



CALD Consultative Meeting on the Liberal Manifesto 2017

Liberalism in the 21st Century:

An Asian Perspective

24-27 February 2017, Bangkok, Thailand



CONCEPT NOTE AND PROGRAMME

CONCEPT NOTE

Abstract:

On 20 May 2017, members of Liberal International (LI) are set to formally acclaim, on the occasion of LI's 70th founding anniversary, the Liberal Manifesto 2017. This document marks the historic culmination of the global reflection on the state of liberalism in the 21st century initiated by incumbent LI President Juli Minoves.

The process of drafting the Liberal Manifesto commenced in the 60th LI Congress in Mexico City in late 2015, which decided to set up the Manifesto Drafting Committee headed by Prof. Karl-Heinz Paque, Deputy Chairperson of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF). The members of the committee, which included prominent liberals from all regions of the world, met four times in 2016 – Berlin (April), Taipei (July), New York (September) and Marrakech (November).

As a result of these meetings, the first version of the draft Manifesto was released for comments of the LI general membership on 15 December 2016. The comments on the first draft will be collected until 25 January 2017; after which, a second version will be circulated on 20 February 2017 for final reactions and contributions. The deadline for the final feedback is on 15 March.

In line with this timetable, the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD) is organizing a consultative meeting on the draft Liberal Manifesto 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand on 24-27 February 2017. This is a continuation of discussions started during the 2016 CALD General Assembly, where CALD members had a lively exchange with the LI leadership on select issues relating to the Manifesto. The general goal of the consultative meeting is to continue the consultation process, to come up with a consolidated CALD position on this key liberal document, and to ensure that this position is incorporated in the final Manifesto. More specifically, the objectives of the event are:

- To identify the key issues and problems confronted by Asian liberals in contemporary times;
- To critically examine latest draft of the 2017 LI Manifesto in light of these issues and problems;
- To propose a set of amendments to the LI Manifesto drafting committee that reflect these key liberal issues and problems in Asia; and
- To discuss and sort all administrative matters concerning CALD with the Execom members, particularly the final schedule and themes of other CALD activities for the year.

Target Group:

Around twenty senior officials from CALD member-parties will attend the two-day consultative meeting (2 participants per full CALD member-party). It is strongly encouraged that the member-party be represented by the party leadership and/or the party's international relations officer.

The delegates are expected to accomplish the following tasks prior to the Bangkok consultative meeting:

- Examine the contents of the first version (attached) and the second version (to be released on 20 February) of the Liberal Manifesto 2017;
- Conduct an internal party consultation, when feasible, on these draft versions of the document;
- Come up with a list of the document's strong and weak points, taking into account party, country and regional contexts; and
- Formulate specific recommendations on how to rephrase the contentious provisions of the Manifesto, and/or propose additional provisions on new issues, so it can reflect the political realities in Asia.

PROGRAMME

Friday, 24 February 2017

Arrival in Bangkok / Welcome Dinner

Variable

Arrival in Bangkok

Check-in at the hotel of international delegates

Novotel Bangkok Ploenchit Sukhumvit

566 Ploenchit Road, Patumwan, Lumpini, Bangkok 10330, Thailand

Phone: +66 2 305 6000

Fax: +66 2 305 6001

Email: H7176@accor.com

Welcome Dinner

Hosted by the Democrat Party of Thailand

Venue: Ruamrudee I, 9/F Novotel Bangkok Ploenchit Sukhumvit

19:00 – 19:30

Welcome Remarks

Hon. Kiat Sittheeamorn

Secretary General, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

Deputy Leader, Foreign Affairs and Economics

Democrat Party, Thailand

H.E. Abhisit Vejjajiva

Chairperson, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

Former Prime Minister, Thailand

Leader, Democrat Party, Thailand

19:30 – 21:00 Dinner

Saturday, 25 February 2017

CALD Executive Committee Meeting / CALD Consultative Meeting Day 1 / Free Night

06:00 – 08:30 Breakfast
The Square Restaurant
8/F Novotel Bangkok Ploenchit Sukhumvit

08:30 – 09:00 Registration

CALD Executive Committee Meeting

Venue: Ballroom I, 9/F Novotel Bangkok Ploenchit Sukhumvit

09:00 – 12:00 *Presided by:*

H.E. Abhisit Vejjajiva
Chairperson, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats
Former Prime Minister, Thailand
Leader, Democrat Party, Thailand

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch
The Square Restaurant
8/F Novotel Bangkok Ploenchit Sukhumvit

