



CALD 2015 CONFERENCE ON

Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda

6-10 November 2015 | Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

CONFERENCE REPORT





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Concept Note	1
Program	4
Profiles of Speakers and Session Chairs	19
List of Participants	36
Executive Summary	38
CALD Women's Caucus Seminar	
Welcome Remarks	43
Keynote Address	46
Panel Discussion: What did the Beijing Platform of Action (BPA) achieve two decades after its adoption?	48
Women's View: Women Leadership in the 21 st Century	52
Luncheon Remark	55
Special Session on Women and Religion	56
Conference on Sustainable Development Goals and Post-Development Agenda	
Welcome Remarks	63
Keynote Speeches	68
Synthesis	72
Summary of the Open Space Discussion	75



Special Session on the Use of Death Penalty in Asia	77
Special Session on Elections in Asia	83
Keynote Address	90
Closing Session	91



CONCEPT NOTE

In September 2015, member-states of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly convened in a Special Summit on Sustainable Development to adopt the “Post-2015 Development Agenda” (PDA). PDA is described as “an ambitious global vision that seeks to tackle extreme poverty, curb climate change, and put the world on a more prosperous and sustainable path by 2030.” This vision statement serves as the basis of the new set of goals and targets that build on and succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the deadline for the conclusion of which is set at the end of 2015.

The successor to the MDGs, called the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is envisioned to be “more ambitious and interconnected than its predecessor, with a more comprehensive vision of development embracing economic, social and environmental dimensions.” The intent is for these goals to provide a reference in setting national priorities, in rich and poor countries alike.

The SDGs include the following:

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere;
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture;
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all;
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation;
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries;

11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (taking note of agreements made by the UNFCCC forum);
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss;
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.



In line with these 17 goals, 169 sub-targets were identified. The full list of these sub-targets can be viewed here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal>.

A lively debate is ongoing as regards SDGs and their sub-targets. Those supportive of these new development goals argue that the increase in their number and indicators is due to the fact that they are broader, more context-specific and more ambitious than their MDG predecessor. On the other hand, there are those like *The Economist*, which claim that a set of 169 sub-targets would be very difficult to implement and monitor. Moreover, it said: “The MDGs were broad enough to allow local variation. The SDGs are narrow. They will lead to cookie-cutter development policies, which will almost certainly work less well.”

Recognizing the importance of this debate on the future global development framework, the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD), in cooperation with the Civil Will Green Party (CWGP) of Mongolia, and with the support of Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) for Freedom, is holding a conference on the SDGs in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 6-10 November 2015. A CALD Women's Caucus Seminar and CALD Executive Committee Meeting will take place as well. The themes and objectives of the events can be found below:

CALD 2015 Conference on Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda

Conference Theme: Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals; Shaping the Post-2015 Development Agenda – The Role of Liberals

Conference Objectives:

- To assess to what extent countries with CALD member-parties are able to achieve the MDGs;
- To identify key issues and concerns where liberals can make a positive contribution in shaping and achieving the SDGs and their sub-targets;
- To serve as a forum for discussion of the elements of post-2015 development agenda, particularly those most important to the work of CALD such as human rights, economic freedom, inequality, climate change etc.; and
- To provide the means of cooperation, exchange of ideas, interchange of information and network-building among – and between – liberal parties, networks and organizations with a liberal orientation and vision.

CALD Women's Caucus Seminar

Seminar Theme: Women Leadership 20 Years After the Beijing Platform of Action

Seminar Objectives:

- To assess to what extent countries with CALD member-parties are able to realize the goals of Beijing Platform of Action (BPA), particularly those relating to fostering women leadership;
- To share experiences and best practices on how to cultivate women leadership and participation;
- To develop the leadership potential of women members of CALD member-parties and in the process, create a network of new women leaders from CALD member-parties; and
- To provide the means of cooperation, exchange of ideas, interchange of information and network-building among – and between - women political leaders from CALD and from other liberal organizations or networks.



CALD 2015 CONFERENCE ON

Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda

6-10 November 2015 | Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

PROGRAM

Friday, 6 November 2015

Arrival in Ulaanbaatar / Welcome Dinner

Arrival in Ulaanbaatar

Pick-up by Civil Will Green Party (CWGP) staff

**CWGP staff will be holding a placard with your name*

Check-in at the hotel of international delegates

The Corporate Hotel

9-2 Chinggis Avenue, Sukhbaatar District-1

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Tel: +976-11-334411

Welcome Dinner

Venue: Chairman Restaurant, The Corporate Hotel

18:30

Registration

19:00

Welcome Remarks

Mr. Gan-ochir Zunduisuren

Head, Foreign Relations

Civil Will Green Party, Mongolia

Hon. Oyun Sanjaasuren, MP
Chairperson
Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats
President, United Nations Environment Assembly
Co-Chairperson, Civil Will Green Party, Mongolia

19:15

Dinner

21:00

End of dinner

Saturday, 7 November 2015

*CALD Women's Caucus Seminar / CALD Executive Committee Meeting /
CWGP-hosted Reception and Cultural Presentation*

CALD Women's Caucus Seminar

Women Leadership 20 Years After the Beijing Platform of Action

Venue: Ulaanbaatar Hall, The Corporate Hotel

Beijing, September 1995 - 17,000 participants and 30,000 activists attended the Fourth World Conference on Women and its parallel forum to push for gender equality and the empowerment of all women, everywhere. The event ended with the adoption of the Beijing Platform of Action (BPA), described as "the most progressive blueprint ever for advancing women's rights." It included commitments under 12 critical areas of concern namely: (1) Women and the environment; (2) Women in power and decision-making; (3) The girl child; (4) Women and the economy; (5) Women and poverty; (6) Violence against women; (7) Human rights of women; (8) Education and training of women; (9) Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; (10) Women and health; (11) Women and the media; and (12) Women and armed conflict.

Twenty years after the adoption of BPA, assessments show that women are still struggling to address these critical areas of concern. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, said that these findings point to a failure of leadership. "The leaders entrusted with the power to realize the promises made in Beijing have failed women and girls," she said.

For one, The World Policy Analysis Centre at the University of California at Los Angeles noted that more than 170 countries – about 90 per cent – still have laws and policies that end up denying women and girls the same rights and protections enjoyed by their male counterparts. Moreover, only 20 countries have female heads of state or government, and women account for only about one in five members of parliament.

On a more positive note, the people behind the BPA see its 20th anniversary as a way for opening new opportunities to reconnect, regenerate commitment, charge up political will, and mobilize the public. After all, it has been a proven fact that empowering women empowers humanity - economies develop faster, families grow healthier and children become better educated.

The CALD Women's Caucus, being the foremost venue for discussion of women's issues in the Asian liberal network, hopes to participate in the global debate assessing the BPA, as well as on the discussion of the ways to move the women's agenda forward. By focusing on women leadership, the seminar aims to build a constituency within the CALD network that advocates for the realization of the BPA in many Asian countries, particularly in those lagging behind the adoption and implementation of the women's agenda.

08:30	Registration
-------	--------------

Opening Session

09:00	<i>Session Chair</i>
-------	----------------------

Ms. Jargalsaikhan Dondog, MD, PhD
Women's Caucus
Civil Will Green Party, Mongolia

Welcome Remarks

Ms. Monovithya Kem
Member of Permanent Bureau & Deputy Director
for Public Affairs, Cambodia National Rescue Party
on behalf of CALD Women's Caucus Chair Mu Sochua

Mr. Siegfried Herzog

Regional Director, Southeast and East Asia Office
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom,
Thailand

Hon. Oyun Sanjaasuren, MP

Chairperson, Council of Asian Liberals and
Democrats
President, United Nations Environment Assembly
Co-Chairperson, Civil Will Green Party, Mongolia

Keynote Address

Hon. Oyuntsetseg Oidov

Founder, Gender Center for Sustainable
Development (GCSD)

Panel Discussion: What did the Beijing Platform of Action achieve two decades after its adoption?

This 2015, the world marks the 20th anniversary of the BPA – providing a perfect opportunity to assess progress in the attainment of gender equality and women empowerment. In this panel discussion, each panelist will be given 10-15 minutes to share her thoughts about the successes and challenges of the BPA, particularly in her respective country/region. Afterwards, the session chair facilitates the discussion and open forum.

09:30

Session Chair

Ms. Raphaella Prugsamatz

Communication Officer
Southeast and East Asia Office
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom,
Thailand

Panelists

Ms. Jayanthi Devi Balaguru

Vice Chairperson, CALD Women's Caucus
Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia

Hon. Anneli Jäätteenmäki, MEP

Vice President of the European Parliament

Former Prime Minister of Finland

Member, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for
Europe Group

Ms. Gang Badoy Capati

www.polimetrics.net

www.rockedphilippines.org

10:45

Coffee / Tea Break

Women's View: Women Leadership in the 21st Century

This session adopts the format of the popular American television talk show *The View*, allowing more flexibility to the host/co-hosts to discuss a variety of issues relating to the topic of women leadership and its relationship with BPA. The host briefly introduces the topic and then asks her co-hosts to share their views in a free-flowing conversation and debate.

11:15

Host

Ms. Monovithya Kem

Member of Permanent Bureau & Deputy Director
for Public Affairs, Cambodia National Rescue Party

Co-Hosts

Dr. Ching-Yi Lin

Director, Department of Women's Affairs
Democratic Progressive Party, Taiwan

Ms. Victoria Garchitorena

Former Vice President for Women
Liberal Party of the Philippines

Ms. Pongsri Tarapoom

Registrar, Democrat Party, Thailand

Ms. Christine de Saint Genois

Vice President, International Network of Liberal
Women, France

12:30

Lunch

Hosted by the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats
for Europe Group



Remarks

Hon. Anneli Jäätteenmäki, MEP

Vice President of the European Parliament
Former Prime Minister of Finland
Member, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for
Europe Group

Special Session on Women and Religion

This special session addresses how women influence religious beliefs and practices and vice-versa. Women and religion are mutually constitutive - women play an important role in molding the spiritual beliefs and practices of their families and communities while religion, on the other hand, impacts on the perception of women and their role in society. In this session, compelling issues relating women and religion will be tackled such as the proposed *hudud* laws in Malaysia, the religion-driven recruitment of women in terrorist organizations, the interweaving of religious and gender discrimination, and the impact of religion on women leadership and political participation. Each panelist will be given 10-15 minutes for her/his intervention, followed by an open forum.

13:45

Session Chair

Hon. Norica Nicolai, MEP

Vice President, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats
for Europe Group, Romania

Panelists

Ms. Jayanthi Devi Balaguru

Vice Chairperson, CALD Women's Caucus
Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia

Ms. Siti Hanniatunisa

Deputy Head, Nation Awakening Party, Indonesia

Mr. Emil Kirjas

Secretary General, Liberal International, Macedonia

15:00

Coffee / Tea Break

CALD Executive Committee Meeting

Venue: Ulaanbaatar Hall, The Corporate Hotel

15:30

Presided by:

Hon. Oyun Sanjaasuren, MP

Chairperson,
Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats
President, United Nations Environment Assembly
Co-Chairperson, Civil Will Green Party, Mongolia

18:00

End of the Executive Committee Meeting

CALD Women's Caucus Administrative Session

18:00

Presided by:

Ms. Jayanthi Devi Balaguru

Vice Chairperson, CALD Women's Caucus

Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia

18:30

End of Administrative Session, Assembly at the hotel lobby and leave for reception venue

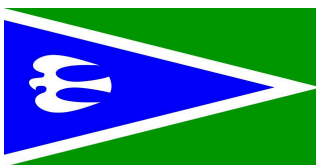
Reception and Cultural Performance

Venue: Ikh Tenger, Khan-Uul mansion, Khan-Uul District

19:30

Dinner and Cultural Performance

Hosted by the Civil Will Green Party, Mongolia



Remarks

Hon. Oyun Sanjaasuren, MP

Chairperson,

Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

President, United Nations Environment Assembly

Co-Chairperson, Civil Will Green Party, Mongolia

Hon. Gankhuyag Tserendorj

Co-Chairperson, Civil Will Green Party, Mongolia

21:30

End of dinner and return to the hotel

Sunday, 8 November 2015

CALD Conference on Sustainable Development Goals and Post-Development Agenda

CALD Conference on Sustainable Development Goals and Post-Development Agenda

Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals; Shaping the Post-2015 Development Agenda – The Role of Liberals

Venue: Ulaanbaatar Hall, The Corporate Hotel

08:30 Registration

Opening Session

09:00 *Session Chair*

Sec. J.R. Nereus “Neric” Acosta

Presidential Adviser on Environmental Protection,
Office of the President of the Philippines
Head, CALD Climate Change Committee

Welcome Remarks

Hon. Oyun Sanjaasuren, MP

Chairperson,
Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats
President, United Nations Environment Assembly
Co-Chairperson, Civil Will Green Party, Mongolia

Mr. Siegfried Herzog

Regional Director, Southeast and East Asia Office
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom,
Thailand

Introduction of the Keynote Speaker

Hon. Oyun Sanjaasuren, MP

Chairperson,
Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats
President, United Nations Environment Assembly
Co-Chairperson, Civil Will Green Party, Mongolia

Keynote Address

Hon. Namdag Battserreg, MP

Minister of Environment and Green Development,
Mongolia

Conference Photo

10:15

Coffee / Tea Break

Keynote Speeches

10:45

Session Chair

Hon. Sin Chung Kai, MP

Legislative Councilor, Hong Kong
Individual Member,
Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

Speakers

“The post-2015 development agenda and the local level: From global agreements to local solutions”

Dr. Stefanos Fotiou

Head of Unit, “Cities and Lifestyles”
United Nations Environmental Program

Hon. Sam Rainsy, MP

Minority Leader, Cambodian National Assembly
President, Cambodia National Rescue Party

Hon. Anneli Jäätteenmäki, MEP

Vice President of the European Parliament
Former Prime Minister of Finland
Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
Group

Synthesis

Ms. Gang Badoy Capati

www.polimetrics.net

www.rockedphilippines.org

12:30

Lunch

Open Space Session

This *Open Space* session with the general theme “New/ Innovative Ideas for CALD”

Open Space is a highly participative planning method in which participants self-organize around an agenda they create and manage. Participants generate issues and topics, which become basis for discussion groups around which participants self-select.

In an *open space* event, participants will have to form a circle and identify topics of interest related to the focus question. All are invited to come to the center of the circle, write down their topic on a note card, announce it to the group and post it on a schedule of discussion groups. No one can complain about a particular issue not getting discussed because everyone has equal opportunity to submit topics. If a topic is not raised, then no one felt enough passion about it to take responsibility for hosting a discussion group.

13:45

Session Chair

Mr. Siegfried Herzog

Regional Director, Southeast and East Asia Office

Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom,
Thailand

15:30

Coffee / Tea Break

Special Session on the Use of Death Penalty in Asia

Asia is witnessing a worrying trend – the reintroduction of capital punishment. It is considered as “the most prolific executing region in the world”, with the number of capital sentences carried out in China believed to exceed the rest of

the world put together. North Korea, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Singapore, among others, have recently reinstated capital punishment, and many have actually carried out executions in the past years. Amnesty International's Secretary General, Salil Shetty, put it best: "It is shameful that so many states around the world are essentially playing with people's lives – putting people to death for 'terrorism' or to quell internal instability on the ill-conceived premise of deterrence." How should liberals respond to this worrying trend? This is the primary question that this special session grapples with. Each speaker will be given 10-15 minutes for his/her presentation, followed by an open forum.

16:00

Session Chair

Mr. Jules Maaten

Country Director, Philippine Office
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

Speakers

Hon. Niel Tupas, Jr., MP

Chairperson, Committee on Justice,
Philippine House of Representatives
Liberal Party of the Philippines

Hon. Norica Nicolai, MEP

Vice President, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats
for Europe Group, Romania

Mr. Jufri Salim

Member of Central Executive Committee
Singapore Democratic Party

Mr. Emil Kirjas

Secretary General
Liberal International, Macedonia

Special Session on Elections in Asia

Following the riveting elections in Indonesia in 2014, the years 2015 and 2016 are election season in many Asian countries. This year, Sri Lanka (17 August), Singapore (11 September) and Myanmar (8 November) are holding their parliamentary elections. In 2016, Taiwan (16 January), the Philippines (9 May) and Mongolia (June) will go to the polls to elect key government officials. Many of these electoral exercises are crucial turning points in the political

development of the concerned countries. The purpose of this special session is to unravel the key issues and concerns in these elections, and to share best practices on political party and election management. Each speaker will be given 10-15 minutes for his input, followed by an open forum.

