CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background

- Youth have been at the forefront of democracy defense throughout history. To sustain and maintain the movement, we must provide necessary and realistic support to continue this movement for generations to come.
- Fortunately, we are seeing pockets of youth movements emerging in respective countries all across Asia. However, there is a lack of cohesion and unity among the different youth in the region in various youth leadership programs in the region. Therefore, there is a need to provide facilitation and coordination to provide more spaces and connect and establish a common democracy movement in the region.
- Since 2016, ADN has been actively involved in providing training through an annual leadership and networking program inviting participants from across the region to provide the space and opportunity for networking and exchange of experiences. In 2018, ADN elevated the program, held an annual leadership forum that evolved into a youth program pillar, namely "Next-generation for Democracy Advocate (NEGDA)," to nurture and consolidate the youth. The NEDGA was to create more comprehensive and specified programs for youth advocacy development. ADN realized the importance of investing energy and resources to the youth as they are potential allies to defend future democracy.
- In May 2019, we organized the Asia Democracy Youth Network Consultation attended by 19 youths from 18 youth organizations in 10 countries in Asia. The youths showed a commitment to make a vital intervention among the youth network of activists. Provide space for connection, and include support initiation of creative/innovative campaigns and establishment of the democracy courses/training to enhance youth democratic resilience as a unity of all youths.
- The 2020 Youth Assembly is being initiated to address some of the proposed ideas. Therefore, the youth assembly is planned in 2020 to lay the foundation for the unity of the Asia and Pacific youth collective efforts to reclaim the civic space and push back democracy regression. This event perhaps brings youth from Asia and the Pacific, as well as presents of the youth from different regions to inspire and connect.

2. Consolidate Expression of Solidarity to Renew and Strengthen the Commitment to Democracy Resilience

Objective:
To raise awareness and renewing the commitment to strengthen youth democratic resilience by building solidarity through unified action.
Outcome: Youth can advocate democracy concepts through activism with a broader international network.

Intermediary Outcome: Improve the interconnectedness of contemporary democratic issues faced by youth.

Output: Improved knowledge and resilience to respond to a democracy crisis at the regional level and beyond as a call to increasing international solidarity and unity.

The following rationale drive the objective:

Understanding and Inspiration: Despite news dissemination, many fail to understand the pressing issues that lead up to the movement. This interaction provides an opportunity to increase awareness of what happened through story presentation, which may have inspired others to start their campaign.

Solidarity Expression and Action: There is less solidarity expression happening at the moment, and this forum can open an opportunity for expressing appeals, requests, and proposals for interventions among the youth groups in helping the situation in a particular country, which could be responded through expressive statements or actionable solidarity movements.

Renewing Commitment to Strengthen Democratic Resilience: A new familiarity to the regression of democracy will increase the urgency for the youth to begin to take serious action and organize themselves and their community to take part in addressing the challenges, to disseminate the information to their followers, and to renew the commitment. We aim to achieve a point where the youth resilience will increase in responding to each threat they have to democracy.

3. In Conjunction with the 7th of Indonesia Human Rights Festival (IHRP) 2020

The Indonesia Human Rights Festival is an annual forum hosted by multi-stakeholders mainly central and local authorities, civil society organizations, academics, the business sector and the media, including representatives from abroad to discuss and address democracy and human rights concerning issues. This 7th IHRP will be held under the theme of “Upholding human rights during the Covid-19 Pandemic: Challenges and Solutions” which is a venture to address the shrinking civic space and declining democracy during the pandemic.

During the IHRP, ADN wanted to seize the opportunity to elevate the "Youth" as the beacon of hope of resilience. Especially when it comes to democracy and social sustainability to overcome the conditions of uncertainty. with the support of the Indonesia Human Rights Commission and the International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID), to facilitate the youth resilience through the Human Rights Festival that will take place on 17 to 19 December 2020.

Since 2014, the Human Rights Festival has invited representatives from around the world to gather to celebrate human rights. With this assembly, we hope to add value and bring together a wide range of youth, civil society and diverse communities, to foster dialogue and cooperation on democracy, share stories for further action.
4. Timeline

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration and sign-up website</th>
<th>16 November – 14 December</th>
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<tr>
<td><a href="https://adnasia.org/">https://adnasia.org/</a></td>
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<th>Verification process</th>
<th>10-14 December</th>
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<td>The Assembly – All sessions will be completed online by both participants and Speakers.</td>
<td>15 December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth and civil society initiative</td>
<td>17 December</td>
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5. Agenda
- Opening and inspirational Talks by Youth movement leaders;
- Networking, and Solidarity building;
- Strategizing for campaign action;
- Common youth advocacy agenda;
- Solidarity expression lives and video;

6. Participants
a. Youth organizations, and network in Asia-Pacific as well as across the globe who work on Human rights and Democracy advocacy.
b. Student movement, or social movement held by the youth concerning human rights and democracy issues.

7. Website Event to maximize participations

Registration through the website is now open: https://adnasia.org/2020-asia-youth-assembly/

The registered participant can contribute to the event by uploading 50 seconds video messages, and the video will be displayed a week leading up to the event in the social media. The message structures shall be containing the following structure:

- Name, organization, and country
- Expression: request support or give solidarity support for other movements; general words to encourage unity and solidarity among the youth


The Asia Democracy Network (ADN) is a regional network of civil society organizations across Asia working together to defend and promote democracy. ADN is the only network in the region that brings together diverse thematic and sub-regional networks and organizations under the umbrella of democracy. ADN breaks down silos and creates spaces where diverse minds come together to strengthen solidarity and strategize to progress quality democracy in the region. ADN programs prioritize democratic unity, cultivate next-generation democracy advocates, and progress quality democracy in Asia. The ADN is a network created through the will and initiative of democracy and human rights activists in the region. Through a series of consultations at various international platforms, the Asian leaders officially launched the network in 2013 in Seoul, Korea, where the headquarters is located.
The ADN's added value is the convening power of the network to bring together various regional actors working in different thematic areas and national actors in approximately 40 countries in the Asia region. Since its launch, the ADN has worked to lead regional campaigns on pressing democracy issues in Asia. ADN also prioritizes the cultivation of the next generation of democracy and human rights leaders and advocates. We strongly believe that only through democracy education and providing a space for the next generation of leaders to gather and exchange ideas and continue the dialogue of human rights and democracy will sustain the movement for the long term. ADN has annually held a youth leadership forum gathering young leaders from across the region to learn about different democracy movements and strengthen youth networks.

Although strengthening solidarity among civil society actors is our leading cause, ADN also actively works to close the gap between civil society and like-minded governments. We believe that through dialogue and strong partnerships with governments and countries that value democracy and human rights will strengthen Asia's democracy movement.

More information about the youth assembly please contact: adn@adnasia.org | safina@adnasia.org