



Reclaiming Democracy, Rebuilding Society

PROGRAM GUIDE

CALD 25th Anniversary Events

**2nd CALD Climate Change Adaptation Seminar
38th CALD Executive Committee Meeting
8th CALD-ALDE Summit
25th CALD Anniversary Public Conference
12th CALD General Assembly**

**17-21 November 2018
Bangkok, Thailand**

CONCEPT NOTE

Reclaiming Democracy, Rebuilding Society

Democracy is in global recession. US-based non-government organization Freedom House stated in its *Freedom of the World 2018 Report* that, “democracy faced its most serious crisis in decades in 2017”, which is also the 12th consecutive year of decline in global freedom. During this period, it added that 113 countries have experienced a net decline in political rights and civil liberties, while only 62 have seen a net improvement. This recent wave of democratic retreat has been confirmed by *The Economist* Intelligence Unit’s Democracy Index, which ranks countries based on electoral process and pluralism, functioning of government, political participation, democratic political culture and civil liberties. It noted that: “Overall, 89 of the 167 countries assessed in 2017 received lower scores than they had the year before.” It also pointed out that currently, less than 5% of the world population lives in a “full democracy”, while nearly one-third lives under authoritarian rule, a significant number of them, in China.

Southeast and East Asia is no exception to this global trend, as repressive regimes in the sub-region appear to further tighten their grip to power. In Cambodia, attacks on the main political opposition, independent media and non-governmental organizations essentially make the July 2018 general elections a sham. The administration of

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte continues its brutal war on drugs, its clampdown of critics, and its attempt to amend the constitution to possibly remove term limits. Thailand’s military junta has repeatedly postponed promised elections, presumably to ensure the victory of a military-leaning political party, even as it continues to suppress fundamental civil rights like freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. In Myanmar, the challenges of the civilian government in preventing the crisis in the Rakhine state demonstrate the continuing clout and enormous power of the military, particularly on security matters. The region’s

hegemon, China, recently removed presidential term limits in its constitution, allowing the current president, Xi Jinping to potentially rule for life.

How Democracy Dies (*The Economist*, 2018)

- 1) genuine popular grievance with the status quo and, often, with the liberal elites who are in charge
- 2) would-be strongmen identify enemies for angry voters to blame
- 3) having won power by exploiting fear or discontent, strongmen chisel away a free press, an impartial justice system and other institutions of liberal democracy – all in the name of thwarting the enemies of the people
- 4) erosion of liberal institutions leads to the death of democracy in all but name

The factors which brought about these global and regional trends are intricately connected. Globally, the seemingly intractable internal problems of the world’s most established democracies, particularly the US, made them more preoccupied at home and less confident or willing to propagate or support democracy internationally. On the other side of the spectrum, the leaders of the world’s foremost authoritarian regimes, China and Russia, emboldened by their consolidation of power domestically and enormous economic clout, deployed their “sharp power” to further disrupt the politics of developed countries or their “chequebook diplomacy” to buy the loyalty of developing nations. The regional implication, at least for the Southeast and East Asian sub-region, is for authoritarian or authoritarian-leaning leaders to look up to China as a model that they could emulate – a stance which has been generously rewarded by the latter in

terms of foreign aids and loans. As what Chinese President Xi Jinping said, “China is blazing a new trail” for developing countries to follow. That trail, without a doubt, is detrimental to the cause of democracy.

Why does democracy in Southeast and East Asia seem easily dispensable? To put things in perspective, democracy in the sub-region has never been strong to begin with. Of the ten members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), none has been ranked by Freedom House as “free” for years, even decades. At best, some of these countries, to use the terminologies of *The Economist*, can be labeled as “hybrid regimes” or “flawed democracies”. In 2017, the only bright spot is Timor Leste, an ASEAN observer member, which had a status change from “partly free” to “free” because of the most recent elections which facilitated a smooth transfer of power and an entry into the system of new candidates and political parties. More recently, the peaceful transfer of power in Malaysia’s historic May 2018 elections could also be considered in that light. East Asia has a much better record when it comes to democracy, with Japan, Mongolia, South Korea and Taiwan ranked as “free”, even as it also includes two of the world’s most intransigent authoritarian regimes – Mainland China and North Korea.

