

***Strengthening Democracy in Asia
and
the Role of the Community of
Democracies***

**ASEAN Civil Society Conference (ACSC)
/ASEAN People's Forum (APF) 2015**

**2 – 4pm, April 24, 2015
Kuliah B-6, UTM Space
Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA**

Organized by:



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I. Concept Note

“Strengthening Democracy in Asia and the Role of the Community of Democracies (CD)”

April 24, 2015 – 14:00pm ~ 16:00pm

Kuliah B-6, UTM Space

You are cordially invited to the session on how to strengthen democracy in Asia and the role of the Community of Democracies (CD) with a focus on five countries - Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

The Session is jointly organized by three international civil society organizations in Asia, namely Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), Southeast Asia Committee for Advocacy (SEACA) and Asia Democracy Network (ADN) with their members and partners in those countries.

It aims to assess the emerging trends and challenges related to democracy and human rights to devise a joint action plan for solidarity campaigns and advocacy among civil society, human rights and democracy NGOs all across Asia with the following guiding questions.

- What are key emerging trends and challenges to upholding democracy and human rights in your country?
- What role can the Community of Democracies (CD) and international community such as UN, ASEAN and SAARC take to support your struggle for democracy and human rights?
- What kinds of international solidarity action are required by civil society in Asia?

Program Agenda and Schedule

Time	Moderator and Speakers
14:00- 14:15	<p>Welcome Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Corrina Lopa, SEACA ➤ Atnike Sigiro, FORUM-ASIA
14:15- 15:20	<p>Moderator:</p> <p>Anselmo Lee, Co-Convener, Asia Democracy Network</p> <p>Panelists (15 minutes each)</p> <p>Cambodia: Mr. Theng Savoeun, Coordinator, CCFC Coalition of Cambodia Farmers Community</p> <p>Vietnam: Ms. Huynh Thuc, Vietnamese Women for Human Rights Ms. Lucia Phan, Con Dau Parishionets Association</p> <p>Pakistan: Mr. Samson Salamat, Director, Centre for Human Rights Education</p> <p>Sri Lanka: Mr. Ruki Fernando, Advisor, INFORM Human Rights Documentation Centre</p> <p>Thailand: Ms. Pornpen Khongkachonkiet, Voice from Thais</p>
15:20- 15:50	<p>Question and Answers (Q & A) General Discussion</p>
15:50- 16:00	<p>Wrap-up and concluding remarks</p>

Contact Persons:

Mr. Anselmo Lee, Co-Convener, Asia Democracy Network alee7080@gmail.com

Ms. Soo Yon Suh, Coordinator, Asia Democracy Network sooyonsuh@gmail.com

II. Panelists' Bio

⌘ Vietnam - Huỳnh Thục Vy



Huỳnh Thục Vy is a dissident blogger with 5 years of activism. She and her family have been victims of the Vietnamese government's human rights abuses. Currently she is the coordinator of Vietnamese Women for Human Rights. She just published a book on issues of human rights and civil society in Vietnam.

⌘ Sri-Lanka - K.M. Rukshan “Ruki” Fernando



Ruki Fernando currently serves as a human rights advisor to the INFORM Human Rights Documentation Centre in Colombo, Sri Lanka. His main work in last few years has involved monitoring and documenting of human rights violations related to the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka with extensive experiences in training, education, and consultations on human rights. Mr. Fernando was awarded the 12th Justice & Peace Award by the Bishop TjiHak Soon Foundation in the Republic of Korea in 2009.

⌘ Pakistan - Samson Salamat



Samson Salamat is the Director of the Centre for Human Rights Education-Pakistan (CHRE), a non-profit, non-governmental and non-political organization to strengthen human rights through educational programs, advocacy and awareness raising initiatives. He previously served as Program Manager for the National (Catholic) Commission for Justice and Peace's “Democracy and Human Rights Education Program (2000-2008)” and for the Mukhtar Mai Women's Welfare Organization. At the Centre for Human Rights Education, Mr. Salamat has focused on training the next generation of human rights defenders in Pakistan.

