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**Asia Democracy Network
Interim Secretariat**

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Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL)

www.anfrel.org

(3 Dec. 2013 searched)

About ANFREL

The Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) was established in 1997, as Asia's first regional network of civil society organizations focused on elections and election monitoring. It strives to promote and support democratization at national and regional levels in Asia. Since it was founded, it has served towards strengthening the democratization of countries such as Sri Lanka, Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, East Timor and Indonesia. ANFREL is supported by a number of national organizations from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste and Thailand.

From 1997 onwards until today, ANFREL has also been active in contributing its efforts to capacity building of member and non-member organizations on issues related to election observation, voter/civic education, electoral reform and public awareness for good democratic governance. Research activities on electoral reform, democracy and good governance have been conducted jointly with civil society organizations in several countries.

So Far ANFREL has observed 41 elections in 15 countries across Asia, and conducted various capacity building for national organization in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia

Apart from direct election observation programs, in ANFREL's entire election observation mission to date, training (directly or indirectly to local organizations) has always been part of the primary objective of its mission. ANFREL believes that capacity building is one of the most important elements in democratization efforts. ANFREL hopes that these efforts will get continuous support from the international community for greater democratization efforts in Asia. Electoral process is one of the basic needs for the citizens of a country to enjoy their freedom in order to exercise their political rights in choosing representatives to organize and manage the country's democratic political system. Because the relations between politics, economics and social justice are very close and tight, election thus plays a major role in determining the future direction of a country.

Objectives

To support democratization efforts in the Asian region, ANFREL is committed to supporting local groups initiatives on:

- Election monitoring/pre/post-election, referendum and local election and other democracy-related processes.
- Education and trainings on election and democracy-related studies.
- Research on election and democracy-related issues and cover electoral and democratic reforms.

- Conduct campaigns and advocacy work on issues related to democratic processes.
- Information dissemination and publication of materials related to election and other democratic processes.
- Creation of an environment conducive to a democratic development on the spirit of regional solidarity.

What we do

The three sections of our work, Election Observation, Capacity Building and Campaign & Advocacy are different parts of ANFREL's holistic approach to the promotion of democratic institutions. These divisions, while different, support one another. ANFREL's work cannot be successful without activities of lobbying, regular communications and information dissemination.

The Secretariat team has put each mandated activity under a division:

- Monitor elections and conduct pre- and post-election activities for national elections, referendums, local elections, and other democracy-related processes. (Election Observation Division)
- Conduct training and education campaigns on election and democracy-related studies. (Capacity Building Division)
- Conduct advocacy work on issues related to democratic processes. (Advocacy & Campaigns Division)
- Disseminate information and publish materials related to elections and other democratic processes. (Information Technology & Communications)

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Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)

www.forum-asia.org

(3 Dec. 2013 searched)

About FORUM-ASIA

FORUM-ASIA is a membership-based regional human rights organisation committed to the promotion and protection of all human rights including the right to development. FORUM-ASIA was founded in 1991 in Manila and its regional Secretariat has been located in Bangkok since 1994. At present, FORUM-ASIA has 47 member organisations across Asia. As a membership-based regional human rights organisation, FORUM-ASIA works to promote and protect all human rights, including the right to development, through collaboration and cooperation among human rights organizations and defenders in Asia.

Vision

FORUM-ASIA is committed to building a peaceful, just, equitable and ecologically sustainable community of peoples and societies in Asia, where all human rights of all individuals, groups and peoples – in particular, the poor, marginalised and discriminated against – are fully respected and realised in accordance with internationally accepted human rights norms and standards.

Goal

To strengthen FORUM-ASIA's leading and coordinating role in building a regional human rights movement through international solidarity action and engagement with states and other stakeholders in Asia.

ASEAN Advocacy Programme

FORUM-ASIA's ASEAN Advocacy Programme aims to enhance the independence and effectiveness of the ASEAN human rights mechanisms through increased public participation.

1) Programme Objectives

- To enhance the effectiveness of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)
- To ensure that the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration is in compliance to international human rights law and standard
- To increase public awareness on the AICHR and ACWC
- To enhance integration of human rights in the three pillars of ASEAN
- To strengthen CSO engagement with ASEAN and ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism

2) East Asia Country Programme

FORUM-ASIA's East Asia Country Programme aims to advance human rights and democratic governance in East Asia by strengthening the civil society's advocacy, capacity, networking and participation in governmental decision making at national, regional and international level.

3) South Asia Country Programme

FORUM-ASIA's South Asia Country Programme aims for the consolidation of human rights and the democratic movement in South Asia.

4) Human Rights Defenders Programme

FORUM-ASIA's Human Rights Defenders Programme aims to strengthen the protection of human rights defenders (HRDs) and women human rights defenders (WHRDs) in Asia.

5) Human Rights Training Programme

FORUM-ASIA's Human Rights Training Programme aims to enhance knowledge and skills of Asian human rights defenders and organizations for promoting and protecting human rights as well as building up human rights movement in Asia through organizing trainings; increasing HR trainers and developing resource materials.

6) UN Advocacy Programme

FORUM-ASIA's UN Advocacy programme aims to increase the impact and effectiveness of advocacy actions by Asian NGOs and defenders in the use of UN human rights mechanisms, in order to make Asian States more accountable to their human rights obligations.

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Transparency International (TI) - Asia

www.transparency.org

(3 Dec. 2013 searched)

About TI

One global movement sharing one vision: a world in which government, business, civil society and the daily lives of people are free of corruption. In 1993, a few individuals decided to take a stance against corruption and created Transparency International. Now present in more than 100 countries, the movement works relentlessly to stir the world's collective conscience and bring about change. Much remains to be done to stop corruption, but much has also been achieved, including:

- the creation of international anti-corruption conventions
- the prosecution of corrupt leaders and seizures of their illicitly gained riches
- national elections won and lost on tackling corruption
- companies held accountable for their behaviour both at home and abroad.

Mission

Our Mission is to stop corruption and promote transparency, accountability and integrity at all levels and across all sectors of society. Our Core Values are: transparency, accountability, integrity, solidarity, courage, justice and democracy.

Vision

Our Vision is a world in which government, politics, business, civil society and the daily lives of people are free of corruption.

Values

Transparency / Accountability / Integrity / Solidarity / Courage / Justice / Democracy

Focus Areas

- Reporting corruption
- Tools for fighting corruption
- Intergovernmental bodies
- Business
- Defence and security
- Oil and gas
- Education
- Health
- Poverty and development
- Sport
- Climate change
- Whistleblowing
- International conventions
- Integrity Award

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Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA)

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(3 Dec. 2013 searched)

About SEAPA

SEAPA is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation campaigning for genuine press freedom in Southeast Asia. Established in Bangkok in November 1998, it aims to unite independent journalists' and press-related organizations in the region into a force for advocacy and mutual protection.

SEAPA's goal is to provide a forum for the defence of press freedom, giving protection to journalists and nurturing an environment where free expression, transparency, pluralism and a responsible media culture can flourish. Membership in the Alliance is open to independent press advocacy organisations with a proven track record of working for press freedom.

SEAPA's founding members - from Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand - are among the most well established press advocacy organizations in Southeast Asia. Together they bring an innovative regional perspective to the practice of journalism and a vision of a Southeast Asia that is the home of a free and vibrant media. SEAPA operates under Thai law with the name "Southeast Asian Press Association".

How SEAPA came to be

A small group of journalists attending the November 1997 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum were discussing the then-spreading Asian economic crisis over breakfast in a small Vancouver hotel, wondering aloud about where it would lead and why it was happening. At the table were Filipinos, Indonesians, Malaysians and Thais. They all agreed that corruption, censorship, attacks on journalists, lack of accountability and opaque business dealings were a factor in the spreading financial gloom. The Asian media, they said, had often either failed to warn their readers or were prevented from doing so by government regulation, harassment, and self-censorship.

'We need a way to protect ourselves from all this,' said one of those present. 'Nobody else will do it. This crisis can help us do better. We need an Asian organization to advance press freedom.' The organization envisioned is now a reality. With a regional office in Bangkok, SEAPA has established itself as the leading free expression advocacy and support group in Southeast Asia. It issues timely reports on free-expression violations in the region and runs a website that is a source for information and analysis on the press in the region.

It supports capacity-building efforts of press organizations in Cambodia and East Timor, and independent press initiatives in Malaysia. As the first regional media organization campaigning for genuine press freedom, it aims to help expand the boundaries of free expression in the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Vision and Mission

SEAPA's vision is for a Southeast Asian region where free expression and an independent and responsible press promote information and knowledge societies with transparency and pluralism as the norm.

SEAPA's mission is to:

- Foster and promote free expression and an enabling environment for a free, responsible, and independent press in Southeast Asia;
- Build the capacities of independent pluralistic press organizations and the professional competencies of journalists;
- Promote greater access to information;
- Engage civil society in the promotion and protection of press freedom; and
- Stand in solidarity with efforts in other regions of the world to defend press freedom and free expression.

Program

SEAPA's Campaigns and Advocacy Program works to improve the regional media freedom situation by highlighting the key issues and regulations that affect media freedom in each country. Campaigns draw attention to issues and concern affecting the media that need attention and action by concerned parties (state, non-state actors and the civil society). On the other hand, advocacy works for substantive changes in policy for long term impact towards a free media in each country.

1) Key issues

Safety

SEAPA works to promote the safety of journalists, and to combat impunity against violence. Impunity is a chronic failure by states, judiciary and law enforcement agencies in order make perpetrators of violence account for their acts and bring justice to the victims.

Media Law

SEAPA is working work greater freedom of the media legal environment through campaigns that draw attention to restrictive laws and by advocating for reform towards protecting journalists and reducing interference on the media.

2) Other regional issues

Freedom of information or the right to access public information

The unfettered access to public information is an important component of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, as exercised by both the media and citizens in general. However, there are still only two countries Thailand and Indonesia with national laws that guarantee freedom of information. Besides, several countries in the region still layers of laws and regulations that give authorities excuse to withhold public information.

ASEAN and the right to freedom of expression

The increasing role relevance of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as a regional inter-governmental organization has also seen the emergence of regional human rights mechanisms that can serve as an additional platform for engaging governments on the issue of press freedom and freedom of expression. ASEAN mechanisms have an important potential for SEAPA as a regional NGO, and thus need to be engaged in order to affect change at the local level.

Internet freedom

The shift to and increasing adoption by the regional news media of the online platforms has meant the need to defend the internet as a free and accessible channel of information and as an important platform for both

public and individual expression. In many countries in the region, online media has also served as a vibrant alternative to the tightly controlled print and broadcast traditional media.

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Asia Development Alliance (ADA)

www.ada2015.asia

(8 Jan. 2014 searched)

About ADA

The Asia Development Alliance (ADA) is an international network of national or sub-national development NGO/CSO platforms or umbrellas in Asia engaged in international development cooperation. ADA is a civil society space and process for policy dialogue and reflection among CSOs and with government and other stakeholders on issues related to sustainable human development in Asia and beyond. ADA was established on 2 Feb. 2013 at its founding assembly on 2 Feb. 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The founding assembly was initiated by four national CSO platforms – VANI (India), CCC (Cambodia), Code-NGO (Philippines) and KCOC (Korea) – with the support from IFP, CIVICUS AGNA and GNI (Good Neighbors International).

Vision

ADA is committed to building a just, equitable and peaceful community of sustainable societies in Asia and beyond where people enjoy the freedom from fear and want.

Mission

ADA works to promote and advance sustainable human development at all levels of society through effective solidarity and cooperation among civil society organizations in particular national NGO/CSO platforms in Asia.

Goal

ADA aims to enhance organizational a leadership capacity and impact of public advocacy by national CSO platforms in partnership with international CSOs and their networks through effective communication, coordination and cooperation.

Themes and issues

ADN deals with the following themes and issues as priority;

- International development cooperation and aid and development effectiveness
- Civil society space & safe and enabling environment
- Istanbul Principles for CSO development effectiveness
- Human rights-based approach to development (HRBA)
- Democratic governance
- Corporate social responsibility and human rights accountability
- Anti-corruption and transparency
- Rule of law and independence of judiciary,
- Poverty eradication and inequality
- Gender equality and women's empowerment
- Full inclusion of excluded and vulnerable minorities

Working Structure

Annual Conference

Annual Conference usually takes place once a year at the end of the year to assess the results of yearly activities and make plans for the next year in regards to the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Coordination Group (CoCo)

Coordination Group (CoCo) is responsible for coordinating ADA's overall activities and make collective decisions on key issues. It is composed of 6 organizations, 2 from each sub-region, namely South Asia, Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia with a mandate of two years (2013-2014)

Working Group on G20

Working Group on G20 aims to advocate civil society positions on key issues related to the G20 Summit agenda. It is composed of national CSO platforms from five G20 member countries, namely China, India, Indonesia, Japan and South Korea. It was formed during the Civil G20 Summit held in Moscow in June 2013.

Glocal Advocacy Leadership in Asia Academy (GALAA)

Glocal Advocacy Leadership in Asia Academy (GALAA) is an advocacy training program, as a joint initiative of ADA and Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA) to strengthen cooperation and promote mutual mainstreaming between development and human rights. The first program to took place in Bangkok from 28 August to 1 September 2013.

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Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)

www.gppac.net

(30 Nov. 2013 searched)

About GPPAC

The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC, pronounced "gee-pak") is a global member led network of civil society organisations (CSOs) who actively work on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The network consists of fifteen regional networks of local organisations with their own priorities, character and agenda. These regional networks are represented in an International Steering Group, which jointly determines our global priorities and actions for our conflict prevention and peacebuilding work. Our mission is to promote a global shift in peacebuilding from solely reacting to conflict to preventing conflicts from turning violent. We do this through multi-actor collaboration and local ownership of strategies for peace and security. Together, we aim to achieve greater national, regional and global synergy in the field of conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and to strengthen the role of local members in the regions affected by conflict.

Vision

We call for a fundamental change in dealing with violent conflict: a shift from reaction to prevention, as an approach that will save lives, and prove more effective and less destructive. We seek a world in which people and governments elect peaceful means, rather than armed conflict, to achieve greater justice, sustainable development, and human security.

Mission

GPPAC is building a new international consensus and enabling joint action to prevent violent conflict and promote peacebuilding, based on regional and global action agendas. GPPAC is a global network of civil society organisations committed to act to prevent the escalation of conflict into violence, at national, regional and global levels. It aims to build a multi-stakeholder partnership including civil society, governments, regional organisations and the UN.

Governance

GPPAC is organised primarily through regional networks and global structures. At the regional level, GPPAC is governed by Regional Steering Groups (RSGs) and at the global level by an International Steering Group (ISG), in majority composed of representatives from GPPAC regional networks. Each GPPAC Region is coordinated by a Regional Secretariat. GPPAC overall is coordinated by a Global Secretariat. Working Groups with membership drawn from across the network can be formed to generate and coordinate activities with a specific mandate, connecting global GPPAC goals with regional knowledge and engagement. GPPAC Regions

or GPPAC globally may decide to create additional structures to enable the network to operate, build partnerships with other stakeholders and contribute to conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

History

From its origins as an ambitious idea of a few people to enhance and structure civil society's efforts to prevent violent conflict and strengthen peacebuilding efforts, GPPAC has grown into an active global network. It encompasses fifteen regions, enabling a concerted effort of many committed organisations and people working together to reflect on, improve and implement civil society strategies for conflict prevention and peacebuilding worldwide. GPPAC is the result of a long process of development, built on the assumption that any overarching strategy must be based on the participation of local stakeholders; those that have a direct interest in the prevention or cessation of violent conflict. In his 2001 Report on the Prevention of Armed Conflict, then-UN Secretary General Kofi Annan urged "(...) NGOs with an interest in conflict prevention to organise an international conference of local, national and international NGOs on their role in conflict prevention and future interaction with the United Nations in this field." In response, the European Centre for Conflict Prevention (ECCP) - which later became the GPPAC Global Secretariat - initiated a process to convene CSOs, in collaboration with partners across several regions. Initiated after extensive consultations in 2003 and 2004, during which each region developed its own Regional Action Agenda, GPPAC officially launched its Global Action Agenda in 2005, at a worldwide conference at the United Nations headquarters in New York. Since then, GPPAC at the local, regional and national level has been developing and implementing strategies and programmes to put the Action Agendas into practice

Programmes

For 2011-2015 Period, the GPPAC Strategic Plan has defined four key strategies to mobilise the network: Action Learning; Public Outreach; Policy & Advocacy; and Network Strengthening & Regional Action. The thematic priorities which provide the content for each of GPPAC's strategies include:

- Preventive Action: developing tools and capacities to enable CSOs to assess conflict situations, formulate action plans and mobilise action to prevent conflicts in collaboration with others;
- Dialogue & Mediation: building capacity and mobilising the expertise within the network to directly support dialogue and mediation efforts in conflict situations;
- Peace Education: promoting and enhancing methodologies for formal and informal education that fosters a culture of dialogue and peaceful handling of conflict;
- Human Security: developing a bottom-up approach to Security, by providing the input of grassroots CSOs in the development and implementation of security strategies such as DDR, SSR, measures to address violent extremism, and civil-military interventions;
- Gender and the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 as a cross-cutting priority.

GPPAC seeks to pool civil society efforts and develop strategic partnerships around these themes with three key target groups in mind: the UN system; Regional Intergovernmental Organisations (RIGOs); and state actors in conflict (-prone) countries and regions, as well as donor governments such as the US and EU member states. Below you can find more detailed information about each GPPAC's programme.

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East Asia Institute (EAI)

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(27 Nov. 2013 searched)

About EAI

The EAI was established as an independent think-tank dedicated to developing ideas and formulating policy recommendations on the main challenges facing the region. Through hosting scholarly seminars, forums, education program and various publications it can achieve these aims in creating influential products. The EAI is conducting research activities along with two main programs, the Foreign Affairs and Security Program and the Governance Research Program, which are conducted by the five research centers. Also through the utilization of the research task force team, the EAI addresses imminent and critical issues. In this way by working together with recognized scholars and leading policymakers, the EAI is at the center of producing research outcomes reflecting innovation and influential policy debate. As one of the leading think-tanks in Korea, the EAI is fulfilling the way in forming a true knowledge-net community in Northeast Asia by setting up a system of joint research and scholarly exchanges in the U.S., China, and Taiwan as well as many other countries.

The East Asia Institute is an independent think tank in Korea, founded in May 2002. The EAI strives to transform East Asia into a society of nations based on liberal democracy, market economy, open society, and peace. To this end, the EAI works to propagate liberal values and ideas including diversity, tolerance, accountability, and transparency through research, education, and international exchange. The EAI was established to pursue and develop innovative and fresh ideas. By attracting and cooperating with leading scholars and experts from the world, the EAI has functioned as a knowledge network generating creative policy ideas. The EAI endeavors to see that these ideas become a reality. In this way, we can prepare a bright world for our future generation. The EAI is rooted in the belief that knowledge and good ideas can change the world.

The EAI was established as an independent think-tank dedicated to developing ideas and formulating policy recommendations on the main challenges facing the region. Through hosting scholarly seminars, forums, education program and various publications it can achieve these aims in creating influential products. The EAI is conducting research activities along with two main programs, the Foreign Affairs and Security Program and the Governance research Program, which are conducted by the five research centers. Also through the utilization of the research task force team, the EAI addresses imminent and critical issues. In this way by working together with recognized scholars and leading policymakers, the EAI is at the center of producing research outcomes reflecting innovation and influential policy debate. As one of the leading think-tanks in Korea, the EAI is fulfilling the way in forming a true knowledge-net community in Northeast Asia by setting up a system of joint research and scholarly exchanges in the U.S., China, and Taiwan as well as many other countries.

The EAI publishes its ideas and thinking through the media and its own publications including the Journal of East Asian Studies, working papers, issue briefings and published books. It also hosts international conferences, forums and seminars to enable the discussion and debate amongst scholars and experts in various fields in order to produce more efficient strategies and policy alternatives on the main issues and challenges in the region.

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Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA)

www.pria.org

(18 Dec. 2013 searched)

About PRIA

Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) is an international centre for learning and promotion of citizen participation and democratic governance. PRIA's professional expertise and practical insights are utilised by other civil society groups, NGOs, governments, donors, trade unions, private business and academic institutions around the world.

Since its inception in 1982, PRIA has embarked on a set of initiatives focusing on empowerment of the poor and excluded. PRIA has consistently worked on issues of citizens' access to rights and entitlements, such as basic services in health, education and water in rural and urban areas; women's literacy and livelihood; forest rights of tribals; prevention of land alienation and displacement; and workers' occupational health and safety. In all its interventions, PRIA emphasises gender mainstreaming institutionally and programmatically. Its perspectives on participatory research generate innovative participatory methodologies.

PRIA has promoted 'governance where people matter' to ensure that citizens and their collectives can access and claim their rights through engaging with governance institutions and processes. PRIA works on the demand side of development by facilitating active citizenship and empowering civil society. It works on the supply side by reforming institutions and their governance so that the entitlements of citizens are realised.

Vision and Mission

Making democracy work for all

PRIA's vision of a desirable world is based on values of equity, justice, freedom, peace and solidarity with a philosophy – Knowledge is Power – that takes forward all its actions.

PRIA's mission is to work towards the promotion of policies, institutions and capacities that strengthen citizen participation and promote democratic governance.

Theory of Change

PRIA's theory of change comprises three inter-related elements:

- Mobilisation and collectivisation of citizens prepares them in becoming informed and active
- Creating coalitions of countervailing power such that pressure to energise and reform governance is generated
- Influencing governance institutions to become accountable to their mandates and citizens

Strategy and Key Roles

Building on its perspective that Knowledge is Power, PRIA's strategy comprises:

- Supporting enhancement of knowledge and capacities of citizens to become active
- Facilitating building of collectives and associations of citizens so that their voice is amplified
- Enabling civil society partnerships and alliances to work towards engaging governance institutions and structures
- Convening multi-stakeholder dialogues between citizens and governance institutions in the public and private spheres
- Advocating for policies, practices and procedures which support citizen participation and democratic governance

PRIA operationalises its strategy through:

- Enabling micro-macro and macro-micro linkages that create strong support for influencing various actors. Therefore, PRIA works at the grass-roots level to evolve innovations that are scaled-up provincially, nationally and globally.
- Developing and nurturing relationships with grassroots actors and systematising practical knowledge.
- Promoting capacity building through distance education, structured events, field exposure, and information dissemination.
- Undertaking trans-national initiatives based on the principles of south-south cooperation.

Key Programmatic Interventions

Since the beginning, PRIA has evaluated its programmatic impact to continually redefine its strategies to respond to its core purpose. New strategic directions for PRIA have been outlined once in 5 years, and the latest Strategic Plan (2013-17) has identified the following key areas for intervention:

- **Empowering civil society:** This theme will promote civil society capacities by engaging with trans-national roles of economies like India, facilitate conversations between civil society and the private sector (in light of commitment to CSR in the new Companies Bill) and connect multiple civil society actors to promote participatory democracy in India and beyond.
- **Decentralised governance, planning and delivery of basic services:** Initial focus will be on strengthening District Planning Committees, scale-up policy reforms for decentralised planning and delivery of water involving panchayats, and demonstrate the value-addition of decentralised health planning, including private health providers.
- **Urban poverty and governance:** This theme will demonstrate through pilot programmes participation of the urban poor in making improvements in their contexts, and campaign towards strengthening accountable urban governance, especially in small and medium towns.
- **Gender mainstreaming:** This will focus on campaigns to sensitise both boys and girls in high schools and colleges on issues of violence against women, scaling-up efforts to address violence against dalit women through Social Justice Committees and ensuring compliance with the sexual harassment law in public and private sector organisations.

- PRIA's expertise in management of social development programmes comprises participatory approaches in planning, monitoring and evaluation (PME), gender audits, training and human resource development, strategic planning, legal and financial planning, organisation development, team building, policy analysis and advocacy, building coalitions and networks, etc.
- PRIA International Academy runs distance education courses on a wide range of themes that support capacity building of practitioners internationally.

Global Initiatives

In its journey of promoting participation, PRIA has contributed to the evolution and strengthening of many global initiatives:

- Asian South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education (ASPBAE)
- Citizens and Governance Programme of the Commonwealth Foundation
- Development Research Centre on Citizenship Participation and Accountability (DRC)
- FIM Forum for Democratising Global Governance
- Global Alliance on Community-Engaged Research (GACER)
- Global Partnership on Social Accountability
- International Council of Adult Education (ICAE)
- International Forum on Capacity Building (IFCB)
- Local Governance Initiative (LoGIn), Asia
- LogoLink: Global Learning Network on Citizen Participation and Local Governance
- NGO Working Group on World Bank (NGOWG)
- UNESCO Chair on Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education
- World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS)

Geographical Coverage

The intensive field programmes of PRIA are currently located in the states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand and Rajasthan in India. In addition, through its network of partners, these interventions extend throughout India. PRIA is also involved in programmes in countries like Afghanistan, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, Philippines and Sri Lanka. In addition, its global interventions in distance education, capacity building and global advocacy reach out to practitioners, professionals and policy-makers around the world.

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South East Asian Committee for Advocacy (SEACA)

www.seaca.net

(25 Nov. 2013 searched)

About SEACA

The South East Asian Committee for Advocacy is a programme that focuses on advocacy capacity building of civil society organizations (CSOs) in South East Asia. The SEACA programme is an outcome of a series of consultation processes among CSOs in the South East Asian region and a meeting in Manila in September 1999 attended by representatives of national networks of NGOs and People's Organizations from eight countries in the region, and Asian regional networks sponsored by the Catholic Institute for International Relations (CIIR) and supported by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom. Eight countries in South East Asia are represented in SEACA: Burma, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. SEACA counts among its partners some regional NGO networks based in the Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia.

Background

The SEACA program is developed based on a number of considerations, as follows: The multi-dimensional crises in the South East Asian region in the last few years seem to have brought about impacts on the political spheres where governments have become more open, and institutions for people participation have become more relaxed on the one hand; while others continue to experience political repression and the suppression of dissent and opposition on the other hand.

In this changing atmosphere the dichotomy between government and civil society has to be minimized by promoting active dialogues in partnership relations. Policy advocacy, therefore, involves a two-pronged strategy of engaging governments in policy discussions while putting pressure on those same governments. Advocates need the support of grassroots organizations to put pressure on government and must therefore demonstrate that their policy proposals represent the interests of grassroots communities. Hence, community organizing techniques and other development and advocacy techniques are essential tools and foundations for CSOs in doing advocacy, even as government responses to civil society advocacy vary from country to country, according to particular political cultures and histories, as well as the methods adopted by CSOs in presenting their cases to policy makers.

Themes

SEACA is committed to supporting initiatives along the following over-arching themes:

- poverty-related issues (land, food security)
- internal and external conflict-related and displacement issues (including migration)
- impacts of WTO liberalization / globalization (privatization of utilities and basic services, media, trade, culture)

- governance and democratization
- human rights and security

Strategies

SEACA believes in linking people together on pressing issues of the South East Asian region and supporting capacity building for policy advocacy. It supports and mobilizes national and regional organizations working around these issues, towards building a constituency for advocacy in South East Asia.

Goal

Pro-poor policies and programs developed and implemented by government and inter-governmental organisations (IGOs) in South East Asia.

Purpose

To sustainably enhance the capacities of SEA CSOs to influence national, regional and international policies and programs.

Program

The advocacy capacity building program are based on four program components:

- Research Capacity Development: capacity building for stronger policy research and analysis; participatory policy research and analysis, strategic planning and developing agenda for advocacy.
- Information, Documentation and Research: developing databases on, for example, providers of advocacy capacity building; and dissemination of information among members and related organizations through various new and traditional media.
- Media and Communication Skills Development: skills training in popular media and communications, including the best ways of packaging and presenting advocacy messages.
- Advocacy Strategy and Techniques Development on three key themes: government and inter-governmental policy-making processes; the role of civil society in a democracy and democratization processes; and economic policies and their impact on poverty elimination.

SEACA Executive Committee

The SEACA Executive Committee is elected from among SEACA's Board Members, and guides the SEACA Regional Secretariat between annual Board Meetings.

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People's South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (People's SAARC)

www.peoplesaarc.org

(30 Nov. 2013 searched)

About People's SAARC

Civil society (people's movements and NGOs) have been working together for some time to forge a people to people forum in the SAARC region and to enable non-government voices to come together at the regional level. In 1994, a meeting was held in Kathmandu to discuss ways to foster cooperation, solidarity and action at the people-to-people level in a fragmented South Asia. The South Asian Forum on Human Rights (SAFHR) hosted the meeting, and participants drafted an 18-point Statement of Concerns, which was handed over to the SAARC Secretary General. The following year, a consultation on the "Alternative Agenda for South Asian People's Solidarity" jointly organised by INSAF, INSEC, PILER and PP21 (People's Plan for the 21st century) was held in New Delhi. Participants sought an alternative agenda for a People's SAARC to address the concerns and aspirations of the people, reflecting the struggle for empowerment, livelihood and dignity of the South Asian people as a whole. This meeting produced a 14-point agenda for action. In 1996, the 1st SAARC People's Forum was held, and lobbied the official SAARC meeting on the issue of trafficking. This led to an acknowledgement at the 9th SAARC summit that trafficking is a grave concern for the region, and a commitment to develop a convention on the trafficking of women and children. The 2nd SAARC People's Forum further lobbied to change the text of the draft convention, and thereby impact on the policy framework of SAARC.

Background

The people of South Asia share contiguous geographical space and similar social and cultural ethos that shape the people's life style, belief system, cultural specialties, material practices and social relationships in the region. Their beliefs and cultural practices are also influenced by one another. It is unfortunate that the rulers have endeavored to keep their people isolated by erecting walls of suspicion, encouraging hostility and intolerance, feeding disinformation, and prohibiting interaction amongst the peoples of the region in order to maintain their control in the land. This has resulted in fraudulent legitimization of the system of oppression and exploitation. Such system also creates conducive conditions for the proliferation of paranoia, war hysteria, militarization, nuclear weapons, and authoritarian domination of the security forces by adhering to an ultra-nationalist ideology that self-righteously curbs debates, discussions and disagreements on many vital issues.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established at state level with the main objectives to promote welfare of the people of South Asia, to improve their quality of life, to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region, and to provide all individuals an opportunity to live in dignity and to realize their full potential. As such, it was expected to overcome the

traditional geographical hostilities, rivalries, and conflicts as well as to create a culture of friendship, mutual trust, understanding, confidence and economic cooperation among the countries of the region.

The people across the region welcomed the formation of SAARC and it aroused their hopes and aspirations for a better South Asia. It was hoped that SAARC would enhance inter-society linkages to build a vibrant socio-political region. A new era of relatively more prosperity and sustainable quality of livelihood was envisaged in the entire region, which would have been humane, egalitarian, secular, democratic, ecologically balanced, and socially just. But, contrary to the expectations.