This leads to the corollary question: “Why is democracy in Southeast and East Asia not that strong to begin with?” There are many possible answers to this question, ranging from history of colonization, widespread inequality, to cultural explanations emphasizing “Asian values”. All of these, however, would point to the sad reality that many countries in the sub-region failed to build strong institutions which make democracy work – free and fair elections, parliaments and courts that check-and-balance executive power, issue-oriented political parties, strong civil society, independent media, among others. This weakness of institutions make countries in the sub-region more susceptible to the appeal of populists and strongmen, and in the process, set aside, if not utterly disregard, democratic principles and processes. However, as noted recently by an esteemed Asian public official, “...great countries do not need strongmen. They need strong institutions. Great men eventually perish but great institutions outlast them all”.

This belief in the importance of strong institutions underpins the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats’ (CALD) choice of theme for its 25th founding anniversary – “Reclaiming Democracy, Rebuilding Society”. CALD believes that the process of consolidating democracy, of making it “the only game in town”, necessitates the building of strong institutions. Strong institutions are what make democracy work for the benefit of the people, and an empowered and secured population, in turn, is what makes society progressive and prosperous.

<p>How to Fight Authoritarianism (McBay, 2017)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Organize cultures of resistance2) Build solidarity3) Listen to the people who have been fighting all along4) Support people on the front lines5) Take action

CALD’s anniversary events will take place in Bangkok, Thailand, where CALD was founded 25 years ago. The events, which will run on 17-21 November 2018 (including arrival/departure dates), include the following major activities:

18 November 2018

- **2nd CALD Climate Change Adaptation Seminar** – A half-day seminar that aims to introduce the next phase of CALD’s climate change adaptation initiatives.
- **38th CALD Executive Committee Meeting** – A regular meeting among CALD members and partners that tackles both political and administrative issues that impinge on the operation of CALD as a liberal and democratic organization.

19 November 2018

- **8th CALD-ALDE Summit (Day 1)** – The sessions for this day focus on the key issues and challenges that impact on democratic institutions and processes, as well as the role of the media in the age of post-truth politics.
- **25th CALD Anniversary Gala Dinner** – A celebratory dinner that highlights the camaraderie, solidarity and friendships that CALD has fostered between and among liberals and democrats in Asia and the rest of the world.

20 November 2018

- **8th CALD-ALDE Summit (Day 2)** – The session for this day emphasizes the need for democrats to learn from and support each other in fighting populism, illiberalism and authoritarianism.
- **25th CALD Anniversary Public Conference** – This conference aims to facilitate a meaningful engagement between CALD and members of the academe, civil society, media and the general public on how to revive political parties as representative institutions in a democracy.
- **12th CALD General Assembly Dinner** – A farewell dinner that features the handover of CALD chairmanship.

The CALD-ALDE summit proper on 19-20 November includes plenary sessions, a fish bowl conversation/workshop and TED-style/lightning talks. The plenary sessions, which will also be live-streamed, aim to facilitate an in-depth discussion and understanding of the issues and problems impinging on democratic institutions and processes. The fish bowl conversation/workshop, on the other hand, will focus on practical solutions and strategies to address those issues and problems, particularly on how to fight illiberal populists and autocrats. As the workshop is envisioned to be open and frank sharing of ideas and debate, it will be governed by the Chatham House Rule.* TED-style and lightning talks will showcase innovative ways of thinking or approaches “to reclaim democracy and rebuild society” amidst the scourge of populism and illiberalism. To maximize networking opportunities during the summit proper, coffee/tea breaks will also feature a “Liberal Lounge” which showcases best practices and innovative tools from CALD members and partners. This will offer an interactive space for information sharing, networking and solidarity building among liberals and democrats across the region and the world.

