



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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ASIA DEMOCRACY NETWORK

# Asia Democracy Network

## 2019 Activities Narrative Report



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# Annual Report 2019

Renewing the Commitment to Promoting and Defending Democracy in Asia

## Executive Summary

The year 2019, was one of the worst years for fundamental freedoms and civil society. We saw an increase in the number of attacks against journalists and activists and censorship of the media and online platforms. According to the *CIVICUS Monitor* in its recent *People Power Under Attack 2019* report — which rates and tracks respect for fundamental freedoms in 196 countries — shows that compared to the previous year, twice as many people are living in countries where their civic space or freedoms of association, peaceful assembly, and expression are being violated. Asia as a region displayed a more concerning prospective for these trends. The report indicates that the percentage of people living in Asian countries with closed, repressed or obstructed civic space is now at 95 percent. *The Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index 2019* analyzed that since the first publication of the democracy index in 2006, 2019 averaged the worst global democracy score of 5.44 (on a scale of 0-10). The deep popular disappointment with functioning democracies and distrust of those in government has also set back the democracy movement.

As a result of these regional circumstances the Asia Democracy Network (ADN) has spent a busy 2019. Throughout the year, ADN has implemented, as an organizer, 18 activities to further promote democracy in the region as well as respond to the democracy crisis of the times.

In retrospect of 2019, the three key phrases that defined democracy in Asia can be humbly said to be, “attack on media freedom and civil society”, “threat of China”, and “people power movements.” These key phrases had a direct impact on our activities for 2019 and have directed our strategy for 2020. Witnessing and experiencing firsthand the setbacks to democracy and human rights in 2019, ADN has determined that it is now time for civil society to push back with action through strengthening networks such as media and working as a region to comprehensively assess China and the rise of authoritarian influences and develop a strategy.

The journey coming to these strategic goals is based on our observations and experience in working in the region. The activities of 2019 have provided the platform and bases for our conclusions and plan to move forward. In the executive summary, a few significant activities that summarize the main achievements of 2019 for ADN will be highlighted.

This year ADN focused on building connections with like-minded democracy advocates as well as bridging these connections to strengthen solidarity and unity in the Asia region. We focused on consolidating democracy in Asia through implementing forums such as the **Democratic Consolidation in Asia: Renewing Commitment to Uphold and Promote Democracy**

**Together, Ulaanbaatar, Busan, and Bali Democracy Forums** to name a few. Through these forums, we were able to stock take on the current challenges to democracy and human rights and consolidate the respective needs in the region, in which help direct our strategy for 2020. Through these forums, we were able to specifically strengthen relationships with likeminded governments and governmental institutions such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Timor Leste, and South Korea. ADN has been working directly with the different foreign affairs ministries of the aforementioned countries as well as institutions such as BAWASLU the Indonesian electoral supervisory body, the National Election Commission of Timor Leste, KOICA - International Development Cooperation Agency of South Korea, and National Human Rights Institutions.

In 2019, we saw an increase of crackdown on media actors and media freedom. With the advancement of information technology, the globe has been struggling on how to juggle such a resourceful platform of information exchange that has benefited the movement but also brought on great challenges due to its utilization to spread disinformation. ADN has also focused on implementing programs like the **Towards Building Regional Solidarity to Reclaim Civic Space in Southeast Asia: Regional Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Press Freedom and Freedom of Expression Conference** to address these media related issues partnering with regional media groups and engaging social networking companies to start the dialogue on how we can work together to counter these challenges.

The silver lining of the increased challenges in 2019 was the surge of people power movements emerging all across the globe. The world was empowered by the leadership and strength of young people leading movements. The Hong Kong Protests, which are still ongoing, a movement to preserve fundamental rights and democratic freedoms of Hong Kong has become such a significant people power movement for the Asia region. The Hong Kong movement has deep implications to the political dynamics of the region. Through the Hong Kong movement, we saw the perseverance of the protesters, the emergence of innovative advocacy tactics, as well as the dark side of the inaction of many likeminded governments. The Hong Kong protests were leaderful yet leaderless, as there was no one control tower of the movement. Therefore, ADN received many calls for capacity building and exchange of experiences to strengthen the ability and strategy of the Hong Kong protests. ADN responding to the Hong Kong movement has become an indicator on the effectiveness and necessity of the network in the region. This year we were able to work on several projects in Hong Kong such as the **Hong Kong Public Discussion Salon: People's Movements in Asia, Hong Kong Protests Seoul Korea CSO, and the Hong Kong Local Election Observation.**

In 2019, we saw a rise of authoritarian influences, severe crackdown of civil society and media actors, and positively a rise in people's movements. Through our activities and the current events of 2019, ADN was able to assess the democracy trends and guided us to strategize for 2020. It was a difficult year for civil society. However, it is more the reason for civil society and the Asia region to strengthen solidarity and together push back in 2020.

# **ACTIVITY REPORT 2019**

## **1. PyeongChang Global Peace Forum 2019**

**Dates:** February 9-11, 2019

**Location:** PyeongChang, Korea

**Partners:** Gangwon Provincial Government, Municipality of PyeongChang, ROK Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Republic of Korea, Korea International Broadcasting Foundation (ARIRANG TV), ROK CSO

### **Objectives:**

- a. Build on the peace-building momentum for the Korean Peninsula during the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics and Paralympics, interlinking peace to existing global agendas for cooperation.
- b. Commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- c. Develop Global Framework of the PyeongChang Agenda for Peace (PCAP) 2030

### **Summary:**

The 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics and Paralympics was the starting point of the thawing of standstill relations between North and South Korea. With a continuous nuclear threat in the Northeast Asia region, establishing peace and non-proliferation is vital.

In efforts to continue this momentum, various actors worked together to implement a platform to discuss and work towards sustaining a global peace movement. The PyeongChang Global Peace Forum was a multi-stakeholder initiative that brought 1200 participants from 53 countries across the globe from civil society, public sector, government sector, business, and academia discussed seven main clusters of topics:

- i. Peace, Disarmament and Human Security
- ii. Sustaining Peace and Sustainable Development
- iii. Human Rights, Humanitarian and the Peace Nexus
- iv. Economy for Peace
- v. Eco-Peace, Climate, and Social Justice
- vi. Culture of Peace, Education and Sports
- vii. Governance and Partnership for Peace

### **Outcome:**

Three main outcome documents were produced as a result of the forum.

1. PyeongChang Declaration for Peace 2019
2. Resolution for Sustaining the Peace Process in Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia
3. Resolution on the PyeongChang Agenda for Peace (PCAP) 2030

The documents were commitments to sustain the movement for peace. The Republic of Korea government and the local governments of Gangwon Province and PyeongChang City has committed to continue this annual forum to further the movement.

**Impact:**

1. Exposure to the peace sector and making connections with various actors from around the world has strategic goal implications for ADN in achieving democratic unity.
2. ADN partnering in the PyeongChang Global Peace Forum gave the opportunity to increase the visibility of the ADN.
3. Provided opportunities for members of the network to take part in the global peace process/movement.



## **2. Ulaanbaatar Democracy Forum 2019 – “Promoting Democracy, Human Rights, and Peace through SDG 16+”**

**Date:** February 26-28, 2019

**Location:** Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

**Partners:** Community of Democracies, Asia Development Alliance, Centre for Human Rights and Development Mongolia, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful Justice and Inclusive Societies

### **Objectives:**

- a. Review and share best practices of Asian governments, United Nations institutions, Civil Society engaged in the implementation and monitoring of SDGs, especially SDG 16.
- b. Strengthen collaboration and partnerships among multi-stakeholders
- c. Develop a series of action plans in preparation for the UN Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, the UN High-Level Political Forum, and the SDGs Summit

### **Summary:**

Starting from the Busan Democracy Forum in 2018, ADN has been partnering with the Community of Democracies to establish a space to openly discuss with multi-stakeholders the accountability and promotion of democracy through the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDGs). With the focus on SDG Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

Discussing democracy and human rights in Asia is heavily politicized and many times more than not, it is difficult for governments to openly promote and support universal concepts. However, the SDGs have created an opening of opportunity for civil society to work with governments in improving and supporting democratic principles through the SDG 16. All countries have signed on and committed to the SDG agenda at the United Nations. Since then, we have seen governments creating departments to specifically create policy and implement policy to reach the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Every year at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), held in New York, New York, governments and civil society respectively report on the status of SDG implementation in their country. At the UBDF, the space was utilized to share preliminary reports by government and civil society alike to prepare for the coming HLPF later that year.

We were able to hear from governments of Mongolia, South Korea, Indonesia, and Nepal on how far they have implemented the SDGs on the country level. Civil society members also met separately to work on their shadow reports.

### **Outcomes:**

As an outcome of the forum those present made commitments to continue the promotion of SDGs through the Ulaanbaatar Democracy Forum Declaration (attached)

## Impact:

1. UBDF provided space for civil society of Asia to gather to exchange knowledge and experience in regards to their Voluntary National Reports to be presented at the HLPF
2. UBDF provided space for civil society and governments to discuss together and work together to reach common goals
3. UBDF will continue to be implemented every year in Ulaanbaatar by the local civil society
4. The UBDF was held amidst the situation in Mongolia where the increasing threat to judicial independence in the country. UBDF being an international forum and the attendance by the Minister of Foreign Affairs the event was covered by many media outlets in Mongolia. It was emphasized to the media that Mongolia had a role of continuing its model of democracy for Asia and to continue to commit to the principles of democracy and human rights.

