

18-23 October 2019 | Taipei, Taiwan









Democracy 4.0: Innovating Democracy Through Technology
Defending Democracy Against Disinformation

Our democratic system makes us open to diverse and innovative ideas, giving us the flexibility to break the mold when the mold no longer fits.

Tsai Ing-wen
President of Taiwan
(Speech at Columbia University, 12 July 2019)

# 40<sup>th</sup> CALD Executive Committee Meeting Democracy 4.0: Innovating Democracy Through Technology Defending Democracy Against Disinformation 18-23 October 2019 Taipei, Taiwan

Democracy may be beaten, but it is not defeated. The openness of democracy to "diverse and innovative ideas", as what Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen noted in the quote above, is also what would make it survive in this era of authoritarianism, illiberalism and populism.

But first, democracy must recognize its limitations. Darshana Narayanan of The Governance Lab, New York University observes:

Current forms of democracy exclude most people from political decision-making. We elect representatives and participate in the occasional referendums, but we mainly remain on the outside. The result is that a handful of people in power dictate what ought to be collective decisions. What we have now is hardly a democracy, or at least, not a democracy that we should settle for.

She noted, however, that technology, coupled with political will, can make democracy great again. Examples of how technology makes democracy more open, inclusive, direct and interactive abound:

- <u>vTaiwan</u> This brings citizens and government together to deliberate and "cocreate" legislation related to the digital sphere. The process uses human facilitators to lead the discussions, as well as a machine-learning-based opensource system called *Polis* for people to exchange views online, and for analyzing public sentiment. The *Polis* software is now used by public authorities in United States, Canada and Singapore.
- <u>Decide Madrid</u> Developed in 2015 by the Madrid City Council, this platform runs on a free software called *Consul*. It enables residents to propose, support and vote on policies for the city, and ensures transparency in all city proceedings, including budgeting. The *Consul* software is now used by cities in 33 countries, including Buenos Aires, Paris and Rome.











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<u>Better Reykjavik</u> – This online consultation forum gives the citizens a chance to
present their ideas on issues regarding services and operations of the City of
Reykjavík. Anyone can view the open forum, and registered users who approve
the terms of participation can participate in the forum. To date, around 800
citizen initiatives were approved by the city council within seven years.

The cases above show how technology can transform democracy by making citizens front and center of the political process. Taiwan's Digital Minister Audrey Tang summarizes it in this way: "The idea is to bring technology into the spaces where citizens live, rather than expect citizens to enter the space of technology. The premise is this: the government must first trust the people with agenda-setting power; then the people can make democracy work."

Technology, however, can be a double-edged sword. As what President Tsai pointed out in her Columbia University speech: "In the digital age, disinformation can become fact in a matter of hours... Authoritarian governments seek to exploit press freedoms unique to democratic societies to sow dissent among us. They hope to make us question our political systems and lose faith in democracy." Hence, political innovation, in this day and age, should also take into consideration ways to address disinformation or fake news.

Recognizing the potentials of technology to revive (and also damage) democracy, the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD), in cooperation with the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and with the support of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) and National Democratic Institute for International affairs (NDI), is organizing a series of events in Taipei, Taiwan on 18-23 October 2019. These events include:

- <u>Democracy 4.0: Innovating Democracy Through Technology (19-20 October 2019)</u> A forum and study tour, organized with the support of Taiwan's Digital Ministry, which hope to identify and promote good practices on how technology creates opportunities for citizen empowerment and promotes participation in governance.
- <u>Defending Democracy Against Disinformation (21 October 2019)</u> A seminarworkshop that aims to bring key stakeholders on the issue of curbing disinformation, misinformation and hate speech from a political perspective.
- <u>40<sup>th</sup> CALD Executive Committee Meeting (22 October 2019)</u> 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.











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**General and Specific Event Objectives:** The events hope to identify and promote good practices on how technology creates opportunities for citizen empowerment and promotes participation in governance in the era of disinformation or fake news. More specifically, they aim to achieve the following objectives:

- To describe how new technologies work and their implications for elections, campaigning, governance, among other political issues;
- To demonstrate how new technologies can help solve governance issues and problems;
- To explain how new technologies can be harnessed by political parties in order to improve their organizational operations and engagement with the public; and
- To analyze, with various stakeholders, how technology amplifies disinformation, and how technology can be used to counter it.