* *When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.*

Schedule of Activities (17 November, Saturday)

Arrival / Free Night

Variable	Arrival and Check in at the hotel Dusit Thani Bangkok 946 Rama IV Road, Bangkok 10500, Thailand +66 (0) 2200 9000 +66 (0) 2236 6400 https://www.dusit.com/dusitthani/bangkok/
	Free Night

Schedule of Activities (18 November, Sunday)

2nd CALD Climate Change Seminar / 38th CALD Executive Committee Meeting / Welcome Dinner

06:00-08:30	Breakfast <i>The Pavillion, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i>
08:30-09:00	Registration <i>Saladaeng Room Foyer, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i>
<p>Adapting to Climate Change by Building Smart Cities <i>2nd CALD Climate Change Adaptation Seminar</i> <i>Saladaeng Room, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i></p> <p>In November 2012, CALD held its first seminar on climate change adaptation in Bangkok, Thailand. The seminar took place after CALD came up with a comprehensive statement on climate change earlier that year which emphasized the need for climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness.</p> <p>The inaugural seminar aimed to introduce the concept of climate change “adaptation” (as opposed to “mitigation”) and to present and analyze select cases of successful climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness. In the following years, CALD embarked on identifying comparable cases in Asia, and subsequently, on promoting them to ensure sustainability and encourage their replication. For these purposes, CALD published a climate change “best practices” handbook and made a climate change introductory video which had been translated to different Asian languages. It also utilized its youth arm, the CALD Youth, in order to better communicate the climate change message to the younger generation.</p> <p>For the next phase of its climate change programme, CALD intends to concentrate on helping build smart cities in Asia as a way to promote climate change adaptation. It is said that smart cities are key to fighting climate change, and Asia, as a fast developing region characterized by rapid urbanization and population growth, is a key actor in this regard. The pressures that many Asian cities face, and the opportunities they present to reshape the infrastructure on which they rely, make the region a focal point in any successful climate policy.</p> <p>Building on what it has accomplished in the past six years since its inaugural seminar, CALD’s 2nd Climate Change Adaptation Seminar aims to introduce the concept of “smart cities” to its</p>	

	<p>membership as a way of combating the effects of climate change. Guided by experiences of Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and South Korea on city development, infrastructure and mobility, the seminar hopes to promote sustainable urban development and climate-smart policies that CALD member-parties, particularly those which govern local governments, can consider for implementation.</p> <p><i>Master of Ceremonies</i> Jaslyn Go Singapore Democratic Party, <i>Singapore</i></p>
09:00- 09:30	<p>Opening Session</p> <p><i>Opening Remarks</i></p> <p>Kiat Sittheeamorn Secretary General, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats, <i>Thailand</i></p> <p>Abhisit Vejjajiva Chairperson, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats, <i>Thailand</i></p> <p><i>Keynote Address</i></p> <p>Juli Minoves Former Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, <i>Andorra</i></p>
09:30- 10:30	<p>Lecture-Discussion: Bangkok as Smart City</p> <p><i>Government's Role in Smart City Development</i></p> <p>Passakon Prathombutr Senior Executive Vice President Digital Economy Promotion Agency Ministry of Digital, Economy and Society, <i>Thailand</i></p> <p><i>How Climate-Smart is Bangkok?</i></p> <p>Panich Vikitsreth Former Deputy Governor of Bangkok & Former Thai Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Democrat Party, <i>Thailand</i></p> <p><i>Open Forum</i></p>
10:30- 11:00	<p>Coffee/Tea Break <i>Saladaeng Room Foyer, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i></p>
11:00- 12:30	<p>Panel Discussion: How Can We Make Our Cities More Climate Smart?</p> <p><i>Panel Chair</i></p> <p>Pornphrom Vikitsreth Democrat Party, <i>Thailand</i></p> <p><i>Panelists</i></p> <p>Charles Kurowski AcceliCITY 2018 Program Director Leading Cities, <i>USA</i></p>