### ULAANBAATAR DEMOCRACY FORUM (UBDF) 2019

Promoting Peace, Human Rights and Democracy  
through UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16+:  
Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies in Asia



Organized by:  ADA  ADN  Community of Democracies  UN  OSCE  Eurasian Partnership Partners:  EU  forus  TAP  IDA  KOICA  OPEN SOCIETY FORUM

### **3. Democratic Consolidation in Asia: Renewing Commitment to Uphold and Promote Democracy Together**

**Dates:** April 1-3, 2019

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Partners:** Bersih 2.0

**Supporting Partners:** NED, The Asia Foundation, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy

**Objectives:**

- a. Streamline a regional strategy to foster and sustain the democratic movement in Asia through collaborative efforts among like-minded multi-stakeholder advocates of democracy.
- b. To provide space for the representatives of social and democratic movements to exchange, strengthen people-to-people connection, and develop strategy to uphold and defend democracy together at the national and regional level

**Summary:**

The Asia Democracy Network co-organized a two-day conference with the ASEAN Parliamentary for Human Rights (APHR) who actively contributed in content preparation and diverse Member of Parliament engagement, and Bersih 2.0 who played the role of liaison to the authorities and identifying other national partners to be invited. It was organized in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Asia Democracy Research Network (ADRN) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The event was attended by 74 participants (51 international, 23 local) in total which includes key-regional civil society figures, all SC members, and some advisors. The profile of the event increased with the direct engagement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia and Foreign Minister Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah giving the opening speech.

The main aim of the conference was to strengthen Asia's network of democrats as well as identifying potential opportunities for collaboration in developing an agenda and strategy to mainstream democracy in the region.

- i. Re-imagining Democracy: Creating a campaign to promote a new narrative of democracy interconnected with prosperity and development that fits into the context of Asia.
- ii. Strategy Against Intolerance, Populism, and Dis-Information: Assessing and strengthening collaborative efforts in combating hate speech, the rise of intolerance, populism, fake/fraudulent elections, and manipulation of democratic institutions to suppress people.
- iii. Asia Regional Solidarity Strengthening: Developing a regional strategy to strengthen and expand Asia regional solidarity among multi-stakeholders (Civil Society, Governments, and Private Sectors) on regional crises. (Such as deterioration of democracy in the Philippines, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Cambodia).

- iv. **Cultivating the Next Generation: Developing the next generation democracy advocates** through the development of training and democracy education which includes the grassroots and minority sector. **Preserving Media Space: Developing a strategy on ways civil society and the media can work together to ensure that Freedom of Expression, Press Freedom and space for media is kept open and safe.**



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia

**Outcomes:**

The two immediate outcomes of the conference were: (1) the commitment of the participants to uphold democratic responsibility and to promote and defend together in unity which is manifested in the Democracy Consolidation in Asia Conference Communiqué: A Call for Democratic Unity in Asia, and (2) a draft of the action plan that was devised from the discussions and input from the participants in the strategy session and specifically targets regional, national, thematic, and solidarity action.

**Impact:**

This regional meeting was the first platform and opportunity for ADN to officially launch our new focused strategy to consolidate democratic unity in the Asia region. Due to funding constraints and conflicting schedules we were not able to have an expansive representation of civil society; however we targeted participants from countries where democracy regression was most dire. It was beneficial that we were able to stock take on the current trends and challenges to human rights and democracy and have a starting point of how we can work together to move forward.

With the moral support of an exciting new government of Malaysia, we found a spot of opportunity to secure the commitment of the Malaysian government to prioritize democratic principles and human rights.

Through sharing experiences and brainstorming a ways forward among democracy advocates from the region was a good starting point for the ADN to map its strategy to strengthen democratic solidarity and unity.



#### **4. Tokyo Democracy Forum: Promoting Peace, Human Rights and Democratic Governance through the SDG 16+: Improving Conditions and Civic Spaces for CSOs to Tackle Global Challenges**

**Dates:** April 21, 2019

**Location:** Tokyo, Japan

**Partners:** C-20 Japan 2019, Community of Democracies, Asia Development Alliance

**Supporting Partners:** UNDP, Friedrich-Ebert Foundation (FES)

#### **Objectives:**

Review and discuss progress and challenges of each target within SDG 16, recognizing that protecting civic space is essential to work on global issues which will be discussed at the G20 meeting.

#### **Summary:**

The Tokyo Democracy Forum was a joint collaboration with the secretariat of the C20 Tokyo Japan, Community of Democracies, and the Asia Development Alliance. The TDF was a continuation of the Busan Democracy Forum and the Ulaanbaatar Democracy Forum, creating yet another aspect of a network of democracy forums in the Asia region. The TDF was implemented as a part of the 2019 Civil 20 Summit, which is an official engage group of the Group of Twenty (G20). The forum was held in Tokyo as Japan held the 2019 presidency of the G20.

In response to the shrinking civil society space and continuing global challenges such as growing inequality, human rights violations, humanitarian crisis in conflict areas, gender-based violence, environmental degradation, health crisis, global debt, etc the TDF was organized to provide a platform to discuss these challenges and to strengthen solidarity in Asia to work towards resolve of these issues. As a continuation of the Busan and Ulaanbaatar Democracy Forum's, the main focus of the discussions was SDG 16 and how the utilization of SDG 16 will

further the democracy agenda. Approximately 100 people participated including 50 international participants from around the Asia region.

**Outcomes:**

Communiqué of the C20 and the Tokyo Democracy Declaration delivered to the 2019 Presidency of G20, Japanese Government. The communiqué and declaration included policy recommendations based on the civil society's point of view to the G20 Presidency.

**Impact:**

The Tokyo Democracy Forum was an excellent opportunity to continue ADN's trademark legacy of implementing democracy forums in respective cities across the Asia region. ADN's partners took the opportunity of hosting the C20 to also hold the democracy forum. Through this platform of civil society around the world gathering for the C20, the participants also had a chance to be exposed to the democracy promoting efforts in the Asia region. ADN was able to engage with different actors and build relationships to further progress our strategy not only in Asia but in solidarity with other regional actors.

**5. Cultivating Next Generation Democracy Advocates: Asia Democracy Youth Network Consultation**

**Dates:** May 15-21, 2019

**Location:** Gwangju, Korea

**Partners:** FORUM-ASIA, May 18<sup>th</sup> Foundation

**Objectives:**

- a. To promote unity to the different youth groups to break silos and consolidate efforts in their future agenda.
- b. Provide space and facilitation for the youth to exchange knowledge and coordinate with each other.
- c. Provide space for intergenerational dialogue to carry forward the future of democracy and human rights advocacy work.

**Summary:**

Since 2015 the Asia Democracy Network, has annually implemented a youth program with the sole aim to cultivate the next generation of democracy advocates to sustain the democracy movement in the region.

After 4 years of implementation, we have assessed that it is critical to empower the youth to sustain the movement of democracy and human rights through intergenerational dialogue,

knowledge sharing and coalition building with peers, and in-depth training on democracy and advocacy. This was highly needed especially with the recent context of the regress in democracy across the world.

In 2019, ADN in collaboration with the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA) implemented a youth program inviting prominent youth democracy activists across the region to initiate a youth pillar of the ADN. The ADN will serve as the operational body by providing a platform for youth to build coalition, solidarity, and unity as well as to share knowledge.

The meeting aimed to have a consultation among youth democracy advocates in the region to stock takes the current challenges in the region then strategize on how youth democracy advocates can synergize their respective efforts collectively and bring more impact. In the past youth forums we held, it was realized that youth across the region respectively were implementing action for change under similar circumstances and methods, what was regrettable was that if the action was done in solidarity and in a coordinated fashion it would have created more impact.

Approximately 30 youth participants from all across Asia were invited to Gwangju, Korea to participate in the conference. Leaders from youth networks that already exist in Asia were targeted and invited, such as the ASEAN youth network, CALD youth network, South Asia Youth Democracy Network, etc. It was important for the youth participants to create an umbrella youth network on their own terms defining what the network will achieve.

We used a collaborative design thinking strategy building method called the campaign accelerator with a facilitator to guide the participants break down the challenges to democracy in Asia and what is needed to strengthen solidarity among youth. The method was well received as it encouraged more visual and collaborative discussions and actions building teamwork and tolerance.



**Outcomes:**

1. Establishment of the Asia Democracy Youth Network – as a sub-umbrella of the ADN
2. Continuous communication among the network members
3. Joint action on Hong Kong Protests

**Impact:**

We have attempted to plant the seeds and assist in starting stand-alone youth networks. However we have observed that without the operational infrastructure it is difficult for youth networks to sustain. With the high turnover of youth in the network it is difficult to maintain. By ADN providing the operational infrastructure providing the space for gatherings we are hoping that it will be sustainable. With the new umbrella network launched and ADN providing the platform, discussions among the participants have been active. Immediately after the meeting, the youth activists in the name of the network conducted a joint action in speaking out for the Hong Kong protest and their fellow Hong Kong activist that attended the meeting.

**6. Asia Pacific Peace Research Association Conference 2019 “Empowering Culture of Peace, Sustainable Development and Defending Democracy”**

**Dates:** May 2-4, 2019

**Location:** Jakarta, Indonesia

**Organizer:** APPRA Organizing Committee

**Supporting Partner:** Asia Democracy Network

**Objective:**

Present and exchange papers based on research, observations, experiences and ideas from individuals and groups who have implemented programs and conducted activities in their countries and communities to empower culture of peace, sustainable development, and defending democracy in the Asia Pacific Region.

**Summary:**

With the recent developments which occurred during the last two decades in the Asia Pacific region, there were some meticulous challenges towards the existing progressive peace where it is achievable only by having consistent assessment and efforts to prevent conflicts. Culture of Peace as conceptually consists of “Values, attitudes and behaviors that reject violence and prevent conflict by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation among individuals, groups and nations” must be endorsed in everyday to achieve peace. Given the fact that each country in Asia Pacific has its own priority in overcoming such

challenges, there is a need for comprehensive analyses, formula and design that can be useful tools to address such challenges by empowering culture of peace, formulating fast track designs to achieve sustainable development goals and defending democracy.

Therefore, as a step towards putting this into action the Asia Pacific Peace Research Association (APPRA) conference was held to stock take the analysis of the respective challenges to peace in the Asia region. APPRA is in a good position to take on this task as it is an association consisting of academics and research institutions across the Asia Pacific region focused on advancing interdisciplinary research on the conditions of peace and the causes of war and violence in all their manifestations. APPRA is well equipped as they are committed to international peace through the freedom of scientific research and has a network base of peace researchers, educators and advocates as well as specialists in conflict resolution throughout the region.

