Faculty	Governance and Corporate Legal Accountability
Atty. Mark Enajo		Corporate and Commercial Lawyer	Business and Human Rights to Transform Our World
Ms. Giancarla Espinosa-Aritao	Provincial Site Development, The Paper Project Inc.	Project Manager	Human Rights and Social Entrepreneurship
Ms. Anna Meloto-Wilk	Human Nature Inc.	Co-founder	Human Rights and Social Entrepreneurship
Mr. Rafael C. Lopa	Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSB)	Executive Director	Promoting Social Business through Philippine Business
Atty. Jing T. Corpuz	Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education)	Legal Officer	Social License: Protecting the Indigenous Peoples from Resource Extraction Initiatives
Mr. Peter Angelo	Makati Business	Executive	Roles of the Different Sectors in



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V. Perfecto	Club	Director	Promoting and Protecting Human Rights in Business
Ms. Rosemarie R. Trajano	Philippines Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA)	Secretary General	Roles of the Different Sectors in Promoting and Protecting Human Rights in Business
Mr. Moncini Hinay	World Wide Fund for Nature	Project Manager	Roles of the Different Sectors in Promoting and Protecting Human Rights in Business
Engr. Roland Romeo R. Pacis	Visayan Forum Foundation Inc.	Deputy Director	Roles of the Different Sectors in Promoting and Protecting Human Rights in Business
Mr. Julius H. Cainglet	Federation of Free Workers (FFW)	Assistant Vice-President for Research, Communication, Networking & Project Development	Roles of the Different Sectors in Promoting and Protecting Human Rights in Business
Hon. Sherielysse Reyes-Bonifacio	Planning and Finance, Department of Transportation and Communication	Assistant Secretary	Roles of the Different Sectors in Promoting and Protecting Human Rights in Business

9. Summarized statement of Program Evaluation by Participants

According to the evaluation of the participants, the course made them aware of the issues faced by different sectors and of the mechanisms that could allow them to address the gap between business and human rights. It also allowed them to know and understand the position and perspective of other sectors when it comes to human rights issues.

Given these takeaways, the participants were encouraged to inculcate the knowledge they gained from the course to their respective sectors, to build networks with others, and to take initiative to plan and design other mechanisms to protect human rights. They realized that stakeholders and all sectors must take a proactive role and continuously assert the importance of addressing human rights issues.

The different sectors must also be informed and equipped with the proper framework, set of guidelines, and procedures in order to handle human rights issues and



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violation in their respective fields. The importance of human rights core values must be taught thoroughly starting at least at the second level education so as to make students aware of issues and violations – not just of historical accounts but also of present situation – and as to make them familiar with such setting before engaging in the corporate world. These core values must be imparted and carried out among the government, NGOs, CSOs, and the academe through lectures and trainings such as the foundational course on business and human rights. For them, such serves as a platform for the representatives from different sectors to work together and find a common ground between business and human rights.

10. Did the program meet the set Objectives? Why?

Objective	Indicator	Achieved	Partially Achieved	Unlikely	Explanation
To capacitate participants with basic knowledge, and a gender perspective of Business and Human Rights principles using a multi-sectoral approach to mainstream human rights, gender equality, sustainable development and environmental protection in their line of work	The speakers throughout the course were from the academe, government, private sectors and CSOs with advocacies in lined with relevant issues in Human Rights and Business.	x			The speakers were from Ateneo Graduate Legal Studies Institute, Puno & Puno law Offices, Ateneo Law School, Tebtebba, PAHRA, WWF for Nature, Visayan Forum, FFW, and DOTC.
To help the participants realize that the protection of human rights is possible and necessary in operating a business	Some of the speakers for specific sessions throughout the course were from the business sectors and they presented the human rights mechanisms that their organization/ corporation has.	x			The speakers were from Pfizer, Human Nature, The Paper Project, Philippine Business and Social Progress, and Makati



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					Business Club
To contextualize the discussions, both in the national and regional setting, especially in light of the ASEAN integration	The case studies used and presented during the course touched upon issues relevant not only in the country but also within the region.	x			The case studies were Hanjin Heavy Industries Corporation-Philippines, HIV/AIDS Medicine, Child Workers, and Indigenous land rights.
To use a multi-sectoral approach, engaging participants from different sectors, namely: the government, private sector, civil society, and the academe.	There were 11 participants from the government, 7 from CSOs, 4 from academe, and one from the private sector.	x			Participants from CSOs shared and raised issues and insights during the open forum for each session especially on the case of Indigenous Peoples' rights. The government officials also contributed to the discussion especially on the procedure of developing National Action Plans for Business and Human Rights. Participants from the academe and private sector



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					also shared the environment of their work.
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11. What is the likely follow up?

The Foundational Course on Business and Human Rights was conducted as a preparatory coursework before integrating it into the curriculum as course elective for Ateneo Law School. This 2nd semester, Ateneo Law School will be having for the first time its elective on Business and Human Rights entitled, *"Evolving Norms of Business Responsibilities for Human Rights"* (2 units).

Due to some difficulty in inviting participants from the private sector, AHRC is developing a project entitled, *"Strengthening Commitments of Government and Business Sectors on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights"*.

The project seeks to address governance gaps and inadequate domestic policy coherence through engagement of relevant government agencies (such as the Presidential Human Rights Committee, Department of Trade and Industry, and the National Economic and Development Agency) and businesses in designing sectoral approaches in increasing awareness, understanding, and acceptance of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights leading towards a possible National Action Plan.

The project aims to discuss and strategize with key government agencies and business enterprises (through established business groups, such as the Makati Business Club) on how to approach the topic, brainstorm and come up with a workable training designs for government officials and business enterprises, and pilot test the said training designs through Focus Group Discussions. In the short-term, more government agencies and selected business enterprises will be more involved in discussions on how the UNGPBHR can be made more palatable to their respective sectors. The approaches and strategies would have been discussed in order to have more engagement on the topic. In the medium-term, separate training designs can be implemented targeting government agencies and business enterprises to continue raising awareness and understanding of the duties and responsibilities of stakeholders in the UNGPBHR.

Jaymie Ann R. Reyes
Program Manager
22 November 2016