

Asia Democracy Network (ADN)

Key Decisions of the Third Steering Committee (SC) Meeting New Delhi, 22 March 2015

Final Draft (27 Mar. 2015)

Participants

- Steering Committee members present: Human Rights (FORUM-ASIA), Development (ADA), Press Freedom (SAFMA, SEAPA), Anti-corruption (TI-Asia), Research (ADRN), Southeast Asia (SEAPA), South Asia (People's SAARC), Northeast Asia (EADF), Hosting Country (KDN),
- Absent :Peace and Security (GPPAC-NEA and SEA), Election (ANFREL)
- Secretariat : Hyungsik SHIN, Soo Yon SUH

The Steering Committee (SC) members of the ADN, having met in New Delhi, India on 22 March 2015,

- Appreciating the organization of the International Conference on "Strengthening Democracy in Asia: Inclusion, Participation, and Rights" by the World Movement for Democracy (WMD), Institute for Social Sciences (ISS), and the Asia Democracy Network (ADN) in New Delhi on 23-24 March 2015.
- Welcoming the activity report of individual member organizations of the SC as well as the ADN Secretariat.
- Welcoming the outcome of the Roundtable on the State of Democracy in South Asia that was held right after the SC on 22 March 2015.

Agenda Item 5 - Governance Issues

1. Note that SEAPA has nominated Mr. Eko Maryadi as SEAPA's representative to ADN SC replacing Ms. Melinda De Jesus.
2. Decide to nominate Ms. Corinna Lopa (SEACA) as co-convenor replacing Ms. Melinda De Jesus until the end of 2015.
3. Endorse that Mr. Tu-rod Lkhagjavajav (TI-Mongolia) represent TI-Asia together with Mr. Saroeun Soeung (CCC) replacing former representative of TI-Taiwan.
4. Decide to organize the 1st General Forum in Seoul in conjunction with the 8th WMD (Seoul, Korea, 1-4 Nov. 2015) with the participation of national members of the ADN SC and partners,
5. Form a Working Group to develop a proposal to the SC for its adoption before June 2015 on the following 4 tasks.
 - i. Strengthening the Steering Committee (criteria, composition and function)
 - ii. Accountability Guidelines for Individual SC members
 - iii. Criteria and Role of Advisory Group

iv. Amendments to the ToR

6. Nominate 4 members, Mr. Kaustuv Bandyopadhyay (ADRN), Ms. Nimalka Fernando or Mr. Netra Timsina (South Asia), Mr. Anselmo Lee (Co-convener, Northeast Asia), Ms. Corinna Lopa (Southeast Asia) as members of the WG.
7. Identify candidates for an Advisory Group in accordance with the criteria to be provided by the Working Group on Governance.
8. Request the Working Group to organize consultations with SC members and partners online and off line making use of several international meetings that ADN is to be involved in such as the ACSC/APF (Kuala Lumpur, 22-24 April 2015) and the WHRCF (Gwangju, 15-17 May 2015).
9. Request the WG to take into account key recommendations and proposals from the discussion during the 3rd SC meeting and Roundtable on the State of Democracy in South Asia in the formulation of its proposal which are as follows;
 - a. Inter-sectoral and thematic cooperation within sub-region need to be strengthened within the SC through People's SAARC (South Asia), SAPA WG on ASEAN / ACSC/APF (Southeast Asia), EADF / UBCF (Northeast Asia).
 - b. Linkage between regional networks (thematic or sectoral) and sub-regional pillars need to be strengthened.
 - c. Need to prioritize main key issues or sectors for the flagship of the ADN to increase visibility and impact of ADN work in Asia such as "Civil Society Space" or "Freedom of Association and Assembly (FoAA)."
 - d. Priority should be given to women / gender, youth, migrants, excluded and marginalized groups (Dalits, social minorities, indigenous peoples, refugees, stateless peoples).
 - e. Priority need to be given to emerging thematic issues and existing international CSOs. In which, networks need to be identified such as local democracy, education for democracy, land, and business.
 - f. Need to effectively engage democracy-related public institutions such as labor union, political party and parliament, judiciary, anti-corruption agency, election agency, in terms of upholding the principle of rule of law and democratic control through people's participation.
 - g. "Human rights" pillar need to include the Asia NGO Network on National Human Rights Institutions (ANNI) to strengthen human rights institutions.
 - h. "Election" pillar needs to include local elections and monitoring of governmental election bodies.
 - i. "Press Freedom" pillar needs to be expanded to include works on the Right to Information, cyber space, internet, digital democracy, APC, and media monitoring.
 - j. "Anti-corruption" pillar needs to include the CSO working group with Open Government Partnership (OGP) and issues related to the right to information (R2I), and protection of whistle blowers.
 - k. "Research" pillar, ADRN need to be activated and expanded as part of the ADN to strengthen research-based advocacy,
 - l. Need to include 'education for democracy' in a "functional' pillar in addition to 'research' to create synergy between education and research,
 - m. Need to develop ADN's flagship annual report on the state of democracy in Asia (Democracy Accountability Report) as a tool for advocacy to make the Asian governments more accountable and responsive to the pledges they have made as well as democratic aspirations of the people in Asia.

