



Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

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Hon. Jurin Laksanawisit

Leader

Democrat Party, Thailand

Dear Khun Jurin:

On behalf of the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD), a network of liberal and democratic political parties in Asia, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the new leader of the Democrat Party (DP) of Thailand. That your election came immediately after Thailand's general elections manifests the DP's immediate recognition of new political realities that necessitate a renewal of the country's oldest political party.

The DP has been an active member of CALD since the latter's inception in 1993. The party network was founded in Bangkok with Hon. Surin Pitsuwan as chairperson, and its inaugural conference was graced by then Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai. The Democrats held CALD's rotating chairmanship three times in CALD's 25-year history -- the last one was during the term 2016-2018, when H.E. Abhisit Vejjajiva and Hon. Kiat Sittheamorn served as CALD Chairperson and CALD Secretary General, respectively.

We are hoping that under your leadership, the good relations between the DP and other CALD member-parties would continue to improve and strengthen. Many of us, like the DP, are facing immense problems and challenges due to the rise and endurance of populism and authoritarianism in our respective countries. In these difficult times, we need each other's support and cooperation to counter the forces which attempt to destroy our society's moral fabric, and the liberal democratic values we hold dear.

Our relationship in CALD rests fundamentally on these liberal and democratic principles and values -- freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. We trust that as the DP navigates the complexities and nuances of Thai politics, that you would remain true and committed to these principles and values, even as you address the day-to-day issues and problems that continue to impact on the lives of the Thai people.

Rest assured that we, your liberal family in CALD, will be behind your leadership as you endeavor to expand liberal and democratic spaces in Thailand. We are here to extend assistance and cooperation towards this goal, and to fight with you and defend you when necessary.

Once again, congratulations and we wish you all the best. We hope to see you in future CALD activities.

Sincerely,

Hon. Bi-khim Hsiao, MP

Chairperson

Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats