



The Asia Democracy Assembly 2025

Defending Democracy, Mobilizing Movements, and New Frontiers for Citizen Action

DRAFT AGENDA (subject to change)

Bangkok, Thailand | November 1-3, 2025

Time	Sessions
DAY 1: NOVEMBER 1, 2025 – Welcome Ceremonies and the Thematic Discussions	
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	<p><u>Welcome Ceremonies and the International Civil Society Week 2025</u> <u>Opening Ceremonies</u></p> <p>The Thammasat University, CIVICUS, the Asia Pacific Social Forum and the Asia Democracy Network will jointly welcome all attendees of the three events in the Thammasat University Tha Prachan Campus in Bangkok, Thailand.</p>
<p><u>Thematic Discussions</u></p> <p>These sessions will unpack cross-cutting issues impacting democracy across Asia such as technology, disinformation, and securitization, among others. By drawing links across movements and countries, participants will explore shared challenges and identify opportunities for solidarity, innovation, and joint action.</p>	
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	<p>Technology, Artificial Intelligence, and Democracy</p> <p>This session will explore how emerging technologies from AI-driven surveillance to algorithmic manipulation are shaping civic space, political participation, and public discourse in Asia, and identify safeguards to protect digital rights and democratic governance.</p> <p>Lead: SAFEnet</p> <hr/> <p>Disinformation, Propaganda, and Populist Rhetoric: Media under Siege</p> <p>Focusing on the crisis of information integrity, this session will examine how disinformation campaigns, hate speech, and captured media ecosystems are being weaponized to delegitimize democratic actors, with an emphasis on strengthening independent journalism and regional media alliances.</p> <p>Lead: Asia Democracy Chronicles</p> <hr/> <p>Next Generation Democracy Leadership</p> <p>Highlighting the experiences of youth-led movements across Asia, this session will examine how young activists are sustaining momentum, building transnational alliances, and shaping new political imaginaries in hostile environments.</p>

	<p>Lead: ASEAN Youth Forum (AYF), South Asia Youth Network (SAYN), Milk Tea Alliance</p>
	<p>From the Margins to the Center: Making our Democracy Movements more Inclusive This session aims to reframe democracy through the lens of historically marginalized communities, addressing structural exclusion and co-creating strategies to ensure that democratic movements are intersectional, inclusive, and transformative.</p> <p>Lead: ASC, ADRF, AIPP</p>
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	<p>Militarization and Securitization of Civic and Democratic Space Analyzing how governments use national security frameworks, emergency laws, and military force to restrict activism, this session will assess regional patterns and explore counter-strategies that protect democratic spaces under siege.</p> <p>Lead: SIA, GPPAC, AMAN</p>
	<p>Safeguarding the Integrity of our Democratic Institutions: Enabling Greater Representation and Accountability With increasing manipulation of democratic institutions, this session will address threats to electoral integrity, judicial independence, and legislative oversight sharing lessons on institutional reform and regional monitoring mechanisms.</p> <p>Lead: ANFREL, CALD</p>
	<p>Diaspora and Migrant Communities in Democracy Struggles Focusing on the political agency of migrant and diaspora communities, this session will explore their role in promoting democratic values, transnational organizing, and influencing home-country politics through solidarity, remittances, and advocacy.</p> <p>Lead: MFA</p>
<p>DAY 2: NOVEMBER 2, 2025 – Asia Democracy Assembly 2025 Plenary Discussions</p>	
9:00 am - 10:00 am	<p><u>Asia Democracy Assembly Opening Session</u> – Invited speakers will address the participants, to provide insights on the region’s state of democracy, and encourage pro-democracy stakeholders to continue the fight for democratic renewal. Pro-democracy artists will also be invited to inspire the participants with performances tackling themes of freedom and hope.</p> <p><i>Opening Message:</i> Mr. Ichal Supriadi, Secretary-General, Asia Democracy Network</p>
10:00 am - 11:00 am	