- n. Need to address the challenges to democracy in Asia such as religion (religious intolerance, religious fundamentalism, extremism), digital democracy (digital divide, digital literacy, mass surveillance, internet governance), local democracy (decentralization, local governance, human rights city), militarization and conflicts, etc.
- o. Mechanisms to address challenges in the countries where there are no independent civil society space needs to be developed such as China, North Korea, Laos, Vietnam, and Myanmar (Burma).
- p. Mechanisms to address challenges in the country that need urgent international solidarity support needs to be developed such as Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan (South Asia), Cambodia, Thailand (Southeast Asia).

Agenda Item 7: External Relations

Community of Democracies (CoD).

- 10. Welcome the opportunity of consultation between CSOs and CoD Secretariat in Geneva on 6 March where Mr. Anselmo Lee, as co-convenor of the ADN, was present and participated actively in the ongoing consultation process to strengthen cooperation between civil society and CoD.

Open Government Partnership (OGP)

- 11. Welcome the election of Mr. Sugeng Bahagijo (ADA/INFID) as member of Steering Committee of the OGP and request Mr. Sugeng Bahagijo and Mr. Turod Lkhagjavjav (TI-Asia / Mongolia) to develop action agenda within the ADN in cooperation with ADN members and partners in 4 countries which are members of the OGP (Indonesia, Philippines, Mongolia, South Korea)

Bali Democracy Forum (BDF).

- 12. Welcome the decision of the new Indonesian government to continue to organize the BDF and participate both in the 2nd Bali Civil Society Forum (BCSF) and the 9th Bali Democracy Forum (BDF).

Agenda item 8: Dates and Venue of the next SC (4th)

- 13. Decide to organize the next (4th) SC meeting in Seoul in conjunction with the 8th meeting of the World Movement for Democracy (WMD) on 1-4 Nov. 2015.

Agenda item 9: Action Plans for 2015 and Beyond

- 14. Organize a public event to commemorate UN Democracy Day as an ADN flagship event in each country in Asia around 15 September 2015 as a multi-stake holder forum.
- 15. Welcome the opportunity to organize two panels on the rights of marginalized groups and the right to information in Asia during the International Conference on Strengthening Democracy in Asia (New Delhi, 23-24 Mar. 2015) co-organized by Institute of Social Sciences (ISS) and World Movement for Democracy (WMD).
- 16. Note that the Fact-finding mission to Bangladesh scheduled in 26-29 Mar. 2015 has been postponed.
- 17. Organize a panel on the state of democracy in Asia and the role of Community of Democracies (CoD) focusing on several countries such as Thailand, Cambodia, Laos (Southeast Asia) Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka (South Asia) during the ASEAN Civil Society Conference (ACSC)/ASEAN People's Forum (APF) (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 22-24 April 2015).

