



Asia Democracy Network (ADN)

18-1, Dongsomunro, Seongbukgu

Seoul, Korea

adn2013seoul@gmail.com

www.adn21.asia

ASIA DEMOCRACY NETWORK (ADN)

Charter of Principles

Adopted at the Launching Ceremony of the ADN in Seoul on 22 Oct. 2013

Revised by the Steering Committee on Aug. 2015

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. Under the motto "Asian Solidarity for Democracy for All", 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 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, and the 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.
 - Believes that participatory and inclusive democracy plays a role in promoting social justice, reducing inequality, and preventing armed conflict.
 - Believes that women's active participation and empowerment is crucial in advancing inclusive democracy.
 - Believes that democracy should contribute to the protection of religious, ethnic minorities.
 - Believes that free, fair, and democratic elections are essential to good governance.
 - Believes that education for democracy at all levels ensures that citizens are

aware of their rights and civic duties.

3. 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), and Warsaw Declaration "Toward a Community of Democracies (2000).
4. ADN recognizes the role of the private sector in democracy building by promoting responsible business conduct according to international norms and standards such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights unanimously adopted by the UN Human Rights Council in 2011.
5. ADN recognizes the importance of international development cooperation or Official Development Assistance (ODA) as an effective tool for democracy promotion.
6. ADN recognizes the importance of constructive engagement with governments and international organizations while maintaining independence and autonomy.
7. ADN, in accordance to the above values and principles and in cooperation with its members and partners, shall identify and address key challenges and threats to inclusive and participatory democracy in Asia such as;
 - 1) Corruption and failure of accountability mechanisms
 - 2) Culture of impunity
 - 3) Poverty and social inequality
 - 4) Negative impacts of globalization
 - 5) Bad governance including fraudulent elections
 - 6) Authoritarianism, militarization, and armed conflicts
 - 7) Control and manipulation of media and information, and
 - 8) Lack of transparency and restriction on the right to information
 - 9) Religious extremism and fundamentalism in all its forms
 - 10) Gender Inequality
 - 11) Exclusion of marginalized groups
 - 12) Lack or absence of education for democracy or civic education.