17:15

Session Chair

Mr. Moritz Kleine-Brockhof

Resident Representative, Indonesia Office
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

Speakers

Singapore

Mr. Damanhuri Bin Abas

2015 Parliamentary Election Candidate
Singapore Democratic Party

Taiwan

Hon. James Huang

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan
Director, Department of International Affairs,
Democratic Progressive Party, Taiwan

Philippines

Sec. J.R. Nereus “Neric” Acosta

Presidential Adviser on Environmental Protection,
Office of the President of the Philippines
Former Secretary General,
Liberal Party of the Philippines

Closing Session

18:30

Session Chair

Hon. Kiat Sittheamorn

Democrat Party of Thailand

Closing Remarks

Mr. Jules Maaten

Country Director, Philippine Office
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

Mr. Hanjaya Setiawan

Secretary of Government Affairs Department
Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle

Hon. Oyun Sanjaasuren, MP

Chairperson,
Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats
President, United Nations Environment Assembly
Co-Chairperson, Civil Will Green Party, Mongolia

19:00

End of Conference

Free Night

Monday, 9 November 2015

Visit in the CWGP Headquarters / Courtesy Call with the Mongolian Speaker of the Parliament / Program in the Countryside

09:00

Check-out of the hotel

*Bring clothes for overnight stay in the countryside.
You may leave the rest of your luggage at the hotel concierge if you are staying for another night on 10 November.

09:30

Assembly at the hotel lobby and leave for CWGP headquarters / Parliament

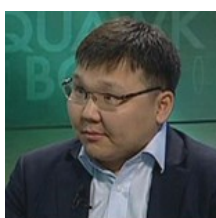
10:00

Presentation on Mongolia's Current Political Situation and the 2016 General Elections in the CWGP Headquarters

12:00	Leave for the countryside (Gorkhi-Terelj National Park)
13:30	Arrival at Gorkhi-Terelj National Park Resort Camp
14:00	Lunch
15:30	Program prepared by the host party
18:30	Dinner
Tuesday, 10 November 2015	
<i>Departure</i>	
08:00	Breakfast
10:00	Leave for Ulaanbaatar
12:00	Lunch
14:00	Check-in* at the hotel <i>*For those with flights on the next day</i> The Corporate Hotel 9-2 Chinggis Avenue, Sukhbaatar District-1 Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia Tel: +976-11-334411 Free time <i>*optional sightseeing, shopping assistance available</i>
Variable	Departure of the delegates



Welcome Remarks



Mr. Gan-Ochir Zunduisuren
Head, Foreign Relations
Civil Will Green Party, Mongolia

Mr. Gan-Ochir Zunduisuren is the Head of Foreign Relations of the Civil Will Green Party of Mongolia. He is also a member of the Advisory Board of Ministry of Environment and Green Development, and serves as the President of the Liberal Club.



Hon. Demberel Sambuu, MP
Secretary General, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats
Co-Chairperson, Civil Will Green Party, Mongolia

Hon. Demberel Sambuu is an incumbent Member of the Parliament of Mongolia and Co-Chairman of Civil Will Green Party. He has been Chairman and CEO of the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry since 1997. In 2005, he took on the position as Economic Adviser to the President of Mongolia.

Other positions Hon. Sambuu held were Vice President of the Confederation of Asia Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Chairman of the National Business Council for Sustainable Development. Additionally, he is also the Chairman of the Arbitration Court of Mongolia. Since 2007, he has been the Deputy Chairman of the National Trade and Transport Facilitation Committee and of the National Export Development Council.

Hon. Sambuu finished Economics in the Mongolian National University and later went on to study in Australia, the United States of America and Japan to complete advanced training courses in Economics. He is also the author, co-author and editor of more than 100 economic research and training publication.

Session Chair



Ms. Jargalsaikhan Dondog, MD, PhD

Women's Caucus
Civil Will Green Party, Mongolia

Dr. Jargalsaikhan is Public Health Expert of Global Together NGO and Member of The Asia eHealth Information Network. She has over 10 years experience on health projects funded by International Development Agencies. She was Independent Evaluation Consultant of 4th Country Programme for 2007-2011, which was funded by UNFPA, and Counterpart director of "E-Health Development" Project, World Bank when she was Director, Department of Information & Monitoring and Evaluation, MoH, Government of Mongolia.

Dr. Jargalsaikhan qualified on Med-e-Tel Education, Networking and Business and participated in the Virtual Leadership Development Program supported by USAID, USA and Promotion Leadership Training organized by WHO.

She was a visiting researcher on Health Education in the Public Health Science Department, University of Alberta, Canada. She trained on Family Medicine, in the Duke University, Austria and earned master trainer in strategic communication for reproductive health in the University of Johns Hopkins and Los Banos, Laguna in the Philippines.

Welcome Remarks



Ms. Monovithya Kem

Member of Permanent Bureau & Deputy Director
for Public Affairs, Cambodia National Rescue Party

Ms. Monovithya Kem is the Deputy Director-General of Public Affairs of the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP). She is Cambodian-born, with global perspectives, after having lived in Cambodia, the U.S. and Europe. Prior to joining CNRP, she had more than several years of work experiences, locally and abroad, with human rights groups and development institutions such as United Nations agencies in Cambodia and the World Bank Headquarters in Washington DC.

Her political involvement in Cambodia began since she was 12 years old at the first Cambodia's general elections in 1993. In 2006, she successfully led an international campaign to free her father and other right activists from Cambodian prison. In 2008, she managed the campaign for the Human Rights Party, which is now a founding partner of CNRP. During her years in Washington DC, she actively engaged in policy dialogues with various think tanks and research

institutions. She holds a Master's Degree in Business Economics and a Bachelor in Business Administration.



Mr. Siegfried Herzog

Regional Director, Southeast and East Asia Office
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Thailand

Mr. Siegfried Herzog is the Regional Director of Southeast and East Asia for the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom in Bangkok. An economist by training, he was previously heading the foundation's country office in Manila from 2006-2010, and subsequently the regional office in New Delhi as the Regional Director for South Asia.

He completed his Masters in Economics with North American Area Studies at the Eberhard-Karls University Tübingen, having spent one year as an exchange student at Georgetown University, Washington D.C. His M.A. thesis on informal credit markets in Bangladesh received an award from the Schitag-Foundation. He was one of the founders of NETZ e.V., a German NGO working on grassroots development in Bangladesh. Before going to university, he got a vocational training degree in industrial management at the Porsche car company.

An active moderator, Mr. Herzog frequently facilitates skills and strategy workshops for partners and the Foundation's staff members.



Hon. Oyun Sanjaasuren, MP

Chairperson, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats
President, United Nations Environment Assembly
Co-Chairperson, Civil Will Green Party, Mongolia

Hon. Oyun Sanjaasuren is a Member of Parliament and leading female politician in Mongolia. Until recently, she was also the country's Minister of Environment and Green Development. As co-chair of the Civil Will-Green Party, she has been a consistent advocate of clean politics, good governance and sensible socio-economic development. Her background in mining following her PhD at Cambridge has uniquely positioned her to focus on the development of Mongolia's extremely rich soil.

Since entering politics in 1998, she has been consistently elected to Parliament and has chaired a number of key standing committees, pushing in particular crucial legislation on corruption, election financing and the Millennium Development Goals. In 2014, she assumed the chairmanship of the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats and was elected as the inaugural President of United Nations Environmental Assembly.

To further her goals, she also founded and chairs the Zorig Foundation, a leading NGO dedicated to the advancement of democracy, good governance and

development. A former Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of the Mongolian Geological Association, she is a woman of versatile interests.

Keynote Address



Ms. Oyuntsetseg Oidov

Founder, Gender Center for Sustainable Development (GCSD)

Ms. Oyuntsetseg Oidov was trained as a journalist and diplomat at the Moscow Institute of International Relations and started her career as an Editor of the MONTSAME News Agency and then she taught at the Academy of Management, Mongolia. She continued her education at the Leeds University UK in the area of communications. She studied at the Lulea University in Sweden in management and then at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard, USA in the area of management and leadership;

Currently, she is an advisor and consultant to a number of public and civil society institutions in Mongolia and some international agencies. She worked in the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UNW) Europe and Central Asian Division in New York as well as in the Asia-Pacific and Arab States Division of UNIFEM HQ. She managed UNIFEM programs in Mongolia and a founder of the Gender Center for Sustainable Development (GCSD) – one of well-known NGOs of Mongolia.

Her book entitled “Mongolian Women: mapping the progress in transition” was published in English and Mongolian. Her articles were published in national and international magazines such as ‘Journal of Asian Women’s Studies’, “Asian Women Year”, etc.

Session Chair



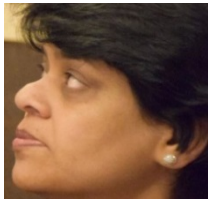
Ms. Raphaella Prugsamatz

Communication Officer, Southeast and East Asia Office
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Thailand

Ms. Raphaella Prugsamatz is the Regional Communications Officer for FNF Southeast and East Asia. Prior to joining the Foundation, she worked in the nonprofit sector for six years, focusing on development and policy work related to migration, public health, tobacco taxation, social welfare, and environmental conservation. Most of her work has focused on Southeast Asia.

Alongside her work in international development, she has also worked in marketing and advertising in the corporate sector, with a focus on digital marketing and new media advertising.

Panelists



Ms. Jayanthi Devi Balaguru

Vice Chairperson, CALD Women's Caucus
Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia

Ms. Jayanthi Devi Balaguru is the vice-chair of the CALD Women's Caucus. She is a lawyer, and an active member of Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia. Among her posts as an elected member of the Central Committee of the party are secretary general of the Women's Wing (Wanita), vice chair of the Central Law and Human Rights Bureau and chair of the Federal Territories State Women's Wing.

She is an advocate for a fair and just society who believes that each voice needs to be heard and rights should be respected. Ms. Balaguru regularly conducts programs on women empowerment.



Hon. Anneli Jäätteenmäki, MEP

Vice President of the European Parliament
Former Prime Minister of Finland
Member, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group

Hon. Anneli Jäätteenmäki currently serves as Vice President of the European Parliament. Previously, she was the Vice-chair of the Constitutional Affairs Committee, and since 2009, she serves as the Vice Chair of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group.

In Finland, she served as Vice-Chairperson and Chairperson for Women under the Keskusta Party. In 2003, she was assigned to be the Speaker of the Finnish Parliament, and eventually assumed leadership as the Prime Minister.

In 1987 to 2004, she served as a Member of the Parliament, and the Minister of Justice from 1994 to 1995. Furthermore, she was a member of the Finnish delegation to the Nordic Council from 1987 to 1994, and the Vice-Chairperson of Finland's delegation to the Council of Europe.



Ms. Gang Badoy Capati

www.polimetrics.net
www.rockedphilippines.org

Ms. Gang Badoy Capati is primarily a writer, a public intellectual, and an alternative educator best known for founding RockEd Philippine, a nationwide campaign that encourages the youth to be more civic minded. Rock Ed advocates civic education through rock and roll culture, mainly music, film, and art performances as well as varied art-centric programs held with volunteer artists outside the classroom.

She hosted the long-running weekly talk show "Rock Ed Radio" which raised the bar for talk radio on FM regarding civic matters and citizen concerns. Ms. Badoy Capati is a staunch advocate for volunteerism, and is a prime organizer of disaster relief operations. Her extensive presence in both traditional and social media at the height of rescue efforts for natural disasters in the last five years has made her team a default hub for private citizen alliances that respond to crises.

Moreover, she just recently launched her new website, www.polimetrics.net – “an online data-driven performance scoreboard for Philippine legislators”. Polimetrics is aimed to be an online portal that will eventually provide the Filipinos with empirical and latest information about the goings-on among Philippine legislators, which will include their attendance, bills they have filed, laws passed, and voting record on key legislations.

Ms. Badoy Capati studied at the University of the Philippines, Diliman. In 2010, she was recognized as one of The Outstanding Women in the Nation’s Service (TOWNS), and received the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) award making her the only Filipino to garner both top citizen awards on the same year.

Host



Ms. Monovithya Kem

Member of Permanent Bureau & Deputy Director
for Public Affairs, Cambodia National Rescue Party

Co-Hosts



Dr. Ching-Yi Lin

Director, Department of Women's Affairs
Democratic Progressive Party, Taiwan

Dr. Ching-Yi Lin is a licensed Obstetrician and Gynecologist, and licensed Perinatologist. She earned several master’s degrees, specifically in Genetic Counseling, at the National Taiwan University and Clinical Medicine at the Chung-Shan Medical University, where she also finished Medicine.

She serves as a consultant in the Adolescent Reproductive Health and Genetic Counseling Centers of Chung-Shan Medical University Hospital. Apart from her professional career as a medical doctor, she is also a member of several organizations about women and gender equality, and that of the Executive

Yuan's Committee on Women's Rights Promotion. Furthermore, she is also involved in various non-governmental organizations such as the Taiwan Women's Link, Taiwan 2012 InterAction Forum Mission, Taiwan NGO-CSW Mission 2011-2015, and the Taiwan Health Corps.

Outside Taiwan, Dr. Ching-Yi extends her expertise in the field of medicine through participating in some international medical missions such as the Mobile Medical Mission in India, Nepal, and Tuvalu since 2008 to 2014, where she served as the coordinator for Medical Program.



Ms. Victoria Garchitorena

Former Vice President for Women
Liberal Party of the Philippines

Ms. Victoria Garchitorena, formerly Vice President for Women of the Liberal Party of the Philippines, is considered as one of the pillars of the Philippine non-government organization sector. She was the founding chair of the League of Corporate Foundations, Philippine Council for NGO Certification, Philippine Association for Volunteer Efforts, Metro South Cooperative Bank, and the Makati NGO Network. She has been the Chair or Trustee of various foundations such as: Justice Cecilia Munoz Palma Foundation, Pinoy ME, Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation, EDSA People Power Commission, AIM Alumni Association, Mendiola Consortium, Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University, College of the Holy Spirit, International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Government, Management Association of the Philippines, among others. She was also a Board Member of the US-based Council of Foundations and is a Senior Adviser of the World Bank's Asia-Pacific Advisory Council Against Corruption.

Ms. Garchitorena served as the senior consultant of the Office of the President of the Philippines, Head of the Presidential Management Staff, Secretary to the Cabinet, and the Director of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. She is a Managing Director of Ayala Corporation and President of Ayala Foundation, Inc. and Philippine Development Foundation (formerly, Ayala Foundation, USA).



Ms. Pongsri Taproom

Registrar, Democrat Party, Thailand

Ms. Pongsri Taproom accomplished her Bachelor's Degree in Science major in Agricultural Education at Thailand's Kesertsart University, where she also finished her Master's in Plant Pathology. She devoted much of her lifework to the academe and civil service, being a respected teacher and as Head of Agricultural Sector and Head of Community Service Sector at the Piboonvitayalai School, Lopburi.

Previously, she dedicated much of her time in volunteer social work and research in her region. Ms. Pongsri was the advisor of Lopburi Children and Youth Council, President of Research and Development Project. Furthermore, she was also the personal assistant to former Minister of Commerce Pothipong Lumsom, a commission member of Health Department at the House of Representatives, Knowledge Section and Secretariat Section for Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, the Head of the Democrat Party. Currently, she is the Democrat Party Registrar.



Ms. Christine de Saint Genois

Vice President, International Network of Liberal Women, France

Remarks



Hon. Anneli Jäätteenmäki, MEP

Vice President of the European Parliament

Former Prime Minister of Finland

Member, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group

Session Chair



Hon. Norica Nicolai, MEP

Vice President and Member

Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group, Romania

Hon. Norica Nicolai currently heads the National Liberal Party (PNL) delegation in the European Parliament, and is also a Vice Chairperson of the Parliament's Subcommittee on Security and Defense, and Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

She held various positions in the central administration, such as Secretary of State with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (1997-2000), and president of the Economic and Social Council (1998-2001). As of 2007 she is PNL's Vice Chairperson, and was re-elected at the PNL extraordinary congress, where she also leads the Women's Organization.

She was Senator for two terms between 2000-2004 (Liberal Party) and 2004-2008 (DA Alliance). She was also a member of various commissions of inquiry, and was elected as MEP under the Liberal Party.

She graduated from the Faculty of Law in Bucharest (1983) and completed several education stints that include: the UN Political Leadership Academy — expert in political sciences (2000); the post-graduate governing programme of

the Kennedy School of the Harvard University. She was an associate professor in Criminal Law and Criminology at the University of Bucharest and Associate Professor in similar courses at the Ecological University of Bucharest (1991-1997). Since 2007, she serves as Associate Professor at the "Spiru Haret" University of Bucharest.

Panelists



Ms. Jayanthi Devi Balaguru

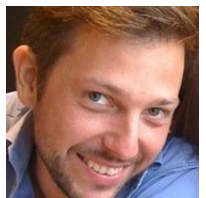
Vice Chairperson, CALD Women's Caucus
Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia



Ms. Siti Hanniatunisa

Deputy Head, Nation Awakening Party, Indonesia

Ms. Siti Haniatunnisa, LL.B., MH is currently the Deputy Head of Nation Awakening Party (PKB). She graduated from the International Islamic University of Malaysia and in the University of Indonesia, with a Bachelor's Degree in Laws. She is an avid lecturer at various Islamic institutions such as STAISA and Syekh Nawawi Tanara Fiqh Institute. She was also appointed as the Secretary of Presidential Advisory Council.