CALD Consultative Meeting Day 1

Venue: Ballroom I, 9/F Novotel Bangkok Ploenchit Sukhumvit

13:30 – 14:15 *Opening Session*

Session Chair

Hon. Kiat Sittheeamorn
Secretary General, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats
Deputy Leader, Foreign Affairs and Economics
Democrat Party, Thailand

Welcome Remarks

H.E. Abhisit Vejjajiva
Chairperson, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

Former Prime Minister, Thailand
Leader, Democrat Party, Thailand

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

Background on the Liberal Manifesto 2017 (Video Message)

Mr. Emil Kirjas
Secretary General
Liberal International

14:15 – 16:00

*Session I: A Look at the Draft Liberal Manifesto 2017: Will This Document Make Us Relevant in the 21st Century?
(Member-Party Presentations)*

In this particular session, representatives of CALD member-parties will be given 5-7 minutes each to present their respective position on the draft Liberal Manifesto 2017, guided by the following questions: (1) Does the Manifesto's preamble and vision capture the essence of liberalism and its relevance in the 21st century?; (2) Does the Manifesto's list of threats to freedom and the possible solutions to them exhaust the key issues and problems that liberalism faces today?; and (3) Are there other major issues and concerns that your political party would like to highlight, taking into account both your party/country situation and the regional context?

After the presentations, there will be a general discussion where the key issues and problems for Asian liberals and democrats will be identified.

Session Chair

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

16:00 – 16:30

Coffee / Tea Break

16:30 – 18:00

*Session II: Examining the Key Issues and Problems in the Manifesto:
What Can Asian Liberals Bring to the Table?
(Working Groups)*

Drawing from the results of the previous session, the participants will be divided into working groups based on their interest on the identified issues and problems.

The working groups will then have in-depth discussions on their assigned issue and problem. In their discussion, they may be guided by the following questions: (1) Is the issue/problem of your group adequately captured in the draft Manifesto?; (2) Do you agree on the way it is described, including the proposed response to it?; and (3) How would you change or amend the draft Manifesto in order to adequately capture the Asian position on your particular issue/problem?

At the end of this session, each working group is expected to come up with specific proposals or amendments to the Manifesto that reflect the Asian view on its specific issue/problem.

Session Chair

Dr. Ratchada Dhnadirek

Former Member of Parliament, Thailand

Executive Committee Member, Democratic Party, Thailand

Free Night

Sunday, 26 February 2017

CALD Consultative Meeting Day 2 / Press Conference / Free Night

CALD Consultative Meeting Day 2

Venue: Ballroom I, 9/F Novotel Bangkok Ploenchit Sukhumvit

06:00 – 08:30

Breakfast
The Square Restaurant
8/F Novotel Bangkok Ploenchit Sukhumvit

08:30 – 09:00

Registration

09:00 – 10:30

Session III: Crafting CALD's Inputs to the Draft Liberal International Manifesto 2017 (World Café)

The working group proposals from the previous session will be presented for feedback of other participants using a modified world café method.

Designated representatives from the previous session's working groups will serve as the table hosts. They will summarize the discussions from the previous session, particularly the justification of the working group for proposed amendments/changes to the Manifesto. Afterwards, the table hosts will open the floor for feedback. They are expected to synthesize the discussions and formulate specific proposals or amendments that incorporate the sentiment of the world café participants.

The table hosts will report the results to the plenary after the coffee/tea break.

Session Chair

Ms. Bulgan Bayasgalant

Chairperson, CALD Youth
Civil Will Green Party, Mongolia

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee / Tea Break

11:00 – 12:00

Plenary Presentation of World Café Results and Finalization of CALD Input to the Liberal Manifesto 2017

Session Chair

Hon. Kiat Sittheeamorn

Secretary General, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats
Deputy Leader, Foreign Affairs and Economics
Democrat Party, Thailand

12:00 – 12:30

Closing Session

Session Chair

Ms. Bulgan Bayasgalant

Chairperson, CALD Youth
Civil Will Green Party, Mongolia

Closing Remarks

H.E. Abhisit Vejjajiva

Chairperson, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats
Former Prime Minister, Thailand
Leader, Democrat Party, Thailand

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch
The Square Restaurant
8/F Novotel Bangkok Ploenchit Sukhumvit

14:00 – 16:00

Press Conference

(Coffee / Tea / Snacks will be served at 15:00)

16:00

End of Press Conference and Consultative Meeting

Free Night

Monday, 27 February 2017

Departure from Bangkok

06:00 – 10:00

Breakfast
The Square Restaurant
8/F Novotel Bangkok Ploenchit Sukhumvit

Variable

Departure