	<p>Yisheng Yang Program Manager ICLEI Kaohsiung Capacity Center, <i>Taiwan</i></p> <p>Jan Ramos Pandia Head of Public Affairs, Qlue, <i>Indonesia</i></p> <p><i>Open Forum</i></p>	
12:30-14:00	Lunch <i>Silom Room, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i>	
14:00-15:30	Free Time for Meetings	
15:30-16:00	Coffee/Tea Break <i>Saladaeng Room Foyer, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i>	
16:00-19:00	<p>38th CALD Executive Committee Meeting <i>Saladaeng Room, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i></p>	<p><i>Presided by</i></p> <p>Abhisit Vejjajiva Chairperson, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats, <i>Thailand</i></p>
19:30-21:30	<p>Welcome Dinner <i>22 Kitchen & Bar, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i></p> <p>Hosted by the Democrat Party, Thailand</p> <p><i>Masters of Ceremonies</i></p> <p>Pornphrom Vikitsreth Democrat Party, <i>Thailand</i></p> <p>Siripa Nan Intavichein Chairperson, CALD Youth Democrat Party, <i>Thailand</i></p>	<p><i>Welcome Remarks</i></p> <p>Kiat Sittheeamorn Secretary General, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats, <i>Thailand</i></p> <p>Juli Minoves President, Liberal International, <i>Andorra</i></p> <p>Hans van Baalen Member of the European Parliament, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group, <i>The Netherlands</i></p> <p>Abhisit Vejjajiva Chairperson, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats, <i>Thailand</i></p> <p><i>Dinner and Cultural Presentation</i></p>

Schedule of Activities (19 November, Monday)

8th CALD-ALDE Summit Day 1 / 25th CALD Anniversary Gala Dinner

06:00-08:00	Breakfast <i>The Pavillion, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i>
08:00-08:30	Registration <i>Dusit Thani Hall Foyer, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i>
08:30-	Opening Plenary Session

09:45	<p><i>Dusit Thani Hall, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i></p> <p><i>The opening plenary session aims to set the tone for more detailed discussion of the summit theme, “Reclaiming Democracy, Rebuilding Society”, in the succeeding sessions. More specifically, it hopes to respond to the general question: “How can liberals and democrats defend and strengthen democratic institutions and processes amidst the scourge of populism, illiberalism and authoritarianism?”</i></p> <p><i>CALD-ALDE Master of Ceremonies</i> Jaslyn Go Singapore Democratic Party, <i>Singapore</i></p>	
	<p><i>Session Chair</i></p> <p>Kiat Sittheeamorn Secretary General, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats, <i>Thailand</i></p>	<p><i>Opening Remarks</i></p> <p>Abhisit Vejjajiva Chairperson, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats, <i>Thailand</i></p> <p>Juli Minoves President, Liberal International, <i>Andorra</i></p> <p>Hans van Baalen Member of the European Parliament, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group, <i>The Netherlands</i></p> <p>Omar Youm Chief of the Cabinet, Office of the President, <i>Senegal</i></p> <p><i>Introduction of the Keynote Speaker</i></p> <p>Jayanthi Devi Balaguru Chairperson, CALD Women’s Caucus, <i>Malaysia</i></p> <p><i>Keynote Address</i></p> <p>Maria Leonor “Leni” Robredo Vice President, <i>Philippines</i></p>
09:45-10:00	<p>Official Conference Photo <i>Dusit Thani Hall, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i></p>	
10:00-10:30	<p>Press Conference <i>Sathorn 2, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i></p> <p>Coffee/Tea Break featuring Liberal Lounge <i>Dusit Thani Hall Foyer, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i></p>	
10:30-12:00	<p>Democracy Café: State of Democracy in Asia and the World <i>Dusit Thani Hall, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i></p> <p><i>This session adopts a talk show format, which means that the host guides the discussion with a set of questions and follow-up questions that the panelists are requested to respond to. No formal presentations are expected from the panelists.</i></p>	