#### <u>Schedule of Activities (18 October, Friday)</u> *Arrival / Welcome Dinner*

Variable	Arrival and Check in at the hotel		
	The Sherwood Taipei		
	Address: No. 111號, Section 3, Minsheng East Road,		
	Songshan District, Taipei City, Taiwan 105		
	<b>Phone:</b> +886 2 2718 1188		
19:00-21:00	Welcome Dinner		
	Hosted by the Democratic Progressive Party of Taiwan		
	Venue: Ching Room, 3/F The Sherwood Taipei  Welcome Remarks		
	Ching-Yi Lin, MP		
	Director, Department of International Affairs		
	Democratic Progressive Party		
	Member, Legislative Yuan, <i>Taiwan</i>		
	Bi-khim Hsiao, MP		
	CALD Chairperson		
	Member, Legislative Yuan, <i>Taiwan</i>		











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#### **Schedule of Activities (19 October, Saturday)**

Democracy 4.0 Forum / Free Night

Venue: Ching Room, 3/F The Sherwood Taipei

06:30-08:30	Breakfast Venue: B-one Buffet Restaurant, B1 The Sherwood Taipei		
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08:30-09:00	Registration		
	Venue: Ching Room Foyer, 3/F The Sherwood Taipei		
09:00-10:30	Opening Session		
	The opening session aims to set the tone for a more detailed discussion of the workshop theme, "Democracy 4:0: Innovating Democracy through Technology", in the succeeding panels. More specifically, it hopes to respond to the general question: "How can liberals and democrats utilize new technologies to make democracy more inclusive and responsive?"		
	Session Chair		
	Chih-Wei Chen CALD Secretary General Deputy Director for International Affairs, Democratic Progressive Party, <i>Taiwan</i>		
	Opening Remarks		
	Wen-Jia Luo		
	Secretary General		
	Democratic Progressive Party, <i>Taiwan</i>		
	Pierre Gearra		
	Arab Liberal Federation		
	National Liberal Party, <i>Lebanon</i>		
	Dirk Kunze		
	Regional Director, Middle East and North Africa		
	Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, <i>Germany</i>		
	Armin Reinartz – via Virtual Reality		
	Head of Office, Global Innovation Hub		
	Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Hong Kong		











Democracy 4.0: Innovating Democracy Through Technology
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#### Ching-Yi Lin, MP

Director, Department of International Affairs Democratic Progressive Party Member, Legislative Yuan, *Taiwan* 

Keynote Address

#### Joseph Wu

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan

10:30-11:00 | Group Photo

Coffee/Tea Break

#### 11:00-12:30 | Session I: Understanding the Value of Technology in Politics

What are open source, blockchain and artificial intelligence and what are their implications for politics? Open source refers to something that can be modified or shared because of its public accessibility. Open source projects and initiatives encourage open exchange, transparency, collaborative participation, community development, and the like. Blockchain is a distributed database which a single entity cannot control. It is a kind of self-auditing ecosystem that is transparent and incorruptible and reconciles every transaction that occurs in it in tenminute interval. At present, the finance sector is a major user of blockchain, although other sectors (i.e. healthcare) are following suit. In politics, the use of blockchain in elections has already been pilottested in Sierra Leone in March 2018. Artificial intelligence (AI), on the other hand, deals with the creation of intelligent machines that work and react like humans. In this session, the value of open source, blockchain technology and artificial intelligence in politics (i.e. campaigning, elections, governmental services) will be discussed, as well as the possible issues that may arise from their use.

Session Chair

#### Siripa Intavichein

Chairperson, CALD Youth Democrat Party, *Thailand* 











	Speakers		
	Frank van Dalens – via Zoom CEO, E-Canvasser & Chaiperson, Political Academy, The Netherlands		
	Max Chen Public Policy Manager Facebook, Taiwan		
	Chung-Kai Sin Individual Member, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats Former Member of Legislative Council (Information Technology Sector), Hong Kong		
	Edwin Lacierda Co-Founder, PayMongo Former Presidential Spokesperson, President Benigno Simeon Aquino III (2010-2016), Philippines		
	Open Forum		
12:30-14:00	Lunch Venue: Yuan Room, 3/F The Sherwood Taipei		
14:00-15:00	Keynote Speech		
	Audrey Tang Digital Minister, Taiwan		
15:00-16:00 Session II: Hacking Solutions to Governance Issues			
	What governance issues do the general public want to address using technology? To respond to this question, a "regional wishing well" was set up by the forum organizers – a webpage where members of the general public cast their vote on what they think is the most pressing issue that they want to be solved by technology. The top 3 governance issues will be presented, and possible solutions will be pitched by winners of Taiwan's Presidential Hackathon to be determined in consultation with Taiwan's Digital Ministry.		