The SAARC failed to fulfill the promised goals for a better South Asia. Instead, the policies pursued by the ruling classes and parties of the region created conditions of exclusion, marginalization, and denial of rights, justice and democratic freedom to the majority of the people of the region. Consequently, South Asia and its people now stand at very testing time and critical crossroad in the history of the region. The rationale and trustworthiness of its policies and programs have led to surrendering the sovereignty of the people, including their economic, social and cultural rights.

The present crisis calls for a novel response. The regionalization of South Asia and its people, buttressed by the Structural Adjustment Policies (SAP), spells doom on the economic front. It represents a threat to democracy and unleashes the demon of communalism, thus increasing disparity and discrimination. It erodes livelihood opportunities, withdraws existing services and facilities, and encourages militarization and gender violence, bringing forth social and cultural deprivation. This process further reinforces and reconstitutes the older form of exploitative and oppressive structures in innovative forms. All this, of course, is going on in the name of progress, modernization and reform.

Thus, the state level SAARC being unable to fulfill its promises, the idea of People's SAARC was floated almost a decade ago. The South Asian Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE) and other like-minded organizations had discussed and deliberated in several forums on the idea, concept, nature, role and objectives of the People's SAARC.

Vision

People's solidarity in South Asia must legitimately cherish the vision and perspective of an alternative, political, social, economic and cultural system in the region which will disregard all distinctions and discriminations of gender, caste, religion, language and ethnicity; will lead to a situation free from exploitation and oppression' will inaugurate a climate in which each individual will have the opportunity to realize the full development of her/his potential; will restore the balance and harmony with nature; will liquidate the artificial and inhuman barriers that divide lands, collectivities and minds and transcend all boundaries. Such a South Asia must be the goal of the people of this region and of their solidarity.

Objectives

As a process, we feel that the people of South Asia should come together to face the challenge of combating marginalization of vulnerable groups, communal division and fragmentation and degradation of environment, through widespread sharing of ideas and experiences and by forging solidarity across the borders. This may constitute the following pertinent issues;

- Democracy: Strengthening democracy through human rights and justice
- Harmony: promoting communal harmony and combating religious and ethnic violence Environment: maintaining sustainable development and resolving river water issues
- Economic: resisting neo-liberal policies and exploring possible alternatives
- Peace: striving for demilitarization and denuclearization
- Gender: Devising a common charter of civil rights
- Declaration of People's Summit for People's SAARC 2005 (06 September 2005)

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North East Asia Democracy Forum (NEADF)

Korea Democracy Foundation (KDF)

www.kdemo.or.kr

(25 Nov. 2013 searched)

About KDF

The Korea Democracy Foundation (KDF) was established to contribute to the development of democracy by carrying out projects to memorialize the democratization movement and inherit its spirit in accordance with the Korea Democracy Foundation Act (Act 6495) passed into legislation on June 28, 2001. The KDF carries out support projects and arranges events to develop democracy movement, such as the establishment and operation of the Korea Democracy Memorial Hall. It also collects, digitizes, manages, and researches documents for the historical organization of the democratization movement as well as the democratization movement artifacts preservation, management and publicization.

Mission

Contributing to democracy development inheriting the spirit of democratization movement.

Values

Passion, contribution to society, future orientation

Vision

Civic education institution aiming for new civilization

What we do

- Establishing and managing a democratization movement memorial hall
- Researching and displaying historical materials related to the democracy movement
- Preserving and supporting the remaining aspects of the democratization movement
- Performing public relations for the KDF & memorial hall and promoting its cause through a variety of brochures and educational materials
- Promoting development of democracy around the world

Main Programs

Democracy Memorial Hall / Memorial Efforts / Civic Education / Academic Research / Archives

International Cooperation

- Seoul Democracy Forum
- Democracy Exposure Visit
- School for East Asia Democracy

- Project on Participatory Democracy
- Support for Civil Society

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Korea Human Rights Foundation (KHRF)

www.humanrights.or.kr

(25 Nov. 2013 searched)

About KHRF

Established in 1999 by prominent human rights experts, activists, lawyers, and academics following the commemorative events of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Korea Human Rights Foundation (KHRF) strives to promote solidarity for empowerment in the realm of human rights in Korea. Since its founding, KHRF has made significant contributions to the development of both the human rights movement and discourse in Korea by creating a platform for human rights activists, academics and all stakeholders to communicate through conferences, seminars and training workshops as well as publishing journals and newsletters.

Mission

The KHRF's mission is to promote human rights values and culture through human rights education, research and leadership building in Korea and Asia. The main projects of KHRF can be broken down by A-B-C-D-E.

- Asia: Facilitating exchange between human rights defenders in Asia and Korea
- Business: Promoting corporate human rights accountability
- City: Realizing human rights in the city
- Development: Integrating human rights in international development cooperation
- Education: Enhancing human rights awareness among youth as well as teachers

Program

1) Asia and Human Rights (AHR)

KHRF has been facilitating exchange between human rights defenders in Asia and Korea in order to strengthen Asian solidarity. To bridge the information gap, KHRF along with volunteer intern reporters has been successfully running an online news blog www.humanrightskorea.org reporting on the current human rights development inside Korea. KHRF plans to develop an Asian program in the three thematic areas such as business, city (local government) and international development cooperation (B-C-D) based on the partnerships with key actors and partner organizations in Asia in the near future.

2) Business and Human Rights (BHR)

The BHR program is one of the three thematic programs of KHRF along with local government or city (CHR) and development cooperation (DHR) with an aim of realizing all human rights in the context of the city and the local government. As a member of the Global Compact Network in Korea, KHRF has the vital role of providing space for various stakeholders such as companies, government agencies, civil society organizations, labour unions, academics to share and reflect regarding human rights and at the same time engaging in educational and research activities to promote corporate human rights accountability. KHRF publishes a regular e-newsletter in Korean on news and issues related to business and human rights.

3) City and Human Rights (CHR)

The recently-initiated program of KHRF in 2011, in response to the invitation of the Metropolitan City of Gwangju to join as co-organizer the 1st World Human Rights Cities Forum - www.humanrightscity.net - held in Gwangju on 16-18 May, 2011. KHRF has organized the 1st Global Human Rights City Essay Contest as well as Experts' Panel on Guiding Principles for a Human Rights City as part of the 2nd WHRCF which was held on 16-17 May 2012. KHRF is currently involved in the preparation of the 3rd WHRCF expected to be held on 16-18 May 2013 with a special focus on the development of the "Gwangju Global-Local Compact: Guiding Principles for a Human Rights City". KHRF has been organizing a series of consultation seminars and workshops with civil servants, CSOs, academics on issues related to the role of the city or local government for the promotion and protection of human rights including the 2012 National Conference on Human Rights City held in Byunsan, Korea on 11-12 Feb. 2012 and the Public Dialogue on Human Rights Policies in Metropolitan City of Seoul on 24 July 2012. KHRF also has been publishing a monthly e-newsletter in Korean on news and issues related to city and human rights since January 2012.

4) Development and Human Rights (DHR)

The DHR is one of the three thematic pillars of KHRF's various programs to address emerging human rights challenges in Korea and abroad. It is focused on education and training on how to integrate human rights into international development cooperation, in particular, the human rights-based approach to development (HRBA or RBA). KHRF, as a member of Steering Committee of the Korea Civil Society Forum on International Development Cooperation (KoFID), has actively participated in the OECD's 4th High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in Busan from 29Nov. to 1Dec. 2011. KHRF published a research paper on the "Impact of ODA on Human Rights" in 2007 and has regularly conducted a series of training programs on the RBA for CSOs and policy-makers including the most recent in early 2012 under the sponsorship of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

5) Education and Human Rights (EHR)

The EHR is a cross-cutting program as human rights education and training is a core mandate of KHRF since its establishment in 1999. KHRF has been organizing various types of human rights education program such as the Jeju National Conference on Human Rights and thematic workshop and seminars for students, youth as well as teachers. One of the main programs, first launched in 2011, is the Korea Human Rights Moot Court on international human rights issues in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). This aims at promoting human rights awareness among university and law school students about pressing international human rights challenges. Award of the Minister of justice is given to winners of the contest. As part of EHR, KHRF annually organizes the Human Rights Academy Gil meaning "Human Rights Academy Way" which is a public lecture program on general and key thematic issues including A-B-C-D. KHRF also selects approximately a dozen "Human Rights Books of the Year" among the hundreds of books published at the end of the year as a way to promote human rights culture in Korea.

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II. Inter-governmental institutions in Asia and global

1. Community of Democracies (CoD)
2. UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)
3. UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
4. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
5. Association of Southeast Asian Nations Plus Three (ASEAN+3)
6. East Asia Summit (EAS)
7. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
8. The Commonwealth
9. Bali Democracy Forum (BDF)
10. UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF)
11. G20 and BRICS

Community of Democracies (CoD)

www.community-democracies.org

(3 Dec. 2013 searched)

About CoD

The Community of Democracies (abbreviated as CoD) is an intergovernmental organization established in 2000. The Community works to strengthen democracy worldwide by providing support to emerging democracies and civil society. The CoD has a governmental component made up of government representatives and a non-governmental component made up of civil society organizations. In 2004, CoD governments also organized themselves into a Democracy Caucus in the United Nations (UN). The current president of the Community of Democracies is El Salvador.

History

The Community of Democracies is a global intergovernmental coalition of democratic countries, with the goal of promoting democratic rules and strengthening democratic norms and institutions around the world. The Community was initiated by the minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland, prof Bronislaw Geremek, and US Secretary of State dr Madeleine Albright, inviting all democratic countries to a conference in Warsaw hosted by Poland in June 2000. The conference gathered ministerial delegations from 106 countries from all over the world, who signed the final declaration, *Toward a Community of Democracies*, still today the most comprehensive international declaration on democratic values. Today, well over 100 democratic countries who meet democratic standards participate at ministerial meetings every two years to discuss issues of common concern. The Governing Council is the highest decision-making body and presently consists of 24 member countries. Participants and members of the Community collaborate with each other and with civil society to strengthen democracy in a variety of ways: in the UN Democracy Caucus, in working groups, in missions on the ground and in global initiatives.

Mission

Building upon the Warsaw Declaration, the Community of Democracies seeks to support democratic transition and consolidation worldwide and help bridge the gap between principles of democracy and universal human rights and practice by:

- assisting societies in the development and strengthening of democratic institutions and values;
- identifying, alerting and responding, consistent with the UN Charter and the Warsaw Declaration to threats
- to democracy so as to assist states to remain on the path to democracy;
- supporting and defending civil society in all countries;
- advancing broad-based participation in democratic governance; and
- giving a voice to those working peacefully for democracy in all countries.

Purpose and Structure

The Community of Democracies works to support democratic transition and consolidation worldwide and helps bridge the gap between principles of democracy and universal human rights and practice by:

- assisting societies in the development and strengthening of democratic institutions and values;
- identifying threats to democracy;
- supporting and defending civil society in all countries;
- advancing broad-based participation in democratic governance; and
- giving a voice to those working peacefully for democracy in all countries.

The Community of Democracies seeks to achieve these goals by: creating a global network of government representatives, legislators, civil society and other stakeholders committed to these goals, and using their combined resources and expertise to channel assistance to countries in transition and civil society. The CoD also assists in coordinating democracy support activities and seeks to encourage a common democratic voice in international organizations.

Membership in the CoD is reserved for governments that have shown a commitment to democratic governance as outlined in the Warsaw Declaration. The presidency of the CG rotates on a biennial basis. It is the responsibility of the presidential government to host the biennial ministerial conference and help guide other CoD initiatives. In 2007, it was announced that a Permanent Secretariat would be established in Warsaw. The CoD was reformed in 2011 at the Vilnius Ministerial. The reform package included the establishment of a Governing Council, made up of the members of the previous governing body, the Convening Group. The Governing Council currently consists of 24 members:

Ministerial Conferences

- VII Ministerial Conference, Ulaanbaatar, 2013
- VI Ministerial Conference, Vilnius, 2011
- High Level Democracy Meeting, Kraków 2010
- V Ministerial Conference, Lisbon, 2009
- IV Ministerial Conference, Bamako, 2007
- III Ministerial Conference, Santiago, 2005
- II Ministerial Conference, Seoul, 2002
- Inaugural Conference, Warsaw, 2000

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United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc

(3 Dec. 2013 searched)

About UNHRC

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations System, and is one of the most prominent institutions of the United Nations. The UNHRC is the successor to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR, herein CHR), and is a subsidiary body of the United Nations General Assembly. The council works closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and engages the United Nations' *Special procedures*. The General Assembly established the UNHRC by adopting a resolution (A/RES/60/251) on 15 March 2006, in order to replace the previous CHR, which had been heavily criticised for allowing countries with poor human rights records to be members.

The UNHRC has addressed different conflicts such as the Israeli-Palestinian one, and also addresses rights-related situations in countries such as in Burma, Guinea, North Korea, Côte d'Ivoire, Kyrgyzstan, Syria, Libya, Iran, and Sri Lanka. The UNHRC also addresses important thematic human rights issues such as freedom of association and assembly, freedom of expression, freedom of belief and religion, Women's rights, LGBT rights, and the rights of racial and ethnic minorities. Secretaries General Kofi Annan and Ban Ki-moon, former president of the council Doru Costea, the European Union, Canada and the United States have accused the council of focusing disproportionately on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The United States boycotted the Council during the George W. Bush administration, but reversed its position on it during the Obama administration. Beginning in 2009 however, with the United States taking a leading role in the organization, American commentators began to argue that the HRC was becoming increasingly relevant.

The UN General Assembly elects the members who occupy the UNHRC's forty-seven (47) seats. The General Assembly takes into account the candidate States' contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as their voluntary pledges and commitments in this regard. The term of each seat is three years, and no member may occupy a seat for more than two consecutive terms. The seats are distributed among the UN's regional groups as follows: 13 for Africa, 13 for Asia, six for Eastern Europe, eight for Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), and seven for the Western European and Others Group (WEOG). The General Assembly, via a two-thirds majority, can suspend the rights and privileges of any Council member that it decides has persistently committed gross and systematic violations of human rights during its term of membership. The resolution establishing the UNHRC states that "members elected to the Council shall uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights."

On 18 June 2007, one year after holding its first meeting, the UNHRC adopted its *Institution-building package*, which provides elements to guide it in its future work. Among the elements was the Universal Periodic Review. The Universal Periodic Review assesses the human rights situations in all 193 UN Member States. Another element is an *Advisory Committee*, which serves as the UNHRC's *think tank*, and provides it

with expertise and advice on thematic human rights issues, that is, issues which pertain to all parts of the world. A further element is a *Complaint procedure*, which allows individuals and organizations to bring complaints about human rights violations to the attention of the Council. On 11 July 2013, envoys from both Syria and Iran announced that they would attempt to run for a seat in 2014. This has sparked controversy among the international community.

Structure

The members of the General Assembly elect the members who occupy the UNHRC's forty-seven seats. The General Assembly takes into account the candidate States' contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as their voluntary pledges and commitments in this regard. The term of each seat is three years, and no member may occupy a seat for more than two consecutive terms. The seats are distributed among the UN's regional groups as follows: 13 for Africa, 13 for Asia, six for Eastern Europe, eight for Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), and seven for the Western European and Others Group (WEOG). The previous CHR had a membership of 53 elected by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) through a majority of those present and voting. The General Assembly can suspend the rights and privileges of any Council member that it decides has persistently committed gross and systematic violations of human rights during its term of membership. The suspension process requires a two-thirds majority vote by the General Assembly. The resolution establishing the UNHRC states that "members elected to the Council shall uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights".