⌘ Cambodia – Theng Savoeun



Theng Savoeun is the Coordinator of Coalition of Cambodian Farmer Community (CCFC). With his work experience in advocacy and community organizing, Theng initiated the CCFC in 2011 in order to protect the rights of people including land and housing rights, environment and natural resources from big companies, the government and powerful local authorities. Since his arrest during his mission at Yak Jin Garment Factory, he has been prosecuted and charged of a maximum sentence of 5 years imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$ 2,500. During the crackdown and his arrest, Mr. Savoeun experienced torture that caused serious injuries.

⌘ Thailand – Pornpen Khongkachonkiet (Noi)



Pornpen Khongkachonkiet (Noi) is from Thailand, and joined the Association for Prevention of Torture in July 2013 as Asia Pacific Fellow. She worked as Director of Cross Cultural Foundation (CrCF), Thailand and also leading the Access to Justice and Legal Protection Program since 2005. Before this, she worked with a regional Asian human rights organization based in Bangkok, FORUM-ASIA for five years in the areas of national and international protection for marginalized people in Thailand and in the broader Asian region.

III. Moderators / Organizers



Seong Hoon (Anselmo) Lee is currently the Executive Director of the Korea Human Rights Foundation based in Seoul, Korea, and adjunct professor of Global Governance, NGO, and Human Rights at the Kyunghee University in Seoul, Korea. Mr. Lee also currently holds positions as Chair of the Steering Committee for Korea Civil Society Forum on International Development Cooperation as well as Senior Advisor to the Policy Center of the Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation (KCOC). Internationally, Mr. Lee is the co-convener of the Asia Democracy Network (ADN), Co-Convener of the Asia Development Alliance (ADA), as well as a Board Member of CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation. As an active human rights practitioner, Mr. Lee has experience serving as the Secretary-General of the International Movement of Intellectual and Cultural Affairs (ICMICA) Pax-Romana, in Geneva Switzerland, Executive Director of Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), in Bangkok, Thailand, and Director of the Bureau of Human Rights Policy at the National Human Rights Commission of Korea. He holds a Bachelor's from Seoul National University in Sociology and a Master's from The Catholic University of Korea in Sociology.



Corinna Lopa has been the Regional Coordinator of the South East Asian Committee for Advocacy (SEACA) since late 2006 to the present. Based in Manila, Philippines, SEACA is a sub-regional civil society resource organization that focuses on capacity building and networking towards effective civil society engagement with the ASEAN on people's issues and campaigns. Over the last 14 years, SEACA has done its capacity building work in 11 countries in South East Asia namely, in Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and the Thai-Burma border, Timor Leste, and Vietnam. SEACA has been serving as the Co-Convener of the SAPA Working Group on ASEAN of the Solidarity for Asian Peoples' Advocacies (SAPA).

IV. Community of Democracies

The Community of Democracies is a global intergovernmental coalition of states, founded in the year of 2000 to bring together governments, civil society and the private sector in the pursuit of a common goal: supporting democratic rules and strengthening democratic norms and institutions around the world.

A bit of history: The decade of 1990 saw dramatic transformations in the international political scene. At the turn of the 21st century, democracy was gaining growing recognition as the only legitimate form of government, as more and more countries were adopting its norms and practices.

A new international organization was needed to reflect and support the new democratic world order; an organization not based upon geographic factors or economic interests, but solely upon the ideological basis of agreement on democratic principles and the will to actively contribute to their strengthening throughout the world. The Community of Democracies was founded to fill this gap.

Born as a common initiative of former U.S. Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, and Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Prof. Bronislaw Geremek, the Community was officially launched in a special ministerial conference held in Warsaw in June 2000. A huge success, the Warsaw Ministerial Conference gathered high level delegations from 106 countries – long established democracies aside with young ones. By the end of the conference, all participating delegations signed what became the founding document of the Community, the Warsaw Declaration “Toward a Community of Democracies”.