**Outcome:**

The Asia Democracy Network was involved in the APPRA conference as a supporting partner. There were approximately 200 participants from across the Asia Pacific region that gathered to discuss research that assessed the promotion of the culture of peace, behaviors, conflict prevention and resolution in the region. A focus was placed on formulating designs of tools that addresses challenges to peace through empowerment and sustaining peace culture incorporating as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and defending democracy.

**Impact:**

ADN decided to cooperate with APPRA as we saw an opportunity to engage with a potential member for the ADN. Although ADN has a sister research network, APPRA was a thematic specific network, peace, which had a membership that extended to major research institutions and schools in the Asia region. Through establishing a connection with APPRA it benefited in broadening our expert pool for ADN’s Democracy Academy project.



## **7. Towards Building Regional Solidarity to Reclaim Civic Space in Southeast Asia: Regional Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Press Freedom and Freedom of Expression**

**Dates:** June 21-22, 2019

**Location:** Jakarta, Indonesia

Partners: Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA)

### **Objective:**

1. To examine the specific challenges confronting the media across the region
2. To forge a common vision for media freedom and free expression
3. To carve a path to the formation of a broad coalition of media actors, CSOs, and possibly select public institutions towards defending and reclaiming civic space for media, civil society and the public at large, including strategies to battle falsehoods and hate speech in social media
4. To come up with a declaration appealing to Southeast Asian governments to respect media freedom, and take concrete steps to restore freedom of expression in their respective countries

### **Summary:**

The Asia Democracy Network (ADN), with its mandate to promote and defend democracy through unity and solidarity, and the Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA), which campaigns for genuine press freedom in the region, co-organized a two-day roundtable forum with the support from BAWASLU, the Elections Supervisory Body of Republic of Indonesia, titled “Towards Building Regional Solidarity to Reclaim Civic Space in Southeast Asia: A Regional Multi-stakeholder Forum on Media Freedom and Freedom of Expression” in Tangerang, Indonesia on June 21-22, 2019.

### **Article on the consultation by SEAPA**

In the presence of approximately 50+ representatives of media organizations, civil society organizations, social media outlets, and actors from various sectors of society gathered for a timely discussion on the challenges confronting the media and civil society across the region and to explore constructive engagements to help restore media freedom and freedom of expression. The demographics of the audience were 17 international participants and 35 local participants from within and outer Jakarta.

Democracy has been on a **retreat globally** in the past years as affirmed by several reports tracking human rights developments around the world. This holds true in **Southeast Asia**, where press freedom and freedom of expression are under siege.

Representatives of several media groups, civil society organizations (CSOs), and activists in a forum discussed issues on shrinking civic space online and offline and sought to draw up actions to fight back.

The Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA) and the **Asia Democracy Network** (ADN), with support from **Bawaslu** (Elections Supervisory Agency), organized from 21-22 June 2019 a multi-stakeholder forum titled “Towards Building Regional Solidarity To Reclaim Civic Space In Southeast Asia” in Tangerang, Indonesia.



*Asia Democracy Network Secretary General Ichal Supriadi and Southeast Asian Press Alliance Executive Director Tess Bacalla.*

Ichal Supriadi, ADN secretary general, said “the Asia region has become more dangerous for media and CSOs to operate,” and highlighted the “dire need to consolidate efforts” across sectors in the region.

SEAPA Executive Director Tess Bacalla called for more “earnest discussion” on issues of press freedom and freedom of expression as the challenges are “too huge” that no one organization could take them on. “Democracy is messy, more so now that everyone has a (virtual) megaphone,” referring to social media such as Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp. We need to be able to reclaim the ability to engage meaningfully in civil discourse,” Bacalla said.

The participants shared insights on the state of press freedom and freedom of expression issues in their countries. They also proposed actions to take moving forward and fighting back against these challenges.



*Asia Deputy Director, Human Rights Watch Asia Deputy Director Phil Robertson and Representative of Indonesia to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights Yuyun Wahyuningrum.*

Yuyun Wahyuningrum, Representative of Indonesia to the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), recognized the limited space they can move in terms of pushing for a more human rights-oriented ASEAN.

The regional bloc has been drawing flak for widespread perceptions of a poor track record in dealing with escalating violations of human rights in the region, including the right to freedom of expression.

AICHR cannot conduct fact-finding missions, cannot monitor and investigate human rights violations, and that the country representatives lack independence to decide on relevant issues, said Yuyun. She said among her initiatives, in her capacity as AICHR representative, is to push for the establishment of a forum for human rights defenders working on freedom of expression in the region.

Phil Robertson, Asia deputy director of Human Rights Watch, enjoined the CSOs and media groups to get technology companies like Facebook, Twitter, and Google “on board with freedom of expression advocacy” in the region.

“We need to be speaking with Facebook, Google, Instagram, Twitter, and representatives of various encrypted chat programs like Whatsapp, Telegram, Signal and others to get them on board our idea that freedom of expression needs to be preserved,” Robertson said. “We need them as allies. We can’t have them in the middle, we can’t have them alongside the government. They have to be with us.”

He also suggested building a rapid response mechanism on press freedom cases across Southeast Asia.

For human rights defenders, criminal defamation is also a major concern. “People should not be criminalized for their opinion,” he said, adding that defamation must be decriminalized.

With more so-called anti-fake news laws in the offing, Robertson also said there was a need for a regional response to this growing phenomenon.

“We need to have a regional response to fake news legislation because it is coming ; we need to fight back. If we wait, we’re going to lose it,” referring to the fight against disinformation and propaganda.

The Singapore Parliament passed the “[Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Bill](#)” on 8 May 2019 despite opposition from activists and rights groups, fearful it would further curtail freedom of expression in the city-state.

Malaysia passed its [Anti-Fake News Act](#) on 2 April 2018. Efforts to repeal the law under the new government of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad have been met with resistance by the opposition-dominated Senate.



(L-R) Former editor-in-chief of the independent Indonesian weekly *Tempo* Bambang Harymurti, Advisor for Communications and Information for UNESCO Office in Jakarta Ming-Kuok Lim, and Prof. Cherian George of the Hong Kong Baptist University.

Prof. Cherian George of the Hong Kong Baptist University said what the world is witnessing today, including in Southeast Asia, is an “authoritarian contagion”, which is in stark contrast to the “democratic contagion” that had been in place in the past.

He said there is a need for basic civic education among the general public, given the wrong assumption that people understand human rights defenders and the work of journalists.

“Journalists are bad with PR [public relations] because we believe that our work will speak for itself. Maybe we need to do more in that respect,” George said.

He cited as an example what the Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN) has on its website presenting, case studies from around the world on the social good that journalism has yielded.

He also proposed to organizing fellowship programs or study trips for Southeast Asian journalists to facilitate understanding of the different countries in the region and sharing of experiences.

Ming-Kuok Lim, Advisor for Communications and Information for UNESCO Office in Jakarta, proposed a roadmap to achieving more concrete regional actions among media, civil society, and other sectors of society toward reclaiming shrinking civic space in Southeast Asia. These include the mapping of opportunities for future dialogue, identifying possible areas for networking and collaboration, engaging the public in discussions, enriching public knowledge through education, and capacity building efforts, and diversifying information and media sources.

Lim said the lack of media diversity in the region is a growing concern while plurality of media sources has significantly declined. These issues have adverse impacts on the accuracy of information that the public receives.

Referencing the popular television series *Game of Thrones*, Bambang Harymurti, former editor-in-chief of the independent Indonesian weekly *Tempo* and who was imprisoned for his work during the Suharto regime, said that in the current situation, referring to the erosion of press freedom and freedom of expression across Southeast Asia, one can say that “winter is coming.”

“What do we do?” he asked.

“We have choices. One, we prepare for the winter and that we keep the hope that winter is not forever. Or like many animals, we migrate to a better climate.”

In a hopeful tone, he said: “We have faced worse winters and survived (them), and therefore we should be able to do it again. We should not give in to the current situation.”

**Outcome:**

The forum was successfully implemented in that it provided a unique platform for diverse actors including journalists, networks of civil society organizations, as well as a representative of Facebook, and government organizations such as BAWASLU, the Electoral Supervisory Body of Republic of Indonesia, Press Council of the Republic of Indonesia, and the Executive Office of the President of Republic of Indonesia to discuss a common issue.

**Impact:**

This regional multi-stakeholder forum on media freedom and freedom of expression in Southeast Asia was a unique opportunity for various actors including representatives of civil society organizations, social media outlet, media agencies to share insights on the state of media freedom and issues regarding freedom of expression in their respective countries. To kick-off this strategy initiative, this forum provided a platform to identify the common challenges faced in this era of disinformation, and shrinking civic space and strategize action and meaningful public discourse. As a result, the roadmap was proposed to achieve more concrete regional actions among media actors, CSOs and others which includes the mapping of opportunities for future dialogue, identifying possible areas for networking and collaboration, engaging the public in discussions, enriching public knowledge through education, and capacity building efforts, and diversifying information and media sources.

As it was highlighted in the meeting, there is a need for an increase in collaboration and coordination to carve a path to form a broad coalition between media actors, CSOs and other actors. Especially through this forum, ADN could expand and enhance the collaboration with major media agencies and networks across the region, including Tempo, Internews, Timor-Leste Journalist Association, Thai Journalists Association, Cambodia Center of Independent Media (CCIM), and Philippines Center for Investigative Journalist. Also we were able to strengthen our engagement with regional organizations including Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN) and ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR) for further collaboration in near future. Also, ADN took this platform as an opportunity to strengthen the engagement with Indonesian state entities in implementing this forum. We partnered with BAWASLU, Elections Supervisory Body of Republic of Indonesia throughout the planning and implementing the meeting. Mr. Mochammad Afifuddin, the commissioner of BAWASLU delivered his opening remarks and Mr. Fritz Edward Siregar, the commissioner of BAWASLU, contributed to a panel as well. Furthermore, Ms. Christiana Chelsia Chan from the Press Council of Republic of Indonesia and Ms. Binny Buchory from the Executive Office of the President came and contributed to the panel. Through this opportunity of having Ms. Chelsia we were able to engage with the Press Council of Republic of Indonesia and establish a connection for further collaboration.