	<p><i>The goal of the session is to provide context on the state of democracy in each panelist's country or region. Possible questions for the panelists may include: 1) How would you describe the current state of democracy in your country or region?; 2) What are the international or domestic forces (political, economic, socio-cultural) which impinge on this current state?; and 3) What steps can be done to improve or defend democratic institutions and processes in your country or region?</i></p>	
	<p><i>Host</i></p> <p>Emily Lau Former Chairperson, Democratic Party, <i>Hong Kong</i></p>	<p><i>Panelists</i></p> <p>Chih-cheng Lo Director, Department of International Affairs, Democratic Progressive Party, <i>Taiwan</i></p> <p>Anneli Jäätteenmäki Member of European Parliament, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group, <i>Finland</i></p> <p>Stevens Mokgalapa President, Africa Liberal Network, <i>South Africa</i></p> <p>Robert Woodthorpe Browne Vice President, Liberal International, <i>United Kingdom</i></p>
<p>12:00- 12:30</p>	<p>Regional Situationer <i>Dusit Thani Hall, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i></p> <p>Rosario Manalo Rapporteur, UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, <i>Philippines</i></p> <p>Phyo Zeya Thaw Member of the Parliament National League for Democracy, <i>Myanmar</i></p>	
<p>12:30- 13:30</p>	<p>Lunch <i>The Pavillion, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i></p>	
<p>13:30- 14:00</p>	<p>Ted-Style Talk <i>Dusit Thani Hall, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i></p> <p><i>Innovative ways to advance democracy by using technology</i></p> <p>Kalaya Sophonpanich Former Minister of Science of Technology, <i>Thailand</i></p>	<p>Audrey Tang Digital Minister, <i>Taiwan</i></p>
<p>14:00- 15:30</p>	<p>Plenary Session I: Defending Democratic Institutions and Spaces from Authoritarian Encroachments <i>Dusit Thani Hall, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i></p> <p><i>Democratic institutions and processes are under attack from forces within and without, in both old and young democracies. This reality is reflected in the boom in publications with frightening titles like "Authoritarianism Goes Global", "How Democracy Ends" and</i></p>	

	<p><i>“The People vs. Democracy”. In the West, internal problems such as migration and unemployment have led to the rise of radical right-wing politicians or political parties which attack pluralism and other democratic values. In newer democracies, persisting societal inequalities combined with weak institutions make the population susceptible to populist appeal or authoritarian control. To make matters worse, authoritarian superpowers China and Russia have become more aggressive in using either their “sharp power” or “chequebook diplomacy” in both old and young democracies alike. How can liberals and democrats defend democratic institutions and spaces against domestic and international forces that constrict or subvert them?</i></p>	
	<p><i>Session Chair</i></p> <p>Isra Sunthornvut Secretary General, ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, <i>Thailand</i></p>	<p><i>Speakers</i></p> <p>Ivan Doherty Senior Associate and Director for Political Party Programs, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, <i>USA</i></p> <p>Mu Sochua Former CALD Women’s Caucus Chairperson, <i>Cambodia</i></p> <p>Urmas Paet Member of European Parliament, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group, <i>Estonia</i></p>
<p>15:30-16:30</p>	<p>Regional Networks Panel</p> <p><i>How do we strengthen intra-regional and inter-regional networking among CALD, ALDE Party, ALN and RELIAL so we can better respond to authoritarian encroachments?</i></p> <p><i>Session Chair</i></p> <p>Abhisit Vejjajiva Chairperson, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats, <i>Thailand</i></p>	<p><i>Panelists</i></p> <p>Hans van Baalen President, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party, <i>The Netherlands</i></p> <p>Stevens Mokgalapa President, Africa Liberal Network, <i>South Africa</i></p> <p>Ricardo Gomes President, Red Liberal America Latina, <i>Brazil</i></p>
<p>16:30-17:00</p>	<p>Coffee/Tea Break featuring Liberal Lounge <i>Dusit Thani Hall Foyer, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i></p>	
<p>17:00-18:30</p>	<p>Plenary Session II: Restoring Integrity and Civil Discourse in the Information Space <i>Dusit Thani Hall, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i></p> <p><i>It is said that we live in the era of post-truth politics where fake news, disinformation campaigns and vicious online exchanges combine with cyber-attacks, disclosure of confidential information and other challenges to internet governance. While the internet has democratized access to information, forged personal relations that defy space and time, and facilitated engagement between the government and the governed, it has also become an instrument of surveillance, censorship and control. This autocratic cooptation of the digital space has been accompanied by attacks against print and broadcast media, which have traditionally been “democracy’s first line of defense.”</i></p>	