The participating states of the Community of Democracies pledge to uphold the democratic values expressed in the Warsaw Declaration and to support them through a variety of initiatives.

The Governing Council of the CD

By definition, the Community of Democracies is an inter-governmental coalition of states, meaning that governments play the key role in the organizational structure and are responsible for the coordination of the Community’s work. To assure this task is being well performed, twenty-six committed states gathered to form the Community’s Governing Council. Being the core group of the Community, the Governing Council is responsible for the activities undertaken on behalf of the Community of Democracies. It also decides who will be the countries taking part in the Ministerial Conferences.

In its quarterly meetings, the Governing Council is a reflection of the Community’s vision of a global coalition for democracy. Having each a different story of democratic development, and representing different regions, cultures and priorities, each of the member states of the Council brings its own experience on democracy, enabling the process of mutual learning and understanding that makes the Community of Democracies so unique. See the list of the Council’s members, and witness by yourself: Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, South Africa, Sweden, the United States of America and Uruguay.

Leading the work of the Governing Council is the Presidency of the Community, a role that rotates between the different member states of the Council, passing from continent to continent every two years. After the post was held twice by Asian countries (the Republic of Korea and Mongolia), twice by European countries (Portugal and Lithuania), once by an American country (Chile) and once by and African country (Mali), the Presidency is now back to America, being held by El Salvador, and will afterwards move to Africa, when Nigeria will hold the post from 2015.

The Presidency oversees all the activities and initiatives of the Community, setting the priorities for the Community's work under its term through a specific "theme". The current Presidency of the Community, El Salvador, has declared the theme of its presidency term as "Democracy and Development", emphasizing the inseparable correlation between democratic governance and a fair economic development.

To assist the Presidency in its work, was established an Executive Committee, an advisory board whose responsibilities are to support the Presidency and make recommendations regarding the activities of the Community. The Executive Committee is comprised of the current Presidency, together with the former and the following Presidencies (at the moment- Mongolia and Nigeria), and with Poland, the United States and Sweden.

Countries Represented: **Asian Countries Underlined

- Canada
- Cape Verde
- Chile
- Costa Rica
- El Salvador
- Estonia
- Finland
- Guatemala
- Hungary
- India
- Poland
- Portugal
- Republic of Korea
- Romania
- South Africa
- Sweden
- United States of America
- Italy
- Uruguay
- Japan
- Lithuania
- Mali
- Mexico
- Mongolia
- Morocco
- Nigeria
- Philippines

www.community-democracies.org



Toward a Community of Democracies Ministerial Conference

Final Warsaw Declaration
June 27, 2000

We the participants from

Republic of Albania, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Argentine Republic, Republic of Armenia, Australia, Republic of Austria, Azerbaijani Republic, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Kingdom of Belgium, Belize, Republic of Benin, Republic of Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Botswana, Federative Republic of Brazil, Republic of Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Republic of Cape Verde, Republic of Chile, Republic of Colombia, Republic of Costa Rica, Republic of Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Kingdom of Denmark, Commonwealth of Dominica, Dominican Republic, Republic of Ecuador, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of El Salvador, Republic of Estonia, Republic of Finland, Georgia, Federal Republic of Germany, Republic of Guatemala, Republic of Haiti, Hellenic Republic, Republic of Hungary, Republic of Iceland, Republic of India, Republic of Indonesia, Ireland, State of Israel, Italian Republic, Japan, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Korea, State of Kuwait, Republic of Latvia, Kingdom of Lesotho, Principality of Liechtenstein, Republic of Lithuania, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Madagascar, Republic of Malawi, Republic of Mali, Republic of Malta, Republic of Mauritius, Mexico, Republic of Moldova, Principality of Monaco, Mongolia, Kingdom of Morocco, Republic of Mozambique, Republic of Namibia, Kingdom of Nepal, Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, Republic of Nicaragua, Republic of the Niger, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Kingdom of Norway, Republic of Panama, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Paraguay, Republic of Peru, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Poland, Portuguese Republic, State of Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, Republic of Senegal, Republic of Seychelles, Slovak Republic, Republic of Slovenia, Republic of South Africa, Kingdom of Spain, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Kingdom of Sweden, Swiss Confederation, United Republic of Tanzania, Kingdom of Thailand, Republic of Tunisia, Republic of Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Eastern Republic of Uruguay, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Republic of Yemen,