Mr. Emil Kirjas

Secretary General, Liberal International, Macedonia

Since September 2007, Mr. Kirjas has been the Secretary General of Liberal International – the world federation of liberal and progressive democratic political parties. From 2004-2006, he was State Secretary for Foreign Affairs in the Government of the Republic of Macedonia. His working experience includes involvement in various international organizations and institutions, including the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom and the International Federation of Liberal Youth. He holds a Master's Degree in Geopolitics from King's College in London.

Session Chair



Sec. J.R. Nereus "Neric" Acosta

Presidential Adviser on Environmental Protection
Office of the President of the Philippines
Head, CALD Climate Change Committee

Sec. Neric Acosta is an experienced legislator, educator, ardent advocate of the environment, and international scholar. He is currently

Presidential Adviser for Environmental Protection, General Manager of the Laguna Lake Development Authority and the Vice President for International Affairs of the Liberal Party of the Philippines (LP). He also served as secretary general of CALD from 2005-2014. Sec. Acosta was previously the secretary general of LP and served as representative of Bukidnon province in Northern Mindanao to the Philippine House of Representatives.

His major legislation included bills on clean water, solid waste management and biodiversity protection. He is also the principal author of the groundbreaking Clean Air Act, a model of environmental legislation in Asia.

Sec. Acosta's passion for education earned him various scholarships. After completing his BA (Bachelor of Arts) in Political Science from the University of the Philippines, he went on to complete an MA (Masters in Arts) in Public Affairs (International Relations and Political Studies concentration) from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Hawaii as an East West Center Scholar. He also attended the special programs Leaders in Development (1999) and Environmental Economics (2002) at the Kennedy School of Government of Harvard.

Welcome Remarks



Hon. Oyun Sanjaasuren, MP

Chairperson, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats
President, United Nations Environment Assembly
Co-Chairperson, Civil Will Green Party, Mongolia



Mr. Siegfried Herzog

Regional Director, Southeast and East Asia Office
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Thailand

Keynote Address



Hon. Namdag Battserreg, MP

Minister of Environment and Green Development
Mongolia

Hon. Namdag Battserreg is Mongolia's Minister of Environment and Green Development. He is also a key official in the Mongolian National Democratic Party, and an incumbent member of the State Great Hural (Parliament).

He finished his studies at the Ural Polytechnical Institute of Sverdlovsk and in the Academy of Political Education. A dedicated public servant, Hon. Battserreg used to be the Head of the Department at the Executive Authority of Public Deputy in the Mongolian Parliament. He also served as the Chairman of Standing Committee for Environmental and Rural Development.

Moreover, he was an Adviser to the Minister of Education, Culture and Science, and Political Advisor to the Deputy Minister. In 2007 to 2008, he was the Vice-Minister at the Ministry of Finance.

Session Chair



Hon. Sin Chung Kai, MP

Legislative Councilor, Hong Kong

Individual Member, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

Mr. Chung-Kai Sin is an elected Legislative Councilor of Hong Kong serving a four-year term since October 2012 until September 2016. Since 2006, he has been the deputy chairman of the Democratic Party. He has also served as a member of the Central Committee of Democratic Party of Hong Kong since the party was founded in 1994.

He was a member of the Legislative Council representing New South Territories and the Information Technology Sector, from 1995 to 1997 and 1998 to 2008, respectively. Mr. Sin also served as a member of the Housing Authority from 2001 to 2009, and board director of the Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited from 1999 to 2009. He has been an elected representative in all three tiers of the Government: the Legislative Council, Regional Council (abolished by the HKSAR Government in 1999) from 1988 to 1994, and the Kwai Tsing District Council from 1985 to 2003.

Mr. Sin earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Hong Kong in 1982, and his Master's degree in Business Administration from the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1997.

Speakers



Dr. Stefanos Fotiou

Head of Unit, "Cities and Lifestyles"

United Nations Environmental Program

Dr. Stefanos Fotiou is an expert on sustainable development and currently serving in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as the Head of the "Cities and Lifestyles" Unit of the UNEP Division of Technology Industry and Economics.

He is planning, coordinating and managing UNEP's work on Sustainable Cities, Green Buildings, Sustainable Lifestyles, Education for Sustainable Consumption, Sustainable Procurement and Sustainable Food Systems. For more than twenty years, he devoted his professional experience in international organizations, the private sector, NGOs and research & academic institutes. His academic background includes a PhD on Natural Resources' Economics, an MSc in Information Systems and an MSc in Forestry.



Hon. Sam Rainsy, MP

Minority Leader, Cambodian National Assembly
President, Cambodia National Rescue Party

Hon. Sam Rainsy is the President of the Cambodia National Rescue Party, a Member of Parliament and leader of the national opposition of Cambodia. His political career began with Prince Ranariddh's Funcinpec Party, becoming the Prince's European representative in 1989. He had previously served as Minister of Finance in a coalition government that emerged in Cambodia after the UN-supervised elections in 1993, and was a Member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia from 1992 to 1993.

In 1995 he formed the Khmer Nation Party, which became the Sam Rainsy Party (SRP) when it was forced to change its name in order to contest the 1998 elections, where he was re-elected to the Parliament. SRP merged with the Human Rights Party to form the Cambodia National Rescue Party. In 2006, Liberal International awarded him with the Prize for Freedom honoring his dedication to championing human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

Prior to his entry to politics he was a financial analyst and investment manager with various banks and financial institutions, and held positions which included chairman and chief executive officer of DR Gestion, a Paris-based investment company, and Bank Director at Paluel-Marmont. Mr. Sam received his MBA from INSEAD Paris.



Hon. Anneli Jäätteenmäki, MEP

Vice President of the European Parliament
Former Prime Minister of Finland
Member, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group

Synthesis



Ms. Gang Badoy Capati
www.polimetrics.net
www.rockedphilippines.org

OPEN SPACE SESSION

Session Chair



Mr. Siegfried Herzog
Regional Director, Southeast and East Asia Office
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Thailand

SPECIAL SESSION ON THE USE OF DEATH PENALTY IN ASIA

Session Chair



Mr. Jules Maaten
Country Director
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom
Philippine Office

Since 2010, Mr. Jules Maaten is Country Director for Philippines of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, where he works on good governance, human rights, free market projects and on the “It’s All About Freedom” campaign.

Before that, from 1999 to 2009, he was a Member of the European Parliament, dealing amongst other issues with EU-ASEAN relations. He was the Parliament’s Rapporteur on the EU-Asia Strategy. He was also a leading parliamentarian in the field of the euro currency.

From 1992 to 1999, he worked in London as the Secretary General of Liberal International, the world union of liberal parties.

Speakers



Hon. Niel Tupas, Jr., MP
Chairperson, Committee on Justice
Philippine House of Representatives
Liberal Party of the Philippines

Hon. Niel Tupas, Jr. is the representative for the 5th District of Iloilo and is the current Chair of the House Committee on Justice. While he was studying law, he worked as technical assistant to the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal for three years until 1998. He worked and trained as a litigation lawyer from 1999 to 2004 at the Belo Gozon Elma Parel Asuncion & Lucila Law Offices in Makati City. In 2004, he was elected as a Member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Iloilo until 2007.

A known health and fitness champion, Hon. Tupas includes among his advocacies the promotion of public health. In line with this, he has sponsored bills focusing on tobacco control. On the local front, his centerpiece project is his scholarship program for the youth in his district aside from medical assistance to indigent patients.

He obtained his Bachelor's Degree of Arts in Political Science degree from the University of the Philippines, Diliman in 1993. He completed his Bachelor of Laws in the same university.



Hon. Norica Nicolai, MEP
Vice President and Member
Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group, Romania



Mr. Jufri Salim
Member of Central Executive Committee
Singapore Democratic Party

Mr. Jufri Salim is the former Vice-President of the Youth Wing of the Singapore Democratic Party (SDP). He has been a member of the party for eight years and was previously elected as the Chief Executive Committee Member and was chosen as the Organizing Secretary of the Party. Furthermore, he also heads SDP's Training & Development program.



Mr. Emil Kirjas
Secretary General
Liberal International, Macedonia

SPECIAL SESSION ON ELECTIONS IN ASIA

Session Chair



Mr. Moritz Kleine-Brockhoff
Resident Representative, Indonesia Office
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

Mr. Moritz Kleine-Brockhoff is the Resident representative, Indonesia Office and Project Director, Malaysia of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom. Before assuming these positions, he also served as Head of FNF's Asia Desk in Potsdam, Germany and Project Director, Malaysia/Myanmar and Cambodia based in the FNF Southeast Asia and East Asia Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand. Prior to his entry to the FNF, Mr. Kleine-Brockhoff was the Southeast Asia Correspondent of German daily newspaper Frankfurter Rundschau. He covered all ASEAN countries and lived in Jakarta, Indonesia from 2000 to 2009.

Speakers



Mr. Damanhuri Bin Abas
2015 Parliamentary Election Candidate
Singapore Democratic Party

An NUS graduate majoring in Architectural Studies, Mr. Damanhuri Bin Abas has been an active social worker for many years. His passion is to strive for social justice and the abolition of all forms of discriminatory practices, especially against the minorities and the less privileged. He joined the Singapore Democratic Party (SDP) to further advance his efforts because he is convinced that the SDP is the only party that is firm in promoting democratic principles. He ran for a seat in Parliament under the SDP in the last 2015 general elections.



Hon. James Huang
Director, Department of International Affairs
Democratic Progressive Party of Taiwan

Hon. James Huang is currently the Director of the International Affairs Department of the Democratic Progressive Party of

Taiwan. He served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs in 2006 to 2008, and concurrently served as the chairman of the International Cooperation and Development Fund and Vice Chairman of Taiwan Foundation for Democracy. He also served as a senior consultant in several organizations like the Taiwan Association of Public Issues Studies.

In 2004 to 2006, he served as a board member in the International Crisis Group, and concurrently served as Deputy Secretary General to the President. Prior to this, he was also the Director-General of the Department of Public Affairs and Spokesman to the President, and a Foreign Service Officer at the Department of North American Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Huang finished his undergraduate degree in National Taiwan University with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, and pursued further studies at Pitman College in London, United Kingdom, and at the Academy of International Economic Affairs.



Sec. J.R. Nereus “Neric” Acosta

Presidential Adviser on Environmental Protection, Office of the President of the Philippines

Former Secretary General, Liberal Party of the Philippines

CLOSING SESSION

Session Chair



Hon. Kiat Sittheeamorn

Democrat Party of Thailand

Kiat Sittheeamorn received his B.S. in Engineering from Chulalongkorn University, graduated in Business Management from Harvard Business School and M.A. in International Affairs from Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.

Before his current position, Kiat served as the President of Thailand Trade Representative (TTR), acting as the special envoy of the Prime Minister on international trade and investment for Thailand. TTR is also responsible for developing strategies, negotiations and implementation of international agreements as well as an Advisor to the House and Senate Committees in the areas of foreign affairs, trade, investment and other economic issues.

Prior to his political career, he served as the Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) of Thailand National Committee, a Director of the Thai Chamber of Commerce and the Deputy Secretary-General of the Board of

Trade of Thailand. He played a crucial role in proposing policies and strategies to various governmental organizations related to trade and investment. He was also appointed as Thailand's representative in the East Asia Vision Group to map out new architecture between ASEAN and China, Japan and Republic of Korea.

In addition, he has had extensive work experiences in many countries in Asia, Europe and Middle East.

He has written many articles on trade and investment strategies and published the books entitled “As FTA Catches You” and “Government Budget Reform”. He has been a guest lecturer at several leading academic institutions and business fora.

Closing Remarks



Mr. Jules Maaten

Country Director, Philippine Office
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom



Mr. Hanjaya Setiawan

Secretary of Government Affairs Department
Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle

Mr. Hanjaya Setiawan is currently the Secretary of Government Affairs Department, Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle. He previously served the party as Head of the International Affairs Department of the Central Leadership Board. He also served as the chairperson of the foreign affairs division of the party's youth wing where he has been an active member since 2006.

Mr. Setiawan has also been involved in the Indonesia Young Politician Forum, Mega for President Team (Presidential Election 2004), Professional Society for Democracy, and Institute of Peace and Justice. He graduated from Trisakti University where he majored in Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering.



Hon. Oyun Sanjaasuren, MP

Chairperson, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats
President, United Nations Environment Assembly
Co-Chairperson, Civil Will Green Party, Mongolia



Alliance of Liberal Democrats for Europe (ALDE)

Anneli Jäätteenmäki
Norica Nicolai
Orsolya Balogh

Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP)

Sam Rainsy
Mardi Seng
Phirum Keo
Monovithya Kem

Civil Will Green Party of Mongolia (CWGP)

Oyun Sanjaasuren
Demberel Sambuu
Gankhuyag Tserendorj
Gan-Ochir Zunduisuren
Jargalsailhan

Democrat Party of Thailand (DP)

Kiat Sittheeamorn
Isra Sunthornvut
Pongsri Tarapoom

Democratic Party of Hong Kong (DPHK)

Sin Chung-Kai

Democratic Progressive Party of Taiwan (DPP)

James Huang
Ching-Yi Lin
Sophie Yeh

Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF)

Siegfried Herzog
Jules Maaten
Moritz Kleine-Brockhoff

Raphaella Prugsamatz

International Network of Liberal Women

Christine de Saint Genois

Keynote Speaker

Namdag Battserreg

Liberal International (LI)

Emil kirjas

Liberal Party of the Philippines (LP)

Neric Acosta

Niel Tupas

Vicky Garchitorera

Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia (PGRM)

Jayanthi Balaguru

Chai Ko Thing

Hng Chee Wey

Indonesia Democratic Party of Struggle (PDIP)

Hanjaya Setiawan

Nation Awakening Party (PKB)

Siti Hanniatunisa

Resource Speaker- United Nations

Stefanos Fotiou

Resource Speaker - Philippines

Gang Badoy Capati

Singapore Democratic Party (SDP)

Damanhuri Abas

Jufri Salim

CALD Secretariat

Celito Arlegue

Paolo Zamora

Jorgia Salonga

CWGP Secretariat

Monsor Nyamdavaa

Bolortsetseg Ankhaa



Executive Summary

CALD Women's Caucus Seminar

- There are various initiatives in promoting women leadership in different countries. Some countries craft policies and implement quota to guarantee women participation in politics. Some create institutions to support, educate, and empower women and mainstream gender equality agenda.
- Every country has similar problems when it comes to women participation and gender equality. These are mainly due to old mindsets that were passed from generation to generation.
- Women participate in all levels of society and they do provide real and substantial influence over decisions.

Panel Discussion: What did the Beijing Platform of Action (BPA) achieve?

- The BPA was conceptualized because there are questions that need to be clarified. However, times change. The issues and questions in 1995 when the BPA was established are different now. Every time contexts change, and every time a new generation comes, questions also change.
- Women still confront stereotypes where they are expected to behave, act, and dress in a certain way. It is tougher for women to be in politics and being a female, in itself, is a tougher role.
- Women participation in politics must be beyond just mere quota.
- Women participation is essential, whether in politics or society, and both men and women are important in decision-making. Women politicians are active in social issues because they propose and promote the initiatives themselves.

- The top women leaders who have assumed leadership positions propagate the consciousness that women, indeed, can lead.

Women's View: Women Leadership in the 21st Century

- Women take on roles because they are qualified and they have the capacity to assume the leadership positions.
- In Taiwan, gender mainstream counseling teams help elect female leaders into office. Having progressive and gender equality programs are essential to the growth of the Taiwanese people. They are important channels to communicate ideas and thoughts on Taiwan's future.
- In the Philippines, programs such as the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) and policies like Gender and Development Law prepare women in leadership positions. The CCT helps address women's issues through poverty eradication while the Gender and Development Law mandates all government budgets to allocate a certain budget on gender development programs. The policies from grassroots to decision makers must correspond to the needs of the people.
- Women are the center of families and families form communities. The stronger the community, the stronger the country.

Special Session on Women and Religion

- Women are confronted with issues vis-à-vis religion. In Malaysia, the *hudud*, a set of laws and punishments set out in the Quran that could allow for flogging and amputation, contravenes Malaysia's federal laws, which guarantees equality for all regardless of race and gender. The non-definition of women's role in *hudud* is a great concern.
- In Indonesia, political parties believe women have crucial roles in building societies. In the Nation Awakening Party (PKB), for instance, the increase of the involvement of women in strategic sectors, is part of their ideology and party objectives.
- Women are seen as integral members of the society in Indonesia. In a country with six officially recognized religions and a multicultural society, tolerance and social awareness are key ingredients in order to achieve peace, security and harmony.
- Liberals have always supported freedom of worship and religion without interference or imposition. This is very important in order to secure the rights of women in a liberal and democratic way.

- Liberals believe that women must be legally protected from any kind of violence, and no culture or religion can impede that. Tolerance and respect for each other are very important. No culture or religion can justify the abuse of women.

