

Asia Democracy Assembly 2023
Fostering Democracy Movements:
Building Strategic Partnerships and Sustainable Cooperation in Asia

Program Agenda

Schedule	Description
DAY 0	THEMATIC CONFERENCES
DAY 1	SHARE INSPIRATION, LEARNING, AND IDENTIFYING PRIORITIES
08:00 am	Registrations Open
09:00-10:00	<p>Opening Ceremony Grand Chambray Ballroom</p> <p>-Opening Remarks: Ichal Supriadi, Secretary General, ADN</p> <p>-Welcome Remarks: Dr. Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, President of the Senate of Thailand</p> <p>-Welcome Speeches (Video)</p> <p>-Welcome Performance</p>
10:00 - 10:30	<p>Keynote</p> <p>Reimagining Ways Towards Resilient and Vibrant Democratic Movements</p> <p><i>Autocratic values and practices, like disinformation, the undermining of political processes, and repression of fundamental rights, continue to spread wide amid the clamor to promote democracy. The speaker will propose ways to enable a stronger response to enable robust democratic movements and reverse regression. It will focus on creative, innovative ways to empower pro-democracy actors, propose new partnerships with other stakeholders, and other engagements to help democracy bounce back and reclaim civic spaces.</i></p> <p>Dr. Jose Ramos-Horta, The President of the Republic Democratic of Timor Leste, and Nobel Peace Laureate.</p>
10:30 - 10:50	Coffee Break
10:50 - 12:30pm	RISETalk 1: Confronting the Goliaths: The Borderless Challenges We Face

	<p><i>This session will address the borderless issues that contemporary Asian democracies confront. The session will delve into the powerful factors contributing to the growing trend of “autocratization” including information disorders, foreign illiberal influences, corruption, and challenges to peace and security. The primary objective of the session is to discover common ground on how to empower stakeholders to respond to these issues, building upon existing efforts and exploring potential actions.</i></p> <p><i>Objective: To increase awareness on the borderless issues and entities impacting Asian democracies, highlight strategies and trigger actions on how to respond to these issues and entities.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Malou Mangahas, Investigative Journalist (On Anti-democratic Influencing: How do we preserve democratic values amid the rise of anti-democratic influencing operations?)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Mubashar Hasan, Post-Doctoral Researcher, Department of Cultural Studies & Oriental Languages (What are transnational democracy issues? Context, impacts to institutions and movements, and responses)</p> <p>John Samuel, Asia Regional Director, Oxfam International (On CSO and movement repression: How do we empower civil society organizations and strengthen movements amid rising authoritarianism and crises?)</p> <p>Asad Baig, Executive Director, Media Matters for Democracy (On Mis- and Disinformation: How can we rise above and minimize the impact of misinformation and disinformation on democratic processes?)</p> <p>Cynthia Gabriel, Senior Adviser, Center to Combat Corruption and Cronyism (C4), Malaysia (On corruption: Why is corruption hard to stop, and how do we demand accountability?)</p> <p>Guide Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are these borderless issues and how do they impact and harm our democracies? 2. As members of the pro-democracy sector, have we been effective and inefficient in responding to these borderless issues? Are there alternative actions we should consider?
12:30-14::00	Lunch
14:00-15:00	<p>Asia Democracy Outlook: Presenting the Thematic Conference Reports</p> <p><i>Representatives of the Thematic Discussions convened before the assembly during Day 0 will present the key highlights of their discussions. This will include the identification of areas of concern, agreements reached, and specific calls for action that demand the attention of the entire assembly.</i></p>

	<p>Moderator: Ruby Kholifah, Executive Director, AMAN</p> <p>Guide Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the most highlighted concerns and recommendations from your thematic session? 2. What new actions should pro-democracy actors undertake to promote pro-democracy consolidation in the national and regional levels?
15:00-15:20	Coffee Break
15:20-17:00	<p>RISETalk 2: Looking for New Paths Toward Effective Defense of Democratic Institutions and Processes</p> <p><i>RISETalk 2 delves into innovative approaches to preserve and safeguard our democratic institutions in light of the challenges that render them ineffectual. The session will examine the factors inhibiting the growth of our democracies and explore the specific ways in which these factors impact various institutions. Additionally, it will discuss strategies to fortify our electoral processes, address the weaponization of legislative procedures, and tackle the issue of delayed justice within our judicial systems. The session aims to present creative solutions to reclaim and revitalize our democratic institutions.</i></p> <p><i>Objective: To display new efficient and effective initiatives to best protect and defend democratic processes and institutions, promote policy and informal actions that reinforce pro-democracy development, and catalyze democratization.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Debbie Stothard, Founder and Coordinator, ALTSEAN-Burma</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chonthicha “Lookate” Jaengraew, Member of Parliament, Move Forward Party. (On legislative processes: In what new ways can we engage our legislative bodies to ensure maximum protection of democracy and rights?) - Dongpo Deng, Open Culture Foundation Taiwan (On Tech and Democracy: How can we creatively utilize technology to advance and defend democracy?) - Bivitri Susanti, Deputy Chair and Lecturer, Indonesia Jentera School of Law; (On electoral processes: What new ways can we ensure the sanctity of our elections, through legal reforms and informal engagements?) - Nurul Kabir, Editor, New Age (On media: What are the media sector’s new strategies and tactics to function amid challenges of restrictive spaces?) <p>Question:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are current trends which challenge our democratic processes and institutions? 2. What new effective, innovative actions, strategies and opportunities should sectors should be aware of to rise above and combat the degradation of our democratic institutions and processes?
17:00-17:15	Day 1 Closing Speech / Reflection
18:00	SOLIDARITY DINNER - ADN's 10th Anniversary Ceremony Solidarity Speech: Pita Limjaoenrat , Politician, Move Forward Party (Video)
DAY 2	
DAY 2	ENHANCE CONSOLIDATION AND STRATEGY BUILDING
08:30 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 9:30	2nd Day Opening Speech Augusto “Gus” Miclat Jr. , Chairperson, Asia Democracy Network Governing Council Executive Director, Initiatives for International Dialogue
9:30-10:00	Keynote Democracy in the Next Decade: From an Activist’s Point of View <i>The speakers will be identifying ways on how to strengthen our pro-democracy movements in the region. They will also relay their hopes and vision for Asian democracy in the coming decade. The speakers will seek to inspire and trigger the conversations regarding our achievements, the challenges we face, and what we as advocates can do in preserving and protecting democratic values.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maria Chin-Abdullah, Former MP, Malaysia - Thinzar Shunlei Yi, Advocacy Coordinator, Action Committee for Democracy Development - Phil Robertson, Deputy Asia Director, Human Rights Watch (TBC)
10:00-10:20	Coffee Break
10:20-12:00pm	RISETalk 3: Working Towards Reinvigorated and Interconnected Democracy Programming and Consolidation <i>In this session, pro-democracy actors will dissect how responsive, consolidated and effective our democracy initiatives are in responding to contemporary challenges in Asia and beyond. This session aims to pave new ways on building a more robust practice of supporting pro-democracy endeavors.</i>