in the Community of Democracies Ministerial Meeting convened in Warsaw, 26 - 27 June 2000:

Expressing our common adherence to the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Reaffirming our commitment to respect relevant instruments of international law,

Emphasizing the interdependence between peace, development, human rights and democracy,

Recognizing the universality of democratic values,

Hereby agree to respect and uphold the following core democratic principles and practices:

- The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government, as expressed by exercise of the right and civic duties of citizens to choose their representatives through regular, free and fair elections with universal and equal suffrage, open to multiple parties, conducted by secret ballot, monitored by independent electoral authorities, and free of fraud and intimidation.

- The right of every person to equal access to public service and to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
- The right of every person to equal protection of the law, without any discrimination as to race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
- The right of every person to freedom of opinion and of expression, including to exchange and receive ideas and information through any media, regardless of frontiers.
- The right of every person to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
- The right of every person to equal access to education.
- The right of the press to collect, report and disseminate information, news and opinions, subject only to restrictions necessary in a democratic society and prescribed by law, while bearing in mind evolving international practices in this field.
- The right of every person to respect for private family life, home, correspondence, including electronic communications, free of arbitrary or unlawful interference.
- The right of every person to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, including to establish or join their own political parties, civic groups, trade unions or other organizations with the necessary legal guarantees to allow them to operate freely on a basis of equal treatment before the law.
- The right of persons belonging to minorities or disadvantaged groups to equal protection of the law, and the freedom to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion, and use their own language.
- The right of every person to be free from arbitrary arrest or detention; to be free from torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment; and to receive due process of law, including to be presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.
- That the aforementioned rights, which are essential to full and effective participation in a democratic society, be enforced by a competent, independent and impartial judiciary open to the public, established and protected by law.
- That elected leaders uphold the law and function strictly in accordance with the constitution of the country concerned and procedures established by law.
- The right of those duly elected to form a government, assume office and fulfill the term of office as legally established.
- The obligation of an elected government to refrain from extra-constitutional actions, to allow the holding of periodic elections and to respect their results, and to relinquish power when its legal mandate ends.
- That government institutions be transparent, participatory and fully accountable to the citizenry of the country and take steps to combat corruption, which corrodes democracy.
- That the legislature be duly elected and transparent and accountable to the people.

- That civilian, democratic control over the military be established and preserved.
- That all human rights -- civil, cultural, economic, political and social -- be promoted and protected as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant human rights instruments.

The Community of Democracies affirms our determination to work together to promote and strengthen democracy, recognizing that we are at differing stages in our democratic development. We will cooperate to consolidate and strengthen democratic institutions, with due respect for sovereignty and the principle of non-interference in internal affairs. Our goal is to support adherence to common democratic values and standards, as outlined above. To that end, our governments hereby agree to abide by these principles in practice, and to support one another in meeting these objectives which we set for ourselves today.

We will seek to strengthen institutions and processes of democracy. We appreciate the value of exchanging experiences in the consolidation of democracy and identifying best practices. We will promote discussions and, where appropriate, create forums on subjects relevant to democratic governance for the purpose of continuing and deepening our dialogue on democratization. We would focus our deliberations on our common principles and values rather than extraneous bilateral issues between members. We resolve jointly to cooperate to discourage and resist the threat to democracy posed by the overthrow of constitutionally elected governments. We resolve to strengthen cooperation to face the transnational challenges to democracy, such as state-sponsored, cross-border and other forms of terrorism; organized crime; corruption; drug trafficking; illegal arms trafficking; trafficking in human beings and money laundering, and to do so in accordance with respect for human rights of all persons and for the norms of international law.