	<p><i>Given this context, how can liberals and democrats reclaim the internet as a venue for meaningful democratic engagement, while defending the free press and freedom of expression?</i></p>	<p><i>Session Chair</i></p> <p>Raul Cordenillo Head of Communications and Knowledge Management, International IDEA, <i>Philippines & Sweden</i></p>	<p><i>Speakers</i></p> <p>Anneli Jäätteenmäki Member of European Parliament, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group, <i>Finland</i></p> <p>Marites Vitug Editor-at-large Rappler, <i>Philippines</i></p> <p>Emily Lau Former Chairperson, Hong Kong Journalists Association, <i>Hong Kong</i></p> <p>Thepchai Yong President, Confederation of ASEAN Journalists, <i>Thailand</i></p>
<p>19:30-22:00</p>	<p>25th CALD Anniversary Gala Dinner <i>Dusit Thani Hall, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i></p> <p><i>Masters of Ceremonies</i></p> <p>Kiat Sittheeamorn Secretary General, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats, <i>Thailand</i></p> <p>Jayanthi Devi Balaguru Chairperson, CALD Women's Caucus, <i>Malaysia</i></p>	<p><i>Welcome and Introduction of the Keynote Speaker</i></p> <p>Maysing Yang Founding Member, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats and Ambassador-at-large for Democracy and Human Rights, <i>Taiwan</i></p> <p><i>Keynote Address</i></p> <p>Abhisit Vejjajiva Chairperson, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats, <i>Thailand</i></p> <p><i>Toast to Freedom</i></p> <p>Hans van Baalen Member of the European Parliament, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group, <i>The Netherlands</i></p> <p>Florencio “Butch” Abad Former Chairperson and Founding Member, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats, <i>Philippines</i></p> <p><i>Dinner</i></p> <p><i>Tribute to CALD Founding Chairperson Surin Pitsuwan</i></p> <p>Ong-art Klampaiboon Founding Secretary General, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats, <i>Thailand</i></p>	

		<p>Wolfgang Sachsenröder Political Party Forum Southeast Asia, <i>Germany</i></p> <p><i>Live Band</i></p>
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Schedule of Activities (20 November, Tuesday)

8th CALD-ALDE Summit Day 2 / 12th CALD General Assembly Handover Ceremonies and Farewell Dinner