	<p><i>Objective: The session aims to provide various stakeholders to reflect on the effectiveness and consolidation of our current democracy initiatives. It aims to identify good and bad practices that should reflect on to calibrate our democracy programming practices.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Windi Arini Imam, Programme Officer, Raoul Wallenberg Institute</p> <p>Ambassador Yukio Takasu, Chairperson, Future of Democracy Study Team, Japan Center for International Exchange</p> <p>Enrique de Obarrio, Chairperson, Community of Democracies Civil Society Pillar</p> <p>Kristina Uy Gadaingan, Programs Director, ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights</p> <p>Ryota Jonen, Director, World Movement for Democracy.</p> <p>Roque Raymundo (OSF Asia Deputy Director) (TBC)</p>
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-15:30	<p style="text-align: center;">BUILDING STRATEGIES</p> <p>RISEHuddles 1: Enabling Inclusive Democracies and Movements</p> <p>Room:</p> <p><i>In this Huddle, we will propose possible workable and innovative actions to ensure meaningful inclusion in democracy building. The suggestions will focus on how we can promote inclusion from a generational, sectoral and thematic point of view. It will also focus on ways on how we can avoid silos within the democratic sector.</i></p> <p><i>Guide Questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What actions can be done to improve inclusiveness in our democracies, movements, and democratization processes? - How can we further promote inclusion and intersectionality in our endeavors to build democracies? Are there good or bad practices we should note? - How can we reduce silos and strengthen cooperation in regional/sub-regional, and national advocacies?
	<p>RISEHuddles 2: Forging Meaningful Engagements with Authorities to protect democratic principles</p> <p>Room:</p> <p><i>In this Huddle we will propose ways on how we can strengthen engagements with authorities and political parties (specifically within parliaments and executive authorities), especially on crafting pro-democracy policies in the national and international levels. It will propose ways to address challenges in cooperation and coordination between civil society and other pro-democracy sectors with their counterpart governmental authorities</i></p>

	<p><i>and institutions, without compromising on our mandate as advocates for democracy.</i></p> <p><i>Guide Questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can we elevate civil society participation in political processes and in dealing with authorities? Elevate their bargaining power in advocating for democratic reform (empowerment of CSOs in dealing with authorities)? - Any specific areas of engagements that should be prioritized? - Are there good practices that we can emulate to enable meaningful engagements between these sectors for effective democratic policy making and implementation? Bad practices to avoid?
	<p>RISEHuddles 3: Protecting and Promoting Pro-Democracy Narratives amid Challenging Times</p> <p>Room:</p> <p><i>In this Huddle, we will think of ways that promote and protect pro-democracy narratives amid the rise of rhetoric and messaging which undermine democracy-related initiatives. We will reflect on the impact of factors such as the rise of social media and disinformation in pro-democracy advocacy, as well the role of academia, media, and think tanks in ensuring pro-democracy messaging is presented and magnified.</i></p> <p><i>Guide Questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What undermines our efforts to promote and protect pro-democracy narratives at present? - How can we, pro-democracy actors, ensure that the way we protect and promote pro-democracy messaging is effective? Are there good and bad practices we should adopt? - Are there specific messages that we should amplify? Are there specific actors that we should be targeting?
	<p>RiseHuddles 4: Sustaining the Democracy Movement in Exile – Best Practices</p> <p>Room:</p> <p><i>When a significant number of activists leave their country, they must learn to navigate their new roles as both exiles and members of a movement of exiles. The objective of this workshop is to engage in peer learning based on the experiences of pro-democracy movements in exile from Eurasia, Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa. The workshop will examine the best practices for creating and sustaining a democratic movement in exile that remains relevant to and supports the pro-democracy movement remaining in the country.</i></p>
15:30-16:15	RISE Huddle Sessions Reporting and Conclusion
16:15-17:00	CLOSING (WHAT IS NEXT FOR ADN) and SHARING LINK FOR COLLABORATION ON DOCUMENT BUILDING