We will encourage political leaders to uphold the values of tolerance and compromise that underpin effective democratic systems, and to promote respect for pluralism so as to enable societies to retain their multi-cultural character, and at the same time maintain stability and social cohesion. We reject ethnic and religious hatred, violence and other forms of extremism. We will also promote civil society, including women's organizations, non-governmental organizations, labor and business associations, and independent media in their exercise of their democratic rights. Informed participation by all elements of society, men and women, in a country's economic and political life, including by persons belonging to minority groups, is fundamental to a vibrant and durable democracy.

We will help to promote government-to-government and people-to-people linkages and promote civic education and literacy, including education for democracy. In these ways we will strengthen democratic institutions and practices and support the diffusion of democratic norms and values.

We will work with relevant institutions and international organizations, civil society and governments to coordinate support for new and emerging democratic societies.

We recognize the importance our citizens place on the improvement of living conditions. We also recognize the mutually-reinforcing benefits the democratic process offers to achieving sustained economic growth. To that end, we will seek to assist each other in economic and social development, including eradication of poverty, as an essential contributing factor to the promotion and preservation of democratic development.

We will collaborate on democracy-related issues in existing international and regional institutions, forming coalitions and caucuses to support resolutions and other international activities aimed at the promotion of democratic governance. This will help to create an external environment conducive to democratic development.



COMMUNITY
OF DEMOCRACIES

ULAANBAATAR DECLARATION

COMMUNITY'S ATTAINMENTS AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES

We the Participants of the Seventh Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on 29 April 2013;

Reaffirming our unwavering commitment and adherence to the purposes and principles of the Warsaw Declaration of 27 June 2000 establishing the Community of Democracies and subsequent Ministerial decisions of the Community of Democracies,

Reiterating our obligations under the United Nations Charter and our common allegiance to the principles and spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, as appropriate, other relevant international instruments,

Reaffirming that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing,

Reiterating also our conviction that democracy is the best known form of government to promote and protect human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law for all, and to strengthen peace as well as to promote prosperity,

Recognizing that human rights, democracy and the rule of law are strengthened when States work to eliminate discrimination of any kind and strive to ensure the full participation of women on equal terms with men in all spheres of political, social and economic life,

Stressing the importance of ensuring that government is transparent, responsive, effective and accountable to the people, and that everyone tangibly benefits from free and open societies that embrace democratic institutions, respect for the individual, tolerance of diversity, pluralism, and the rule of law,

Reaffirming the important role played by individual citizens and civil society in decision making and policy formulation, and in improving the quality, legitimacy and effectiveness of democracies,

Expressing appreciation for the positive democratic trends in many parts of the world since the Vilnius Ministerial Conference held in 2011, including an increasing number of free and fair elections,

Welcoming the growing respect for democratic values in many parts of the world, including the initial steps taken in Northern Africa and the Middle East as well as the beginnings of political transition in Myanmar,

Noting with concern, however, the decline in the promotion and protection of social and political rights and civil liberties as well as the restrictions placed on individuals and civil society and the freedoms of expression, association, religion and belief in some countries,

Expressing concern for the democratic development of Mali that has been seriously threatened by non-democratic forces and terrorist groups and reiterating the Community of Democracies' resolve to support the return to a pluralistic and stable democracy governed by the rule of law in Mali through inclusive national dialogue and long-term reconciliation,

Acknowledging the important role of the United Nations as well as regional and non-governmental organizations in democratic development, and other initiatives past and present that support and promote democracy and democratic values throughout the world,

Mindful of the role of international cooperation in promoting the goals set forth in the Warsaw Declaration and other international documents and commitments, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and convinced that in this field the Community of Democracies can play an important role in such cooperation and exchange of experience as well as through the provision of peer support,

Recalling that equality between men and women and the protection and promotion of women's rights are an integral part of human rights and a fundamental criterion of democracy,

Have adopted the following:

1. We reaffirm our resolve to advance democracy in our countries and worldwide, helping bridge the gap between principles and practice and, to that end, to cooperate in an open, inclusive and transparent manner with relevant national and international stakeholders within our respective countries as well as among ourselves and other international stakeholders.