Sustainable Development Goals

- Discussing the SDGs could help provide the understanding political parties need before formulating strategies for electoral campaigns. SDGs will help liberals know where efforts are focused on and where they need to put their minds into.
- The exponential rise of consumption is alarming and the biggest problem confronting the world today is that the planet cannot sustain population growth and the overuse of resources.
- There is a need for business and government to fundamentally change. It is a critical time to be bold in platforms, actions, and decisions.
- States have a problem in their capacity to act because of the lack of accountability and effective institutions. Bureaucracies do a lot of things, but fall short in implementing policies effectively. Reliable institutions must first be established before policies.

Keynote Speeches

- SDGs are a welcome development that generates global reason to increase networking and cooperation. It is not a burden, but an opportunity for development. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were guidelines that help bring countries from negative to zero. The SDGs aims to help countries to move forward from zero.
- SDGs encourage people to rethink, refocus, and reprioritize sustainability.
- While it is important to think globally and act globally, focusing efforts in cities is less complicated but more effective because cities are the future of development.
- The essential targets to achieve SDGs include: 1) ownership and inclusion, which means that everybody has a share in society; 2) fairness and justice and the need for reliable institutions to effectively administer the rule of law; 3) openness and transparency, which requires constant effort to prevent corruption and maladministration; and 4) knowledge and pursuit to have informed choices through education.

- Democracy is not the reason why there is economic progress, but the quality of leadership – a leadership that provides market economy, guarantees fair competition, and upholds the rule of law.
- To generate real economic value for the country, leaders must think of sustainable development and equity. Sustainable development assures social stability while equity assures inclusive participation in all sectors of society.
- SDGs constitute a framework of universal kindness. Kindness is the manifestation of a great leader.
- If resilience is the new freedom, then development is the new peace.

Special Session on the Use of Death Penalty in Asia

- The core of every human being is the right to life.
- Laws on death penalty are usually based on political decisions and political interests, not on justice.
- In the Philippines, the future of the re-imposition of death penalty will depend on the ideology of the next administration. Public opinion will continue to play a big role on death penalty.
- Liberals believe that the state has no right to take the life of a person when the system is flawed and corrupt and especially when there are other means for the state to protect itself. With death penalty, second chances are impossible.
- In Singapore and other Asian countries, the mandatory death penalty applies disproportionately to the poor. Capital criminals are the less privileged ones who do not have access to education and social welfare.
- In Asia, countries impose capital punishment following the same logic of restrictiveness and punishments for crime that is not related to consumption, but is connected to trade.
- The International Human Rights Charter is not just a piece of paper, but a call for action that needs to be realized.

Special Session on Elections in Asia

- In electoral campaigns, political parties must provide a vision for the people. The party and its candidates must have the right message, must

listen to people and integrate their opinion into the campaign. A two-way communication between the party and the people is critical.

- Singapore is a small country with a small population that has achieved much particularly in the area of economy. It has a high government satisfaction rating and is currently the second safest city in the world. But in terms of press freedom, it ranked 153 out of 180 countries in the 2015 World Press Freedom Index. Mainstream media is controlled and continues to be very influential. Moreover, the Election Commission in Singapore is not independent. It changes electoral boundaries every election and this does not offer a level playing field during elections.
- Taiwan is faced with difficult challenges leading up to the next elections. To capture a victory in the next elections, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) should find a better way of handling relations with China and should explore on new steps to jumpstart the economy. The DPP needs to offer a new economic model that focuses on job creation, innovation, and distribution of wealth. It must remain open to the younger generation and effectively deliver their promises to the people.
- Leadership can be divided into four types: authoritative, nurturing, populist, and technocratic. These types attract different kinds of support from the electorate. In the Philippines, to capture the attention and trust of the people, political parties and candidates must understand the balance between crafting and sustaining a unique and interesting narrative and presenting and explaining platforms, messages, and policies on good governance, anti-corruption, and sustainable development.

CALD Women's Caucus Seminar

Welcome Remarks



Ms. Monovithya Kem

Member of Permanent Bureau & Deputy Director
for Public Affairs, Cambodia National Rescue Party
on behalf of CALD Women's Caucus Chair Mu Sochua

Kem spoke on behalf of Hon. Mu Sochua, chair of the CALD Women's Caucus, and gave an update on the developments, setbacks, and current challenges of women in Cambodia. Kem said that while Cambodian women continue to face problems, there have still been significant improvements over the years. In terms education, Cambodia saw an increase in enrollment of girls in primary and secondary schools although they still have to address the increasing number of dropouts, mainly because women needed to work in factories to support their families. Others choose to explore jobs outside Cambodia which expose them to the possibility of exploitation as migrant workers. There are those who are forced to marry foreigners at the age of 15-16 years old and again be exposed to the possibility of abuses. Kem also said, Cambodian women are in the forefront of fighting for social justice and reproductive health education, which are areas that need national attention.

Mr. Siegfried Herzog

Regional Director, Southeast and East Asia Office
Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) for Freedom, Thailand

Herzog welcomed everyone on behalf of the FNF, which, in partnership with CALD, aims to build a platform for the exchange of ideas amongst Asian liberals, and between Asian liberals and the global liberal family. He said the conference is essential because the discussions on women and the Sustainable Development Goals would help liberals know where the efforts are, and where focus is needed.

Herzog noted that the Philippines, consistently in the top ten just behind Scandinavian countries, is the best country in Asia when it comes to advancing women's issues. In Asia, women are advancing through the success of leaders such as Cory Aquino, the first female President of the Philippines who led the revolution against the Marcos dictatorship and had been a beacon of freedom, democracy, and liberal values. Similarly, former Indonesian President, Megawati Sukarnoputri and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma are also embodiments of hope for the democratic future of their countries.

Herzog noted that in CALD, Asian liberal leaders continue to provide inspiration and encouragement. CALD Chairperson Oyun Sanjaasuren is doing a good job in her leadership. Dr. Tsai Ing-wen of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) is uplifting an atmosphere of change and reform in Taiwan and hopefully she would win and become Taiwan's first female president.

CALD has taken the issue of women for quite a while now, Herzog shared. He recalled the time when he facilitated the first strategic meeting of the CALD Women's Caucus eight years ago, and he said it is gratifying to see that it has been diligently dealing with women's issues because most political parties have neglected women's concerns. Herzog admitted that it is something that the Free Democratic Party (FDP) of Germany has been struggling with and there is a lot to learn from the DPP Taiwan, which addresses women's concerns ever since its inception. The women's agenda is currently part of the DPP's structure and system, which explains the nomination of Tsai as the first female presidential candidate.

Herzog emphasized that the conference is a great opportunity to learn from each other in order to know how best to address women issues – for the benefit of institutions, political parties, and of society.

Hon. Oyun Sanjaasuren, MP

Chairperson, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

President, United Nations Environment Assembly

Co-Chairperson, Civil Will Green Party (CWGP), Mongolia

Sanjaasuren, as chair of CALD and co-chair of the host party CWGP, welcomed the delegates to Mongolia and shared the progress her country is having in terms of gender issues. She said that in 2003, policies on gender issues resulted in better laws, including the law on domestic violence that safeguarded the women in Mongolia. In education, more or less women are equal in number with men in terms of enrollment. In decision-making, Sanjaasuren said women's participation has improved. In the Parliament, 14% are women. Mongolia also introduced a 20% quota for women to participate in elections and because of this, elected women increased from 3 in 2006 to 11 in 2012. Mongolia also has National Committee on Gender Equality, chaired by the Prime Minister, which aims to address gender issues in the country. However, much needs to be improved on this aspect.

In the CWGP, the party also introduced a quota for women. In the first by-laws of the party, it required 30% participation of women in the party structure including important roles in the party council.

Sanjaasuren said every country has similar problems and these are mainly due to old mindsets that were passed from generations to generations. What is important now is to start challenging those mindsets especially in the aspect of women participation and empowerment.



Keynote Address

Ms. Oyuntsetseg Oidov

Founder, Gender Center for Sustainable Development (GCSD)

Oidov thanked the organizers for the opportunity to share her thoughts on women's participation and the challenges they face in political and decision-making process. She started by giving background statistics on the number of women being voted into office and how institutions such as the legislature, parties, and government line agencies work on policies to further promote women's participation and leadership.

In Mongolia, women were given equal rights to vote and to be elected in 1924, and a quota system was established during this time to ensure 25% parliamentary representation by women. In 1931, women were elected in the local government and in Mongolia's highest legislative body with a 30% quota. During the democratic reform process, Oidov explained that women became highly educated, but they were still quite "passive" in terms of policy-making roles. When the 1992 Constitution reaffirmed the equal rights of male and female in civil and political processes, new institutions started to emerge and since then, over 20 political parties have been created to contest in elections. Currently, 14.47% of women are in Parliaments. An increase of 11 female parliamentarians

happened in 2012 with the help of a 20% quota of women candidates in political parties mandated by the Election Law. Mongolia has two female cabinet members, 25% mid and senior level managers in line ministries, 65.9% female judges, and 12 out of 25 Supreme Court members are women.

Oidov stressed that accountability mechanisms and commitments to address gender concerns still need improvement. Since the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPA), Mongolia has taken measures to mainstream gender equality agenda. A National Committee on Gender Equality, headed by the Prime Minister, was established in 2005 as a central policy-coordinating body of the Mongolian government to integrate gender perspective in legislation, public policies and programs. Oidov said Mongolia is a party to international human rights treaties and conventions as well. Its National Program on Gender Equality from 2002-2013 represented progress in advancing women empowerment and gender equality. The National Statistics Office approved the 216 gender-specific indicators, which will become a tool in monitoring the implementation of gender responsive policies and programs.

In terms of political party initiatives, Oidov shared that the CWGP has pioneered the inclusion of women in the party's Governing Council. She believes that the CALD Women's Caucus, through its liberal networks, will open new opportunities to forge commitments and further educate the public.

Oidov shared to the plenary a call for action on the following:

- To take a strong leadership to make women political empowerment a top priority;
- To agree on appropriate measures including a quota system with the winnable placement of female candidates, reforms of internal procedures of political parties with concrete enforcement mechanisms and reforms in campaign fundraising and election expenditures;
- To identify key issues where liberals can make a positive contribution in shaping and achieving the SDG's and their sub-targets;
- To share experiences and best practices on how to cultivate women leadership and participation.

In conclusion, Oidov said the experience of Mongolia is a good case in the understanding gender dynamics development vis-à-vis political decision-making. While much still needs to be done, the strategic focus on promoting women empowerment must be highlighted because women participate in all levels and they do provide real and substantial influence over decisions.

**Panel Discussion:
What did the Beijing Platform of Action (BPA)
achieve two decades after its adoption?**

This session assessed the progress of the Beijing Platform of Action, which marked its 20th anniversary in 2015. The panelists shared their thoughts on the successes and continuing challenges of the BPA. Ms. Raphaella Prugsamatz, communications officer of the FNF Southeast and East Asia Office facilitated the discussions.



Ms. Jayanthi Devi Balaguru
Vice Chairperson, CALD Women's Caucus
Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia

Balaguru discussed women in politics in the context of Malaysia. She said, respect and recognition of women in society is constitutional as per Article A of the Constitution of Malaysia, which guarantees non-discrimination.

Women are crucial members of the society and yet they still face challenges in terms of opportunities and cultural mindsets. In society, women experience the stereotype approach where they are expected to behave, act, and dress in a certain way. If women are strong, assertive, and aggressive, they do not conform



to Asian values. Asian men prefer submissive women who are not seen as someone who can assume responsibilities in a leadership position. This means female politicians have to play a tougher role than their male counterparts. Balaguru said it's tougher for women to be in politics and being a female in itself is a tougher role. She further explained that women politicians are always relegated on issues on women and children and not on issues on the economy or education. Balaguru gave an example in the State of Selangor in Malaysia where Wan Azizah, leader of the opposition Pakatan Rakyat, was nominated to be the Chief Minister. However, she received a lot of objections, surprisingly on the ground that she is female. According to detractors, a female cannot be a Chief Minister because she has to perform Islamic religious obligations with the sultan and she cannot do that when she is having her period.

Balaguru shared that most political parties in Malaysia have a Women's Wing to encourage the participation of women in politics. This contributed to some of the women who have succeeded in politics and remained as role models to others. Malaysia already ratified the 30% quota for women, which is a beginning to take on bigger roles in politics. In reality though, women lag behind in decision-making positions with only 9% in the House of Representatives, 6% in State government, 9% in Cabinet positions, and 10% in local authority councils. Balaguru stressed, women participation in politics must be beyond just mere quota. "We must recognize women's contribution with merits on policies and treat them as equal counterparts to men," she concluded.

Hon. Anneli Jäätteenmäki, MEP

Vice President of the European Parliament

Former Prime Minister of Finland

Member, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group

Jäätteenmäki gave an overview of women in society and politics in Europe, particularly in Finland. She also gave examples of policies that continue to promote women's participation in different levels in society. She's grateful for the opportunity to give her thoughts on women in politics and expressed how important it is for Eastern and Western cultures to come together and educate each other.

The European Union (EU), she noted, consists of 28 different European countries. The European Parliament (EP), which is the directly elected parliamentary institution of the EU, consists of 751 Members of Parliament (MEPs) and 278 MEPs are women. There is a steady but slow rise of female MEPs from 1979 (16%) to 2014 (37%). There were significant breakthroughs as well in terms of leadership at the EP. Simon Veil of the Liberals was the first woman to be President of the EP from 1979 to 1982 and she won during the first direct election at the EP in 1979. Nicole Fontaine of the Conservatives also

became President from 1999 to 2002. Women also serve as Commissioners at the European Commission (EC), which is the executive body of the EU that implements decisions. A total of 44 female Commissioners served at the EC from 1957 to 2015. Of the 28 Commissioners currently serving, 9 are women, and they are:

- VP Federica Mogherini – Foreign Affairs (Italy)
- VP Kristalina Georgieva – Budget (Bulgaria)
- Cecilia Malmström – International Trade (Sweden)
- Marianne Thyssen – Employment and Social Affairs (Belgium)
- Violeta Bulc – Transport (Slovenia)
- Elżbieta Bieńkowska – Internal Market, Industry, Enterprises (Poland)
- Vera Jourova – Justice and Consumer Protection (Czech Republic)
- Corina Cretu – Regional Policy (Romania)
- Margrethe Vestager – Competition (Denmark)

Jäätteenmäki also shared the progress of women in Finland. Women (47%) of the working age have higher education compared to men (35%) while employment rate is almost as high as that of men. Based on EU's Gender Equality Index, which "provides a comprehensive measure of gender equality, tailored to fit the EU policy context," Finland ranks second place. The gender equality index is based on six core elements: work, money, knowledge, time, power, and health. Finland's highest gains in gender equality were for economic situation, participation in work, health, and political power.



She said in 1907, Finland became the first country in the world where women get to fully exercise the right to vote and to stand as a candidate in elections. A total of 19 female MPs were the first female MPs in the world who got elected during the 1907 Parliamentary Elections. The first female Minister got appointed in 1926, the first female President got elected in 2000, and the first female Prime Minister assumed her post in 2003.

Women's participation is essential whether in politics or society and both men and women are important in decision-making. Societies need women to better respond to the everyday problems and questions on family matters. To win elections, political parties must have female candidates because the younger generations, the future voters, prefer to vote parties that respect equal possibilities. Women politicians are active in social issues and it is because they propose and promote the initiatives themselves. In Finland, for instance, the Family Policy has been developed and strengthened overtime. This includes: 1) maternal and child health clinics (started in 1920s and covered the whole country in 1949); 2) maternity package that contains children's clothes, nappies, bedding, cloth, gauze towels and child-care products (1938); free school meals (1948); and inexpensive child day care ensured by law.

Ms. Gang Badoy Capati

www.polimetrics.net

www.rockedphilippines.org

Capati shared that most of her work involves the Internet and the youth in the Philippines. She also shared that she is the youngest of ten and has five brothers so she is very used to gender sensitivities. She runs an organization that comprises of rock stars and musicians and 98% of them are men. She provided her background because she wants to know if it helps or not if the leadership position is held by a woman.



Capati observed that the current generation of women and men benefit a lot from what the BPA provided in 1995 when they discussed the struggles that women faced years ago. In the Philippines she said, “We are lucky that we are a paternal/maternal society.” In our homes, it’s the mothers who hold everything together while the fathers usually makes the decision. Cory Aquino, a mother, became the first female President of the Philippines. Having had a female president is a great feat for women. It opened the consciousness that tells people that women, indeed, can become presidents. It is a great progress that unfolded before the younger generation of women. Capati said her expertise is asking questions and thinking of questions. She believes the BPA was conceptualized in the first place because there were questions that need clarifying before 1995. “We have more questions that we need to keep asking because every time context changes, new questions must be asked. I don’t care how spectacular the BPA of 1995 was, but it’s 2015 and we need to ask new questions,” Capati expressed. This generation has different definitions in gender issues. There are now lesbians and gays and it’s not only women’s caucuses that are formed nowadays.

She shared a quote from Patricia Licuanan, Chairperson of the Main Committee of the Fourth World Conference on Women where the Draft Plan for Action was successfully negotiated in 1995. Licuanan said, “We have a need to revitalize the spirit of Beijing.” But a 19-year old student of Capati responded and said “But I’m so confused because my feelings for China are very different now.” Beijing is now claiming lands as its own and that makes the reaction of this generation on China quite different compared to before. Capati’s point was that it is important to leave a legacy of questions and a resiliency of asking questions. Every time context changes and every time a generation is new, questions have to be re-asked or changed. And with new contexts and new questions, people need to meet again and need to sign documents again because that is what the future and leadership is about.

