



## **Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats**

Unit 410 4/F La Fuerza Plaza 2, 2241 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City 1231 Philippines

Tel: (+632) 8196071 • Fax: (+632) 8196055 • Email: [info@cald.org](mailto:info@cald.org) • Website: [www.cald.org](http://www.cald.org)

17 March 2016

### **Hon. Christian Lindner**

Leader, Free Democratic Party (FDP) of Germany

Parliamentary leader, FDP Group in the Landtag of North-Rhine-Westphalia

Dear Mr. Lindner:

The Executive Committee of the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD), which convened in Singapore over the weekend, would like to extend its warmest congratulations to the FDP for its electoral success in the Baden-Württemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate state elections. We believe that the party's victory in these crucial elections is an indication that Germany's political landscape is becoming more favorable for the return of the FDP in the national political scene. While the party narrowly missed the electoral threshold in the Saxony-Anhalt state elections, its still commendable performance supports the trend that FDP is regaining political ground.

Today, more than ever, Germany needs the type of politics that FDP represents. The rise of polarizing, extremist political leaders and parties in Germany and the rest of Europe is threatening the core values that we hold dear as liberals and as human beings – individual liberty, democracy, rule of law, tolerance and mutual respect. As a network of liberals and democrats in Asia, we too are facing the twin challenges of populism and politics of hate in our part of the world. Like you, these challenges only further strengthen our commitment to liberal and democratic values, and our resolve to fight extremism and polarizing politics.

The FDP has always been an integral part of Germany's political landscape, and has been home to many reformist and progressive ideas. The recent state elections give us great confidence that the party will soon be returning to the Bundestag come October 2017.

Again, we extend our sincerest congratulations. Long live the FDP!

Sincerely yours,

Chairperson, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

President, United Nations Environment Assembly

Co-Chairperson, Civil Will Green Party of Mongolia