06:00-08:00	Breakfast <i>The Pavillion, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i>	
08:00-08:30	Registration <i>Dusit Thani Hall Foyer, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i>	
08:30-10:00	<p>Plenary Session III: Building Solidarity with and Learning from Other Democrats (Fish Bowl Conversation/Workshop) <i>Dusit Thani Hall, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i></p> <p><i>Authoritarians and illiberal populists are learning from each other. The actions of Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin, Viktor Orban, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Rodrigo Duterte, Hun Sen, among others, appear to be drawn from the same playbook. From spreading fake news, circumventing the law, jailing critics, to playing the populist card, it appears that their learning curve is not steep. If the autocrats are learning from each other, democrats should also do the same. There are surely time-tested, foolproof ways to peacefully bring down a dictator which can apply across contexts. This session identifies the best practices in the democrats' toolkit, as well as the specific ways to forge solidarity and partnerships among them.</i></p> <p>*****</p> <p><i>Issue:</i> What are the best practices in fighting populism, illiberalism and authoritarianism that liberals and democrats can learn from each other?</p> <p><i>Method:</i> Arrange 10 chairs in an inner circle (the fishbowl). With the remaining chairs, arrange them in concentric circles outside the fishbowl (the audience). Ask for the initial discussants to fill the fishbowl and have the rest of the participants fill the outside chairs. The moderator introduces a topic and the conversation begins with those in the fishbowl. The audience listens to the discussion.</p> <p>An open fishbowl mode will be utilized. In an open fishbowl, one chair in the fishbowl is left empty. Under this mode, any member of the audience may sit in the empty seat and participate in the discussion. When this happens, an existing member of the fishbowl must depart a chair, always leaving one chair free.</p> <p>The moderator then summarizes the discussion at the end.</p>	
	<p><i>Moderator</i></p> <p>Ramon "Ricky" Carandang Former Secretary, Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office,</p>	<p><i>Initial Inner Circle Discussants</i></p> <p>Emily Lau Former Chairperson, Democratic Party, <i>Hong Kong</i></p> <p>Hasto Kristiyanto</p>

	Office of the President, <i>Philippines</i>	Secretary General, Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, <i>Indonesia</i> Ng Lip Yong Former Chief of International Relations & Affairs, Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia, <i>Malaysia</i> Francis “Kiko”, Pangilinan President, Liberal Party, <i>Philippines</i> Chee Soon Juan Secretary General, Singapore Democratic Party, <i>Singapore</i> Maysing Yang Ambassador-at-large for Democracy and Human Rights, Democratic Progressive Party, <i>Taiwan</i> Abhisit Vejjajiva Chairperson, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats, <i>Thailand</i> Hans van Baalen Member of the European Parliament, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group, <i>The Netherlands</i> Robert Woodthorpe Browne Vice President, Liberal International, <i>United Kingdom</i>
10:00-10:30	Coffee/Tea Break featuring Liberal Lounge <i>The Pavillion, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i>	
10:30-11:00	Lightning Talk <i>Dusit Thani Hall, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i> <i>Innovative ways to fight gender inequality using social media</i> <i>Session Chair</i> Rachada Dhnadirek Vice Chairperson, CALD Women’s Caucus, <i>Thailand</i>	DJ Nana Social Media Influencer/ Gender Equality Advocate, <i>Cambodia</i>
11:00-12:00	Taiwan’s Journey, Asia’s Aspiration <i>Dusit Thani Hall, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i> <i>Taiwan has been described by National Endowment for Democracy President Carl Gershman as “...an inspiration for those who aspire to democracy, a partner for democracy advocates and practitioners around the world and an agent for democratic change at a time when democracy is under assault and even its traditional leaders are beset by doubt.” It’s great potential as a democratic model in Asia, however, has been circumscribed by intensifying pressure from China that constricts its space in</i>	