2. We reaffirm our continued commitment to the CD reform process, initiated under the Lithuanian Presidency, and welcome the institutional reforms of the CD advanced under Mongolia's Presidency, as decided by the Vilnius Ministerial Conference in 2011, including the establishment of the first Governing Council and Executive Committee, the appointment of the Community's first Secretary-General and the institutionalization of its Permanent Secretariat. These basic institutional structures are contributing to the development of the CD into a dynamic coalition able to take real action to strengthen democracy and civil society worldwide.

3. We commend the concrete actions undertaken by the Presidency in promoting education for democracy, and will work together to promote the full and meaningful implementation of the United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/67/18 on Education for Democracy, which would contribute to the strengthening of democratic society and institutions, the realization of human rights and the achievement of the MDGs. We further commend to the attention of all CD member states the action plan contained in the International Steering Committee's Charlottesville Declaration on Creating a Culture of Democracy through Education (CCD).

4. We applaud the concrete actions taken by the Community's **working groups** since the Vilnius Ministerial Conference in support of the Community of Democracies' objectives, including:

- Enabling and protecting civil society by coordinating diplomatic action to prevent and address the adoption of laws and regulations that unduly restrict the work of civil society;

- Establishing the Leadership Engaged in New Democracies (LEND) Network and its Working Group – a digital platform for sharing best practices, peer-to-peer exchanges, and information on reform and the rule of law with those leaders guiding democratic transitions;

- Streamlining the activities of the Working Group on Education for Democracy to focus on practical actions, such as organizing international seminars, developing curriculum framework, establishing a new digital library of democracy education curricula and materials.

5. We also welcome other activities by the Community, including:

- Organizing the International Women's Leadership Forum in Ulaanbaatar on 7-8 July 2012;

- Convening the first informal Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting in Ulaanbaatar on 28 April 2013, at which the Ministers decided to regularly hold such a meeting in the margins of the CD Ministerial Conferences;

- Launching an Asian network for democracy to consolidate regional civil society activities and strengthening democratic gains in Asia;

- Promoting regional and country-to-country dialogue, cooperation and exchange of experiences in democratic development;
- Continued meetings of the UN Democracy Caucus that addressed issues such as democracy education, the rule of law, and democracy support;
- Successfully implementing the first round of the Democracy Partnership Challenge Task Forces for Tunisia and Moldova;
- Initiating the process to apply for an observer status with the United Nations General Assembly;
- Recognition of the Parliamentary Forum for Democracy, established under the Lithuanian Presidency, as an affiliated body of the Community of Democracies;
- Holding the first meeting of a Group of Friends of the Community of Democracies in Bamako with the aim of supporting Mali's return to democratic order;
- Establishing an Ad Hoc Group for Myanmar to support that country's transition towards democracy;
- Supporting effective cooperation with civil society to improve the transparency, accountability, legitimacy and performance of democratic governments.

6. We welcome the concrete and practical outcomes of the fora of the five pillars of the CD, namely, parliamentary, civil society, women, youth and the corporate fora, held in Ulaanbaatar on 27-28 April, which addressed the challenges and opportunities in promoting and consolidating democratic reforms, including means of harnessing open governance for democracy, and addressing the issues of more effectively fighting against corruption. These fora also provided an opportunity to share experiences and chart further cooperative measures, including those related to tackling the issues of open government, transparency, democratic governance and support for emerging democracies. Their input to this Ministerial conference, annexed to this Declaration, is greatly appreciated and lays the basis for further concrete actions of the CD in cooperation with its pillars.