## **8. Hong Kong Public Discussion Salon: People’s Movements in Asia**

**Dates:** July 26-27, 2019

**Location:** Hong Kong, SAR

**Partners:** Civil Human Rights Front Hong Kong

### **Objective:**

- a. Regional solidarity action for the Hong Kong Movement
- b. Connecting people power movements across the Asia region
- c. Exchange and share best practices of people power movements past and present

### **Summary:**

Since 2019 June 12, we have seen up to a million people of Hong Kong unite on the streets peacefully, demanding for the retraction of the Extradition Bill that was introduced in the Hong Kong legislature. If passed, the bill gives the authority to China to extradite any criminal offenders from Hong Kong to Mainland China. It is clear this is China’s tactic to justify silencing dissidents.

The young people of Hong Kong have been at the forefront in the mobilization of this massive movement. However, the movement faces challenges as there lacks a unifying leader to drive strategy.

The Asia Democracy Network (ADN) aims to hold a knowledge exchange discussion with young leaders in Hong Kong on People Power Movements in the Asia Region. ADN will be inviting activists from the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, and Malaysia to share their experiences and best practices in their respective people power movements in the country.

At the height of the movement, the people of Hong Kong were preparing for the long term fight to preserve their democracy and freedoms. Witnessing the increasing violence that was unfolding with the movement and at the same time being empowered by the perseverance of the people of Hong Kong, we wanted to provide support in any way possible. The Asia Democracy Network reached out to our long term partners, mostly who participated in our youth program, to see what they needed most from the region. Specifically, we worked with the Civil Human Rights Front Hong Kong and as one of the many leaders of the movement; they made it clear that what they needed the most was experience exchange on sustaining peaceful people's movements. In particular, they wanted to learn more from the South Korean Candlelight Revolution case, the 6 month long peaceful protests from 2016-2017. The ADN organized in Hong Kong a closed door strategy meeting with Hong Kong activists and academics to learn more about the situation and exchange knowledge. We brought activists from the Philippines, Indonesia, and one of leaders of the Candlelight Revolution of South Korea. In addition to the closed door meeting, we held an open forum live streaming the discussion with the public to share Asia's experience in movements. The focus was on controlling violence and how to maintain peaceful protests.

The international participants also had a chance to observe on the ground the Hong Kong protest.

**Outcome:**

The closed door meeting we had approximately 30 participants, from Hong Kong it was attended by civil society leaders, media actors, and academics that were at the core of the movement analyzing and strategizing the next steps of the movement. The international participants held a press conference with local media actors; their respective experiences with people's movements were highlighted. The open forum discussion was attended by approximately 50 people and it was also live streamed with over 400 views.

**Impact:**

As a result of the implementation of this program, ADN established a working relationship with one of the leaders of the HK movement. We continued the collaboration and networking with other regional groups and advocacy for Hong Kong.

The visit of international participants, gave a sense of solidarity to those on the ground protesting as it sent a message that the Asia region was on their side. Also, importantly the international participants experience of being on the ground and eye witnessing the Hong Kong protests directly and speaking with those involved gave them a clearer picture of the situation to report back to their respective countries. These pockets of solidarity movements then started to occur in the region. For example, as soon as our South Korean participant returned to Korea he was able to consolidate civil society to start a movement in the country.



## **9. Asia Democracy Academy Program – Curriculum Drafting Committee 1st Focus Group Discussion**

**Dates:** August 1-2, 2019

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Partners:** Mahidol University

### **Objectives:**

- a. Develop a curriculum, structure of training methods and tools
- b. Map out potential partner countries and organizations within the region for the pilot project to be implemented

### **Summary:**

In addition to needing a youth democracy network in Asia, it was also identified that there is a lack in accessible democracy education programs for youth and the general public. Of course there are many prestigious democracy education programs; however ADN took on creating its own democracy academy program that is true to the Asian narrative, easily accessible, and easy to understand. The democracy academy program will not be creating anything new; rather it will consolidate the existing curriculum. Through focus group discussions consisting of academics and democracy advocates, the curriculum will go through a process of examination and enhancement. Through this process the ownership of the program in the region will increase and importantly include more of the Asian democracy narrative.

In August 2019, was the first of this focus group discussion and the main task was to affirm and

set the map and direction of the curriculum.

**Outcome:**

This was the kick off to the process of developing the Democracy Academy program. A small group of academics and regional partners, 8 participants, were invited so that we can pitch our idea and gain direction for the creating process.

**Impact:**

The idea of the academy was well received by the expert group and we were able to achieve the set objectives. Importantly, through the focused group discussions we wanted to start building regional trust and buy in for this project so that it is not an exclusive ADN initiative rather a Asia regional initiative.



**10. Memorandum of Understanding signing between Asia Democracy Network (ADN) and Commission National Elections (CNE), in developing Democracy Education Center—Civic Education Center in Republic democratic of Timor-Leste (RDTL)**

**Dates:** August 23, 2019

**Location:** Dili, Timor Leste

**Partners:** Commission of National Elections (CNE) of the Republic Democratic of Timor Leste

**Summary:**

The Asia Democracy Network and the Commission of National Elections of Timor Leste entered an agreement to formalize its cooperation in developing democracy educational material and implementation plan. Both institutions realized the importance of helping each other share expertise and resources to optimize the effort in educating the people and cultivating the next generation of democracy advocates. The MoU was signed on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 proceeding of the democracy consolidation conference in Timor-Leste. The signing was witnessed by hundreds of delegates who attended the event, including the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

**Impact:**

As a result of the MOU with the Commission of Elections of Timor Leste, it has created a stronger bridge for ADN to cooperate with the government of Timor Leste and to work together on democratic unity and solidarity in the Asia region. Importantly, through the establishment of this MoU, it confirmed a platform and space to pilot and implement ADN's democracy academy.

**11. Democratic Consolidation: Timor-Leste**

**Dates:** August 23, 2019

**Location:** Dili, Timor Leste

**Partners:** Commission National Elections (CNE), Forum NGO of Timor Leste (FONGTIL), University of Dili (UNDIL)

**Supporting Partners:** UNDP, KOICA

**Objectives:**

- Initiate national consolidation of democratic unity
- Strengthen national connection with regional partners

**Summary:**

The event was held in Dili, Republic of Democratic of Timor-Leste on Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. This is the first follow up to ADN's Asia CSOs Consolidation event held in Kuala Lumpur in April 2019 and also the first country to initiate the national consolidation. ADN successfully co-hosted the event in cooperation with the Commission National of Elections (CNE), Forum NGO of Timor-Leste (FONGTIL), and the University of Dili (UNDIL). The event was supported by the UNDP Timor-Leste. Among the hundred's in attendance were representatives of political parties, Members of Parliament, National Non-Government Organizations and International NGOs representatives, University students, and Government agencies. The UN Resident Coordinator, Roy Trivedy, and UNDP Leadership were also present. H.E. Dr. Dionisio da Costa Babo Soares ,the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, marked the opening and keynote speech along with Dr. Alcino de Araujo Baris, President of the CNE, Dr. Jose Belo, Rector of Dili University, and Jose Luis Olievera, prominent Human Rights Activist and representative of FONGTIL followed suit.

**Impact:**

Through this event, ADN has made significant connections and gains, such as:

1. There was a high appreciation from multi-stakeholders such as political parties, Government, NGOs, and Members of Parliament.
2. There was a request from the local stakeholder to continue the process of democratic consolidation through establishing thematic focused discussions such as (e.g., MPs: political parties, NGOs, University and Youth, Election administration)
3. The University of Dili, Political parties, and CNE are willing to cooperate for the next event.
4. The Asia Foundation in Timor-Leste has made the initial expression of their interest and likely to support the follow-up activities.
5. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation have expressed their interest in the ADN and willingness to cooperate to implement programs together.
6. CNE is proposing an International Democracy Consolidation event in Dili in 2020.

**12. The 8<sup>th</sup> World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF) – International Workshop on the 2030 Agenda for Human Rights Cities**

**Dates:** October 1-2, 2019

**Location:** Gwangju, Korea

**Partners:** Metropolitan City of Gwangju, Asia Development Alliance, Gwangju International Center, Raoul Wallenberg Institute

**Objectives:**

1. Further the human rights cities discourse through dialogue and exchange.
2. Strategize on how to localize SDGs in local communities

**Summary:**

Since 2014, the Asia Democracy Network has taken part in co-organizing the International Workshop on the Human Rights Cities concept at the World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF) held annually in Gwangju, Korea. From 2014-2016, the international workshop was a platform for gathering expert knowledge on the Human Rights Cities concept to push through a resolution on Local Government and Human Rights (A/HRC/RES/33/8) at the Human Rights Council of the United Nations. This year, 2019, the discussion topic was a continuation on how

to further mainstream the human rights cities discourse and concept as well as exploring ways to localize the Sustainable Development Goals to the local level.

**Outcome:**

Annually, the WHRCF is attended by over 400 participants, 200 international and 200 local, to discuss various topics on human rights and the city. Since 2015, the ADN has contributed as a partner to the WHRCF organizing or supporting a session within the WHRCF. In 2019, ADN co-organized expert workshops to further mainstream the human rights cities concept and localizing SDGs. Both workshops were attended by over 40 international participants. In the workshops we were able to exchange best practices and experiences of the implementation of human rights cities in various cities across the Asia region as well as localizing SDGs in the cities.

**Impact:**

The WHRCF platform allows ADN to engage directly with local governments as well as civil society working to promote human rights and democracy on the local level. At the 2019 WHRCF, we were able to establish connections and commit to cooperate on future projects with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute and the International NGO Forum for Indonesian Development on promoting human rights cities in Asia. As a result, all three organizations collaborated and organized a workshop at the 2019 Human Rights Cities Festival in Jember, Indonesia in November 2019.



### **13. Busan Democracy Forum 2019 – “Transformative Global Citizenship Education for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies – Role of SDG Target 4.7 and Goal 16”**

**Dates: October 14-16, 2019**

**Location: Busan, Korea**

**Partners: Busan YMCA, KOICA, Asia Development Alliance**

#### **Objectives:**

- i. To develop an integrated approach to global citizenship education based on the sharing of various initiatives and experiences.
- ii. To assess the implementation of Target 4.7 at the national level.
- iii. To promote global citizenship as a way to tackle global challenges and engage with the SDGs, the Goal 16 and 17 as well as other cross-cutting goals like the Goal 5 (gender equality), 10 (equality) and 13 (climate crisis).