Sessions

The Human Rights Council holds no fewer than three regular sessions a year, for a total of at least ten weeks. They take place in March (four weeks), June (three weeks) and September (three weeks). If one third of the Member States requests so, the Human Rights Council can decide at any time to hold a special session to address human rights violations and emergencies.

Universal Periodic Review Working Group

A key component of the Council consists in a periodic review of all 193 UN member states, called the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The new mechanism is based on reports coming from different sources, one of them being contributions from NGOs. Each country's situation will be examined during a three-hour debate.

Complaint Procedure

On 18 June 2007, the UNHRC adopted Resolution 5/1 to establish a Complaint procedure. The Complaint procedure's purpose is to address consistent patterns of gross and reliably attested violations of all human rights and all fundamental freedoms occurring in any part of the world and under any circumstances. Two working groups make up the Complaint procedure: the *Working Group on Communications* (WGC) and the *Working Group on Situations* (WGS).

The WGC consists of five independent and highly qualified experts, and is geographically representative of the five regions represented by the Human Rights Council (Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, and Western Europe and Others). The Advisory Committee designates the WGC's experts from among its members. The experts serve for three years with the possibility of one renewal. The experts

determine whether a complaint deserves investigation. If a complaint deserves investigation, the WGC passes the complaint to the WGS.

The WGS comprises five members appointed by the regional groups from among the States member of the Council for the period of one year (mandate renewable once). It meets twice a year for a period of five working days in order to examine the communications transferred to it by the Working Group on Communications, including the replies of States thereon, as well as the situations which the Council is already seized of under the complaint procedure. The Working Group on Situations, on the basis of the information and recommendations provided by the Working Group on Communications, presents the Council with a report on consistent patterns of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and makes recommendations to the Council on the course of action to take.

Special Procedures

"Special procedures" is the general name given to the mechanisms established by the Human Rights Council to address either specific country situations or thematic issues in all parts of the world. Special procedures can be either individuals (called "Special Rapporteurs" or "Independent Experts") who are intended to be independent experts in a particular area of human rights, or working groups usually composed of five members (one from each UN region). Special procedures are categorized according to thematic mandates – which focus on major phenomena of human rights abuses worldwide – and country mandates – which report on human rights situations in specific countries or territories. Currently there are 36 thematic and 10 country special procedures mandates. Country mandates must be renewed yearly by the HRC, thematic mandates must be renewed every three years. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights provides staffing and logistical support to aid each mandate-holder in carrying out their work. The mandates of the special procedures are established and defined by the resolution creating them. Various activities can be undertaken by special procedures, including responding to individual complaints, conducting studies, providing advice on technical cooperation, and engaging in promotional activities. Generally the special procedures report to the Human Rights Council at least once a year on their findings.

President of the Human Rights Council

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UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

www.unescap.org

(3 Dec. 2013 searched)

About UNESCAP

The **Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP or ESCAP)**, located in Bangkok, Thailand, is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. It was established in 1947 (then as the **UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East - ECAFE**) to encourage economic cooperation among its member states. The name was changed to the current in 1974. It is one of five regional commissions under the administrative direction of United Nations headquarters.

The ESCAP has 53 member States and nine Associate members, and reports to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). As well as countries in Asia and the Pacific, it includes France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States. The ESCAP is headed by Executive Secretary Noeleen Heyzer of Singapore. Ms. Heyzer is the first woman to head ESCAP, which is the biggest of the UN's five regional commissions, both in terms of population served and area covered. Fifty-three countries are members of ESCAP, and there are nine countries which are associate members. ESCAP's regional focus is managing globalization through programs in environmentally sustainable development, trade, and human rights.

Vision

ESCAP is committed to a resilient Asia and the Pacific founded on shared prosperity, social equity and sustainability. Our vision is to be the most comprehensive multilateral platform for promoting cooperation among member States to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific.

Mission

ESCAP works to overcome some of the region's greatest challenges by providing results oriented projects, technical assistance and capacity building to member States in the following areas:

- Macroeconomic Policy and Development
- Trade and Investment
- Transport
- Social Development
- Environment and Sustainable Development
- Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Statistics
- Sub-regional activities for development

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Association of Southeast Asian Nations *(ASEAN)*

www.asean.org

(3 Dec. 2013 searched)

About ASEAN

Establishment

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the Founding Fathers of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Brunei Darussalam then joined on 7 January 1984, Viet Nam on 28 July 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999, making up what is today the ten Member States of ASEAN.

Aims and Purposes

As set out in the ASEAN Declaration, the aims and purposes of ASEAN are:

- To accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region through joint endeavours in the spirit of equality and partnership in order to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of Southeast Asian Nations;
- To promote regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law in the relationship among countries of the region and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter;
- To promote active collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interest in the economic, social, cultural, technical, scientific and administrative fields;
- To provide assistance to each other in the form of training and research facilities in the educational, professional, technical and administrative spheres;
- To collaborate more effectively for the greater utilisation of their agriculture and industries, the expansion of their trade, including the study of the problems of international commodity trade, the improvement of their transportation and communications facilities and the raising of the living standards of their peoples;
- To promote Southeast Asian studies; and
- To maintain close and beneficial cooperation with existing international and regional organisations with similar aims and purposes, and explore all avenues for even closer cooperation among themselves.

Fundamental Principles

In their relations with one another, the ASEAN Member States have adopted the following fundamental principles, as contained in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) of 1976:

- Mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity, and national identity of all nations;

- The right of every State to lead its national existence free from external interference, subversion or coercion;
- Non-interference in the internal affairs of one another;
- Settlement of differences or disputes by peaceful manner;
- Renunciation of the threat or use of force; and
- Effective cooperation among themselves.

ASEAN Community

The ASEAN Vision 2020, adopted by the ASEAN Leaders on the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN, agreed on a shared vision of ASEAN as a concert of Southeast Asian nations, outward looking, living in peace, stability and prosperity, bonded together in partnership in dynamic development and in a community of caring societies.

At the 9th ASEAN Summit in 2003, the ASEAN Leaders resolved that an ASEAN Community shall be established.

At the 12th ASEAN Summit in January 2007, the Leaders affirmed their strong commitment to accelerate the establishment of an ASEAN Community by 2015 and signed the Cebu Declaration on the Acceleration of the Establishment of an ASEAN Community by 2015.

The ASEAN Community is comprised of three pillars, namely the ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. Each pillar has its own Blueprint, and, together with the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Strategic Framework and IAI Work Plan Phase II (2009-2015), they form the Roadmap for and ASEAN Community 2009-2015.

ASEAN Charter

The ASEAN Charter serves as a firm foundation in achieving the ASEAN Community by providing legal status and institutional framework for ASEAN. It also codifies ASEAN norms, rules and values; sets clear targets for ASEAN; and presents accountability and compliance.

The ASEAN Charter entered into force on 15 December 2008. A gathering of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers was held at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta to mark this very historic occasion for ASEAN.

With the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN will henceforth operate under a new legal framework and establish a number of new organs to boost its community-building process.

In effect, the ASEAN Charter has become a legally binding agreement among the 10 ASEAN Member States.

History

ASEAN was preceded by an organisation called the Association of Southeast Asia, commonly called ASA, an alliance consisting of the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand that was formed in 1961. The bloc itself, however, was established on 8 August 1967, when foreign ministers of five countries – Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand – met at the Thai Department of Foreign Affairs building in Bangkok and signed the ASEAN Declaration, more commonly known as the Bangkok Declaration. The five foreign ministers – Adam Malik of Indonesia, Narciso Ramos of the Philippines, Abdul Razak of Malaysia, S. Rajaratnam of Singapore, and Thanat Khoman of Thailand – are considered the organisation's Founding Fathers. The motivations for the birth of ASEAN were so that its members' governing elite could concentrate on nation building, the common fear of communism, reduced faith in or mistrust of external powers in the 1960s, and a desire for economic development. The bloc grew when Brunei Darussalam became the sixth

member on 8 January 1984, barely a week after gaining independence on 1 January.

Continued Expansion

On 28 July 1995, Vietnam became the seventh member. Laos and Myanmar (Burma) joined two years later on 23 July 1997. Cambodia was to have joined together with Laos and Burma, but was deferred due to the country's internal political struggle. The country later joined on 30 April 1999, following the stabilisation of its government. During the 1990s, the bloc experienced an increase in both membership and drive for further integration. In 1990, Malaysia proposed the creation of an East Asia Economic Caucus comprising the then members of ASEAN as well as the People's Republic of China, Japan, and South Korea, with the intention of counterbalancing the growing influence of the United States in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and in the Asian region as a whole. This proposal failed, however, because of heavy opposition from the United States and Japan. Despite this failure, member states continued to work for further integration and ASEAN Plus Three was created in 1997.

In 1992, the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) scheme was signed as a schedule for phasing tariffs and as a goal to increase the *region's competitive advantage as a production base geared for the world market*. This law would act as the framework for the ASEAN Free Trade Area. After the East Asian Financial Crisis of 1997, a revival of the Malaysian proposal was established in Chiang Mai, known as the Chiang Mai Initiative, which calls for better integration between the economies of ASEAN as well as the ASEAN Plus Three countries (China, Japan, and South Korea). Aside from improving each member state's economies, the bloc also focused on peace and stability in the region. On 15 December 1995, the Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty was signed with the intention of turning Southeast Asia into a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. The treaty took effect on 28 March 1997 after all but one of the member states have ratified it. It became fully effective on 21 June 2001, after the Philippines ratified it, effectively banning all nuclear weapons in the region.

Recent Summits

- Twentythird ASEAN Summit, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 9-10 October 2013
- Twentysecond ASEAN Summit, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 24-25 April 2013
- Twentyfirst ASEAN Summit, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 18 November 2012
- Twentieth ASEAN Summit, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 03-04 April 2012
- Nineteenth ASEAN Summit, Bali, Indonesia, 14-19 November 2011

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ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation (ASEAN+3)

www.asean.org

(3 Dec. 2013 searched)

ASEAN Plus Three (APT) is a forum that functions as a coordinator of cooperation between **the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the three East Asia nations of China, Japan, and South Korea**. Government leaders, ministers, and senior officials from the 10 members of the ASEAN and the three Northeast Asian states consult on an increasing range of issues. The APT is the latest development of East Asian regional cooperation. In the past, proposals, such as ROK's call for an Asian Common Market in 1970 and Japan's 1988 suggestion for an Asian Network, have been made to bring closer regional cooperation.

The first leaders' meetings were held in 1996 and 1997 to deal with Asia–Europe Meeting issues, and China and Japan each wanted regular summit meetings with ASEAN members afterwards. The group's significance and importance was strengthened by the Asian Financial Crisis. In response to the crisis, ASEAN closely cooperated with China, Japan, and ROK. Since the implementation of the Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation in 1999 at the Manila Summit, APT finance ministers have been holding periodic consultations. ASEAN Plus Three, in establishing the Chiang Mai Initiative, has been credited as forming the basis for financial stability in Asia, the lack of such stability having contributed to the Asian Financial Crisis. The Asian Currency Unit (ACU) is a proposed weighted index of currencies for ASEAN+3. The ACU was inspired by the now defunct European Currency Unit, replaced by the Euro. The Asian Currency Unit's purpose is to help stabilise the region's financial markets. The ACU as it is proposed is a currency basket and not a real currency, i.e., a weighted index of East Asian currencies that will function as a benchmark for regional currency movements.

The Asian Development Bank is currently reviewing different options concerning the technical aspects related to the ACU calculation, including the nature of the basket, the choice of fixed weights vs. fixed units, the selection of currencies to be included in the basket, the choice of weights, the criteria for their periodical revision, and other aspects as well. The Asian Development Bank was to announce the details of the ACU in March 2006 or later. However external pressures delayed this announcement although the concept was still being studied in detail. A panel discussion in February 2007 cited technical and political obstacles as having prevented the project from advancing. The unit, limited to ASEAN+3, was said to be still moving forward by mid-July 2007.

Since the process began in 1997, ASEAN Plus Three (APT) cooperation has broadened and deepened to also focus on subjects other than finance too in the discussion such as the areas of food and energy security, financial cooperation, trade facilitation, disaster management, people-to-people contacts, narrowing the development gap, rural development and poverty alleviation, human trafficking, labour movement, communicable diseases, environment and sustainable development, and transnational crime, including counter-terrorism.

APT cooperation in the area of political and security cooperation has been deepened by regular dialogue and exchange of views through existing APT mechanisms, such as the APT Summit, APT Foreign Ministers' Meeting, APT Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) and as well as through track 1.5 and track two dialogue, including East Asia Forum and Network of East Asia Think-tanks. In combating transnational crime in the region, the APT Work Plan on Cooperation in Combating Transnational Crime was adopted in 2006.

With the aim to further strengthening APT cooperation, East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) II was established by the Leaders of APT at the 13th APT Summit on 29 October 2010 in Ha Noi to stock-take, review and identify the future direction of APT cooperation.

Recent Summits and Meetings

- The 13th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 10 July 2012
- 5th ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting, Phuket, Thailand, 6 July 2012
- First ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers Meeting, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 4 July 2012
- 11th ASEAN Plus Three Summit, Singapore, 20 November 2007
- 10th ASEAN Plus Three Summit, Cebu, Philippines, 14 January 2007

East Asia Summit (EAS)

www.asean.org

(3 Dec. 2013 searched)

About EAS

East Asia Summit is a unique Leaders-led forum of 18 countries of the Asia-Pacific region to further the objectives of regional peace, security and prosperity. It has evolved as a forum for strategic dialogue and cooperation on political, security and economic issues of common regional concern and plays an important role in the regional architecture.

Established in 2005, EAS allows the principal players in the Asia-Pacific region to discuss issues of common interest and concern in an open and transparent manner at the highest level. The membership of EAS consists of ten ASEAN Member States (i.e. Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam), Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and the USA. EAS is an initiative of ASEAN and is based on the premise of the centrality of ASEAN.

The concept of an East Asia Grouping was first promoted in 1991 by then Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad. The final report of the East Asian Study Group in 2002, established by the ASEAN+3 countries (i.e. China, Japan and ROK), recommended EAS as an ASEAN led development limited to the ASEAN +3 countries. However, the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) held in Vientiane on July 26, 2005 welcomed the participation of ASEAN, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia, India and New Zealand, in the first EAS. USA and the Russian Federation were formally included as members of the EAS at the 6th EAS held in Bali, Indonesia on November 19, 2011.

Seven East Asia Summit has been held so far. The 8th EAS will be held on October 10, 2013 in Brunei Darussalam. There are six priority areas of regional cooperation within the framework of the EAS. These are – energy and environment, finance, education, natural disaster management, pandemics and connectivity. India endorses regional collaboration in all six priority areas.

In the area of human resource development, India has taken lead in three projects on harmonization of national qualification frameworks to assure their interoperability and facilitate student and people mobility in the region, the EAS regional leadership development program and facilitating technical and vocational training (TVET) teacher- student mobility.

At the 4th East Asia Summit (EAS), held in Thailand on October 24-25, 2009, the EAS Leaders endorsed the proposal for the revival of Nalanda University, to bring together the brightest minds from all the countries of Asia. The process of establishing a new campus of Nalanda University is in progress in Rajgir, Bihar. Meanwhile, the first courses are likely to start at the School of Historical Studies and at the School of Ecology

and Environment Studies from leased premises in the academic year 2014-2015.