Women's View: Women Leadership in the 21st Century

This session adopted a talk show style of discussion allowing more flexibility to the host/co-hosts to discuss a variety of issues relating to the topic of women leadership and its relationship with BPA. The host, Ms. Monovithya Kem of the CNRP, briefly provided a background on the topic and asked the co-hosts to share their views in a free-flowing conversation and debate. Among the co-hosts were Dr. Ching-Yi Lin, Director of the Department of Women's Affairs of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) of Taiwan; Ms. Victoria Garchitorena, former Vice President for Women of the Liberal Party (LP) of the Philippines, Ms. Pongsri Tarapoom, Registrar of the Democrat Party (DP) of Thailand, Ms. Christine de Saint Genois, Vice President of the International Network of Liberal Women (INLW).



Lin shared her thoughts on the status of gender issues in Taiwan and her party, the DPP. She presented the various initiatives that Taiwanese people exert to promote gender equality. She said her party's policies are in tune with the women's agenda. Among the party's initiatives was the formation of DPP's Committee of Women's Promotion in 1996 under then Taipei Mayor Chen Shui-bian. It was also during this time that the party guaranteed one fourth of female to participate politically. There was also a gender mainstream counseling team that helped the DPP elect their female leaders into office. Among all the 112

legislators, 41 were female with Kuomintang and the DPP having the most female representatives.

In the government, the Executive Yuan (EY) established the Commission on Women's Rights Promotion in 1997 and committees in each department of the EY were required to have at least 1/3 of their members as females. The EY also established the Department of Gender Equality in 2012. In the six biggest cities in Taiwan, Lin noted that 36% are female Councilors with two female speakers. Lin also presented the innovative way of promoting gender equality through new campaign strategies that capture the attention of the younger generations such as the Thinker's Club that offers discussions on politics, culture, gender equality, immigrants, among others. According to Lin, these are important channels to communicate ideas and thoughts on Taiwan's future. Lin stressed that the new generation is the gender equality generation. They continue to learn as they act more.



Kem asked Lin how the DPP balance progressiveness and operations. Lin said the DPP is progressive and gender equality is considered a very forward-looking subject matter that is essential to the growth of the Taiwanese people. The DPP works closely with NGOs because they are very important in government and political party work. Kem then asked about how the parties would proceed with quotas if there is not much female candidates or members ready to step up the plate. Garchitorena said that this is why it is important in investing in the younger generation of women from schools, organizations, and institutions where leaders are trained from the start.

Kem asked the co-hosts how to avoid women having token roles just because there are no other available options and because there is a quota to be filled. The party has the right to still nominate men back into positions if there are no qualified women for the said positions, de Saint Genois explained.



Garchitorena noted that women take on roles because they are qualified and they have the capacity to assume the leadership positions. In the Philippines, she presented two strong women leaders who are serving the Government of the Philippines. One is Kim Henares, Head of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, whose quest is to really go after companies and people who should pay taxes and pay the right amount of taxes. Another leader who shows no fear in implementing the law is Leila de Lima, Secretary (Minister) of the Department of Justice. Garchitorena expressed that the Philippines have shown that it can have leaders and it is not consensus based. They represent women leaders who need not be token figures because they are capable of addressing problems on their

own and accomplishing tasks that would help the Philippines be a better place. They can lead on their own and occupy tough positions.



With regard to preparing women to leadership positions, Garchitorena presented two effective mechanisms in the Philippines that help strengthen women in society. First is the Conditional Cash Transfers (CCT) program where the poorest of the families are given monthly allowance to cope with their needs and uplift their status in life. According to World Bank and the UN, the CCT in the Philippines is one of the best in the world in terms of reducing poverty. The recipients of funds are also given seminars on human rights, nutrition, education, etc. – the so-called Family Development Seminar, which is done every month. CCT helps address women's issues because the most vulnerable women and children are among the poor and overall objective should be poverty eradication. The benefactors, because of the opportunities being opened to them, will eventually make a difference in shaping the country's future. Second example that promotes the women's agenda is the Gender and Development Law that mandates all government budgets, from local to national, to allocate 5% of their budget on gender development programs. Unfortunately, Garchitorena explained, it is not properly being implemented. There are, however, NGOs being tapped to train government officials on how to prepare gender development programs. Budget must be appropriated for gender development and implemented to promote leadership.



Tarapoom, on the one hand, discussed the importance of focusing women in communities because the roles that they have in their families reflect the leadership skills that women have. Women are the center of families and families form communities. The stronger the community, the stronger the country. Strong communities make strong countries. Tarapoom also shared that good leadership entails good listening. It is an important factor that is mostly ignored.

Through listening, women show sincerity to all people.

Luncheon Remark

Jäätteenmaki thanked the organizers for inviting her to address the conference and commended CALD for its dedication to the ideal of a free society. She also expressed her gratitude to the Civil Will Green Party (CWGP) of Mongolia for its relentless work to achieve justice and openness in its society. She added, “Mongolia has successfully turned the burden of communism into functioning democratic institutions. This change has required the commitment and sacrifices of great depth by strong women and men.”

Jäätteenmaki said that she attended the conference to learn. “For as long as there is more work, there is something to be learned,” she emphasized. These are tools to learn from each other in order to strengthen women in leadership. These tools must be used in their respective fields of work when everyone heads back to their countries.

“More women in government make for better government.” The policies from grassroots to decision makers must correspond to the needs of the people. Hard work and solidarity contribute to the openness of markets, to equality, and to the upholding of human rights. Equality has no beginning or end, Jäätteenmaki said. It is a continuing process and it is up to liberal leaders to set the standards today by educating the future generation.



Special Session on Women and Religion

This special session discussed how women influence religious beliefs and practices and vice-versa. The speakers also raised issues relating women and religion such as the proposed *hudud* laws in Malaysia, the religion-driven recruitment of women in terrorist organizations, the interweaving of religious and gender discrimination, and the impact of religion on women leadership and political participation. Hon. Norica Nicolai, MEP from Romania and Vice President of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group.



Ms. Jayanthi Devi Balaguru

Vice Chairperson, CALD Women's Caucus
Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia (PGRM)

Balaguru focused on the issues on women and religion and presented the *hudud* law as an example in the context of Malaysia. On last March 2015, Malaysia's opposition, the Parti Islam SeMalaysia (PAS), pushed for the approval from Parliament the implementation of strict *hudud* laws in the state of Kelantan, which PAS has ruled since 1990. She explained that *hudud* is a set of laws and punishments set out in the Quran that could allow for flogging and amputation, among other forms of punishment, which contravenes Malaysia's federal laws.

The six crimes with fixed punishments are:

- Theft (amputation of the hand)

- Illicit sexual relations (death by stoning or one hundred lashes)
- Making unproven accusations of illicit sex (eighty lashes)
- Drinking intoxicants (eighty lashes)
- Apostasy (death or banishment)
- Highway robbery (death)

Balaguru explained further that if there is theft, for instance, two adult male witnesses are required to prove the offence. The punishment is to cut off the thief's hands. But in the Penal Code in Malaysia, which falls under the federal law, the same crime committed prescribes only a maximum of seven years jail, she explained. If there is rape under the *hudud* law, four adult male witnesses are required. "The penalty is 100 lashes if the person is unmarried and stoning to death if the person is married." The witness must be a Muslim male, not a Muslim female. *Hudud* law is not applicable to non-Muslims, which is the argument of Malay activist groups and some political parties in Malaysia because Malaysia has a dual justice system: Civil courts for non-Muslims and Shariah courts for Muslims.

Balaguru said, "The prospect of subjecting offenders to two different punishments for the same kind by virtue of their religious backgrounds have had far reaching effects in the context of diversity in Malaysia." This would lead to injustice because Muslims and non-Muslims offenders are of different religion. Also, the non-definition of women's role in *hudud* is a great concern when only a male Muslim can stand as a witness. Balaguru cited that this contravenes Article 8 of the Constitution, which guarantees equality for all regardless of race and gender. "To disguise law as religion and use this to get the Shariah courts to misuse God's law by men who are unquestionable and unaccountable is prejudicial and discriminative," she added.

The PGRM formed a legal team to challenge the passing of the *hudud* law bill in Kelantan. The Gerakan legal team filed an application in the federal court to say that the *hudud* law should not have been passed in Kelantan as it contradicts the federal constitution. The case was decided, but it was thrown out on the ground that under Article 4 of the federal constitution, two filings were needed to be satisfied: 1) that the application itself was not frivolous and vexatious, which the legal team fulfilled; and 2) that the three applicants were non-Muslims. Gerakan had one Muslim applicant and two Chinese and all three were from the Kelantan State because they felt that as Malaysians they would be subjected to the implementation of the *hudud* law if and when it comes about. Unfortunately, the court states that the applicants were non-Muslims and that they did not write in the affidavit that they were Muslims so the case was thrown out.

Gerakan has now mounted another application to challenge and fulfill the second requirement. Balaguru and the Gerakan legal team believe that they have to fight this battle in order to help the people of Malaysia.

Ms. Siti Hanniatunisa

Deputy Head

Nation Awakening Party (PKB), Indonesia

Hanniatunisa is one of the PKB leaders and the youngest one in the party. She shared the background of PKB as one of the Islamic political parties in Indonesia and presented three issues that women and children face in the country.



The PKB's ideology is Islamic democracy and their policies aim "to strengthen democracy, to increase the prosperity of people living in village, to strengthen the protection of farmers and fishermen, to accelerate the development of disadvantaged regions, to make laborers prosperous, and to increase the involvement of women in strategic sectors." Hanniatunisa said women have crucial roles in building societies. Women are seen as integral members of the society. By strengthening women, nations are also strengthened.

The problems women and children face in Indonesia include: child abuse, online prostitution, and terrorism. All three have an immense impact on the sustainability of a nation. According to the Indonesian Child Protection Commission, "In 2014, the number of reported child abuse cases nationwide increased to 5,066 cases from 4,311 in the previous year. This year [2015], the commission has recorded almost 2,000 cases from January to July." Hanniatunisa explained that not only the law, but culture and society have to change to improve the status of women. Illiteracy of women is not the only reason why such crimes are happening, but also the lack of information on religion vis-à-vis society. Addressing and clarifying the misconceptions on Islamic teachings and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is now the responsibility of Muslims. The ISIS lacks understanding of Islam, Hanniatunisa explained.

All of these are also related to the role of women in society in protecting their rights and the rights of their children. Women are the first educators so it is very crucial to teach the children their rights and roles in society to be secured from fundamentalist teachings and actions. It is also important to understand that in a country with six officially recognized religions and a multicultural society, tolerance and social awareness are key ingredients in order to achieve peace, security and harmony. Hanniatunisa made a call to collectively campaign for increase in education and for leaders continue to support legislation and policies on women and children's rights.

Mr. Emil Kirjas

Secretary General, Liberal International (LI)
Macedonia



Kirjas shared his views as a member of LI and as a liberal who is very steadfast in supporting women's rights. He was overwhelmed to see that majority of the conference participants are women and felt encouraged to continue to push and support the agenda of women.

Kirjas discussed the role of Liberal International in advancing religious freedom and the role of women. He narrated that when the first manifesto of LI was written, the important points were composed of two elements: 1) the freedom of worship and liberty of conscience and 2) full equality between men and women. Kirjas said, "Ever since the inception of the family of liberal parties, the freedom of religion and the equality of gender have been enshrined in its core principles...and has taken root to the work of the organization throughout the decade." These elements helped guide LI throughout the years in strengthening the rights of women and in convening them to form international organizations of women. The UN Commission on the Status of Women currently recognizes LI in a consultative status. Liberals, he said, have always supported freedom of worship and religion without interference or imposition. This is very important in order to secure the rights of women in a liberal and democratic way. The Catholic Church teaches not to judge other people, but the people leading the church are men. Even the Dalai Lama and his monks who promote peace are all men. Kirjas pointed out the effect of some religions vis-à-vis gender equality. An example is Malala Yousafzai who defied the Taliban in Pakistan and demanded that she be educated. She was denied education because she is a girl. Another example is the #bringbackourgirls advocacy that emerged after the abduction of 276 schoolgirls in Nigeria by the terrorist group, Boko Haram.

Another approach to support women liberal issues is to look into a lot of the women conventions organized worldwide. Kirjas said women discussing women has to change. LI discussed this issue during its recent Congress in Mexico. The delegates debated on why, until now, there has been no women UN Secretary General knowing that the UN promotes gender equality and yet only senior men are leading the world community of nations. LI is also active in focusing on the domestic violence issues of women. Conservatives would say it is because it's part of their culture, which is deeply tied to religion. Liberals, on the other hand, believe that women must be legally protected from any kind of violence and no culture or religion can impede that. This is the reason behind why the LI is working with the International Network of Liberal Women (INLW) and other partner organizations and governments. They seek to promote an international convention on the prevention of violence against women. It may be another international instrument, but Kirjas emphasized that "as long as it is increasing

the public awareness and ensuring that there is legislation that will protect women from religious influence or abuse, we have to participate.”

Tolerance and respect for each other are very important. No culture or religion can justify the abuse of women. Kirjas said that women must have the courage to stand up for their rights and that the vulnerability of people must always be in the forefront of those who work in politics.

OPEN FORUM

Women and Religion

Nicolai reiterated the importance of educating the public about women and religion because it provides knowledge and awareness. Also, it sets aside any forms of stereotypes and discriminatory views toward them. It is important as well to show respect and tolerance to differences. Nicolai asked about religion and the progress of women in leadership roles. Similarly, Garchitorena asked if there are religions headed by women.



Kirjas said that there are women who exemplified leadership in many fields. Indonesia, the biggest Muslim country in the world, already had a woman President, Megawati Sukarnoputri. Pakistan, the second biggest country in world

with a Muslim population, had Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. In Turkey, Tansu Ciller served as the first and only female Prime Minister of Turkey to date. In the LI, unfortunately there has been no female President yet. Nevertheless, there is a Deputy President who is normally a leader in waiting and currently, the LI Deputy President is Helen Zille, leader of the opposition Democratic Alliance and serves as Premier of the Western Cape in South Africa. In the LI member parties, the Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) has Wan Azizah as their leader. Azizah who is the wife of Anwar Ibrahim currently leads PKR. In CALD, Kirjas told the story of Mu Sochua during Cambodian elections in 2008. Sochua, who is running for a seat in Kampot Province, showed bravery and courage that all women must possess. She demanded that a Buddhist leader, who supports the government party, apologize for bad mouthing her in public. She demanded the apology very late at night in the presence of the police. She showed an example on how to fight and not resist a religious leader who showed disrespect and who abused his position. Kirjas said we should empower women to fight.

Funding for women



A female senior member of the Mongolian delegation thanked the female participants for being in the conference. She commented about the importance of education and said that in Mongolia, education really comes from the parents. Though they were not taught about religion, they were taught by their parents to

respect others and live peacefully. And these values, they also pass to the future generation. She also asked about how political parties and institutions support women in elections.

Nicolai said they support women candidates by organizing fundraising events and inviting their networks to show support. If there are particular electoral finance laws available in countries, another option is to get financial support from the state. Balaguru also said they organize fundraising receptions and they organize events that attract the youth in order for the youth to be aware of women empowerment. It is important to have that independence to raise funds and empower the women, she added.

CALD Conference on Sustainable Development Goals and Post-Development Agenda



During the second day of the event, CALD organized the conference on sustainable goals and post-development agenda with the theme “Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals; Shaping the Post-2015 Development Agenda – The Role of Liberals.” Sec. J.R. Nereus “Neric” Acosta, Presidential Adviser for Environmental Protection of the Office of the President of the Philippines and Head of the CALD Climate Change Committee, facilitated the Opening Session.