#### **Summary:**

Busan Democracy Forum (BuDF) 2019 is a joint initiative of Busan Metropolitan City, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), UNESCO Asia Pacific Center for Education for International Understanding (APCEIU), Asia Development Alliance (ADA) and Asia Democracy Network (ADN) in partnership with international and local institutions and organizations engaged in the SDGs, especially Target 4.7 known as global citizenship education (GCED) and the Goal 16 (Peace and Justice). The 7 key components of the Target 4.7 will be reviewed individually and collectively under the framework of global citizenship education in terms of capacity-building and synergy among them. The global challenges such as rising global inequality (Goal 10) and climate crisis (Goal 13), will also be addressed in terms of the role of global citizenship education to tackle those challenges globally and locally. The first BuDF was held in Busan on 22-24 January 2018 under the theme “Promoting Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies – with focus on SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institution)”. The BuDF 2019 is also part of the ongoing initiative of the ADA and ADN to promote democracy through the SDG 16 such as the Ulaanbaatar Democracy Forum (Feb. 26-28, 2019) and Tokyo Democracy Forum (Mar. 20, 2019). All participants will be invited to attend the first official commemoration ceremony of the Busan-Masan people’s democratic uprising in 1979 after the official recognition as national commemoration day by the National Assembly in 2018. The ceremony will take place in Masan, one hour away from Busan on the morning of 16 October 2019.

#### **Outcome:**

Approximately 300 participants consisting of international and local participants were present at the two day forum. The forum showcased a diverse number of different global citizen education programs currently being implemented around the world. In addition, 2019 marked the 40th anniversary of the 1979 Busan-Masan People’s Democratic Uprising. In commemoration, the Busan Democracy Forum was taken as an opportunity to launch the Busan

Democracy Foundation and the national commemoration day. The National Commemoration Day was officially recognized by the national assembly in 2018 and the first commemoration ceremony to be held in 2019. Participants were able to attend the commemoration ceremony with the President of South Korea, Moon Jae-in, giving the opening speech.

**Impact:**

The BuDF was unique as we were able to invite a diverse group of organizations that implemented educational programs that promoted, strengthened, and furthered global citizenship, human rights, and democracy. The showcase of workshops were innovative and engaged the audience in dialogue. As a result, a strong bond among the presenters were created and future collaborations formed. With the establishment of the Busan Democracy Foundation, commitment of KOICA, and the City of Busan it was confirmed that the Busan Democracy Forum will continue annually.



## **14. Hong Kong Protests – Seoul Action Project**

**Dates:** November 9-11, 2019

**Location:** Seoul, Korea

Partners: Asian Companions Against Brutality, Korean House for International Solidarity, Nanum, MINBYUN - Lawyers for a Democratic Society International Solidarity Committee, Korea Democracy Foundation (KDF), Civil Society Organizations Network in Korea (Civil-net), People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD), The May 18 Memorial Foundation, Citizens Candlelight Coalition for Hong Kong, Speak for Hong Kong, Center for International Solidarity

### **Objectives:**

1. Raise awareness in Korea of the democracy struggle in Hong Kong.
2. Strengthen collaboration and networking between Hong Kong activists and South Korean activists.

### **Summary:**

The Asia Democracy Network in collaboration with a coalition of Korean Civil Society organizations organized a joint action for democracy in Hong Kong. We invited one of the leaders of the Civil Human Rights Front of Hong Kong to Seoul, Korea, to raise awareness and participate in the organized protest for Hong Kong.

There were three components to the event held in Seoul, Korea: 1) closed door strategy meeting 2) open forum 3) public protest. At the closed door strategy meeting, leaders of Korean civil society organizations and the guest from Hong Kong discussed the current situation and direction of the Hong Kong protest and most importantly what the people of Hong Kong would need from the region to continue the fight for democracy. We also discussed strategies on how the Korean civil society can engage with the Korean public and its government to advocate for Hong Kong. The public forum was an open to the public talk concert featuring the guest to speak about the situation in Hong Kong and to appeal to the Korean public on joining the people of Hong Kong in support. Lastly, to raise a wider public awareness an open protest was organized in the center of the city to show solidarity and support for the Hong Kong people.

### **Outcome:**

The public protest in Hong Kong was held on November 9, 2019 in Seoul at the epicenter of where young people gather. The organizers publicized and released press releases to gain the most attention of the public. The protest consisted of a program where activists from both Hong Kong and South Korea went on stage to share their stories, musical performances, and candlelight vigil. At the end, an hour walking protest was conducted. All major news outlets were on scene covering the protest and at the height of the protest at least 100 people joined in. During the protests we organized, a pro-China protest was also organized by mostly students living in Korea from China to counter our Hong Kong protests. In addition to the counter protests and Korea's high number of Chinese mainland tourists, there was a high risk of clash and violence. However, overall things remained peaceful and the Korean police authorities ,

upon our request, escorted our activities from start to finish to maintain safety. The open discussion forum that was organized the next day, in which our guest from Hong Kong shared the situation and challenges was well received and attended by over 40 participants.

**Impact:**

Building solidarity among states to support the plight of the Hong Kong people has been difficult. Many governments in Asia are hesitant to openly support the Hong Kong movement and condemn the Hong Kong government. Therefore, people's solidarity in Asia has become dire and important. Through this event, the solidarity between Hong Kong and Korea was strengthened. We were told that the joint action sent a strong message to the people of Hong Kong that they are not alone and that Asia was in solidarity with them. The public protest gained high profile media coverage and made headline primetime news in South Korea. Through this event the situation of Hong Kong had a far public reach in Korea nationwide. Through this opportunity ADN was able to strengthen its relationship with our existing partners in Korea as well as establish new ones. South Korea has a high number of mainland Chinese tourists especially concentrated in Seoul. Despite the risk of clashes, it was also an opportunity for mainlanders to engage in a different narrative of what is going on in Hong Kong as they are only exposed to a state narrative. The most enriching of this program was the closed door meeting with the Korean civil society and the Hong Kong activists. We were able to first hand listen to the situation inside Hong Kong and brainstorm a future strategy to strengthen solidarity. As a result, follow up events were organized such as a solidarity trip to Hong Kong by Korean CSOs.



## **15. The 6th Human Rights Festival: Social Justice and Human Rights Based Local Development Through Cultural Approach**

**Dates:** November 19-21, 2019

**Location:** Jember, Indonesia

### **Objectives:**

The organizer aims to familiarize attendees with the stated issues and invite proposals for larger regional collaboration. The discussion is set to engage with the questions listed below:

1. What is the outlook towards the SDGs, and Human Rights Cities engagement in different countries in Southeast Asia?
2. Has there been any urgency displayed in promoting the Human Rights City initiative in the Asia Pacific?
3. What are the most contentious challenges in structuring the SDGs and HRC, and what is the critical support required?
4. How can we transform social awareness to address human rights issues at the local level?
5. How can CSOs work together to enhance future advocacy?
6. What kind of networking model would best augment existing efforts to promote the SDGs and Human rights cities?

### **Summary:**

The Asia Democracy Network (ADN) was able to partner with the main organizers the International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID), the National Human Rights Commission (Komnas HAM), the Provincial Government of East Java, and the District Government of Jember, as one of the cooperating partners along with the National Commission on Violence against Women, Wahid Foundation, Migrant Care, the General Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu), and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI) in implementing the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Human Rights Cities Festival in Indonesia. This year the festival was held in Jember, Indonesia under the theme “The Social Justice and Human Rights Based Local Development through Cultural Approach.”

The annual festival was created to gather local governments, civil society organizations, academia, business sector, and the media to share strategies, practices, innovations in the promotion and protection of human rights within the framework of Human Rights Cities.

The ADN in particular organized a workshop within the festival, the Mayors and CSOs Forum: Regional Networking on Human Rights in Cities and SDGs in Southeast Asia. This special session of the regional networking on Human Rights Cities (HRC), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is an effort to make the participants more familiar with the relationship between the two mechanisms, and to further discuss the potential for larger cooperation towards a

common goal.

**Outcome:**

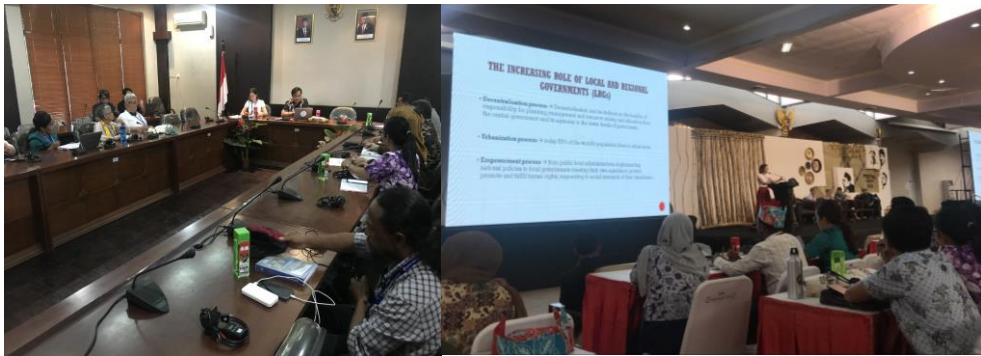
Asia Democracy Network took part in this event to invite and represent international delegates to be part of a special session on “Regional Networking on Human Rights Cities and SDGs” in coordination with INFID, Komnas HAM, UCLG ASPAC and RWI. And it was officiated by the President of the Republic of Indonesia Joko Widodo and was attended by 2000 people, which are various delegates from governments, CSOs, universities, media agencies and international organizations.