In the area of pandemics, Australia has launched the Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance to combat drug-resistant malaria and requested India to collaborate in the area of access to quality medicines to combat drug resistant malaria.

At the 6th EAS held on November 19, 2011 in Bali, Indonesia, Prime Minister announced India's intention of hosting an EAS Workshop in 2012 on Disaster Management and Relief in the case of an earthquake. In fulfilment of PM's announcement, India hosted an 'EAS-India Workshop 2012: Building Regional Framework for Earthquake Risk Management' in New Delhi on November 8-9, 2012. The Workshop has been jointly organised by MHA, National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) and MEA. This workshop led to the adoption of the 'Delhi Outcome on Earthquake Risk Reduction in EAS Member Countries'.

At the 6th EAS on 19 November 2011, in Bali, Indonesia, the Leaders shared the view that the effective implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) will not only bring benefit to ASEAN, but also the East Asia region as a whole and ASEAN Connectivity was included as an additional area of cooperation within EAS. At the 10th ASEAN-India Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on November 19, 2012, PM reiterated that connectivity with ASEAN in all its dimensions – physical, institutional and people-to-people – is a strategic priority for India. Regional cooperation through public-private partnership (PPP) is envisaged to take the agenda forward and India is actively taking part in the deliberations with the regional partners.

In the area of finance India has taken part in the discussions at the Ministerial level. The 1st Informal EAS Finance Ministers Meeting was held in Tashkent on May 2, 2010 on the sidelines of ADB Meeting. 2nd Informal EAS Finance Ministers' Meeting was held in Tokyo on October 13, 2012, on the margins of the Annual Meetings of IMF and World Bank. Shri. R.P.N Singh, MoS (P&NG) led the Indian delegation at the 6th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM) held at Phnom Penh, Cambodia on September 13, 2012.

At the 7th EAS in November 2012, the Leaders of 16 EAS members launched the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). ASEAN and the FTA Partners of ASEAN are the members of RCEP. The objective of RCEP is to achieve a modern, comprehensive, high-quality and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement and will cover trade in goods, trade in services, investment, economic and technical cooperation, intellectual property, competition, dispute settlement and other issues. India is participating in the working group level discussions and negotiations for RCEP.

Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) was established in 2008 in Jakarta for providing research inputs for policy making. Research and Information System for Developing countries (RIS) is ERIA's partner institute from India. ERIA has completed several key reports on issues pertinent to India, including the Comprehensive Asia Development Plan (CADP) which includes a study on the Mekong-India Economic Corridor. They also came up with a report on ASEAN-India Connectivity: The Comprehensive Asia Development Plan Phase II in December 2011. Recently, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Senior Research Fellow, Center for Policy Research and former Secretary General of FICCI has been nominated as the India's representative in

the ERIA Governing Board.

EAS Member Countries

Membership of the EAS comprises the ten ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam), Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the United States and Russia. The 18 EAS member countries represent collectively 55 per cent of the world's population, account for almost 55 per cent of global GDP (according to IMF purchasing power parity GDP figures); EAS countries receive more than 74 per cent of Australia's total exports. The centrepiece of the EAS year is an annual leaders' Summit, usually held back-to-back with annual ASEAN leaders' meetings. In addition, a number of ministerial and senior officials' meetings are held during the year to take forward leaders' initiatives.

Summits

- 7th East Asia Summit, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 20 November 2012
- 6th East Asia Summit, Bali, Indonesia, 19 November 2011
- 5th East Asia Summit, Hanoi, Vietnam, 30 October 2010
- 4th East Asia Summit, Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand, 25 October 2009
- 3rd East Asia Summit, Singapore, 21 November 2007
- Second East Asia Summit, Cebu, Philippines, 15 January 2007
- First East Asia Summit, Kuala Lumpur, 14 December 2005

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

www.saarc-sec.org

(3 Dec. 2013 searched)

About SAARC

The **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)** is an economic and geopolitical union of eight member nations that are primarily located in South Asia continent. Its secretariat is headquartered in Kathmandu, Nepal. The idea of regional political and economical cooperation in South Asia was first coined in 1980 and the first summit held in Dhaka on 8 December in 1985 led to its official establishment by the governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. In the intervening years, its successors have grown in size by the accession of new member states. Afghanistan was the first to have been accessed in the physical enlargement of the SAARC in 2007.

The SAARC policies aim to promote welfare economics, collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia, and to accelerate socio-cultural development in the region. The SAARC has developed a role in external relations around with world. Permanent diplomatic relations have been established with the EU, the UN (as an observer), and other multilateral entities. On annual scheduled basis, the official meetings of leaders of each nation are held; meetings of foreign secretaries, twice annually. The next summit is expected to be held in Kathmandu in 2013, but the official dates for the summit is yet to be determined.

Vision

- Desirous of promoting peace, stability, amity and progress in the region through strict adherence to the principles of the UNITED NATIONS CHARTER and NON-ALIGNMENT, particularly respect for the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, national independence, non-use of force and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and peaceful settlement of all disputes.
- Conscious that in an increasingly interdependent world, the objectives of peace, freedom, social justice and economic prosperity are best achieved in the SOUTH ASIAN region by fostering mutual understanding, good neighbourly relations and meaningful cooperation among the Member States which are bound by ties of history and culture;
- Aware of the common problems, interests and aspirations of the peoples of SOUTH ASIA and the need for joint action and enhanced cooperation within their respective political and economic systems and cultural traditions.
- Convinced that regional cooperation among the countries of SOUTH ASIA is mutually beneficial, desirable and necessary for promoting the welfare and improving the quality of life of the peoples of the region;
- Convinced further that economic, social and technical cooperation among the countries of SOUTH ASIA would contribute significantly to national and collective self-reliance;
- Recognising that increased cooperation, contacts and exchanges among the countries of the region will

- contribute to the promotion of friendship and understanding among their peoples;
- Recalling the DECLARATION signed by their Foreign Ministers in NEW DELHI on August 2, 1983 and noting the progress achieved in regional cooperation;
- Reaffirming their determination to promote such cooperation within an institutional framework;

To establish an organisation to be known as SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION hereinafter referred to as the ASSOCIATION, with the following objectives, principles, institutional and financial arrangements:

Objectives

The objectives and the aims of the Association as defined in the Charter are:

- To promote the welfare of the peoples of SOUTH ASIA and to improve their quality of life;
- To accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realise their full potentials;
- To promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among the countries of SOUTH ASIA;
- To contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another's problems;
- To promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields;
- To strengthen cooperation with other developing countries;
- To strengthen cooperation among themselves in international forums on matters of common interests; and
- To cooperate with international and regional organisations with similar aims and purposes.

Principles

- Cooperation within the framework of the ASSOCIATION shall be based on respect for the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and mutual benefit.
- Such cooperation shall not be a substitute for bilateral and multilateral cooperation but shall complement them.
- Such cooperation shall not be inconsistent with bilateral and multilateral obligations.

Recent Summits

The Charter (Article III) provides that the Heads of State or Government "shall meet once a year or more often as and when considered necessary by the Member States". However, the Summit has generally been convened at an interval of one and half year or so.

- Thirteenth SAARC Summit, Dhaka, 2005
- Fourteenth SAARC Summit, New Delhi, 2007
- Fifteenth SAARC Summit, Colombo, 2008
- Sixteenth SAARC Summit, Thimphu, 2010
- Seventeenth SAARC Summit, Addu City, 2011

Regional Centers

The SAARC Secretariat is supported by following Regional Centres established in Member States to promote regional cooperation. These Centres are managed by Governing Boards comprising representatives from all the Member States, SAARC Secretary-General and the Ministry of Foreign/External Affairs of the Host Government. The Director of the Centre acts as Member Secretary to the Governing Board which reports to the Programming Committee.

- SAARC Agricultural Centre (SAC), Dhaka
- SAARC Meteorological Research Centre (SMRC), Dhaka
- SAARC Tuberculosis Centre (STC), Kathmandu
- SAARC Documentation Centre (SDC), New Delhi
- SAARC Human Resources Development Centre (SHRDC), Islamabad
- SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre (SCZMC), Maldives
- SAARC Information Centre (SIC), Nepal
- SAARC Energy Centre (SEC), Pakistan
- SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC), India
- SAARC Forestry Centre (SFC), Bhutan
- SAARC Cultural Centre (SCC), Sri Lanka

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www.saarc-sec.org

The Commonwealth

www.thecommonwealth.org

(3 Dec. 2013 searched)

About The Commonwealth

The **Commonwealth of Nations**, commonly known as **the Commonwealth** (formerly, the **British Commonwealth**), is an intergovernmental organisation of 53 member states that were mostly territories of the former British Empire. The Commonwealth operates by intergovernmental consensus of the member states, organised through the Commonwealth Secretariat, and non-governmental organisations, organised through the Commonwealth Foundation. The Commonwealth dates back to the late 19th century with the decolonisation of the British Empire through increased self-governance of its territories. It was formally constituted by the London Declaration in 1949, which established the member states as "free and equal". The symbol of this free association is Queen Elizabeth II who is the Head of the Commonwealth, a wholly symbolic position. The Queen is also the monarch of 16 members of the Commonwealth, known as realms. The other members of the Commonwealth have different persons as head of state: 32 members are republics and five members are monarchies.

Member states have no legal obligation one to another. Instead, they are united by language, history, culture, and their shared values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. These values are enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter and promoted by the quadrennial Commonwealth Games. On 3 October 2013, after 48 years of membership, The Gambia became the most recent nation to withdraw from this Commonwealth. The Commonwealth covers more than 29,958,050 km² (11,566,870 sq mi), almost a quarter of the world land area, and spans all the continents. With an estimated population of 2.245 billion, almost a third of the world population, the Commonwealth in 2012 produced a nominal gross domestic product (GDP) of \$9.767 trillion, representing 15% of the world GDP when measured in purchasing power parity (PPP). This represents the second largest nominal GDP and GDP PPP in the world. Using the European Union as a template, a movement in some member states seeks to establish a Commonwealth Union (CU) through the creation of a free trade area, visa-free travel area, common foreign policy, and representation at the United Nations and Group of 20.

History

The Commonwealth is one of the world's oldest political association of states. Its roots go back to the British Empire when some countries were ruled directly or indirectly by Britain. Some of these countries became self-governing while retaining Britain's monarch as Head of State. They formed the British Commonwealth of Nations. In 1949 the association we know today – The Commonwealth – came into being. In that year India became a republic but still wished to remain a member of the association. In response, leaders agreed that membership did not have to be based on allegiance to the British Crown. Commonwealth members were "free and equal members of the Commonwealth of Nations, freely co-operating in the pursuit of peace, liberty and progress" - The London Declaration 1949.

Since then, independent countries from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Pacific have joined The Commonwealth. The last two countries to join The Commonwealth - Rwanda and Mozambique - have no historical ties to the British Empire.

Democracy

Building, supporting and strengthening legal systems in our member countries is a key aim of The Commonwealth. This includes promoting regular elections and strengthening election bodies, institutions and processes. The Commonwealth regularly send teams to observe and report on the conduct of elections.

We help build lasting democratic institutions, enabling citizen participation and representation at national and local level.

Commonwealth Secretary-General's Good Offices in Sri Lanka

Part of the Commonwealth Secretary-General's role is to work closely with member states, particularly during times when the Commonwealth's shared political values and commitments are under stress.

Secretary General

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Bali Democracy Forum (BDF)

www.bdf.kemlu.go.id

(2 Dec. 2013 searched)

About BDF

The Bali Democracy Forum (BDF) initiated by Indonesia in 2008, is an annual, inclusive and open intergovernmental forum on the development of democracy in the Asia Pacific region. The forum is aimed to promote and foster regional and international cooperation in the field of peace and democracy through dialogue-based on sharing experiences and best practices that adhere to the principle of equality, mutual respect and understanding, with the participating countries sharing its ownership.

Objectives

To establish and maintain a forum among Asian countries that promotes political development through dialogue and cooperation in strengthening adherence to democratic values and development of democratic institutions. The BDF also initiates and facilitates learning and sharing of experiences as a strategy towards the consolidation of peace, stability and prosperity in the region and beyond. Those objectives are built on a platform for mutual support and cooperation in the context of building democracy and political institutions.

Participants

The BDF which is an annual event at the level of Foreign Ministers has now also become the venue for other influential and prominent figures. Participating countries of the BDF are those that regard themselves as democratic or aspire to be more democratic in the Asia-Pacific region. The Bali Democracy Forum is also attended by observer countries from African, European and American region.

Participants: Indonesia, Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Fiji Islands, Georgia, India, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Kirgizstan, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Timor Leste, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen.

Why BDF?

In Indonesia's view, democracy is not only about a successful general election. Democracy needs to be consolidated and rooted in every aspects of Indonesian national life. Furthermore, democracy, as enshrined in the value system of Pancasila as the philosophy of the nation, needs to be projected in Indonesia's foreign policy. Therefore the promotion of democracy is an integral part of Indonesia's foreign policy, particularly in the Asian Region.

Indonesia stresses the importance on how democracy should be built in the region based on its main principles which are: (i) Democracy cannot be imposed from outside. Every political development should be a 'home-grown' experience. It is something that must be constructed on the basis of a nation's own historical experience and cultural conditions; (ii) it is imperative for the world's community of nations; regardless their ideological affinity and political allegiance, to learn from each other in perfecting the methods of governance so they can better serve the larger goals of prosperity and peace. The process of mutual learning and sharing of experience would further vet the nature of democracy as a unifying factor.

Forums

Bali Democracy Forum VI (8-9 November 2013)

Bali Democracy Forum V (8-9 November 2012)

Bali Democracy Forum IV (8-9 December, 2011)

Bali Democracy Forum III (10-11 December, 2010)

Bali Democracy Forum II (10-11 December, 2009)

Bali Democracy Forum I (10-11 December, 2008)

Contact

Organizing Committee of The 6th Bali Democracy Forum

The 6th Bali Democracy Forum, November 7-8, 2013, Nusa Dua Bali, Indonesia

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United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)

www.un.org/democracyfund

(3 Dec. 2013 searched)

About UNDEF

The United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) was established by United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan in July 2005 at the African Union Summit in Sirte, Libya, as a United Nations General Trust Fund under his authority. The Fund was launched by Prime Minister of world's largest democracy Shri Manmohan Singh and the then US President George Bush for promotion of democratic values. Its primary purpose is to support democratization throughout the world. UNDEF finances projects that build and strengthen democratic institutions, promote human rights, and ensure the participation of all groups in democratic processes. The Fund provides assistance to governmental, non-governmental, national, regional, and international organizations, including relevant United Nations departments, offices, funds, programmes and agencies. The Fund complements current UN efforts to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide. The projects do not promote any single model of democracy. As the Heads of State reiterated in the 2005 Summit Outcome Document, democracy does not belong to a single country or region. They stressed that "democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural system and their full participation in all aspects of their lives." The purpose of the Fund is to build capacities for democratic governance, especially at the country level. This can only be done effectively in a supportive institutional environment. Under no circumstances will activities funded by the UNDEF be "imposed" on a country. The approach will necessarily be one of collaboration and support.

Background

The creation of UNDEF was announced by UN Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan at the African Union summit on 4 July 2005. The establishment followed joint proposals from the Governments of the United States and India to strengthen international democracy assistance through multilateralism. The establishment of the Fund was welcomed by all UN Member States at the 2005 World Summit in September that year.