Welcome Remarks

Hon. Oyun Sanjaasuren, MP

Chairperson, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats
President, United Nations Environment Assembly
Co-Chairperson, Civil Will Green Party, Mongolia

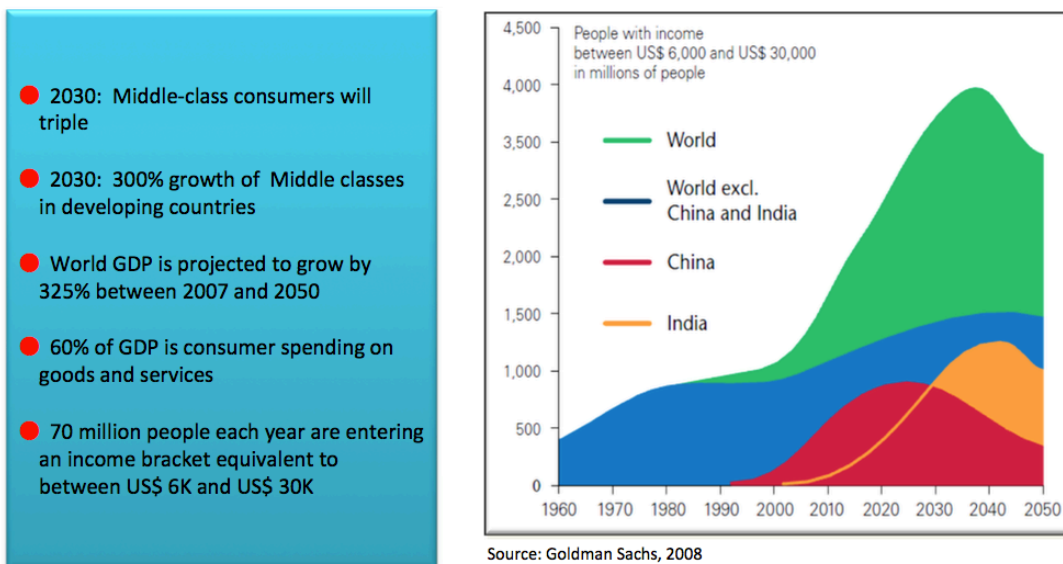


Sanjaasuren started by saying that learning and discussing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) could help provide the understanding political parties need before formulating strategies for electoral campaigns. Sanjaasuren said SDGs could significantly help countries and regions in transforming the way we see the world. Facing increasing challenges requires coordinating efforts to resolve them. “On September 25th 2015, 193 countries adopted 17 goals to “end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda.” Each goal has specific targets to be achieved

over the next 15 years, and it aims that no country will be left behind. It is important to understand that we are dealing with global challenges and not country-specific problems.

Sanjaasuren said that by 2015, the world population is expected to reach 9 billion and could further increase to 11 billion by the end of the century. The exponential rise is alarming and the biggest problem is, the planet cannot sustain population growth and the consumption of resources. The 1 billion middle class would turn into 4 billion middle class, and this means they need twice as much water and energy than before. Sanjaasuren emphasized the need for business and government to fundamentally change.

Trend: Goods Consumption Current and Future



The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) did a study and presented that by now, the world is exceeding the limits even by today's consumption patterns. Currently, the world needs around 1.5 planet and by the end of the century if the trend continues, they calculated that we need around 5 planets to sustain planet Earth. The coming years will be critical in changing the global development trajectory to a sustainable and greener pattern. There is no need for blame game, Sanjaasuren said. What is needed is really a change in mindset.

Sanjaasuren presented the initiatives and programs of Mongolia to help achieve SDGs. She shared that traditionally, during the nomadic civilization or the green civilization in Mongolia, it is very much sustainable in terms of consumption of resources and energy because in nomadic herding, people move from one place to another in search for better pastures. It was a recycling society then and there was less accumulation and less waste. However, in the modern civilization, more

than 90% of energy in Mongolia comes from coal. Everything is brown, not green. A combination of new technologies and environmental policies is needed to push for greener ways of living.

Green Development Strategy (2014)

/set of ambitious but clear targets/

Criteria/Indicators	2020	2030
Share of renewable energy in total installed capacity of energy production	20%	30%
Reduction of building heat loss	20%	40%
Share of waste recycling	20%	40%
Share of expenditures for green development in total GDP	2%	3%
Share of expenditures for science and technology research in total GDP	2%	3%
Share of green procurement in total government procurement	20%	30%
Share of protected areas	25%	30%
Increased investments in environmental protection and restoration	20%	30%
Share of forest area	8.5%	9.0%
Percentage of population that has access to safe drinking water	80%	90%
Percentage of population connected to improved sanitation facilities	40%	60%
Poverty level	24%	15%
Percentage of greenery spaces in Ulaanbaatar and other settlement areas	15%	30%
Share of the agriculture and manufacturing sector in total GDP	28%	30%

Mongolia started a package of environmental legislations in 2012 that included environmental impact assessment programs, environmental offset policies, and environmental auditing that mandates 30% of revenues from the use of natural resources to be used for environmental purposes. Also, Mongolia started the Green Development Strategy that was discussed in the cabinet in 2013 and approved in Parliament in 2014. According to Sanjaasuren, it has an ambitious, but clear and achievable targets. Part of this strategy is to eliminate taxes on importing renewable energy equipment. There are also power purchase agreements, which means that if one produces renewable energy, the government promises to buy from that particular producer. The strategy also encourages the installation of hydropower plants in Mongolia in the next 10 years and the development of green buildings. Sanjaasuren said the SDGs would help Mongolia put into every sector goals and implementation plans into every policy.

In the global scene, Mongolia has already submitted their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), which shows how countries would help address climate change. The World Resources Institute states that, “The INDCs

will largely determine whether the world achieves an ambitious 2015 agreement and is put on a path toward a low-carbon, climate-resilient future.” Sanjaasuren said they are trying to contribute as a country to help adopt the next Climate Change Agreement in Paris. The trajectory of every country, particularly the top emitters China, USA, India, Russia, and collectively Europe, must change their trajectories to impede the global risk. As leaders, it is an important, critical time to be bold in platforms, actions, and decisions. The world is hoping for a collective agreement that agrees and commits to the right way forward in achieving targets and influencing mindsets.

Mr. Siegfried Herzog

Regional Director, Southeast and East Asia Office
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Thailand

Herzog presented a sobering perspective on SDGs. With 17 goals and 169 sub-goals, he said some goals took two hundreds years to achieve. It is tough to achieve targets, but she agrees with Sanjaasuren that a holistic approach is indeed needed because problems are interconnected. Herzog also explained that real problems could be observed without going into the details of Climate Change. The issue of haze in Indonesia, for instance, poses health hazards in the region and this could be clearly observed and felt. Another examples it the coal industry in Mongolia wherein it affects the health of the citizens. Herzog further explained that “Climate Change is an additional concern and an additional motivation, but we should not let the debate about that detract from the necessity to act on sustainable development and greener development.”



Herzog presented approaches and realities that could help understand and achieve SDGs. First, states have a problem in their capacity to act because of the lack of accountability and effective institutions. Bureaucracies do a lot of things, but they don't really implement policies effectively. In South Asia, for example, regulations are trying to make the lives of people as difficult as possible so that people will pay to get around those regulations. Their regulations are geared towards rent- seeking and the rule of corruption thrives well in this kind of states. Herzog stressed the importance of institution-building. “Without reliable and accountable institutions, a lot of policy actions are difficult.”

Herzog also pointed out that there is lack of resources, not financial ones, but management resources of political leaders. “With the vast problems that a country have, there is only so much you can do.” The Philippines elected a government that moves a dysfunctional bureaucracy and state to a better direction where institutions can function effectively. However, there are still problems left unsolved because the truth is, change will not happen overnight even if you have a willing and able president.



Harnessing the market in the right way can help address problems. Even with limited resources, but with simple and enforceable regulations, the market can provide solutions. Markets can open up the limits. If resources are scarce, it can be more expensive, but alternative resources become more viable. Herzog shared the development story of Europe. He said that they already have strong courts and very competent bureaucracy before the industrial revolution started. Because of this, when infrastructures were built, the regulatory framework for these was easier to establish. He added that these are the lessons we tend to forget in development discourse. Reliable institutions must first be established before policies.

Herzog also added the importance of harnessing the power of the civil society, their creativity and their dynamism. Who is accountable to the citizens? Who has the incentive to propose better solutions? "We have to accept that the government cannot do it alone," he noted. It is crucial to bring in other actors to help achieve the goals. The liberal message that must be conveyed, Herzog reiterated, is to think of others in the society and how they could take part in the whole process of achieving SDGs.

Keynote Speeches



The next session included three distinguished speakers who delivered their keynote addresses focusing on “The Post-2015 development agenda and the local level: From global agreements to local solutions.” Hon. Sin Chung Kai, a Legislative Council member from Hong Kong and a CALD Individual Member, chaired the session. The speakers included Dr. Stefanos Fotiou, Head of Unit for “Cities and Lifestyles” of the United Nations Environmental Program, Hon. Sam Rainsy, MP, Minority Leader of the Cambodian National Assembly and CNRP President, and Hon. Anneli Jäätteenmäki, MEP. Ms. Gang Badoy Capati of RockEd Philippines provided the synthesis of the discussions.

Dr. Stefanos Fotiou

Head of Unit, “Cities and Lifestyles”
United Nations Environmental Program

Fotiau started his presentation by explaining SDGs through the narration of a Mayor from the Philippines, Mary Jane Ortega. She said the goal to eradicate poverty is to eradicate hunger because without hunger, one will achieve a better self. With a healthy living, children can go to school and have quality education that will make them understand about gender equality, empowerment of women, the need for clean water, sanitation, and sustainable energy. With this



knowledge, people will be able to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth and these will help build infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation. If these will be done globally, these could significantly reduce inequality among countries. While the goals are targeting global change, Fotiou said, focusing efforts in cities is important because cities are the future of development. As UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon said, "Our Struggle for Global Sustainability Will Be Won or Lost in Cities." Fotiou added, "One of the most important things we need to do as citizens is to ensure sustainable consumption and production because this will allow us to fight Climate Change and in fighting climate change we will be able to conserve the sustainable use of oceans and biodiversity and we will be able to promote a peaceful and inclusive society."

The estimate cost to make the SDGs happen is about 1 trillion US Dollars. Fotiou provided a clear and realistic costing by providing analogies. The global GDP he said is \$7.7 trillion. The cost to push for SDGs is about 1.3% of the global GDP. Globally, people spend \$600 billion on cosmetics and \$1.7 trillion on military expenses. The 80 richest people in the world own \$2 trillion. People spend a total of \$2.4 trillion on tour expenses (flights, accommodations, and food only). The annual revenue of the top ten biggest corporations in the world is \$4 trillion. It is up to the people to decide if the \$1 trillion budget for SDGs is big or small, Fotiou said.

What does SDGs allow us to do? Fotiou said that SDGs encourage people to rethink, refocus, and reprioritize sustainability. Rethinking means rethinking sustainability as a concept in our system and being conscious of the everyday decisions people make that will eventually cause values to change. The choices will affect the cities and lifestyles and will inspire socioeconomic evolution towards sustainable use of resources. "We refocus our efforts to deliver results," Fotiou said, and "reprioritize and reorient the private and public finance in private and public spending." These rethinking and refocusing would help our actions in the next 50 years. To instill the 17 goals and 169 targets in the lives of the people, Fotiou noted the need to include discussion on cities, buildings, procurement, food systems, and sustainable lifestyles. "We have the opportunity to promote sustainability as part of the identity of choices," he added. He emphasized the focus on cities because they grow really fast. While cities create problems, they can also be agents of solutions.

To move forward with a long-term framework, it is important to have a systems innovation philosophy, a holistic approach, a changing of consumption and lifestyle habits, investments and infrastructures, technological improvements, and a strengthening of fiscal frameworks. Fotiou noted that there is not one recipe that fits all. "We need to select the right policy tools...and the right policy mix."

Each country needs to select its own policy mix to achieve global targets. It is unfair to say that the same policy will have the same effect to other countries.

Fotiou also highlighted the need to mainstream the approach by finding the specific process to follow. Most of the time, it is easier to find the process than to create a new one. Mainstreaming is about integrating the innovations into the routines of the local actors and then changing the routines over time. “If we imagine lives after the SDGs have been achieved, we can imagine a life that provides knowledge, values and skills to enable every individual of the society to become actors of change.”

Hon. Sam Rainsy, MP

Minority Leader, Cambodian National Assembly
President, Cambodia National Rescue Party

Sam focused on two points: 1) the correlations between economic success and political freedoms, and 2) the case of Cambodia. Like democratic countries, authoritarian regimes have achieved remarkable economic success. Japan, South Korea, and India are examples of democracies that reached economic success, while authoritarian regimes such as Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, and China have made great economic progress as well. What are the factors that help produce economic success? Sam said that both democratic and authoritarian countries have granted economic freedom to citizens. This means that individual initiatives, freedom of enterprise and a market economy are in place. He said that democracy is not the reason why there is economic progress, the quality of leadership is – a leadership that provides market economy, fair competition, and rule of law. Moreover, leaders must be highly educated to provide a vision for the country.



Cambodia does not fulfill any of the conditions mentioned. Sam explained that their top leaders have no education. Most of them were soldiers, even Khmer Rouge leaders, who are good in fighting enemies and not in leading in a modern way. They see leadership as a career so they put their self-interest first rather than that of the country. They have mastered political survival and have focused on clinging into power instead of pushing for democratic reforms and institution-building.

Macroeconomic figures can be misleading, Sam noted. The 7% economic growth of the country in the last ten years is not caused by good leadership and good governance, but by the economic assistance from the international community and the “dirty money” businesses brought in by criminal organizations. These businesses abuse the country’s resources to generate revenue. The struggle in Cambodia is the systemic and endemic corruption characterized by cronyism.

This type of leadership leaves behind deforestation and human trafficking that continue to destroy the social fabric of Cambodia.

To produce real economic value for the country, leaders must think of sustainable development and equity. Sustainable development assures social stability while equity assures inclusive participation for all sectors in society. With these as leadership guideposts, the market economy, rule of law, and free and fair competition will continue to work for the people.

Hon. Anneli Jäätteenmäki, MEP

Vice President of the European Parliament

Former Prime Minister of Finland

Member, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group



Jäätteenmäki believes that SDGs is a welcome development that generates global reason to increase networking and cooperation. It is not a burden, but an opportunity for development. SDGs use resources in a sustainable way and open the doors to many possibilities. Jäätteenmäki discussed the advancing globalization - the exponential growth of information - that impacts on resources. She said the overconsumption of resources is a global problem because ecosystems are damaged and exploited. Biological adaptability is slow to catch up to ensure survival of many species.

Jäätteenmäki stressed that to address global problems, “We must think globally and act globally. No one can solve all the problems, but everyone can solve some.” She pointed out the essential targets to achieve SDGs. First is ownership and inclusion, which means that everybody has a share in society. Those who are not involved or the excluded ones are “bearing the brunt of Climate Change.” The poorest countries, for instance, are being hit the hardest. Second is fairness and justice and the need for reliable institutions to effectively administer the rule of law. Third is openness or transparency, which requires constant and unending effort because this is the strongest enemy of corruption and maladministration. Next is knowledge and sustainability, both of which develop over time and its effects are cumulative. Knowledge is crucial for survival. Lastly, to gain knowledge, the people must have informed choices through education. Education is a long-term investment and would help the efficient consumption of resources and harvest great benefits for the future. Jäätteenmäki said that the goal of SDGs is for everyone to have a better life. It is important to recognize that a change in attitude is the most difficult thing to do so with small steps forward and with the integration of global efforts and cooperation, doors open for the possibilities of change.

Synthesis

Ms. Gang Badoy Capati

www.polimetrics.net

www.rockedphilippines.org



Capati introduced herself and shared that she mainly works with the youth in the Philippines teaching civic involvement through rock-and-roll. Over the 10-year work of RockEd Philippines, the MDGs were the basis of everything they do. She said these goals are actually simple, but it's inevitable to explore on the details because of development work.

This conference on SDGs is vital because leaders are present, not just to make conversations, but to influence and make decisions. The liberals who are gathered are the stalwarts and the heroes who lay down ideas. When ideas happen, things move, and the world changes when decisions are made. This is not an easy task, but a great challenge. "What is agreed upon, written on, sign upon usually happens," Capati noted. All the keynote speakers shared about equality and how we should discuss SDGs in a global scale. Education is the great equalizer and democracy is lauded as a common ground for SDGs to happen. To Capati, the SDGs are genius because it is the framework of universal kindness. It is the framework of leaders to be kind and a good leader is a kind leader. "Let is be said that liberals are kind," she added. Kindness, ultimately, transcends religion, culture, race, etc., and it is wonderfully put within 17 goals and 169 indicators. Capati noted that the MDGs before were guidelines of how we can help to bring countries from negative to zero. And now, SDGs aim to help countries move forward from zero.

Capati compared countries to a body that keeps changing and growing. She said that the minute a person is born, that person keeps developing, cells and muscles keep changing. "Every single minute means you are developing. If you're body stops developing, then you're body is not peaceful." If resilience, according to Acosta, is the new freedom, Capati thinks development is the new peace. "You are not at peace when you are not developing...Everything is atrophy from lack of use." Courage, dialogue, love, and everything good freezes when you don't use it. She encouraged leaders to learn from our bodies, to learn from our muscles and the cells that we have.

The SDGs is the framework of every single person, not just the leaders. "Kindness is the manifestation of a great leader. You will have to be that because you are that. Maybe the non-freedoms and other circumstances will block you,

but remember that the young will always look up to you because you make the decisions.” Capati pointed out that many get intimidated with 17 goals compared to 8 goals before, but when a boat sails and sees 17 lighthouses and 169 guideposts or compasses, the sail gets better and easier. “These are guideposts of the world so we know where we need to go.”