	<p><u>Plenary 1: The State of Democracy in Asia – Where are we now?</u></p> <p>This session will present key insights from ADN’s 2024 Democracy Outlook Report, analyzing major democratic events, emerging resistance, and institutional shifts across Asia. Moving beyond assessment, this discussion will identify regional priorities that demand immediate intervention, setting the stage for the day’s strategy-focused sessions. This session will follow a candid talk show format, after which questions from the audience will be entertained.</p> <p>Discussion themes include Asia’s geopolitical situation and the role of civil society amid autocratic expansion, ADN’s findings from the 2024 Democracy Overview, Regional Consultations, and Thematic Discussions, and innovations and priorities for pro-democracy mobilization.</p>
<p>11:00 am – 11:10 am</p>	<p><u>“Kanom” Talk: Sustenance for Democratic Renewal</u></p>
<p>11:10 am – 12:30 pm</p>	<p><u>Plenary 2: Resistance Without Borders – Sustaining Struggles Under Military Rule, Occupation and Forced Exile</u></p> <p>From Myanmar to Afghanistan, Palestine to Hong Kong, authoritarian regimes and occupying forces have forced movements into exile, underground resistance, or total suppression. This session examines how these struggles can remain effective, connected, and supported. This session will follow a storytelling format. Activists will tell the story of their struggles and hopes as they fight for freedom and democracy outside the borders of their country. Question and answer will be facilitated after the storytelling session.</p> <p>Democracy activists will tell the story of how they sustain and nurture the spirit of democracy amid difficult autocratic control, the role the diaspora movement plays in international pro-democracy promotion and protections, and the importance of cross-border collaboration in combating transnational repression. The storytellers will then answer questions from the audience after the presentations.</p>
<p>12:30 pm - 1:30 pm</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>1:30 pm - 1:40 pm</p>	<p><u>“Kanom” Talk: Sustenance for Democratic Renewal</u></p>
<p>1:40 pm - 3:00 pm</p>	<p><u>Plenary 3: Breaking the Wheel: Dismantling the Cycle of Autocratic Control</u></p> <p>Autocratic tools for control are varied. Autocrats weaponize public sentiments, utilizing divisive populist and nationalist sentiments to prop-up support and control, while dominating democratic institutions to subvert checks and balances. Regimes have become so powerful, monopolizing control over public resources through corrupt practices and untransparent dealings with complicit private entities which stunt genuine development.</p>

	<p>The influence of autocratic actors has spread unchecked as autocratic regimes shield each other from international justice mechanisms.</p> <p>For this session, pro-democracy actors will be presenting case studies of how autocratic actors utilize various instruments that inhibit democratic progress and renewal, and how activists go against the cycle of repression. These instruments include the use of populist and nationalist sentiments, capture of democratic institutions, unabated corruption and unjust economic development, and expansion of autocrat-to-autocrat support systems. After the presentations, the speakers will answer questions from the audience.</p>
3:00 pm - 3:15 pm	Coffee Break
3:15 pm - 3:25 pm	<u>“Kanom” Talk: Sustenance for Democratic Renewal</u>
3:25 pm - 4:55 pm	<p><u>Plenary 4: Unraveling the Authoritarian Playbook and New Tactics for Resistance</u></p> <p>Authoritarian regimes may be refining their tactics, but resistance movements, activists, and civil society groups are evolving just as fast. This session shifts the focus from repression to resilience—highlighting new, unexpected ways movements are successfully countering state control, reclaiming civic space, and outmaneuvering autocratic strategies. From underground networks and decentralized organizing to legal loopholes and digital resistance, this session will explore how democracy movements are breaking authoritarian playbooks rather than just responding to them. This session will follow a TEDTalk-style presentation format. After all presentations are done, an open forum will be opened for 30 minutes.</p> <p>Discussions will center on topics such as outsmarting surveillance and how tech can assist in evading crackdowns, case studies of state overreach backfired and led to stronger movements, successes and challenges of decentralized and leaderless resistance, and reclaiming democratic narratives.</p>
4:55 pm - 5:25 pm	<p><u>Closing Ceremony</u></p> <p><i>Reflections:</i> Democracy activists will reflect on the discussions that happened throughout the day, and offer messages of inspiration for democracy stakeholders present to sustain the spirit of democratic struggle.</p> <p><i>Closing Message:</i> Ruby Kholifah, Chair, ADN Governing Council</p>

**DAY 3: NOVEMBER 3, 2025 – Strategy Building for the Asia Democracy Assembly 2025
Outcome Document**

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Plenary 5: The Final Strategy Session – Where Do We Go From Here?
(Invitation Only)

The final session will consolidate the assembly’s key takeaways, formalize collective strategies, and define concrete next steps for post-assembly action. This session led by the Innovations for Change – East Asia, will consolidate agreements defining regional priorities & mechanisms for regional democracy promotion and protections, as well as commitments from key stakeholders, ensuring partners, movements, and civil society leave with clear next steps and collaboration points.