**Impact:**

The Human Rights Cities Festival held in Jember, Indonesia was ADN’s second engagement. This nation-wide event is unique as it is collaboration between civil society, local government, and Indonesia’s national human rights institution. This harmonious cooperation between government, academia, institutions, and civil society to raise the awareness of human rights has been a successful one since its inception. This year ADN played an active role in bringing in the international component to the festival. We worked with RWI to bring international participants and internationally raise awareness of the human rights cities concept. ADN has found value in promoting the human rights cities as we found that it effectively promotes democracy on the local level bringing more direct impact to societies challenges. ADN has established working relationships with KOMNAS Ham and the local governments and have committed to spreading the best practices of human rights cities of Indonesia to other countries across the Asia region. In which the first step was taken in Jember, with bringing leaders and advocates from countries like Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, and the Philippines to strengthen cooperation to see if starting a human rights cities movement is a possibility.

The 2020 Human Rights Cities Festival will be held in the Kalimantan province. We have already confirmed that the local government is willing to work with the ADN to integrate more international participants to enrich the dialogue and best practices of human rights cities.

ADN is also aiming to work on developing a process to make it easier to access the human rights cities concept to the region so that we can start democracy advocacy on the local level.



## **16: Hong Kong Election Observation Project / District Council Election Observation**

**Dates:** November 23-25, 2020

**Location:** Hong Kong, SAR

### **Objectives:**

Through the Election Observation Project, establish an academic platform for the 2019 Hong Kong District Council and monitoring network for all the 18 districts of Hong Kong.

### **Summary/Outcome:**

As the Hong Kong protests continued, an opportunity to litmus test the democracy movement as well as the public sentiment towards it came through the 2019 Hong Kong District Council elections. The elections were scheduled to be held on November 24, 2019 and leading to the elections, the city saw a significant increase in the number of voters registering. With the continuous protests that were increasingly becoming violent, the Hong Kong authorities were threatening to cancel the elections. There were concerns that the government would strategize and try to revise the law to postpone the elections indefinitely. As a response, local partners organized and created the Election Observation Project (EOP), which is an academic platform to discuss and monitor the district elections. ADN was selected to be a senior advisor to the platform and provide electoral observation advice. ADN's Secretary General, Ichal Supriadi, having the expertise on election observation went during the elections to assist the EOP in monitoring the elections.

### **Impact:**

A record percentage, 71.2, came out to vote for the district elections and a high number of them were the youth. The pro-democratic camp seized control of 17 out of 18 districts and 389 out of 452 contested seats (a total of 86 percent). Pro-establishment parties saw a reduction in the number of seats while pro-democratic candidates saw an increase. Through the participation in the EOP project, we were able to show solidarity to the Hong Kong people. More importantly, it was a start in sharing expertise and knowledge of monitoring accountability during elections. ADN has established cooperation to continue to share knowledge on election related issues.

## **17. Asia Democracy Academy Program – Curriculum Drafting Committee 2<sup>nd</sup> Focus Group Discussion**

**Dates:** December 3-4, 2019

**Location:** Bali, Indonesia

**Objectives:**

- Seek expert peer review of the first half of the modules developed thus far.
- Discuss next action steps for the development of the curriculum.
- Roughly design the implementation program of the academy.

**Summary:**

The 2nd Focus Group discussions for the ADN Democracy Academy were held in Bali, Indonesia from December 3-4, 2019, inviting academics and democracy advocates. This discussion was the mid-point review of the content created by the ADN team thus far.

**Outcome:**

The curriculum is at 50% completion. The expert panel included experts that represented a chapter of the curriculum, such as anti-corruption, peace, and human rights, etc. We also had experts that have a long history of implementing democracy education. Through the diverse panel of experts we were able to receive a comprehensive peer review and analysis of the content produced thus far. As a result of the review, we gained valuable input on ways to revise to make it true to the Asian narrative.



## **18. Bali Democracy Forum 2019**

**Dates:** December 5-6, 2019

**Location:** Bali, Indonesia

### **Objectives:**

The main objective of the forum is providing a platform for sharing experiences among state actors and invited stakeholders to understand the challenges of making democracy that deliver prosperities. At the same time, lessons learned on policies and initiatives, as well as efforts to make democracy works would be further discussed.

### **Summary:**

The 12th Bali Democracy Forum, organized by the Republic of Indonesia, was held from December 5-6, 2019. Firstly, there will be a ministerial forum to signify the sub-theme of ***“Women, Inclusivity, and the State of Democracy”***, derived from the general theme of **“Democracy and Inclusivity”**.

Following the ministerial forum, there were four focused group dialogues with special themes engaging variety groups of participants of the BDF. (1) Dialogue on the Roles of State and Policy with the theme of **“Moving towards inclusive state building”** (2) The activity of Bali Civil Society and Media Forum 2019 with the theme of **“Rising exclusivity and Declining Democracy”**. (3) The activity of Bali Youth Conference 2019 with the theme of **“Youth and inclusive digital democracy”**. (4) Dialogue on Business and Economic Focus with the theme of **“Inclusive Economy”**.

After engaging participants in separate and focused group discussions to represent various elements of “Democracy and Inclusivity”, the forum continued on the second day for a discussion panel on **general election for inclusivity**, followed by closing session where representatives of each focused sessions would be panelists to report and share the main insights and tentative summaries of each dialogues.

Congruently, approximately 150 students from across the globe gathered to attend the Democracy Student Conference (BDSC) where they deliberated their views about various topics relevant to the theme of the Forum. Also in parallel, the Bali Civil Society and Media Forum (BCSMF) and the Business and Economic Forum were also held.

### **Outcome:**

The Bali Democracy Forum was well attended with over 500 participants from over 91 countries across the globe, representing government, civil society, academia, and the business sector. H.E. Retno Lestari Priansari Marsudi, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia opened the forum. The Bali Civil Society and Media Forum that was held in parallel within the BDF, gathered civil society, media, academia, and government actors and focused the

discussions on the state of democracy decline, media and digital spaces. These themes broadly covered the various closing of civic space and increased attack on media actors and activists, the declining of public reason and judgment, and effects of disinformation.

**Impact:**

The 12th Bali Democracy Forum was a breakthrough for the Asia Democracy Network. ADN was officially recognized and requested by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia to partner and co-organize the Bali Civil Society and Media Forum. With the inclusion of the ADN in the preparation of the BDF, it will now truly enhance the Asia regional perspective and voice. ADN through this continued partnership with the BDF will aim to expand and enhance the civil society voice in the BDF process and to actively include the people’s agenda. One of the criticisms of the BDF is the lack of interface and inter-engagement between the government and civil society. ADN plans to work to build that bridge and increase discourse and dialogue.



## **19. Electoral Studies Program – Bawaslu**

**Dates:** December 11-12, 2019

**Location:** Bali, Indonesia

**Partners:** BAWASLU (Election Supervisory Body), the Republic of Indonesia, Association of World Electoral Bodies (AWEB), Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL), and the International IDEA

### **Objectives:**

1. Where are we now? What are the most pressing challenges? What are we doing to respond to the grievances below?
2. The spread of harmful content in media by issue regulations and enforcement, and another necessary measure to reduce societal division, intolerant, and radicalism during the elections.
3. Domination of media corporations which are affiliated with political parties that made an unlevel playing field.
4. Resources Capture: Use of money, populist policy, and prevention of corruptive practice during the elections.
5. Do the electoral justice have adequate tools and plan to respond to those grievances? Reflection from the recent elections held in Asia, and other continents.
6. What can be done for improvement? What are common initiative and action can be proposed among the EMBs and between NGOs

### **Summary:**

The Asia Democracy Network partnered with the BAWASLU (Election Supervisory Body), the Republic of Indonesia, Association of World Electoral Bodies (AWEB), Asian Network for Free Elections, and the International IDEA in implementing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Electoral Studies Program. The conference was held from December 11-12, 2019 in Bali, Indonesia, under the theme “Building Collaboration to Enhance the Electoral Justice.” The objective of the event was to provide a space for electoral stakeholders to have a better understanding of the recent challenges of the electoral justice enforcement, and to identify potential cooperation in enhancing electoral justice and as a follow up to the first ESP in June 2018.

### **Outcome:**

The program was attended by over 200 participants from Indonesia and across the region. The platform was a great opportunity for diverse actors in the field of electoral justice to share best practices and to learn ways of improvement through law amendment, or prepare themselves for the upcoming elections. It was timely, as it is very critical to keep guarding the electoral justice work to ensure electoral integrity and to maintain people's trust in the electoral process as an essential component in the democracy livelihood.

**Impact:**

Partnering to implement the Electoral Studies Program was also a breakthrough for the ADN, as it strengthened the partnership and relationship between ADN and BAWASLU. Through the previous collaborations with Bawaslu, ADN was able to build its trust. ADN sees that there is much potential in partnering with the Bawaslu. With the electoral know how of Indonesia, there are opportunities to help share that knowledge to the Asia region. The ESP program was a heavier commitment and allowed ADN to further strengthen cooperation with the Bawaslu.