Mission

UNDEF supports projects that strengthen the voice of civil society, promote human rights, and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes. The large majority of UNDEF funds go to local civil society organizations – both in the transition and consolidation phases of democratization. In this way, UNDEF plays a novel and distinct role in complementing the UN's more traditional work – the work with Governments – to strengthen democratic governance around the world. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said that UNDEF's focus "recognizes a fundamental truth about democracy everywhere – that it is ultimately the product of a strong, active and vocal civil society – It is such a civil society that fosters responsible citizenship and makes democratic forms of government work."

Funding

UNDEF subsists entirely on voluntary contributions from Governments; in 2010, it surpassed US\$110 million in cumulative contributions from 39 countries, including a wide range of non-traditional donor countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Contributions to UNDEF qualify as Official Development Assistance, and several donors choose to make multi-year commitments. The United States and India remain the two biggest donors. UNDEF grants range from US\$50,000 to US\$400,000. Project proposals are subject to a highly rigorous and competitive selection process, as UNDEF receives an average of about 2,000 proposals a year and only some 50-60 are selected. UNDEF was one of only two UN entities mentioned by President Barack Obama in his speech to the UN General Assembly on 23 September 2010. Declaring that "it's time for every Member State... to increase the UN Democracy Fund", President Obama spoke of democracy as the form of government that delivers most for citizens, and described civil society - the focus of UNDEF's work - as the shapers of human progress and the conscience of communities.

Projects

The UN Democracy Fund supports civil society projects around the world that strengthen the voice of civil society, promote human rights, and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes. UNDEF projects are two years long, with project grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$400,000. The large majority are implemented by local NGOs in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America - both in the transition and consolidation phases of democratization. UNDEF also supports a number of major global and regional projects with a normative and policy focus. In these ways, UNDEF plays a novel and distinct role in complementing the UN's other work - the work with Governments - to strengthen democratic governance around the world. It is an innovation at the heart of the United Nations. UNDEF projects are two years long and fall under one or more of six main areas;

- Community development
- Rule of law and human rights
- Tools for democratization
- Women & Youth
- Media

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G20

(Group of Twenty Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors)

www.g20.org

(3 Dec. 2013 searched)

About G20

The **Group of Twenty Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors** (also known as the **G-20**, **G20**, and **Group of Twenty**) is a group of finance ministers and central bank governors from 20 major economies: 19 countries plus the European Union, which is represented by the President of the European Council and by the European Central Bank. The G-20 heads of government or heads of state have also periodically conferred at summits since their initial meeting in 2008. Collectively, the G-20 economies account for approximately 86% of the gross world product (GWP), 80 percent of world trade (including EU intra-trade), and two-thirds of the world population. The G-20 was proposed by former Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin as a forum for cooperation and consultation on matters pertaining to the international financial system. The group was formally inaugurated in September 1999, and held its first meeting in December 1999. It studies, reviews, and promotes high-level discussion of policy issues pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability, and seeks to address issues that go beyond the responsibilities of any one organization. With the G-20 growing in stature after the 2008 Washington summit, its leaders announced on 25 September 2009, that the group would replace the G8 as the main economic council of wealthy nations. Since its inception, the G-20's membership policies have been criticized by numerous intellectuals, and its summits have been a focus for major protests by anti-globalists, nationalists and others. The heads of the G-20 nations met semi-annually at G-20 summits between 2008 and 2011. Since the November 2011 Cannes summit, all G-20 summits have been held annually. Russia currently holds the chair of the G-20, and hosted the eighth G-20 summit in September 2013

History

The G-20, which superseded the G33 (which had itself superseded the G22), was foreshadowed at the Cologne Summit of the G7 in June 1999, but was only formally established at the G7 Finance Ministers' meeting on 26 September 1999. The inaugural meeting took place on 15–16 December 1999 in Berlin. In 2008, Spain and the Netherlands were included, by French invitation, in the G-20 Leaders Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy. The theme of the 2006 G-20 meeting was "Building and Sustaining Prosperity". The issues discussed included domestic reforms to achieve "sustained growth", global energy and resource commodity markets, 'reform' of the World Bank and IMF, and the impact of demographic changes due to an aging population. Trevor A. Manuel, the South African Minister of Finance, was the chairperson of the G-20 when South Africa hosted the Secretariat in 2007. Guido Mantega, Brazil's Minister of Finance, was the chairperson of the G-20 in 2008; Brazil proposed dialogue on competition in financial markets, clean energy and economic development and fiscal elements of growth and development. In a statement following a meeting of G7 finance ministers on 11 October 2008, US President George W. Bush stated that the next meeting of the G-20 would be important in finding solutions to the burgeoning

economic crisis of 2008. An initiative by French President Nicolas Sarkozy and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown led to a special meeting of the G-20, a G-20 Leaders Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, on 15 November 2008. Despite lacking any formal ability to enforce rules, the G-20's prominent membership gives it a strong input on global policy. However, there remain disputes over the legitimacy of the G-20, and criticisms of its organisation and the efficacy of its declarations.

Summits

The G-20 Summit was created as a response both to the financial crisis of 2007–2010 and to a growing recognition that key emerging countries were not adequately included in the core of global economic discussion and governance. The G-20 Summits of heads of state or government were held in addition to the G-20 Meetings of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, who continued to meet to prepare the leaders' summit and implement their decisions. After the 2008 debut summit in Washington, D.C., G-20 leaders met twice a year in London and Pittsburgh in 2009, Toronto and Seoul in 2010. Since 2011, when France chaired and hosted the G-20, the summits have been held only once a year. Russia chaired and hosted the most recent leaders' summit in 2013, the next summit will occur in Australia in 2014, with Turkey hosting in 2015.

List of Members

Currently, there are 20 members of the group. These include, at the leaders summits, the leaders of 19 countries and of the European Union, and, at the ministerial-level meetings, the finance ministers and central bank governors of 19 countries and of the European Union. In addition, Spain participates in every meeting as a permanent guest. The first of the tables below lists the member entities and their heads of government, finance ministers and central bank governors. The second table lists relevant statistics such as population and GDP figures for each member, as well as detailing memberships of other international organisations, such as the G8 or BRICS. Total GDP figures are given in millions of US dollars.

Contact

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www.g20.org

BRICS

(Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)

www.bricsonline.org

(3 Dec. 2013 searched)

About BRICS

BRICS is the acronym for an association of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The grouping was originally known as "BRIC" before the inclusion of South Africa in 2010. The BRICS members are all developing or newly industrialised countries, but they are distinguished by their large, fast-growing economies and significant influence on regional and global affairs; all five are G-20 members. As of 2013, the five BRICS countries represent almost 3 billion people, with a combined nominal GDP of US\$16.039 trillion, and an estimated US\$4 trillion in combined foreign reserves. Presently, South Africa holds the chair of the BRICS group, having hosted the group's fifth summit in 2013. The BRICS have received both praise and criticism from numerous quarters

History

The foreign ministers of the initial four BRIC states (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) met in New York City in September 2006, beginning a series of high-level meetings. A full-scale diplomatic meeting was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, on 16 May 2008.

First BRIC Summit

The BRIC grouping's first formal summit, also held in Yekaterinburg, commenced on 16 June 2009, with Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Dmitry Medvedev, Manmohan Singh, and Hu Jintao, the respective leaders of Brazil, Russia, India and China, all attending. The summit's focus was on means of improving the global economic situation and reforming financial institutions, and discussed how the four countries could better co-operate in the future. There was further discussion of ways that developing countries, such as the BRIC members, could become more involved in global affairs.

In the aftermath of the Yekaterinburg summit, the BRIC nations announced the need for a new global reserve currency, which would have to be "diversified, stable and predictable". Although the statement that was released did not directly criticise the perceived "dominance" of the US dollar – something that Russia had criticised in the past – it did spark a fall in the value of the dollar against other major currencies.

Summits

The grouping has held annual summits since 2009, with member countries taking turns to host. Prior to South Africa's admission, two BRIC summits were held, in 2009 and 2010. The first five-member BRICS summit was held in 2011. The most recent BRICS summit took place in Durban, South Africa, in March 2013.

- 7th 2015, Russia, Ufa
- 6th 2014, Brazil, Fortaleza

- 5th 26–27 March 2013, South Africa, Durban
- 4th 29 March 2012, India, New Delhi
- 3rd 14 April 2011, China, Sanya
- 2nd 16 April 2010, Brazil, Brasília
- 1st 16 June 2009, Russia, Yekaterinburg

Entry of South Africa

In 2010, South Africa began efforts to join the BRIC grouping, and the process for its formal admission began in August of that year. South Africa officially became a member nation on 24 December 2010, after being formally invited by the BRIC countries to join the group. The group was renamed BRICS – with the "S" standing for South Africa – to reflect the group's expanded membership. In April 2011, the President of South Africa, Jacob Zuma, attended the 2011 BRICS summit in Sanya, China, as a full member.

Developments

The BRICS Forum, an independent international organisation encouraging commercial, political and cultural cooperation between the BRICS nations, was formed in 2011. In June 2012, the BRICS nations pledged \$75 billion to boost the lending power of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). However, this loan was conditional on IMF voting reforms. In late March 2013, during the fifth BRICS summit in Durban, South Africa, the member countries agreed to create a global financial institution which they intended to rival the western-dominated IMF and World Bank. After the summit, the BRICS stated that they planned to finalise the arrangements for this new development bank by 2014.

Summits

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Criticism

In 2012, Hu Jintao, who at the time was President of China, described the BRICS countries as defenders and promoters of developing countries and a force for world peace. However, some analysts have highlighted potential divisions and weaknesses in the grouping, including significant economic instabilities, disagreements between the members over UN Security Council reform, and India and China's disputes over territorial issues

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III. International multi-stakeholder and civil society networks

1. World Movement for Democracy (WMD)
2. CoD / Non-governmental Committee
3. World Forum for Democracy (WFD)
4. World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS)
5. Asia Europe People's Forum (AEPF)
6. ASEAN People's Forum (APF)
7. Solidarity for Asian People's Advocacy (SAPA)

World Movement for Democracy (WMD)

www.wmd.org

(4 Dec. 2013 searched)

About WMD

The World Movement for Democracy is a network of activists, practitioners, scholars, policy makers, and funders who work to advance democracy. Since 1999, we have held biennial global assemblies in different regions of the world to hold discussions and workshops on democracy topics. We also facilitate networking among participants and undertake projects to protect civil society.

Goals

- Strengthen democracy where it is weak
- Defend democracy where it is longstanding
- Support the efforts of pro-democracy groups in non-democratic countries

What we do

Activists from across all regions work hard to advance democracy in their countries. Those working on similar projects can learn a lot from each other. We therefore provide networking opportunities and platforms for information sharing among participants. We also manage timely projects and provide access to intellectual resources. Our specific activities include:

- Organizing global assemblies where World Movement participants can network face-to-face;
- Coordinating online discussions among democracy activists to share best practices and lessons learned;
- Emailing alerts and statements to World Movement participants to build solidarity and raise awareness of colleagues facing danger and leading challenges to democracy;
- Helping protect civil society through projects, such as the Defending Civil Society Project and the Civic Space Initiative;
- Serving as a resource center to offer basic materials on democracy through our online catalog;
- Supporting the development of regional and functional networks.

Secretariat Activities

We plan our global assemblies, facilitate networking, and manage projects, such as the Defending Civil Society project and the Civic Space Initiative.

- **World Movement Global Assemblies:** Every two years, we bring together hundreds of democracy and human rights activists at a global assembly to discuss the significant challenges they face advancing democracy in their countries and the ways they are addressing those challenges. Our assemblies feature a wide variety of workshops and panel discussions, and give activists the rare opportunity to meet face-

to-face and connect with activists in different regions. We also present Democracy Courage Tributes to groups and movements that have demonstrated extraordinary courage in their work.

- **Global and Regional Networking:** Democracy work addresses a wide range of topics and is undertaken by activists in all regions. Our regional and functional networks provide important opportunities for participants to engage with each other, participate in upcoming events, and advocate around leading challenges to democracy.
- **Defending Civil Society:** The Defending Civil Society project aims to improve the legal environments for civil society organizations in countries around the globe. Non-democratic governments have been enacting new restrictive “NGO laws” in many countries to make it more difficult for democracy and human rights groups to carry out their work. We work to develop strategies and solidarity among activists and practitioners to prevent the passage of such laws or to reform existing ones. This project is conducted in collaboration with the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL).
- **The Civic Space Initiative:** The Civic Space Initiative is a three-year project to help protect civic space by fostering a positive understanding of civil society work among the general public. As part of the Initiative, we have been producing a series of videos profiling democracy activists and the work they carry out to improve public understanding of democracy work. Check out the most recent video, *Girl Child*. The project is a joint initiative of ICNL, ARTICLE 19, CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, and the World Movement for Democracy.

Assemblies

Every two years, we bring together hundreds of democracy and human rights activists at a global assembly to discuss the significant challenges they face advancing democracy in their countries and the ways they are addressing those challenges.

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Past Assemblies

- 2012: Lima, Peru
- 2010: Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2008: Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2006: Istanbul, Turkey
- 2004: Durban, South Africa
- 2000: São Paulo, Brazil
- 1999: New Delhi, India

Leadership

The World Movement Secretariat is located at the Washington, DC-based National Endowment for Democracy (NED). We are led by an international Steering Committee of distinguished democracy practitioners.

Senior Director

Art Kaufman

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www.wmd.org

Community of Democracies (CoD)

Non-governmental Committee

www.isc-cd.org

(6 Dec. 2013 searched)

About ISC/CD

The International Steering Committee of the Community of Democracies (ISC/CD) is a network of civil society activists committed to advancing democracy and human rights. Since the Warsaw Declaration created the CD in 2000, the ISC has advised CD governments and provided a voice for civil society within the CD framework. ISC/CD members include representatives from the Americas, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, and sub-Saharan Africa.

During the founding CD meeting in Warsaw, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright spoke at a parallel meeting of civil society actors organized by US-based Freedom House and the Stefan Batory Foundation of Poland called the World Forum on Democracy. Addressing an audience of over 300 NGO representatives, democracy promoters, and civil society leaders from 80 nations, Albright affirmed the need for governments to work with civil society to support democracy. The civil society component of the CD was strengthened in subsequent ministerial conferences and emerged out of the preparations for the Santiago Ministerial Conference as the "non-governmental process of the Community of Democracies."

Although the ISC/CD functions primarily as an intermediary between civil society and the CD governments, it has also undertaken a number of initiatives to support the CD's principles. The CD, under the chairmanship of the Mongolian government, made democracy education a priority, and the ISC/CD has brought the views of civil society to CD planning meetings. In coordination with the Council for a Community of Democracies (CCD), members of the ISC/CD participated in three conferences at the Pocantico Center in New York to outline the Global Strategic Plan for Democracy Education, as well as an initiative for democracy education in the Middle East and North Africa and a document for the implementation of the Global Strategic Plan. Additionally, the ISC/CD and the CCD led a series of regional roundtables in 2010 to explore the issue of democracy education. The CCD has served as the secretariat for the ISC/CD since 2005.

Civil society pillar

Reflecting the Community of Democracies (CoD) mission to include all sectors of society and the CoD's dynamic, adaptive character, the organization encompasses several constituent entities that are informally connected to the central apparatus. At the same time that the governmental process for the Community was launched in 2000, a parallel non-governmental process was initiated.

This civil society pillar is now represented by the non-governmental International Steering Committee (ISC), created in 2005, which is composed of 27 leaders of civil society organisations from all regions of the world.