7. We resolve to further increase and strengthen the activities of the Community of Democracies in support of greater democratic governance in our countries as well as in promoting and protecting democratic values in countries where democracy faces challenges.

To this end we:

- Support the activities of the pillars of the CD in promoting transparent and accountable democratic governance in addressing, where necessary, the challenges to such governance and promoting human rights and freedom;
- Work together to emphasize human rights, fundamental freedoms and democratic governance as integral parts of inclusive development and the eradication of extreme poverty as the international community works to formulate the post-2015 development framework;
- Provide support to countries undergoing transitions to democracy to facilitate the emergence of democratic societies defined by good governance, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as respect for the rule of law as stated in resolution 19/35 of the United Nations Human Rights Council;
- Support and defend an enabling environment for civil society, including through the adoption of legislation that does not put undue restrictions on civil society in all nations;
- Resolve to protect and promote freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, religion and belief and provide support to those whose rights are being denied or infringed upon, emphasizing that human rights including freedom of expression apply online as well as offline;
- Improve international observations of elections so as to ensure the transparent and genuine expression of the will of people and, if needed, offer recommendations for improving the integrity and effectiveness of electoral and related processes without interfering in the election processes;

- Support the strengthened role of the Community of Democracies at the United Nations by:

- Encouraging the UN Democracy Caucus to take a leading role in supporting the goals of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Community of Democracies Warsaw Declaration in the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and other relevant UN bodies;
- Supporting the work of the UN special mechanisms on issues relating to democracy and human rights, particularly the UN Special Rapporteurs on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and the situation of human rights defenders;
- Developing closer cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Democracy Fund, other relevant UN bodies and the UN Alliance of Civilizations.

- Promote the goals of empowering of women and their full participation in all spheres of political, social and economic life as well as fighting gender-based violence;

- Promote further cooperation and coordination of efforts between the Community of Democracies and international and regional organizations, and initiatives such as the Open Government Partnership;

- Redouble our efforts to include civil society views in all aspects of the Community of Democracies, to provide support to the nongovernmental International Steering Committee, and to support civil society in all countries in the world;

- Explore the benefits of transforming the Community of Democracies towards a fully-fledged international organization.

8. **We welcome** the new Presidency of El Salvador and express our commitment to support and assist El Salvador in leading multi-stakeholder efforts to protect, strengthen and advance democracy and democratic values in our countries and beyond.

9. **We congratulate** Mongolia on its outstanding leadership of the Community of Democracies and its efforts to advance democracy and democratic values in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world. We also express words of gratitude to Mongolia for the successful hosting of the VII Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies in Ulaanbaatar.

V. Asia Democracy Network

Seoul Democracy Declaration

22 Oct. 2013

We participants, democracy advocates and human rights defenders from various Asian countries, in the Founding Assembly of the Asia Democracy Network on the occasion of the 3rd Seoul Democracy Forum held in Seoul, Korea on 21 and 22 October 2013,

- 1) Paying tribute to those who preceded us in the fight for democracy and human rights and consolidating their legacy,
- 2) Recalling the sacrifices of democracy advocates who shed their blood for defending and promoting democratic values and principles in different countries in Asia,
- 3) Reaffirming our commitment to build a just, equitable and peaceful community of democratic societies in Asia,
- 4) Recognizing the urgent need to create a network of democracy advocates and human rights defenders in Asia,
- 5) Expressing our deep solidarity with all democracy advocates who struggle for the realization of democracy and human rights in Asia and beyond,
- 6) Emphasizing the essential role and contribution of citizens and civil society organizations to advance democracy in Asia,
- 7) Appreciating the efforts and work of all organizers including members of the Korea Democracy Network to host the Founding Assembly of the Asia Democracy Network,
- 8) Welcoming the launching of the Asia Democracy Network as a common platform for action and reflection among democracy advocates and human rights defenders in Asia,

Hereby adopt the Charter of Principles as guiding principles for the Asia Democracy Network.