Open Forum

Sittheamorn asked the liberals a few challenging questions: “Have we done enough,” “Do we walk the talk?” and “As liberals, do we need to adapt?” He said there are some contradictories on how liberals approach things. Liberals believe in market economy and free trade, but have liberals done enough for fair trade. “We are overconsuming by far in some countries...and there is not hardly enough to consume. We try to sell more than what people need.” Jäätteenmäki agreed with Sittheamorn and she believes fair trade is also important because development is not enough. It is also important to implement trade rules that are fair. Sam, on the other hand, said that while liberals value individuals, liberals must also see the needs of communities and the value of how leaders should work with the community.



Fotiou also said that while we give value on individual profit, we must start refocusing on community profit. As members of political parties, our policies must address communities. The problem is not with individuals, but in the system that allows overconsumption. Sanjaasuren shared that it is crucial to adopt liberal strategies and to be progressive in addressing SDGs in party policies and

platforms. Each country has its own political setback and constraints. In Mongolia, liberal policies get less support because populist policies get more votes. But the beauty of being in a democracy is that mistakes can be repaired. It's just that a lot of time is wasted, and progress is slower. Fotiou added that while economic growth is vital, that does not mean that the other aspects are not important. In Greece, he narrated, they lost financial stability, but they did not lose the social web of the social interconnections that makes them survive. This connection is a big resilience factor when financial crisis happens.

SUMMARY OF THE OPEN SPACE DISCUSSION

“New/Innovative Ideas for CALD”



On issue-areas that CALD should concentrate on

- Transboundary/regional security/non-traditional security issues (competing territorial claims, food security, pandemic diseases, environmental concerns like haze)
- Use of social/online media as an issue and campaign platform
- Political leadership and the use of political power while in opposition (how to attack and counter-attack the government)
- Post-mortem analysis of elections
- Emerging new growth model (balanced, inclusive, green and responsible)
- Democratic transition and consolidation issues
- Corruption in the government and in the private sector
- Demographic change in Asian societies

On CALD organizational issues

CALD Events

- In CALD workshops and seminars, it would be good for the participants to have access to preparatory documents that make them better equipped to engage in substantive discussions during the actual events.

- It would be advisable for the CALD Secretariat to document the results of the event, and if possible, to continuously engage the participants on issues raised during the activity.
- CALD can invite outside resource persons, neutral observers, or external critics to its events.
- Training on international relations for CALD members can be included in the line-up of CALD activities, as well as party-to-party study visits.

CALD Networks

- CALD, with the support of Liberal International (LI), should explore collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Women in Parliament Global Forum (WIP), ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and United Nations (UN) Conferences (General Assembly, Commission on the Status of Women, Human Rights Council, etc.).

CALD Information Dissemination

- CALD should engage both the regional and national media (in its member parties) to make its issue-positions known.
- CALD should explore having real-time engagement and creative, engaging content in its social/online media platforms.

CALD Youth

- CALD Youth officials should participate in CALD meetings, and a system should be in place to address frequent changes in CALD Youth personnel.
- A side-event for the CALD Youth can be organized before/after/in parallel with major CALD events.
- CALD Youth should engage the young people through corporate/special events, creative videos and music festivals.

Special Session on the Use of Death Penalty in Asia



The session talked about the reintroduction of capital punishment in Asia, which is considered as “the most prolific executing region in the world.” In China alone, the number of capital sentences being carried out is believed to exceed the rest of the world. North Korea, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Singapore, among others, have recently reinstated capital punishment, and many have actually carried out executions in the past years. Jules Maaten of FNF Philippines chaired the session and facilitated the discussions on how liberals should respond to this worrying trend. The speakers who shared their insight on the topic were Niel Tupas, Jr., Member of Parliament from the LP Philippines who currently serves as the Chairperson of the Committee on Justice in Congress, Nicolai from the ALDE Group, Jufri Salim, a member of the Central Executive Committee of the Singapore Democratic Party (SDP), and Kirjas of the Liberal International.

Hon. Niel Tupas, Jr., MP

Chairperson, Committee on Justice,
Philippine House of Representatives
Liberal Party of the Philippines

Tupas talked about the progress of the Philippines on the issue of death penalty. He cited national laws that developed over the years as liberals continue to fight death penalty. The current law is the Act No. 3815, which is based on the Spanish Codigo Penal of 1848. After the EDSA Revolution, the people power

movement that toppled the Marcos dictatorship, a positive milestone transpired in the 1987 Constitution, Article 3, under the Bill of Rights. It states, “Excessive fines shall not be imposed, nor cruel, degrading or inhuman punishment inflicted. Neither shall death penalty be imposed, unless, for compelling reasons involving heinous crimes, the Congress hereafter provides for it. Any death penalty already imposed shall be reduced to *reclusion perpetua*.” Under Philippine law, *reclusion perpetua* means maximum of 40 years. Tupas explained that the Constitution itself abolished the practice, but not quite. In 1989, the Supreme Court of the Philippines ruled in the People of the Philippines vs. Muñoz case that “the Constitution does not completely or expressly abolish death penalty.” What the Constitution did was to limit the imposition of death penalty on certain crimes. In this case, only heinous crimes as maybe provided by law. But even with this ruling, no execution happened from 1987.



In the 1992 elections, General Fidel Ramos promised to re-impose death penalty, which he did when he won the presidency. In 1993, under the Republic Act 7659, death penalty was re-imposed, but only at a limited sense on cases involving heinous crimes. Tupas defined heinous crimes based on Philippines setting as “offenses that are grievous, odious, hateful offenses, and which by reason of their inherent or manifest wickedness, viciousness, atrocity, and perversity are poignant and outrageous to the common standards of norm of decency and morality in a just, civilized, and orderly society.” Even with the passage of this law, no execution happened because human rights advocates challenged the law in the Supreme Court of the Philippines. “Is the death penalty cruel, degrading, or inhuman punishment?” In 1996, with the case on the People of the Philippines vs Echegaray, Echegaray was sentenced to death. He was charged with rape, he filed an appeal to the Supreme Court, but the Supreme Court ruled that death penalty is not a cruel, degrading, and inhuman punishment. It cited a US jurisprudence under the 8th Amendment of the US Constitution that to be cruel and degrading, there must be torture and the death must be slow. In 2001, Echegaray was executed by lethal injection.

In 1996, another milestone was achieved when President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo passed Republic Act 9346, “An Act on Abolishing Death Penalty.” However, Tupas explained that the law cannot amend the Constitution so RA 9346 is actually an Act suspending the imposition of death penalty even on heinous crimes. From 2006 to 2015, this is the present law that Philippines follows. A lot of factors affect decision on death penalty. The Catholic Church is very vocal against it and public opinion is very strong that it could distort the legal opinion of the Supreme Court of the Philippines and the Philippine Congress.

In conclusion, Tupas said that the future of the re-imposition of death penalty would depend on the ideology of the next administration. Public opinion will continue to play a big role on this controversial issue. Liberals will continue to

fight against death penalty. Although the Supreme Court has ruled that death penalty is not a violation of the Constitution, liberals still believe that the state has no right to take the life of a person especially when there are other means for the state to protect itself. Furthermore, Tupas said that the system is flawed and there is so much corruption within the system. Therefore, when someone is executed, there is always a risk that they could be innocent. Given the chance to continue to lead the reforms for government, the LP Philippines will try to amend the Constitution to totally abolish death penalty.

Hon. Norica Nicolai, MEP

Vice President and Member

Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group, Romania

Nicolai gave a brief history of death penalty and described that in the beginning people were living in a primitive society. Even until the Romans built institutions and established a state, they followed the saying, “A life for a life.” In modern times, she said the people began to understand conscience and the core value of humanity. But still Nicolai asked the question, “Why do we need death penalty?”

She explained that many are still in favor of death penalty. There is a school of thought which supports that if that is what the majority wants, then death penalty can be justified. It is not a matter of democratic approach, Nicolai stressed, but lack of leadership. Laws on death penalty are usually based on political decisions and political interests, not on justice. A state that has death penalty is not a strong state, but a weak state. During the revolutionary period, Russia, Romania and the Eastern European countries use death penalty to punish political prisoners. This trend was passed on from one ideology to another and from one type of state to another.



She also explained that death penalty does not necessarily mean that a decline in crime rate follows. In the US, for example, crimes continue to increase even with death penalty. People become more violent and desperate due to the fear of death penalty. Countries that have death penalty are countries with most police casualties and with the highest level of corruption not just in government, but in society in general.

The core of every human being is the right to life. To end death penalty or not is up to the leaders to decide.

Mr. Jufri Salim

Member of Central Executive Committee
Singapore Democratic Party



Salim provided a background of the capital punishment in Singapore, the gains they have achieved to address the issue and the challenges that continue to confront the city state. Singapore, for the past ten years, has always been in the top-ranked in terms of education, economic growth, health care, technology, transportation, among others. However, according to the 2010 Rule of Law Index of the World Justice Project, "Singapore is the top-ranked country amongst the indexed countries in providing security and access to civil justice to its citizens yet it ranks very low in terms of open government, limited government powers, and fundamental rights." Moreover, Singapore is still among the few countries that believe in capital punishment or death penalty.

Singapore did not join the 117 United Nations member countries in 2014 that voted for a global moratorium on the death penalty, but Salim said there was a positive development. In November 2012, Singaporean Parliament revised the law to restrict the kinds of drug and murder convictions for which the death penalty is mandatory. He said that the death sentence is not mandatory if the convicted had no outright intention to kill. It is applied only if the person is possessing a specific amount of controlled drugs. In 2012, the SDP welcomed the government's decision to stop the mandatory death penalty against drug couriers. "The law does not serve justice and it is applied unevenly. We are glad the Government has realised the error and folly of executing drug mules while narco-kingpins produce and sell their drugs with impunity. Taking the lives of small-time drug peddlers will do nothing to stop the drug menace."

In November 2013, for the first time, the drug traffickers death sentence was reduced to life imprisonment. Yong Vui Kong, a 25-year old Malaysian, has been on death row in Singapore since he was charged with possession of 47g of heroin six years ago. The reduction of his death sentence to life imprisonment for a convicted drug trafficker in Singapore is a landmark step, Salim said. A High Court in Singapore reduced his death sentence to life imprisonment and 15 strokes of the cane. Salim said, the Court of Law currently gives opportunities to drug offenders. Life imprisonment in Singapore means the prisoner lives his entire natural life in jail, but if an appeal is made, it is possible to reduce the sentence to 20 years long. For murder cases, the discretionary sentence applies to those who have committed murder, but did not intend to kill.

Compared to the situation in 1996 when Singapore had 50 death sentences, 2014 gives a glimmer of hope when only two death sentences were reported and both are of drug-related. Salim also supports the fact that most convicts are from the poorest members of the society and most of them are victims of this

circumstances. Salim, however, criticized the Singaporean Government's Yellow Ribbon Project that started in 2004 and aims to give convicts a second chance in life. Its objective is to create awareness to give second chances to ex-offenders and their families by accepting ex-offenders and helping them in their re-integration back into society. Salim mused, however, that with death penalty still around, second chances are impossible. There's no second chance in death, Salim added.

Salim shared the SDP stand on death penalty. He said, "The SDP has long maintained that the mandatory death penalty does not stand up to scrutiny. We argued that the victims of drug peddlers, like smokers, consume the drugs of their own volition. In addition, the mandatory death penalty applies disproportionately to the poor. Drug lords and criminal syndicates seek out those who are financially desperate and in debt to smuggle drugs. Most, if not all, who have been executed under this law in Singapore have all been in financial dire straits." He concluded with a quote from Desmond Tutu, a South African Anglican bishop known for his opposition to apartheid, "To take a life when life has been lost is revenge, not justice."

Mr. Emil Kirjas

Secretary General

Liberal International, Macedonia

Kirjas shared the research of the LI's Japanese Intern, Yumi, who wanted to work with them because she feels ashamed of the fact that Japan has death penalty. She is curious to know why countries continue to have death penalty and what could organizations such as LI do to address the problem. Kirjas shared that in the recently concluded LI Congress in Mexico, LI adopted a resolution, which was very much part of the principles of the International Drugs Commission. It calls for a more flexible and a more tolerant position for drugs around the world. He said the debate on the matter was quite interesting. Liberals from Central America argued that they are victims because they are transitory countries. Kirjas emphasized that the entire GDP of all states from Central America is smaller than the entire cocaine market of the entire United States and that countries like the US that combats drug trafficking are the same countries that impose systems based on repression. Kirjas highlighted that in Asia, countries impose capital punishment following the same logic of restrictiveness and punishments for crime that is not related to consumption, but is connected to trade. This is very alarming for liberals and this issue should not be pushed aside.



Kirjas noted that LI has a clear policy on death penalty. It was adopted in 2000 during the Congress in Ottawa, Canada, a year after the UN Human Rights Commission passed a resolution in support of the worldwide moratorium on

death penalty. The LI resolution states, “Liberal International and the appropriate bodies of LI should: - work for the total abolition of the use of death penalty in the world, and - in the meantime demand thorough case investigation of those in death row, that no one innocent will suffer death penalty.” He said they have been successful in actually pushing through this clear liberal agenda on human rights, in particular this very basic right to life, which is enshrined also in the Human Rights Charter. In the global community, 18% of 36 nations still have capital punishment, 23 of which are in Asia, in the Middle East and Africa. Unfortunately, there are LI member parties which have death penalty in their countries: Botswana, Egypt, Lebanon, Russia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Guatemala, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

Again, Kirjas shared another observation by their Japanese intern. She argued, “Even though majority of the countries in Asia do have capital punishment, it cannot and should not be taken as an Asian value. Death penalty is somewhat influenced by ethnic discrimination.” Once again, capital criminals are the less privileged ones who do not have access to education and social welfare. Kirjas said, it is time to face the problem, take action and work on initiatives similar to what Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia did when it gathered 100,000 signature calling for the abolition of death penalty. Pakatan Rakyat Malaysia, the main opposition party in Malaysia, has also spoken against death penalty. International pressure has also saved lives from death row.

In conclusion, Kirjas reminded everyone that the International Human Rights Charter is not just a piece of paper, but a call for action to be implemented in the political systems. He said that it is imperative for organizations like CALD and LI to work together and launch a joint campaign to abolish death penalty.

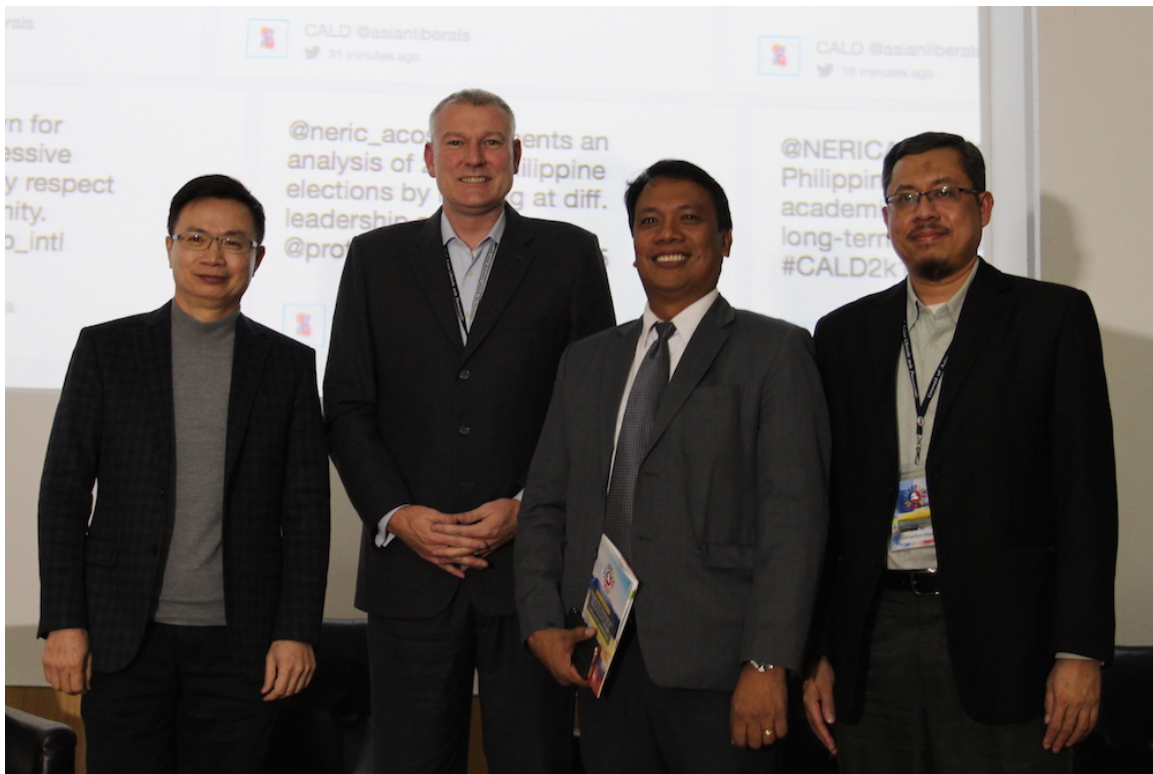
Open Forum

Popular Vote vs. Human Rights

Setiawan from PDIP shared that 86% of the people in Indonesia support death penalty. In a democracy, he said, the popular vote is followed, but liberals suggest otherwise. Kirjas responded by a quote from the Constitutional Court of Columbia that says, “The discriminatory clauses on human rights in the Constitution are being annulled by the very Constitution itself putting human rights in the priority.” He added that when popular vote is given importance over human rights, then that is not democracy and liberalism. It is the responsibility of the politicians to lead their nations against popular votes that go against human rights.