The ISC advises governments on the actions needed to enable civil society to work freely to strengthen democracy, the rule of law, and protection for the fundamental rights enshrined in the Warsaw declaration. Members of the ISC frequently represent civil society at meetings of the Executive Committee and Governing Council. The ISC also drafted recommendations for the Ulaanbaatar Declaration at the recent Seventh Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies, which were discussed by the Civil Society Forum.

The Council for a Community of Democracies (CoD), created in 2000, serves as the ISC secretariat and supports the Community of Democracies through a variety of initiatives, including democracy education (successfully adopted by Mongolia as the theme for its chairmanship). In coordination with the CoD, members of the ISC participated in three conferences at the Pocantico Center in New York to outline the Global Strategic Plan for Democracy Education, as well as a conference that resulted in the Charlottesville Declaration. The International Advisory Committee of experts and eminent persons was created in 2007 through the NGO process to provide independent advice to the Convening Group on the process of invitation to Ministerial Conferences, and other issues.

What we do

- The community of democracy
- Global civil society networking
- Democracy education
- Statement and speeches

Contact

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www.isc-cd.org

World Forum for Democracy (WFD)

www.world-forum-democracy.org

(6 Dec. 2013 searched)

About WFD

The World Forum for Democracy brings together reformers and global leaders to identify democratic responses to challenges which affect our societies today. Organised by the Council of Europe, this project is supported by the French Government, the local authorities (City of Strasbourg and Alsace Region). Through partnership with international organisations, the Forum will bring together participants from all continents, all actors of democratic life: governmental representatives, elected representatives (national, regional and local), citizens, media, socio-economic leaders, academics, representatives of civil society. The 2nd session of the Forum took place from 23 to 29 November 2013 under the general theme of: "Re-wiring Democracy: connecting institutions and citizens in the digital age."

Mission

The deficit of democratic participation is the symptom of disconnect between citizens and institutions. Social media and social networks make audiences directly accessible to politicians and activists any time, any place. They foster thriving interest-based communities but struggle to provide a platform for a broader democratic debate. They have fueled democratic revolutions and citizen protest movements, but can they be instrumental in enhancing representative democracy and everyday governance?

Structure

Throughout the Forum, creative labs will enable participants to introduce already tested initiatives as well as new, untested ideas for enhancing citizen participation in democratic debate and decision-making. The lessons from these exchanges will be shared in plenary formats, to enable participants to get a better grasp of the full range of showcased initiatives and identify those that hold the greatest mainstreaming potential. The most promising initiatives, voted by participants, will be given further visibility by the Council of Europe after the Forum. All participants, regardless of their status or profile, will take places in the debates on an equal footing, as presenters of democratic initiatives, or challengers and discussants.

Method

The Strasbourg World Forum for Democracy 2013 will address the challenge of democratic participation through the method of appreciative inquiry. Instead of dwelling on the problems, so large and complex that they may seem insurmountable, it will showcase initiatives, experiments and ideas that offer a response and a way forward. Focusing on solutions rather than on problems stimulates creativity and the imagination and mobilises people "for" rather than "against". The Forum will provide an opportunity to review the achievements of existing democratic participation initiatives, the obstacles they face and their mainstreaming potential. It will also offer a platform for new ideas on democratic innovation to be critically assessed and

built upon in an "open source" style by the community of leaders and innovators participating physically or virtually in the Forum.

Organisation

The Forum is organised by the Council of Europe in partnership with the French government, Alsace Region, the City of Strasbourg and a range of international organisations, think tanks, foundations, and other partners from the public and private sectors.

Recent Forums

2013: Strasbourg, France (from 23 to 29 Nov.)

2012: Strasbourg, France (from 5 to 7 Oct.)

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World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS)

www.civicus.org

(4 Dec. 2013 searched)

About CIVICUS

World Alliance for Citizen Participation is an international alliance of members and partners which constitutes an influential network of organisations at the local, national, regional and international levels, and spans the spectrum of civil society. CIVICUS includes the following in its definition of civil society: civil society networks and organisations; trade unions; faith-based networks; professional associations; NGO capacity development organisations; philanthropic foundations and other funding bodies. CIVICUS has worked for nearly two decades to strengthen citizen action and civil society throughout the world, especially in areas where participatory democracy and citizens' freedom of association are threatened. CIVICUS has a vision of a global community of active, engaged citizens committed to the creation of a more just and equitable world. This is based on the belief that the health of societies exists in direct proportion to the degree of balance between the state, the private sector and civil society. CIVICUS provides a focal point for knowledge-sharing, common interest representation, global institution-building and engagement among these disparate sectors. It acts as an advocate for citizen participation as an essential component of governance and democracy worldwide. CIVICUS seeks to amplify the voices and opinions of ordinary people and it gives expression to the enormous creative energy of the burgeoning sector of civil society.

Mission

CIVICUS is an international alliance dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society throughout the world.

Vision

A worldwide community of informed, inspired, committed citizens engaged in confronting the challenges facing humanity. CIVICUS seeks to amplify the voices and opinions of ordinary people. It recognises that for effective and sustainable civic participation to occur, citizens must enjoy rights of free association and be able to engage all sectors of society.

Values

- **Justice and Equality:** CIVICUS believes in the equality and dignity of every person, and that all people should be free to exercise their rights as citizens as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- **Reciprocity:** CIVICUS exists to ensure that people treat one another with the respect with which they themselves wish to be treated. Civil society cannot thrive without mutual respect.

- **Knowledge:** CIVICUS recognises that to increase its global awareness of civil society and before it can assist or take action, it needs to form alliances with other concerned bodies to increase its influence and knowledge.
- **Vision:** CIVICUS is realistic about conflict in today's world, but remains optimistic that most people, organisations, governments and businesses will work together for the benefit of all.
- **Principled Courage:** CIVICUS will always promote civil justice and pledges to act in a manner that honours the principles of democratic civil society.

Objectives

The three main objectives that inform our mission are:

- **Civic Existence:** to promote the rights of citizens to organise and act collectively towards defined goals for the public good.
- **Civic Expression:** to increase the effectiveness and improve the governance of civil society organisations, as well as their capacity to set and achieve their individual and collective goals.
- **Civic Engagement:** to foster interaction between civil society and other institutions in order to increase the voice of citizens in public life.

What we do

CIVICUS is an international alliance dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society around the world. In order to do so, we focus on three priority areas:

- Protecting the rights of civil society
- Strengthening civil society good practices
- Increasing the influence of civil society

CIVICUS undertakes a variety of long and short-term projects in each of these areas. In addition, several of our projects, such as the **Civil Society Index** and the **World Assembly**, cut across these areas and provide a platform for further strengthening civil society.

Enabling Environment Index (EEI)

The EEI measures conditions that affect the capacity of citizens (whether individually or collectively) to participate and engage in civil society. CIVICUS includes non-organised forms of civil society as well as civil society organisations in the EEI. The EEI uses the capability approach, which emphasises the underlying conditions that only measure the governance and policy factors that directly affect civil society, but it also looks at the socio-economic and socio-cultural conditions.

Board Chair & Chair of the Executive Committee

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Asia Europe People's Forum (AEPF)

www.aepf.info

(4 Dec. 2013 searched)

About AEPF

AEPF is an interregional network of progressive civil society organisations across Asia and Europe. For the past fourteen years, AEPF has remained the only continuing network linking Asian and European NGOs and social movements. It has assumed the unique function of fostering people's solidarity across the two regions and has become a vehicle for advancing the people's voice within Asia-Europe relations.

Since its beginning, AEPF has provided a space for social actors in each region to:

- Strengthen network building at the national and regional levels in order to undertake cross- regional initiatives and campaigns;
- Analyse issues of common interest such as security, development and neo-liberal globalisation and their impact on peoples in each region in order to come up with visions and strategies for alternative futures;
- Provide people's organisations and networks with a channel for critical engagement with the institutions and policies of ASEM-member countries.

In 1998, hundreds of people's organisations and networks across Asia and Europe endorsed the "People's Vision Towards a More Just, Equal and Sustainable World," which was later revised and reaffirmed at the ASEM 2000 People's Forum in Seoul. In December 2005, the AEPF Charter of Principles was adopted.

History

AEPF emerged in the mid-1990s from a common desire and need among people's organisations and networks across Asia and Europe to open up new venues for dialogue, cooperation and solidarity. The first AEPF interregional conference was organised in 1996 during the first Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) held in Bangkok. ASEM is the official meeting between heads of state of the European Union and 16 Asian countries. Since then, AEPF has been holding a biennial alternative ASEM summit called People's Forum. Succeeding people's forums were held in London (1998), Korea (2000), Denmark (2002), Vietnam (2004), Finland (2006), China (2008), Brussels (2010), Laos (2012).

Objectives

The purpose of the AEPF is to contribute to the realisation of a world based on the principles of peace, participatory democracy, social and environmental justice, human rights, and people's rights to self-determination. The AEPF is a space to link visions of, and struggles for alternative futures. The formation of AEPF opened a new chapter in people to people relations among civil society organisations in Asia and Europe. Social actors from both regions recognise the growing significance of inter-governmental relations between Asia and Europe and the necessity to develop new political and organizational responses. The AEPF has positioned itself as a space for political mobilisation at the interregional level. It seeks to develop alternatives to neo-liberal policies in both regions - in particular, the market-driven policies that are inimical

to the aspirations for peace, development and well-being of the peoples of Asia and Europe. Moreover, the collective and coordinated actions of the AEPF enable the peoples of both regions to influence policies on Asia-Europe relations at the national, regional and inter-regional levels.

Key Initiatives

The People's Forum, which is an alternative summit to ASEM, is held every other year. The biennial forums in the past years have given priority to issues under the main themes:

- Participatory Democracy and Human Rights
- Peace and Security
- Social and Economic Rights
- Environmental Justice

The People's Forum is neither the beginning nor the end of AEPF activities and agenda. This alternative forum highlights "the people" in Asia-Europe relations, provide opportunities for the exploration of shared interests for common action as well as the consolidation of the AEPF's endeavours. In between the biennial People's Forums, AEPF also carries out campaigns directed at national governments and constituencies of AEPF member organisations. These campaigns are also directed towards key regional, interregional and global bodies, such as the ASEAN, EU and ASEM.

Structure

The International Organising Committee (IOC) coordinates the activities of the AEPF. It initially consisted of civil society organisations and social movements that formed the first AEPF in Bangkok in 1996. Since then, members have been added, mainly coming from countries where the succeeding forums were held. The IOC works with a National Organising Committee (NOC), which is also composed of people's organisations from the host country. The IOC and NOC, in cooperation with interested organisations in Asia and Europe, decide on the direction and content of the biennial forum. AEPF has Coordinating Organisations in each region. In Asia, the Coordinating Organisations are the Institute for Popular Democracy (IPD) based in the Philippines and the Monitoring Sustainability of Globalisation based in Malaysia. The Coordinating Organization in Europe is the Transnational Institute based in the Netherlands. In between the biennial people's forums, AEPF is active through thematic circles. At this time, the Philippines and Indonesia have active geographical circles. Thematic circles are organised around issues relating to Free Trade Agreements between the EU and Asia; Transformative Social Protection; Climate Justice; Water Justice; Participatory Democracy and Local Governance; and Alternative Regionalisms.

Advocacies

1. Alternatives and Regional Integration

A historic mobilisation of governments and social movements took place in Cochabamba, Bolivia in December 2006. The Presidents of eight countries held the Summit of the South American Community of Nations (SACN) while the social movements and civil society organisations from all over the Latin American continent gathered (more than 30,000 participating in the final day) for the Social Summit for the integration of the Peoples (People's Integration). During the days of these simultaneous Summits (and in the inter-action between both Summits) a decisive shift was made (effort was made) to move the Latin American continent

away from the model of neoliberal globalisation towards a new model of development and regional integration from below.

2. Establishing an AEPF Climate Justice Working Group

This year's G8 Summit, which was held in L'Aquila, Italy from July 8 to 10 offered one more opportunity for leaders from major economies to break the climate deadlock by demonstrating their political will in solving the climate crisis and produce something substantial on the table on key issues of technology cooperation and financing. Unfortunately, that opportunity was once more missed. For those following the negotiations in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), this is not surprising for the divide between the interests of developed and developing countries are huge and the contradictions related to offered solutions are getting bigger.

3. Asia-Europe Caucus for Democracy and Human Rights

The Asia Europe People's Forum in cooperation with Développement et Civilisations Lebret-Irfed, FORUM-Asia, Indonesian Partnership on Local Governance Initiative, Institute for Popular Democracy, and One World Action will be holding the Asia-Europe Caucus for Democracy and Human Rights on June 6-8, 2008 in the Philippines.

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Solidarity for Asian People's Advocacy *(SAPA)*

www.facebook.com/sapawga

(6 Dec. 2013 searched)

About SAPA

The Solidarity for Asian Peoples' Advocacies' Working Group on the ASEAN is a coming together of regional and national civil society organizations that do joint strategizing and action in engaging the ASEAN. SAPA WG on ASEAN has engaged the ASEAN on the ASEAN Charter Drafting process, particularly the Eminent Persons Group and the High Level Task Force. SAPA WG on ASEAN and its members have been a driving force in the annual convening of the ACSC/APF ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN Peoples' Forum since 2006 to 2011. The SAPA WG on ASEAN is an open platform for joint thematic advocacy.

It works with and through its various Task Forces on thematic advocacy campaigns: on ASEAN and Human Rights, on ASEAN Migrant Workers, on ASEAN and Burma, on Extractives Industries in ASEAN, and on Freedom of Information in ASEAN. It cooperates closely with other SAPA Working Groups: on Environment, on Peace, and on Rural Development. The Co-convenors of the SAPA Working Group on ASEAN are SEACA/ South East Asian Committee for Advocacy and ALTSEAN/Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma

Structure

- Asia-based organizations - local, national, sub-regional, regional or international
- Engaged in issues and concerns relevant to Asia
- Engaged in advocacy with inter-governmental as well as alternative processes/spaces/platforms at sub-regional, regional and global arenas

Mission

- Proliferation of IG processes
- Proliferation of regional networks and coalitions
- Overlapping, duplication, competition
- Sustainability and impact assessment of engagements

Objectives

- Enhance cooperation among regional CSOs involved in advocacy and lobbying at IG processes
- Increase impact and effectiveness of Asian CSO engagement
- Develop common strategic action plans on international meetings in 2006.

Key Challenges

- Effective coordination
- Constructive cooperation
- Cost effective use of resources and expertise
- Sustainability of engagements
- Impact of engagements

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IV. Partner Organizations and Institutions

1. National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
2. Korea Democracy Foundation (KDF)
3. Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD)
4. The Asia Foundation (AF)
5. Tifa Foundation

National Endowment for Democracy *(NED)*

www.ned.org

(4 Dec. 2013 searched)

About NED

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) is a private, nonprofit foundation dedicated to the growth and strengthening of democratic institutions around the world. Each year, NED makes more than 1,000 grants to support the projects of non-governmental groups abroad who are working for democratic goals in more than 90 countries. Since its founding in 1983, the Endowment has remained on the leading edge of democratic struggles everywhere, while evolving into a multifaceted institution that is a hub of activity, resources and intellectual exchange for activists, practitioners and scholars of democracy the world over.

