



STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC UNITY IN ASIA

Democracy Lounge Networking Session: **Wednesday, May 9** [3:45 pm – 5:45 pm]
King Fahd Palace Hotel, Room C06

Ninth Global Assembly “Building Strategic Partnerships for Democratic Renewal”

The regression of democracy is a global phenomenon, and appears Asia is the hardest hit. In Asia, we are experiencing an increase of authoritarian governments restricting fundamental freedoms and space for civil society. Asian regional solidarity has become significantly valuable in combating these challenges to democracy.

The Asia Democracy Network, a regional civil society led network of like minded democracy advocates, was established in 2013 with the aim to strengthen regional solidarity and better promote democracy. In response to the regression of democracy, ADN aims strengthen democratic unity in order to address the challenges and provide support to countries in democracy crisis. Asia also has strong democratic nations therefore, when working in unison can bring effective change to the region.

This session will be a platform gathering democracy advocates from Asia to discuss ways and strategies to establish regional cooperation to progress democratic norms and order. The session will stream the discussion to find a way to promote and defend democracy in Asia through involving different stakeholders. In addition, we will discuss how support can be provides in times of crisis to increase people’s confidence in democracy through the redesigning of the narrative and norms of democracy.

I. Changing the Narrative: Democratic Values and Standards for Asia

The promotion of democracy has become increasingly difficult in Asia. Many governments have utilized the argument of democracy being a western concept that is threatening their autonomy. The physical vastness of Asia and its diverse cultures and history has limitations on democracy advocates of Asia to come together in unity. How can democracy advocates in Asia collectively define Democratic Values and Standards for Asia that can effectively utilize in democracy promotion? How can we change the narrative to achieve democratic unity in Asia?

II. ADN Strategy on Democratic Unity in Asia

Asia Democracy Network will present on the key strategies for democratic unity in Asia and have a consultation with democracy advocates to receive input and strategize further. The main discussion will be centered around how we can engages democrats in different countries to foster solidarity to support those struggling in closing societies and find ways to work together to strengthen democratic order.

Resources Person will be display shortly

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