## STATEMENTS AND PRESS RELEASE

- ADN Statement on BANGSAMORO PLEBISCITE: HOPE FOR PEACE TRIUMPHS, DESPITE CHALLENGES AHEAD—January 21, 2019, <http://adnasia.org/2019/01/21/statement-bangsamoro-plebiscite-hope-for-peace-triumphs-despite-challenges-ahead/>
- ADN Statement on CALL FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF MARIA RESSA AND PUT A HALT TO THE ATTACK AGAINST JOURNALIST AND MEDIA FREEDOM—February 14, 2019, <http://adnasia.org/2019/03/05/call-for-the-immediate-release-of-maria-ressa-and-put-a-halt-to-the-attack-against-journalist-and-media-freedom/>
- [JOINT STATEMENT] CSOs express serious concern and call for a stop to the ongoing judicial harassment of former Cambodia National Rescue Party members—June 3, 2019, <https://adnasia.org/2019/06/03/joint-statement-csos-express-serious-concern-and-call-for-a-stop-to-the-ongoing-judicial-harassment-of-former-cambodia-national-rescue-party-members/>
- [STATEMENT] HONG KONG EXTRADITION BILL IS A GRAVE THREAT TO RULE OF LAW AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS—June 12, 2019, <https://adnasia.org/2019/06/13/statement-hong-kong-extradition-bill-is-a-grave-threat-to-rule-of-law-and-fundamental-freedoms/>
- [PRESS RELEASE] ADN Launching the Asia Democracy Academy Program to Foster Democracy Promotion in the Region—July 9, 2019, <https://adnasia.org/2019/07/09/press-release-adn-launching-the-asia-democracy-academy-program-to-foster-democracy-promotion-in-the-region/>
- [ADN STATEMENT] Declaration of Support for Strategic Regional Actions to Promote and Protect Media Freedom and Free Expression in Southeast Asia. July 10, 2019, <https://adnasia.org/2019/07/10/adn-statement-declaration-of-support-for-strategic-regional-actions-to-promote-and-protect-media-freedom-and-free-expression-in-southeast-asia/>
- [ANNOUNCEMENT] YOUTH NETWORK FOR DEMOCRACY IN ASIA—August 12, 2019, <https://adnasia.org/2019/08/12/announcement-youth-network-for-democracy-in-asia/>
- [JOINT STATEMENT] De-escalate violence in Hong Kong, respect freedom of peaceful assembly and association—August 19, 2019 <https://adnasia.org/2019/08/19/joint-statement-de-escalate-violence-in-hong-kong-respect-freedom-of-peaceful-assembly-and-association/>
- [ADN Publication] CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRACY DAY 2019—September 16, 2019 <https://adnasia.org/2019/09/16/adn-publication-celebrating-international-democracy-day-2019/>

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER 2018-2019



**John Samuel | Convener | Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)**

John Samuel is the Executive Director of Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA). He has more than 25 years of experience and expertise in strengthening democratic governance, human rights advocacy, sustainable development and institution building in India, Asia and internationally. His work combined policy research, advocacy capacity building, strategic leadership and social mobilization across the world. He has worked with civil society, government agencies and academic institutions to promote inclusive participation of the marginalized people in governance. He was the Global Head of the Global Programme on Democratic Governance Assessments and Global Democratic Governance Advisor at the UNDP. Prior to joining the UNDP, he was the International Director of Actionaid International, based in Bangkok, leading its global thematic work on just and democratic governance and heading the Asia-pacific region. He helped to establish and served as the Chief Executive of the National Centre of Advocacy Studies in India. Mr. Samuel has a multi-disciplinary academic background. He was a visiting fellow at the Institute of development Studies, University of Sussex and at the Advocacy Institute, Washington. He helped to initiate and develop participatory methodologies and tools such as ELBAG (Economic Literacy and Budget Accountability for Governance) and social audit to promote democratic governance assessment at the grassroots, national and international levels. He has helped to initiate and establish several advocacy and research organizations and civil society alliances, including Infochange, Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability, Centre for Communication and Development Studies, Open-space network of young people, Bodhigram, Asian Media forum, International Social Watch and GCAP( Global Call to Action against Poverty),and Institute for Sustainable Development and Governance. He has published extensively on issues related people-centred advocacy, democratic governance and civil society.



**Augusto Miclat | Steering Committee | Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) South East Asia Chapter**

Gus Miclat is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID), an advocacy, conflict prevention and solidarity organization based in the Philippines with campaigns and programs on peace-building and democracy in Southeast Asia particularly on Burma, Mindanao, South Thailand and Timor-Leste. He is also a former journalist, editor, university lecturer, theatre artist and organizer. He was deeply involved in the broad anti-dictatorship and democratic front against the then Martial Law regime of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos from the mid 1970s up to the late 1980s, and organized the so-called “Middle Forces” and coalitions in Mindanao composed of professionals, lawyers, church people, teachers, journalists, artists, businessmen and politicians. He has been involved in people's

diplomacy and international solidarity work since 1985. Gus was a humanities graduate at the Ateneo de Davao University, where he also taught journalism and theatre, among others. He is an editor and contributor to some books, including: “From Boardroom to the Slums” (1990), “Out of the Valley of Dry Bones” (1990), “Beyond the Cold War” (1992), “Breaking the Silence” (1995), “East Timor for Beginners” (1997), “Primer on Globalization” (1997) and “Burma for Beginners” (1998).



**William Gois | Steering Committee | Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)**

William Gois is the Regional Coordinator of Migrant Forum in Asia, a regional network of migrants' organizations, NGOs, advocates, grassroots organizations and trade unions working to promote the rights and wellbeing of migrant workers and members of their families. Over the last twenty years, he has been at the forefront of international advocacy efforts engaging and influencing international and multilateral organisations to promote equitable and fair migration and development policies. He was a Co-Chair of the Civil Society Days of the 2011 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). He continues to represent MFA in the International Steering Committee of the Civil Society Days of the GFMD. He also chairs the Global Coalition on Migration (GCM), a coalition of regional and global networks of migrant associations and trade unions. William represents MFA in the Steering Committee of the Asia Democracy Network (ADN), a civil society led multi-stakeholders' platform among democracy advocates and human rights defenders dedicated to the strengthening of democracy and Human Rights; Advisory Committee of the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS); and in the Leadership Group for Responsible Recruitment of the Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHBR). He also leads and facilitates the engagement of MFA to the Colombo Process and Abu Dhabi Dialogue where MFA as civil a society is officially invited as an observer and works closely with UN Treaty Bodies, with the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Committee on Migrant Workers and other special mandates. He heads a team of MFA members to the International Labour Conference (ILC) of the International Labour Organization to monitor the development of labour migration issues within the ILO framework.



**Sugeng Bahagijo | Steering Committee | International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID)**

Mr. Bahagijo is currently the Executive Director of INFID, where he directs a research-advocacy program on inequality, Post-2015 Agenda, and human rights democracy. He was also member of Steering Committee Open Government Partnership (OGP). Sugeng also member of Steering Committee of ADA (Asia Development Alliance). From 2006 to 2007, Mr. Bahagijo served as a policy advisor for Indonesia's Ministry for Social Welfare on mainstreaming poverty reduction and human development. Previously, he was a technical advisor for Ministry for National Planning of Indonesia, and was a visiting fellow at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), at Sussex University in 2004.



**Sook Jong Lee | Steering Committee | Asia Democracy Research Network (ADRN)**

Sook Jong Lee is professor of public administration at Sungkyunkwan University and directs the East Asia Collaboration Center inside the University with the support of Korean National Research Foundation. She is Senior Fellow at the East Asia Institute, an independent Seoul-based think tank, and served the Institute as President from 2008 to 2018. She has been directing the Asian Democracy Research Network since its formation in 2015. About nineteen research organizations from the Asian region collaborate to promote democracy under the support of the Washington based National Endowment for Democracy. Dr. Lee also participates in the Trilateral Commission, Council of Councils, and many other transnational networks on research and policy studies. Since 2015, she is serving as a Steering Committee member of the World Movement for Democracy. Her research interests include multilateralism, democracy, and civil societies, focusing on South Korea, Japan, and other East Asian countries. Previously, Dr. Lee was research fellow at the Sejong Institute, visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution, professorial lecturer at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University, and visiting fellow at the German Institute for Global and Area Studies. Her recent publications include *Transforming Global Governance with Middle Power Diplomacy: South Korea's Role in the 21st Century* (ed. 2016), *Keys to Successful Presidency in South Korea* (ed. 2013 and 2016), *Korea's Role in Global Governance for Development Cooperation* (ed. 2012), *Public Diplomacy and Soft Power in East Asia* (eds. 2011), *Japan and East Asia: Regional Cooperation and Community Building* (eds. 2011), and *Toward Managed Globalization: The Korean Experience* (eds. 2010). She published numerous articles in both Korean and international academic journals. Dr. Lee received her Ph.D. in sociology from Harvard University.



**Dr. Netra Prasad Timsina | Steering Committee | People's SAARC | SAAPE**

Netra Prasad Timsina is Regional Coordinator of South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE), a regional network of mass base organizations such as peasant rights organizations, women rights and labor rights organization, human rights organizations, academic institutions and critical intellectuals of South Asia. He is also coordinator of People's SAARC- a regional common platform of people's of South Asia. Netra is former president of NGO Federation of Nepal, a national platform of CSOs of Nepal. He obtained post graduate degree (PhD) from the University of Reading, UK in 2003.



**Chandanie Watawala | Steering Committee| Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL)**

She is the Executive Director of the Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL). She has been involved in organizing several of ANFREL's election observation missions as Mission Coordinator, and was the manager in charge of Myanmar office from June 2015 to August 2016. She has been participating in international election observation missions since 2007 and has observed 15 elections. Prior to her work in ANFREL, she has been with different organizations. She started her NGO activism in Sri Lanka as a National Human Rights Coordinator to Caritas Sri Lanka (SEDEC), a Program Associate for the Southeast Asia Program of Forum Asia, and as a Fund Raising Adviser at the Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO). She concurrently serves as a Steering Committee Member of Asian Democracy Network (ADN), an umbrella organization of various regional networks in Asia.



**Soeung Saroeun | Steering Committee | Asia Development Alliance (ADA)**

Mr. Soeung Saroeun is the Executive Director of a longest and largest membership organization in Cambodia namely the Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC), a longest and largest membership-based organization in Cambodia. Mr. Saroeun is a co-founder and former Vice Chair of Transparency International Cambodia. At national level, on behalf of CCC, Mr. Saroeun is a member of Partnership & Harmonization Technical Working Group (TWG) of Council for Development of Cambodia (CDC), a member of Decentralization and Deconcentration TWG of Ministry of Interior (MoI), a member of Poverty Reduction and Planning TWG of Ministry of Planning (MoP), and a member of Public Administrator Reform TWG of the Ministry of Civil Servant (MCS), and he is a Co-chair of Working Group between General Tax Department and Associations/NGOs, Ministry of Economic and Finance. At the regional and international levels, Mr. Saroeun is the Co-Convener of Asia Development Alliance (ADA)-a regional forum of national development CSO platforms in Asia on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Steering Committee member of Asia Democracy Network (ADN). He is also the Vice President of Forus –an innovative global network of over 22000 organizations, empowering for effective social change. He used to serve as a Regional Coordinator for Beyond 2015 in Asia for the co-creation of UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Mr. Saroeun holds BBA and MBA in General Management from local Universities, and graduated Master of Art in Peacebuilding from Coventry University (UK).