	<p><i>international forum. Taiwan has supported the international community in terms of democracy promotion, but it can only continue to do so if it is also supported by its democratic allies. What can be done to support Taiwan so it can also fulfill its role in a region which is increasingly in China's hegemonic grip?</i></p> <p><i>Session Chair</i></p> <p>Chung-kai Sin Individual Member, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats, <i>Hong Kong</i></p> <p><i>Remarks</i></p> <p>Hans van Baalen Member of the European Parliament, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group, <i>The Netherlands</i></p> <p>Maysing Yang Founding Member, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats and Ambassador-at-large for Democracy and Human Rights, <i>Taiwan</i></p>	
12:00-13:00	<p>Lunch <i>Vimam Suriya Room, Dusit Thani Bangkok</i></p>	
13:15	<p>Assembly at the hotel lobby and leave for public conference venue.</p>	
<p>The Party's Over?: Rebuilding Political Parties, Reclaiming Democracy <i>A CALD 25th Anniversary Public Conference</i></p> <p><i>All over the world popular disenchantment with political parties been relatively common, leading to claims that these institutions are undergoing an inexorable process of "decay, decline, and decomposition." This disillusionment leads to disempowerment, as people choose to distance themselves from political and democratic processes in which the political parties are supposed to be the main actors. Considering the crucial role played by political parties in a democracy, this public conference brings all democracy stakeholders to address the question: "What can political parties do in both their internal and external relations and processes to better enable them in fulfilling their role in a democracy?"</i></p>		
14:00-14:45	<p>Opening Session</p> <p><i>Session Chair</i></p> <p>Mardi Seng Former Senator Treasurer, Candlelight Party (formerly Sam Rainsy Party), <i>Cambodia</i></p>	<p><i>Opening Remarks</i></p> <p>Jayanthi Devi Balaguru Chairperson, CALD Women's Caucus, <i>Malaysia</i></p> <p>Hans van Baalen Member of the European Parliament, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group, <i>The Netherlands</i></p> <p><i>Keynote Address</i></p> <p>Florencio "Butch" Abad Former Chairperson and Founding Member, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats, <i>Philippines</i></p>

14:45-16:00	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <p><i>"How can political parties take advantage of new developments in technology and information management to strengthen their democratic credential and in the process, regain popular legitimacy?"</i></p> <p><i>Session Chair</i></p> <p>Anneli Jäätteenmäki Member of European Parliament, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group, <i>Finland</i></p>	<p><i>Speakers</i></p> <p>Francis "Kiko", Pangilinan President, Liberal Party, <i>Philippines</i></p> <p>Han-Seok Ko Vice President, Institute for Democracy, <i>South Korea</i></p> <p>Urmas Paet Member of European Parliament, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group, <i>Estonia</i></p> <p>Wolfgang Sachsenröder Political Party Forum Southeast Asia, <i>Germany</i></p> <p><i>Open Forum</i></p>
16:00-16:15	Coffee/Tea Break	
16:15-17:30	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <p><i>How can political parties build solidarity with other democratic organizations and reclaim and their role as a representative institution in a democracy?</i></p> <p><i>Session Chair</i></p> <p>Mu Sochua Former CALD Women's Caucus Chairperson, <i>Cambodia</i></p>	<p><i>Speakers</i></p> <p>Chee Soon Juan Secretary General, Singapore Democratic Party, <i>Singapore</i></p> <p>Ricardo Gomes President, Red Liberal America Latina, <i>Brazil</i></p> <p>Jose Christopher "Kit" Belmonte Secretary General, Liberal Party, <i>Philippines</i></p> <p><i>Open Forum</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Closing Remarks</i></p> <p>Hans van Baalen Member of the European Parliament, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group, <i>The Netherlands</i></p>
17:30-17:45	Assembly / Leave for dinner venue	
19:30-21:30	<p>Closing Ceremonies, 12th CALD General Assembly and Farewell Dinner Bangkok Boat-Cruise</p> <p><i>Master of Ceremonies</i></p> <p>Rachada Dhnadirek Vice Chairperson, CALD Women's Caucus, <i>Thailand</i></p>	<p><i>Closing Remarks</i></p> <p>Kiat Sittheeamorn Secretary General, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats, <i>Thailand</i></p> <p>Abhisit Vejjajiva Chairperson, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats, <i>Thailand</i></p>

		<i>Dinner</i> <i>Karaoke Entertainment</i>
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Schedule of Activities (21 November, Wednesday)

Departure

08:00-12:00	Optional Bangkok City Tour (organized by Democrat Party)
Variable	Departure