Special Session on Elections in Asia

Following the riveting elections in Indonesia in 2014, the years 2015 and 2016 serve as the election season in many Asian countries. This year, Sri Lanka (17 August), Singapore (11 September) and Myanmar (8 November) are holding their parliamentary elections. In 2016, Taiwan (16 January), the Philippines (9 May), Mongolia (June), and Hong Kong (October) will go to the polls to elect key government officials. Many of these electoral exercises are crucial turning points in the political development of the concerned countries. The purpose of this special session was to unravel the key issues and concerns in these elections, and to share best practices on political party and election management. Each speaker was given 10-15 minutes for his input, followed by an open forum.



This session, facilitated by Moritz Kleine-Brockhof, Resident Representative of the FNF Indonesia Office, presented the updated electoral trends, and crucial turning points in the following countries: Singapore (11 September), Taiwan (16 January), and the Philippines (9 May). The purpose of this special session was to unravel the key issues and concerns in these elections, and to share best practices in political party and election management.

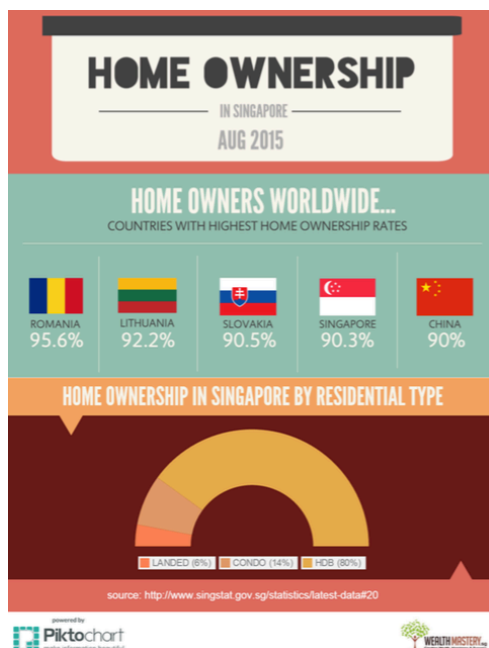
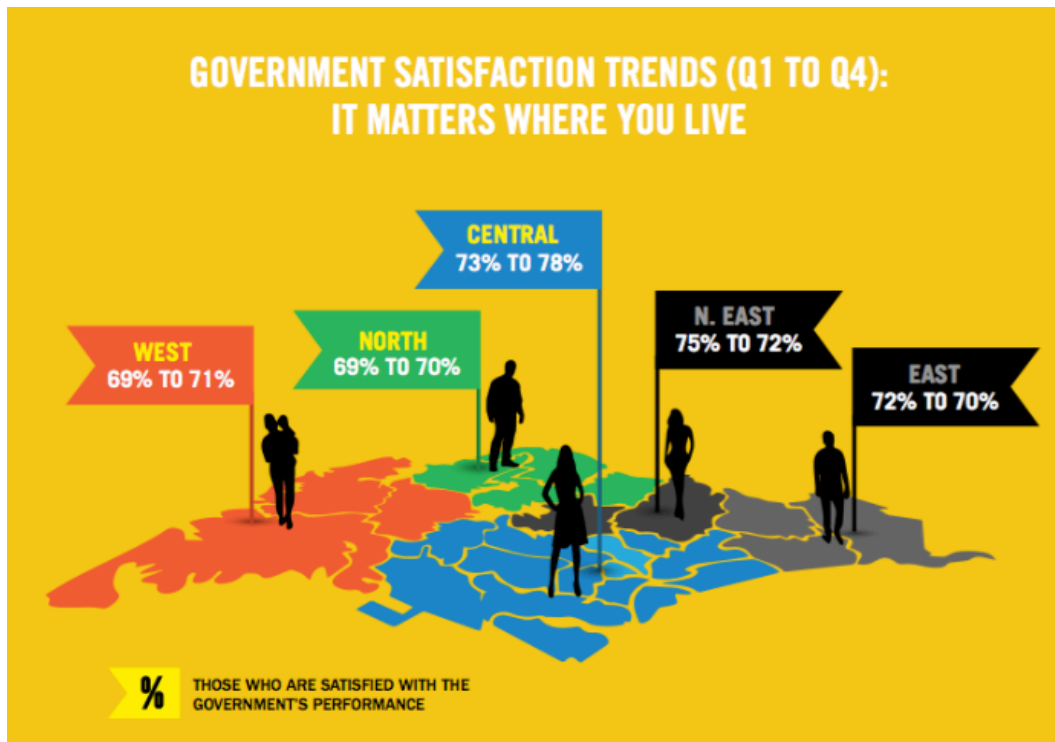
Singapore

Mr. Damanhuri Bin Abas

2015 Parliamentary Election Candidate

Singapore Democratic Party

Abas gave a preview of what Singapore is today as well as the democratic progress it made, the improvements needed, and the challenges it continues to face.



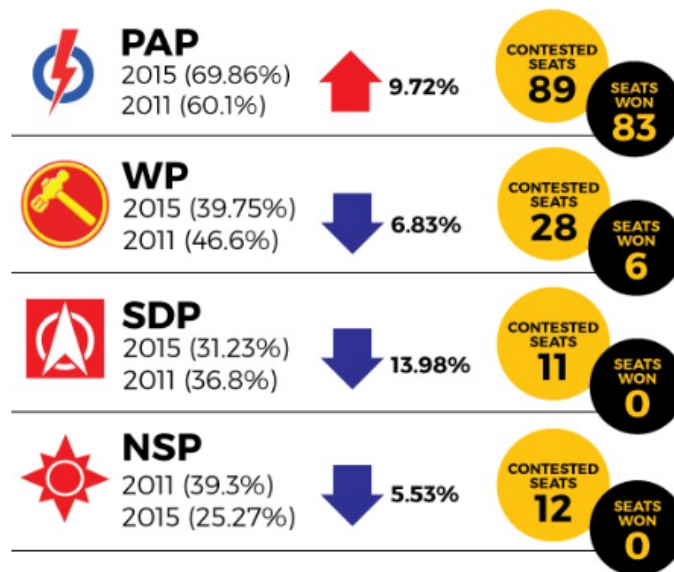
Singapore as a small country, with a small population, has achieved much particularly in the area of economy. It is a giant in Southeast Asia with a GDP that is even higher than the US. It also has a high government satisfaction rating and is currently the second safest city in the world next to Tokyo.

In terms of home ownership, 90.3% of the people in Singapore own a home. The government has, indeed, done well in some aspects. However, there's always a price to pay successes. Cars for example have very high taxes. With a \$114,888 Toyota Corolla, \$81,613 goes to government taxes and fees.

Only \$17,736 or 15% is the open market value. Lee Hsien Loong is the world's highest paid leader with \$1.7 million salary, topping Barack Obama's \$400,000.

In Singapore, there is now the Speaker's Corner where you can have demonstrations, of course after requesting for a permit and a proper registration. That is good progress in free speech and freedom to organize. There are some areas, however, that still need improvement. Singapore is ranked 153 out of 180 countries in the 2015 World Press Freedom Index next only to Russia. The Election Commission is not independent as well. It is under the jurisdiction of the Prime Minister's Office, which means that there is no level playing field. The elections, for example, have a very restrictive period. When the writ of election is issued, the first day starts with the nomination day and parties are only given 9 days to campaign, after which a cooling off period happens for a day before the actual polling day. The Election Commission also changes electoral boundaries every election and this creates difficulty for the opposition to prepare and adjust to immediate changes. The government is also good in "fear-mongering," which always successfully overpowers the opposition because of media control. Mainstream media is controlled and continues to be very influential. In the most recent election, SDP lost to the People's Action Party (PAP), the governing party. The vote swing to the government from the last elections was almost 10%.

THE RESULTS



Taiwan

Hon. James Huang

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan
Director, Department of International Affairs,
Democratic Progressive Party, Taiwan



“Bring hope back to Taiwan,” that’s the title of Huang’s presentation and it all points to the upcoming January 2016 election when Taiwan would elect a new leader and a new set of Members of Parliament. He said that they are confident that they would win the mandate of the people, however, there are a few things to remember, in order to bring back DPP to government. Like in all successes, sacrifices and hard work are needed to initiate the product of victory. Huang presented the elements in a campaign that help them propel electoral success.

First, there should be a vision for the people. Voters are smart. They can determine if the party really has something to offer or would just want to return to government for the sake of power. Second, a party and its candidates must have the right message for the people. Before a message is crafted, a party must do research and conduct opinion polls and focused group surveys in order to know the aspirations of the people. The DPP, he said, has a very efficient opinion polls center that provides accurate data to help the party improve its campaign. Third, candidates must go to every county and every village to listen to people and integrate their opinion into the campaign. This opinion is the basis for the party research. With these, one can come up with the right message and right strategy. There must always be a two-way communication between the party and the people. Lastly, Huang said to take note of the “stupid mistakes” of opponents and make sure it is not replicated by your own party.

Huang also briefly narrated the story of the Sunflower Movement and how it changed the dynamics of Taiwan politics. As a result, in November 2014, the DPP scored a big victory in the local elections. Huang said that this was already a preview of the presidential campaign. Events like these, remind the people of the sacrifices that the founders of the DPP went through in 1986, risking their lives just to fight for democracy. But not everything was a walk-in-the-park. In 2008, the DPP suffered a massive defeat that destroyed their morale. They tried to come back slowly and have been working hard since to regain the trust and confidence of the electorate. As of the moment, the polls have been consistent. People support has been 43% for DPP, 21% for Kuomintang Party (KMT), and 12-18% for the People’s First Party (PFP).

Among the challenges of the party include finding a better way of handling relations with China, finding a new way to jumpstart the economy and crafting a new economic model that focuses on job creation, innovation and distribution of

wealth. Apart from the policies and ideas, the DPP needs to effectively deliver the policy outcomes to the people. Through the latest communication tools using the latest technologies, the DPP is able to capture the hearts and minds of the younger generations and this makes a big difference in the elections. The DPP is open to the younger generation. Any ideas or proposals they have, the party is always open to consider them.

Huang believes that the upcoming Taiwan election would be a victory for liberals and it will serve as an inspiration for the people in Asia including China. It is time to “walk the talk” and prove that liberals can make a difference. It is time to show liberalism in action in governments.

Philippines

Sec. J.R. Nereus “Neric” Acosta

Presidential Adviser on Environmental Protection

Office of the President of the Philippines

Former Secretary General, Liberal Party of the Philippines



In his presentation, Acosta set aside his political hat and wore his social science and social anthropology hat to explain the intergeneration spread of Philippine politics from 1986 to 2015. These are the three decades of widening democratic spaces that saw the rise of a revolutionary government, led by Cory Aquino, and the transition of governments in-between until President Benigno “Noy” Aquino, the son of Cory who is about to complete his term in 2016. Acosta said that during this period, the country experienced a democracy trying to survive and thrive with all the imperfections and challenges. After Cory Aquino, in 1992, the country saw the very first peaceful transfer of power to Fidel Ramos, a technocratic leader, and then to Erap Estrada, a movie star who follows a populist stance. In 2001, the country experienced another democratic setback when a second people power ousted Estrada and placed Gloria Arroyo into the presidency. In 2004, the election was marred by electoral fraud, and Arroyo struggled to lead the country with the trust of the people. The restoration of faith in the democratic process happened with the election of President Noy Aquino in 2010. In 2016, 30 years hence, the Filipino people face another crossroads. Over the years, Filipinos have tried to generate institution-building, a more functional and neutral bureaucracy, but the struggle to keep democratic reforms afloat persists.

To understand the 2016 elections, Acosta presented four types of leadership that could help understand who the candidates and their possible target voters are.

Strong Arm -- Authoritative	Savior – Nurturing
Pro – Poor/ Populist	Rule of Law/ Economic Stability/ Technocratic

The Strong Arm quadrant shows an authoritative type of leadership that surprisingly still attracts people. Ferdinand “Bong-Bong” Marcos, Jr., the son and namesake of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, is now a candidate for Vice President. His mother is running for Congress and his sister for Governor. We still see a very high public support for them. Another candidate is Rudy Duterte, Mayor of Davao, who embodies a “Dirty Harry” type of personality and leadership. The people who crave for this type of leadership are the ones who think authoritative rule can wipe criminality and clean up corruption even at the expense of human rights and the lack of due process.

Mar Roxas, the Liberal Party candidate, falls under the Rule of law type of leadership. The continuation of democratic reforms and institution-building are his priority. A focus on economic stability is his weapon against populist policies. Despite having an objective platform, his name does not resonate well to the electorate. He ranks third in the polls and needs to step up in his campaign.

Under the Pro-poor quadrant, the types of Estrada leads the list. His leadership is the populist type that has a very big urban and rural base. The people who support populist leaders experience jobless growth even in the midst of economic growth. Campaigns in this type of leadership are based on promises and a large number of voters fall for empty promises.

Lastly, there is the Savior type of leadership. Cory Aquino, a grieving widow, was seen as the motherly, nurturing leader. In the coming 2016 elections, Grace Poe is associated to this kind of leadership. She is the daughter of Fernando Poe, a popular movie actor who was the best friend of Estrada. Fernando Poe was the one that Gloria Arroyo cheated during the 2004 elections. Now, his daughter, Grace, is seen as the one aggrieved and disadvantaged. She is seen as an orphan. This phenomenon made her the top senatorial candidate in 2013 and currently the top in the presidential polls.

Acosta said politics is about narrative and stories. We campaign with poetry and we govern with prose. How we craft and sustain a story and integrate the substance in terms of policy, good governance, anti-corruption and sustainable development, is a big challenge.

Open Forum

Campaigns and Deliverables

Sin Chung-kai from Hong Kong commented on Acosta's presentation and said that after a series of elections, people are looking for results and deliverables. He said that selling a good story is very tough, but at the end of the day leaders need to deliver because people will demand results. Acosta responded that while we deliver results, "We must ensure that, as liberals, our stories must be told and resonate. It's not enough to have a list of what has been done." Voters must empathize with the clear results; that is why engagement with communities is paramount.

Kirjas agreed with Acosta and explained that without touching the hearts of the voters, candidates will not win. However, he added that after touching the hearts of the electorate, the promises that are offered must not be exaggerated. Candidates must offer reasonable solutions. Consistency in politics is very important. Capati said that voters are varied. A lot of candidates do not build institutions, but they go directly to voters. She suggested that while candidates are campaigning, there must also be an aggressive approach to educating the people to be critical voters – an electorate that understands that deliverables are built by institutions and not by candidates.

Keynote Address



Hon. Namdag Battserreg, MP

Minister of Environment and Green Development,
Mongolia

Battserreg thanked CALD and Sanjaasuren for the opportunity to address the international delegates. He said that he has been in Parliament with Sanjaasuren for many years and even though they belong to different political parties, they have been working together to improve the economy and the environment. Since the approval of the Sustainable Development Program 15 years ago, it went through hurdles of challenges that united parties together only to push for the implementation of the program. In the next elections, whoever wins, Battserreg said that it would not matter because the plan will be enforced with one goal by all political parties steered by the party in power. One of the main objectives of this document is climate change and biodiversity, he said. All the major political parties agreed to implement the program in the long run to foster economic growth and implement ideas on sustainable development.

Closing Session



The last session was chaired by Kiat Sittheamorn of the Democrat Party of Thailand. He thanked the Civil Will Green Party for the warm hospitality and for being a gracious host during the conference. Among the speakers who gave their closing remarks were Maaten of FNF Philippines, Hanjaya Setiawan, Secretary of Government Affairs Department of the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, and Sanjaasuren of the CWGP.

Maaten applauded the work of CALD and how astonishing it has helped the region for 22 years being the only liberal political family in Asia. He is happy with how the CALD members and partners have grown in the process and how representatives discuss and analyze controversial issues. He said that the debate on women leadership and SDGs were very interesting because participants contributed and debated with a view to come to understand one another. Setiawan's take away is the basic agreement to implement ideas. He said it is important to implement ideas in political parties. He commended the CALD secretariat and the CWGP for a well-organized conference. Sanjaasuren, on behalf of the CWGP, thanked the CALD delegates for spending the last 6 days of their lives in Mongolia. She said, "Your presence is good proof of your dedication to the work of democracy and political parties and your commitment for the world to have a better life." She also aptly quoted Chinggis Khan, founder of the Mongol Empire, who said, "Take care of yourself first, your house, and your country." As leaders of political parties, Sanjaasuren said not to forget that "the future generations will judge us on the decision that we make today, and for that we need to understand global trends in order to properly address the issues". She added that leaders must not let their supporters and party members down. In the era of so much erosion of trust, skepticism, deficit of attention because of the digital age, she said, "We must overcome the challenges and never give up."