18. Organize consultation meetings on local democracy and the Asian Charter for Democracy and Human Rights among ADN participants and partners during the 5th World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF) (Gwangju, South Korea, 15-17 May 2015).
19. Identify key organizations and actors engaged in education for democracy in Asia during the World Education Forum (WEF) (Incheon, South Korea 19-22 May 2015) as a way to explore a possibility of forming a regional network of CSOs engaged in education for democracy ("Asia Democracy Education Network" (ADED)).
20. Participate in and organize a civil society meeting prior to the 8th Ministerial Conference of CD (El Salvador, 22-24 July 2015).
21. Welcome the convening of the 2nd East Asia Democracy Forum (EADF) (Kanazawa, Japan 11 Sept. 2015).
22. Request national member organizations of the ADN Steering Committee to organize a public event nationally around UN Democracy Day (15 Sept. 2015) to discuss the state of democracy in each country independently or jointly with the national assembly.
23. Organize the third Glocal Advocacy Leadership Academy in Asia (GALAA-III) (Bangkok, Thailand, 1-9 Aug. 2015) jointly with FORUM-ASIA and Asia Development Alliance (ADA).
24. Participate in the election monitoring of the Tibetan Autonomous Government in Daramsala, India in September onwards 2015 jointly with ANFREL.
25. Participate in the 8th World Movement for Democracy (WMD) (Seoul, Korea 1-4 Nov. 2015) and the ADN Secretariat, based in Seoul, provide services as local partner of the WMD.
26. Participate in the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutes (APF-NHRI) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in the 3rd week of August.
27. Note that the next Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit in 2016 will be in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and make use of that opportunity to strengthen the solidarity link between ADN and democracy promotion networks in Europe through the Asia Europe People's Forum (AEPF).

Agenda item 10 Any Other Business (AOB)

28. Request the Secretariat to provide necessary assistance to implement the above-mentioned decisions, in particular, the Working Group on Governance including:
 - 1) Directory mapping about key international CSOs in Asia in new thematic and sectoral areas.
 - 2) National or sub-national member organizations of the ADN SC in each country.
 - 3) Democracy accountability report guidelines or template in cooperation with the ADRN.
 - 4) Develop funding proposal to current and potential donors for 2016 and beyond.
 - 5) Working guidelines for public event on UN Democracy Day (15 Sept. 2015).
 - 6) Organize the following meetings in partnership with the relevant SC members,
 - I. Panel on the state of democracy in Asia and the role of Community of Democracies (CD) during ACSC/APF (Kuala Lumpur, April 2015)
 - II. Consultation on local democracy and Asian Charter for Human Rights and Democracy during the 5th World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF) (Gwangju, Korea, 15-17 May 2015)

- III. Civil society Forum at the 8th Ministerial Conference of CD (El Salvador, 22-24 July 2015)
- IV. GALAA-III (Bangkok, 1-8 Aug. 2015) with the FORUM-ASIA and ADA
- V. 4th SC meeting and 1st General Forum during the 8th World Movement for Democracy (WMD) (Seoul, 1-4 Nov. 2015)

Asia Democracy Network (ADN)

The 3rd Steering Committee

22 March 2015

Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda and Time Schedule
3. Review of the Decisions of the second Steering Committee meeting (Taipei, Sept. 2014)
4. Report from Individual SC members
5. Activity Report from the ADN Secretariat (since Sept. 2014)
6. Governance Issues
 - 1) Steering Committee – Membership Expansion
 - 2) Steering Committee ToR and Accountability Guideline
 - 3) Advisory Group
 - 4) General Forum
 - 5) Secretariat
7. External Relations
 - 1) Community of Democracies (CoD)
 - 2) Open Government Partnership (OGP)
8. Dates and Venue of the next SC (4th)
9. Action Plans for 2015
10. Any Other Business (AOB)