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2018-2019



### **Dr. Nimalka FERNANDO | Sri Lanka**

Dr Nimalka Fernando is a lawyer and social activist. She served as the president of the International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR) till recently. She is a member of the Women's Political Academy (Sri Lanka) an institute pioneered by her. She has been involved for over 35 years with several women's networks both national and regional on peace, security and human rights issues and democratic, social and economic rights of South Asian citizens (SAAPE and People's SAARC). She is presently a member of Women's Rights Network in South Asia focusing on women , peace and security. She is a well-known democratic activist in Sri Lanka and bears a reputation as a human rights defender globally. She is also a commissioner of the Office on Missing Persons in Sri Lanka.



### **Sushil PYAKUREL | Nepal**

He is the former Commissioner of Nepal's National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), and founder of the Nepalese human rights organization INSEC. Since the peace agreement was signed last year 2006 Nov, Mr. Pyakurel has been engaged in raising national and international attention on the issue of Past Human Rights violation and Impunity as well as transitional justice mechanism. Mr. Pyakurel played a lead role in the movement for the establishment of National Human Rights Commission 1996-2000 in Nepal. He was appointed as a commissioner at the first National Human Rights Institution, NHRC representing the Civil Society in 2000. Currently, Mr. Pyakurel is Chair of Alliance for Social Dialogue, (ASD). As the most respected and distinguished human rights defender in Nepal, he is lobbying towards addressing the avoidance of impunity and accountability in capacity of the President of the Accountability Watch Committee (AWC) a collective initiative of civil society against Impunity. Mr. Pyakurel is the winner of Gwangju Prize for Human Rights in 2010.



### **Jose Luis "Chito" GASCON | The Philippines**

Jose Luis Martin "Chito" Gascon was appointed Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of the Philippines in 2015; and his term will last until 2022. He has been active in public and government service for more than 30 years, at one time holding positions at the Department of Education and Office of the President, both as Undersecretary, and had most recently served as member of the Human Rights Violations Victims Claims Board. He is the youngest member of both the Constitutional Commission that drafted the 1987 Philippine Constitution and the 8th Philippine Congress. He served as Panel Member at Peace Negotiations with the National Democratic Front (NDF) from 2001-2004 and was the Chairperson from 2010-2014 of the Government's Human Rights Monitoring Committee (GPhMC) of that peace process within the framework of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL). His continuing reform advocacies are in the areas of human rights, access to justice and the rule of law, transparency and accountability initiatives, political and electoral reforms, peace and conflict transformation, people's participation and civic education, and state building in the

context of democratic transitions. He holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy and law from the University of the Philippines, and a master of law (LLM) degree specializing in International Law (Human Rights, Law of Peace, and Settlement of International Disputes) from Cambridge University as a member of St. Edmund's College through a joint British Chevening and Cambridge Overseas Trust Scholarship. He has received recognition for his reform efforts, including the Benigno S. Aquino Fellowship for Public Service in 2001, the Asian Public Intellectual Fellowship in 2007 and the Asian Leadership Fellowship in 2008.



#### **Dr. Michael KAU | Taiwan**

Dr. Kau is currently a Senior Fellow at the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, a non-profit national think tank devoted to the study and promotion of democracy and human rights. Previously, he served as Taiwan's Representative to the European Union, and was Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and founding President of the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy. Born and raised in Taiwan, Dr. Kau studied political science at National Taiwan University and earned his PH. D. degree in comparative politics and international relations at Cornell University. He had a long and distinguished academic career in the United States, before returning to Taiwan to serve in government. He was a Professor of Political Science and Director of the East Asian Security Program at Brown University for over thirty years, during which he also served as faculty advisor to various East Asian programs /centers at Columbia, Cornell, and Harvard Universities.

#### **Anselmo Lee | South Korea**



He is Adjunct Professor at Graduate School of Public Policy and Civic Engagement at Kyunghee University since 2008. (Global governance, human rights, SDGs, etc.) Internationally, he is one of the founders and senior advisers to the Asia Development Alliance (ADA), a regional forum of national development CSO platforms in Asia on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Asia Democracy Network (ADN). He used to be a board member of CIVICUS, World Alliance for Citizens' Participation (2013-2015). In Korea, he has been Executive Director of the Korea Human Rights Foundation (KHRF) from 2010 to 2017. He is a member of Human Rights Experts Committee of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and Policy Committee of Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation (KCOC). He used to be Chair of the Steering Committee of Korea Civil Society Forum on International Development Cooperation (KoFID).

Previously he as civil servant worked for the National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK) as Director General in charge of policy and education (2008-2010). He also served as Executive Director of Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), a Bangkok-based regional human right NGO (2005-2008.4) after working in Geneva for 8 years (1997-2004) as Secretary General of International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs (ICMICA)-Pax Romana, global network of Catholic professionals and intellectuals committed to social justice, human rights and peace. He majored in sociology at the

Seoul National University and got the master degree in sociology from Catholic University of Korea in 2005.



**Dr. Hyung-Sik Shin | South Korea**

Dr. Shin is currently an Adjunct Professor of Pukyong National Univ. He has previously held positions as director of planning, director of memorial project, director of education and training, director of planning & public relations department, and director of planning & coordination department at the Korea Democracy Foundation. Dr. Shin worked for Asia Democracy Network as Secretary General from founding assembly Autumn 2013 until December 2015. He received his B.A. in Sociology from Seoul National University, and received M.A. and Ph.D in Political Science from Kyonggi University.

# SECRETARIAT



**Ichal Supriadi | Secretary-General | Indonesia**

Ichal Supriadi is currently the Secretary-General of the Asia Democracy Network and based in Bangkok, Thailand. Previous to his current position he worked as the Executive Director of the Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL). He attended over 30 international elections observation mission in the Asian countries since 1998. He first engaged with the Indonesian student movement, and then joined the Independent elections monitoring committee (KIPP) as district coordinator in 1998, later he held the position as executive director on the province level in 2003 before he joined ANFREL in 2016. He actively engages in the democracy movement and is the co-founder of Democracy Watch Indonesia (2001), co-founder of INDEPT Indonesia (2012). He obtained his Master's in Human Rights from Mahidol University, Thailand.



**Soo Yon Suh | Program Manager | South Korea**

Ms. Soo Yon Suh is currently the Program Manager at the Asia Democracy Network (ADN). Since 2013, Ms. Suh has been coordinating various advocacy projects and initiatives promoting democracy and human rights regionally in Asia at the ADN. Ms. Suh's previous posts include the Korea Human Rights Foundation (KHRF) and the National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK). She received her Master's in Korean (Area Studies: Korean Peninsula) from the University of Hawaii at Manoa completing the National Security Education Program's (NSEP) Language Flagship Program and her Bachelor's from the University of Illinois at Chicago in Political Science. She is currently based in Seoul, Korea.



**Inae Joo | Program Administrative Officer | South Korea**

In Ae Joo is the Program Administrative Officer at the Asia Democracy Network Secretariat in Seoul. Prior to joining ADN, she worked as a research assistant at Sogang Graduate School of International Studies, International Relations department. She held position at the Salzburg Global Seminar as a program intern, in Salzburg, Austria. Ms. Joo received her Bachelor's degree in International Relations at the Keimyung Adams College and her Master's degree in International Relations from Sogang Graduate School of International Studies.

# DONORS | PARTNERS

Open Society Foundation | OSF



The Open Society Foundations work to build vibrant and tolerant societies whose governments are accountable and open to the participation of all people. The OSF seek to strengthen the rule of law; respect for human rights, minorities, and a diversity of opinions; democratically elected governments; and a civil society that helps keep government power in check. The OSF works in every part of the world, the Open Society Foundations place a high priority on protecting and improving the lives of people in marginalized communities.

National Endowment for Democracy | NED



[www.ned.org](http://www.ned.org)

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) is a private, non-profit 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 project of non-governmental groups abroad who are working for democratic goals in more than 90 countries.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea



[www.mofa.go.kr/ENG](http://www.mofa.go.kr/ENG)

the MOFA was inaugurated according to the government organization act enacted by the Government of the Republic of Korea on July 17, 1948, to be in charge of diplomacy, external economic policy, overseas Korean nationals, International situation analysis and overseas [promotional affairs. The MOFA has been actively engage and supportive to the global democratic promotions through intergovernmental bodies, international Non Government organization and global recognized platforms.

Korea Democracy Foundation



[www.kdemo.or.kr](http://www.kdemo.or.kr)

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. Especially, by the president Moon Jae-in's statement "to actively support the construction of the Democracy and Human Rights Memorial Hall" at the 31st anniversary ceremony of the June 10 Democratic Uprising in 2018, the construction project has been accelerated on the place of the former Anticommunist Office of the National Police Agency in Namyongdong, Seoul(presently, Human Rights Center of the National Police Agency).

### Community of Democracies



<https://community-democracies.org>

The Community of Democracies (CoD) is a global intergovernmental coalition comprised of the Governing Council Member States that support adherence to common democratic values and standards outlined in the Warsaw Declaration. The CoD is represented in the international fora by the elected Secretary General. Since its establishment in 2000, the Community of Democracies gradually developed from a conference initiative into a global intergovernmental coalition of democratic states and a multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue and discussion. The Community of Democracies provides Member States with **a forum in which to work together to learn from each other and identify global priorities for diplomatic action to advance and defend democracy**, including through collective diplomatic action at the UN and in other multilateral fora. In addition to facilitating joint diplomatic action, the Community provides an international forum that **facilitates mutual dialogue, learning, and exchange of experiences among Members**.

**Badan Pengawas Pemilu (Electoral Supervisory Body)  
Republic of Indonesia.**



[www.bawaslu.go.id](http://www.bawaslu.go.id)

Bawaslu is one of the independent electoral management bodies of the Republic of Indonesia with mandate to supervise electoral implementation. A new composition of the Bawaslu commissioner are actively engage in the promotion of democracy, electoral justice and knowledge exchange of the CSOs and elections stakeholders, including provide resources to further establishment of the Democracy Academy/education.