History

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) was launched in the early 1980s, premised on the idea that American assistance on behalf of democracy efforts abroad would be good both for the U.S. and for those struggling around the world for freedom and self-government. This paper offers a brief history of the Endowment, including the events and circumstances that led to its creation, its early legislative battles, more recent legislative success, institutional growth and innovation, and its efforts to help bring democracy foundations into existence in other countries. Although the U.S. experience is undoubtedly unique, the model of a non-governmental organization that receives public funding to carry out democracy initiatives should be considered by other countries that appreciate the benefits of participating in this significant worldwide movement.

Initiatives

- World Movement for Democracy : www.wmd.org
- Journal of Democracy : www.journalofdemocracy.org
- The International Forum for Democratic Studies : www.ned.org/research
- Center for International Media Assistance : www.cima.ned.org

Areas

Democracy belongs to no single nation, but rather it is the birthright of every person in every nation. That's why the National Endowment for Democracy works in all corners of the globe, supporting democracy activists on six continents and in 90 countries. Our work abroad takes the form of grants to local, independent organizations promoting political and economic freedom, a strong civil society, independent media, human rights, and the rule of law. Some of these organizations operate in transitional countries where the goal is consolidating democratic gains, while some operate in authoritarian countries where the goals are

liberalization and the protection of human rights.

While NED's work around the world is guided by the belief that freedom is a universal human aspiration, we know that democracy cannot be achieved through a single election and need not be based upon the model of the United States or any other particular country. Rather, democracy evolves according to the needs and traditions of diverse political cultures. NED helps strengthen the bond between indigenous democratic movements abroad and the people of the United States – a bond based on a common commitment to representative government and freedom as a way of life.

President

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Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD)

www.tfd.org.tw

(4 Dec. 2013 searched)

About TFD

Democracy assistance organizations have been established worldwide since the beginning of the twentieth century, striving to create a fertile international environment that nurtures the spread of both democracy and human rights. Taiwan is now ready to join this growing community. The establishment of the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD) marks a milestone in Taiwan's democratization process, while it also inaugurates a new networking channel with the international community.

Through the establishment of the Foundation we disseminate an important message: Taiwan is determined to contribute to the flourishing of democracy in the Asia-Pacific region as well as to the aspirations of the global democratic community. With the new international connections created, we will learn from the experiences of the world's advanced democracies and improve upon our own efforts; soon, we will also serve as a platform through which Taiwan may share its experiences with other aspiring democracies.

Because of its weighty mission, the Foundation shoulders heavy responsibilities. Its founding spirit and vision will help consolidate Taiwan's democratic achievements, and its establishment creates a new and significant link in the international network of democratic institutions.

Background

Taiwan's peaceful transition to democracy is not only a historical accomplishment for its twenty-three million people, but a landmark in the worldwide spread of democracy. Only after years of struggle and effort could this transformation take place. We must never forget this history, for it shapes the cornerstone of our continued commitment to the principles of democracy and human rights. The Foundation was established with an inter-related, two-tracked mission in mind. Domestically, the TFD strives to play a positive role in consolidating Taiwan's democracy and fortifying its commitment to human rights; internationally, the Foundation hopes to become a strong link in the world's democratic network, joining forces with related organizations around the world. Through the years, Taiwan has received valuable long-term assistance and stalwart support from the international community, and it is now time to repay that community for all of its efforts.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs initiated the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy project in 2002. After much research and careful evaluation, the Ministry integrated the required resources from many sectors of society. In January 2003, the Ministry obtained the support of all political parties to pass the budget for the Foundation in the legislature. The TFD formally came into being on June 17, 2003, with its first meeting of the Board of Trustees and Supervisory Board. At that meeting, Legislative Yuan President Wang Jin-pyng was elected its first chairman. According to its By-laws, the TFD is governed by a total of fifteen trustees and five supervisors, representing political parties, the government, academia, non-governmental organizations, and

the business sector.

What we do

The primary source of funding for the TFD is the government. However, it is independently incorporated, non-partisan, and non-profit. According to its By-laws, the Foundation may accept international and domestic donations. One-third of its budget is reserved for Taiwan's political parties, supporting their own international and local initiatives that are in line with the mission of the TFD. The remaining budget is used for the TFD core activities, including:

- Building relationships with related institutions around the world;
- Participating actively in the global promotion of democracy and supporting the improvement of human rights conditions;
- Supporting democracy promotion activities of NGOs and academic institutions;
- Promoting research and publications on democratic developments at home and abroad; and
- Holding seminars, workshops, conferences, and other educational activities in the area of democracy and human rights.

Grants

The Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD) is the first national democracy assistance foundation to be established in Asia, and is devoted to strengthening democracy and human rights in Taiwan and abroad. The Foundation's primary concerns are to further consolidate Taiwan's democratic system, to promote democracy in Asia, and to participate actively in the global democratic network. The Foundation is committed to the vision of working together with like-minded organizations and individuals, building on Taiwan's experience to advance a new wave of democratization worldwide.

1. The TFD has three grants programs:

International grants, domestic grants, and grants to Taiwan's major political parties. The TFD's international grants program is designed to assist organizations based outside of Taiwan to carry out projects to promote democracy and human rights. International non-governmental organizations, academic institutions or think tanks, and other related organizations are eligible to apply. Geographically, the program places a priority on support for projects that address the Asian region, but projects in other regions occasionally receive funding.

2. Project Categories:

- **Advocacy projects:** Promoting democracy and human rights through developing effective, cooperative domestic and international networks at the civil society-level;
- **Research:** Involving in-depth, systematic, analytical and/or empirical studies in the democracy and human rights fields;
- **Conferences:** Engaging experts and other interested parties in forums, seminars, or workshops, discussing issues related to democracy and human rights;
- **Publications:** Advancing democracy and human rights through print or visual media, for example, through books, articles, films, and documentaries;
- **Educational programs:** Enhancing knowledge of democratic and human rights systems, such as through capacity-building and training programs.

President

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The Asia Foundation (AF)

asiafoundtion.org

(4 Dec. 2013 searched)

About AF

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Informed by six decades of experience and deep local expertise, our programs address critical issues affecting Asia in the 21st century - governance and law, economic development, women's empowerment, environment, and regional cooperation. In addition, our Books for Asia and professional exchange programs are among the ways we encourage Asia's continued development as a peaceful, just, and thriving region of the world. Headquartered in San Francisco, The Asia Foundation works through a network of offices in 18 Asian countries and in Washington, DC. Working with public and private partners, the Foundation receives funding from a diverse group of bilateral and multilateral development agencies, foundations, corporations, and individuals. In 2012, we provided nearly \$100 million in direct program support and distributed textbooks and other educational materials valued at over \$30 million.

Approach

Internationally recognized for our commitment to Asia's development, the Foundation brings together local individuals, communities, and governments who are shaping Asia's future.

Vision

A peaceful, just, and thriving Asia

Mission

The Asia Foundation improves lives, expands opportunities, and helps societies flourish across a dynamic and developing Asia. We work with innovative leaders and communities to build effective institutions and advance pathbreaking reforms. Together with our partners, we are committed to Asia's continued development as a peaceful, just, and thriving region of the world.

Values

In an increasingly complex and changing world, we believe that a peaceful and engaged Asia is of critical global importance. Five core values continue to define our work in the 21st century.

What we do

These are some of the ways we are improving lives and expanding opportunities:

- Providing 48 million books to tens of thousands of schools, libraries, and universities.
- Organizing nationwide election monitoring and voter education to ensure free and fair elections and strengthen democracy in virtually every Asian country that has undergone a democratic transition over the past six decades.
- Educating more than a million migrant workers in over one thousand factories in China's Pearl River Delta on their legal rights, safety, and personal health.
- Protecting the basic rights of women through our work to counter human trafficking, fight gender-based violence, increase political participation, and strengthen legal systems.
- Providing life-changing professional opportunities for newly emerging Asian leaders.
- Reducing the human and financial toll of natural disasters by equipping government officials, businesses, and community leaders in disaster planning and response.
- Creating jobs by improving the business climate and reducing red tape for local entrepreneurs and small businesses.
- Reducing violence through peacebuilding efforts in some of the most entrenched conflict zones in the region, including Southern Thailand, Pakistan, Mindanao, and Sri Lanka.
- Conducting ground-breaking empirical surveys to assess the quality and responsiveness of government services, patterns of corruption, and levels of violence, including the most comprehensive public opinion poll in Afghanistan.

Programs

Informed by six decades of experience and deep local expertise, The Asia Foundation programs address critical issues affecting Asia in the 21st century - governance and law, economic development, women's empowerment, environment, and regional cooperation. In addition, our Books for Asia and professional exchange programs are among the ways we encourage Asia's continued development as a peaceful, just, and thriving region of the world. Through the Foundation's staff of international development professionals, cooperation with local partners, and a long history in the region, we offer distinctive insight on local issues and have successfully implemented thousands of programs that benefit current and future generations in the areas of:

Governance and Law / Economic Development / Women's Empowerment / Environment / Regional Cooperation / Books for Asia / Exchanges / Development and Aid Effectiveness / Washington DC

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Tifa Foundation

www.tifafoundation.org

(5 Dec. 2013 searched)

Vision and Mission

Tifa Foundation is a grant-making organization that strives to build an open society by actively strengthening civil society in Indonesia. Since 2012, Tifa is dedicated to advance quality democracy in Indonesia. Tifa Foundation's vision is a society in which citizens, businesses and the government promote good governance, nurture solidarity and support individual rights, particularly the rights and views of women, minorities, and other disadvantaged groups. Tifa works to promote an open society in Indonesia, one which respects diversity and honors the rule of law, justice and equality.

Program

Tifa is a dynamic organization that is prepared to face changes. For 2013 - 2014, we focus our efforts on improving the quality of democracy in Indonesia. This agenda is manifested in our four main programs:

1. Democracy & Governance:

- 1) Citizen Participation in Electoral Democracy: Aims to develop an education model for active voters, especially youth, for the 2014 elections and Support active participation of activists from CSOs, especially women, both to vote and run in the 2014 elections
- 2) Responsive and Accountable Government: Aims to Strengthen pro-democracy leadership, specifically in women and youth groups and to Increase budget transparency and accountability

2. Human Rights & Justice:

- 1) Access to Justice: To Fulfill of the right to legal aid for poor and marginalized communities in Indonesia
- 2) Transitional Justice: To Strengthen the state's commitment to protect Human Rights by learning from human rights violations that occurred both in the past and the present time through public campaigns and Human Rights education.
- 3) Citizenship and Equality: To Increase the Indonesian citizen's capacity to respect differences, especially those holding strategic positions (educators, policy makers, religious figures, etc.), as well as increasing the state's accountability on citizens' rights.
- 4) Social and Economic Justice: To Improve food sovereignty, especially in areas prone to food crisis, through diversification of food and protection of assets and resources.

3. Media & Information:

- 1) Freedom of the press as a requisite of democracy: In Tifa's view, the existence of media that is free from monopoly or control by a handful of people is a requisite for a functioning democracy. By guaranteeing press freedom, the mass media would be able to exercise its journalistic role to disseminate information and safeguards democratization process as in accordance to the Indonesian Press Law No. 40/1999.

- 2) Media professionalism: Tifa encourages the mass media to showcase its true function based on the principles of democracy. The presence of professional media is expected to reduce public complaints on media performance, while improving the quality of reporting and ability to respond issues democratically.
- 3) Media support on strategic issues: Support from the media is required in Tifa's effort to disseminate strategic issues to the public at large and trigger critical dialogues on messages conveyed by Tifa. The purpose is to generate a change in the general perspective or public perceptions regarding the messages, and spread public discourse relating to the strategic issues.
- 4) Exercising rights to information in public advocacy: Transparency of public information is one of the underlying characteristics of a democratic state. The people are entitled to access to information as part of their rights. Tifa urges policy changes on access to information in order to enable the people utilizing information in claiming their rights.

4. Indonesian Migrant work protection: The objective of these three core programs is to increase safety in migration for Indonesian migrant workers.

- 1) Protection of migrant workers in destination countries: Despite migrant workers' significant contribution towards local economic development, they do not receive adequate protection both in the country of origin and destination countries. As a result, they become more vulnerable during migration process because of the government's lack of protection. Without having the right protection mechanism in place, Tifa recognized that migrant workers, especially those working in the domestic sector, are more prone to risks due to their limited capacity and difficulty to monitor them.
- 2) Policy advocacy to streamline migration procedures: Based on data of BNP2TKI, there are more than 650,000 Indonesian migrant workers who travel abroad each year to seek employment, mainly to the Middle East and Asia, particularly Saudi Arabia and Malaysia. At the local level, migrant workers' contribution towards local economic development is not supported by the local government's commitment in creating a program that is relevant for migrant workers. The House of Representatives (Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat – DPR) through Commission IX initiated amendment on Law No.39/2004 on Placement and Protection of Migrant Workers Abroad. However, this law has been more favorable for recruitment agencies than for migrant workers. It is expected that the amendment process can be synchronized with Law No.6/2012 on Ratification of the United Nations Convention 1990 on Protection of Migrant Workers and Their Family which has been ratified by the Indonesian government.
- 3) Increased capacity of migrant workers and civil society to monitor the performance of institutions involved in the migration process: There are not many documents available to measure or evaluate the services of private recruitment agencies and insurance companies, especially from migrant workers' perspectives. In response to this need and to provide useful information for migrant workers, Tifa introduces the web-based report card; website-based reporting software that contains track records of private recruitment agencies and insurance companies operating in project areas, particularly related to placement and protection of migrant workers. This mechanism is expected to serve as a model for public participation in monitoring and disseminating information on companies' performances. It will also assist the government in monitoring companies by gathering track records on these companies.

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(31 December 2013 updated)*

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North East Asia		NEADF			
		NEADF			
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• Acronyms

ACWC	ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children
ADA	Asia Development Alliance
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADN	Asia Democracy Network
ADRN	Asia Democracy Research Network
AEPF	Asia Europe People's Forum
AF	The Asia Foundation
AICHR	ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights
ANFREL	Asian Network for Free Elections
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
APF	ASEAN People's Forum
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEAN+3	Association of Southeast Asian Nations Plus Three
ASEM	The Asia-Europe Meeting
BDF	Bali Democracy Forum
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
CIVICUS	World Alliance for Citizen Participation
CKWP	Center for Korean Women & Politics
CoD	Community of Democracies
EAI	East Asia Institute
EAS	East Asia Summit
ECCP	European Centre for Conflict Prevention
ECOSOC	UN Economic and Social Council
EEI	Enabling Environment Index
FORUM-ASIA	Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development
G20	Group of Twenty
GPPAC	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
GRULAC	Latin American and Caribbean Group
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INSAF	The International South Asia Forum
ISC/CD	The International Steering Committee of the Community of Democracies
KDF	Korea Democracy Foundation
KDN	Korea Democracy Network
KHRF	Korea Human Rights Foundation
MEA	Ministry of External Affairs
MHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
NEADF	North East Asia Democracy Forum
NED	National Endowment for Democracy

< Annex II. >

OHCHR	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
Peoples' SAARC	People's South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
PRIA	Society for Participatory Research in Asia (India)
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SAPA	Solidarity for Asian People's Advocacy
SEACA	South East Asian Committee for Advocacy
SEAPA	Southeast Asian Press Alliance
TFD	Taiwan Foundation for Democracy
TI	Transparency International
UNCHR	UN Commission on Human Rights
UNDEF	UN Democracy Fund
UNESCAP	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNHCR	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNHRC	UN Human Rights Council
UNSCR	UN Security Council Resolution
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
WEOG	Western European and Others Group
WFD	World Forum for Democracy
WHRCF	World Human Rights Cities Forum
WMD	World Movement for Democracy
WTO	World Trade Organization