ASIA DEMOCRACY NETWORK (ADN) Charter of Principles

Vision, Mission and Goal

1. ADN is committed to building a just, equitable and sustainable community of democratic societies in Asia, where all human rights of all individuals, groups and peoples are fully respected and realized. (Vision)
2. ADN works to promote and advance democratization and democratic governance at all levels of society through effective solidarity and cooperation among civil society organizations and democracy advocates in Asia. (Mission)
3. ADN aims to build a stronger regional democracy network and movement engaged effectively in international advocacy and engagement with governments, inter-governmental organizations and other stakeholders in Asia and beyond. (Goal)

Values and Principles

1. ADN embraces principles such as international solidarity and partnerships, plurality and diversity, shared responsibilities and leadership, human rights based approach.
2. ADN believes :
 - that democracy is a universally recognized ideal as well as a goal, which is based on common values shared by peoples throughout the world community.
 - that participatory and inclusive democracy plays a role in promoting social justice, reducing inequality, and preventing armed conflict.
 - that women's active participation and empowerment is crucial in advancing inclusive democracy.
 - that democracy should contribute to the protection of religious, ethnic and other minorities.
 - that free, fair and democratic elections are essential to good governance.
 - that education for democracy at all levels ensures that citizens are aware of their rights and civic duties.
3. ADN recognizes :
 - the role of the private sector in democracy building by promoting good and sustainable business practice according to international norms and standards.
 - the importance of international development cooperation as an effective tool for democracy promotion.
 - the importance of constructive engagement with governments and international organizations while maintaining independence and autonomy.
4. ADN upholds and reaffirms universal values such as human rights and democracy as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), Universal Declaration on Democracy (1997), UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms [Human Rights Defenders] (1998).

In accordance to the above principles, ADN shall identify and address key challenges and threats to inclusive and participatory democracy in Asia such as:

- Corruption and failure of accountability mechanisms.
- Culture of impunity.
- Poverty and social inequality.
- Negative impacts of globalization.
- Bad governance including fraudulent elections.
- Authoritarianism, militarization, and armed conflicts.
- Control and manipulation of media and information.
- Religious fundamentalism in all its forms.
- Gender Inequality.
- Exclusion of marginalized groups.

List of ADN Steering Committee Organizations

Thematic & Sectoral	Elections	Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL)
	Human Rights	Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)
	Anti-Corruption	Transparency International (TI) - Asia
	Press Freedom	Southeast Asia Press Alliance (SEAPA)
	Poverty and Development	Asia Development Alliance (ADA)
	Peace and Security	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)
Sub-Regional	South Asia	People's South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (People's SAARC)
	Southeast Asia	Southeast Asian Committee for Advocacy (SEACA)
	Northeast Asia	Northeast Asia Democracy Forum (NEADF)
Functional	Research	<p>Asia Democracy Research Network (ADRN)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - East Asia Institute (EAI) - Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA)
Secretariat	Secretariat	<p>Korea Democracy Network (KDN)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Korea Democracy Foundation (KDF) - East Asia Institute (EAI) - Center for Korean Women and Politics (CKWP) - Korea Human Rights Foundation (KHRF)

VI. Introduction of SEACA, FA, and ADN



SEACA is a sub-regional civil society organization that focuses on advocacy capacity building of civil society organizations (CSO) in Southeast Asia. SEACA was an outcome of a series of consultation processes among CSOs in the Southeast Asian region and a meeting in Manila in September 1999.

www.seaca.net



FORUM-ASIA is a membership-based regional human rights organization committed to the promotion and protection of all human rights including the right to development. It is composed of 47 member organizations in 16 countries across Asia.

www.forum-asia.org



ADN is an international network of regional and sub-regional civil society organizations engaged in democracy promotion and advocacy in Asia in areas of human rights, election, press freedom, transparency, poverty eradication and research.

www.adn21.asia