	Session Chair		
	Jason Gonzales  Member of the Provincial Board, 3rd district of Iloilo Province Director General, Liberal Party, <i>Philippines</i> Speakers		
	Audrey Tang Digital Minister, Taiwan		
	Shwu-Feng Tsay Director General, Department of Nursing and Health Care Ministry of Health and Welfare, <i>Taiwan</i>		
	Heng-Hsin Tung National Yang-Ming University, Taiwan		
	Open Forum		
16:00-16:30	Coffee/Tea Break		
16:30-18:00	Session III: Building Political Parties of the Future		
	How would a successful party of the future look like? In a world where traditional political parties are challenged by the decline of their traditional clientele and rise of alternative players, how should they innovate democracy through technology and capture the enormous demand for civic engagement in the process? This session looks into how new technologies can be harnessed by political parties in order to improve their organizational operations and engagement with the public.		
	Session Chair		
	Emily Lau Chairperson, International Affairs Committee, Democratic Party Former Member of Legislative Council, Hong Kong		











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Speakers
Jonathan Moakes (via Zoom)
Vice-President of Campaigns, Greenberg Quinlan Rosner (GQR) Former Chief Executive & Chief Strategist, Democratic Alliance, South Africa
Putri Ayu Anisya Member, Regional People's Representative Council South Tangeran, Banten Province
Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, <i>Indonesia</i> Chih-Wei Chen
CALD Secretary General
Deputy Director for International Affairs,
Democratic Progressive Party, <i>Taiwan</i>
Open Forum
Free Night

#### <u>Schedule of Activities (20 October, Sunday)</u> *Democracy 4.0 Study Tour / Gala Dinner*

06:30-08:30	Breakfast
	Venue: B-one Buffet Restaurant, B1 The Sherwood Taipei
08:30	Leave the hotel for the study tour
09:00-10:00	Tour of the Social Innovation Lab
	Social Innovation Lab, which was inaugurated in October 2017 at the former Air Force headquarters, aims to be the hub for social innovation in Taiwan. Minister Audrey Tang holds a weekly drop-in session at the center, where citizens and entrepreneurs are welcome to come and talk to her one-on-one about social enterprise issues.
10:00-12:00	CALD-ALF Dialogue
	(with the participation of RELIAL and ALN)
12:00-13:00	Lunch
	(Lunchbox at Social Innovation Lab)











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13:30	Leave lunch venue for NPO Hub Taipei		
14:00-16:30	Visit to NPO Hub Taipei		
	NPO HUB Taipei turned the 50-year old apartment building (previously the TFGHS Teacher's Residence) into a dynamic and organic workspace for nonprofits and social innovation organizations. It is backed and powered by Impact Hub Taipei, which incubates and accelerates more impact organizations and social innovation entrepreneurs.		
16:30	Leave for dinner venue		
18:00-21:00	Gala Dinner Venue: Shi Yang Culture No. 6, Lane 366, Section 3, Xiwan Road, Xizhi District, New Taipei City Launch of Youthopia (Winner of CALD Youth's Liberal Hackathon, July 2019)		
21:00	Return to the hotel		

## <u>Schedule of Activities (21 October, Monday)</u> Defending Democracy Against Disinformation / Working Groups with Dinner

#### Defending Democracy Against Disinformation: Stakeholder Analysis and Intervention

Information is power. The use and abuse of information, therefore, has always been part of politics since time immemorial. The recent advances in information and communication technologies, however, have radically changed the way information and politics intersect. On the one hand, the advent of the Internet and mobile devices has democratized knowledge and information, providing the people with the tools to become informed and active citizens in a vibrant democracy. On the other hand, information and communication technologies have also become instruments to create, distribute and amplify disinformation, misinformation and hate speech, which, in turn, threaten to undermine the very foundations of democratic society.

"Fake news" is the more straightforward and more commonly used term associated with disinformation and misinformation. Some say that the concept is an oxymoron, as "news" implies verifiable information in the public interest, and









## 40th Ca Democrac Defending

#### **40th CALD Executive Committee Meeting**

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any information that does not meet these standards does not deserve the label of news. For this reason, this workshop would use the terms "disinformation" and "misinformation" instead. Disinformation refers to "deliberate (often orchestrated) attempts to confuse or manipulate people through delivering dishonest information to them." In contrast, misinformation pertains to "misleading information created or disseminated without manipulative or malicious intent." (UNESCO, 2018). Lastly, hate speech (sometimes called "malinformation") consists of "verbal or non-verbal communication that involves hostility directed towards particular social groups, most often on the grounds of race and ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, etc." (Oxford Constitutional Law, 2017).

Disinformation, misinformation and hate speech affect not only politics but also the society at large. The shared norms, values and understandings, which are necessary for the effective functioning of every society, have been put into question, even discarded. The societal institutions that used to safeguard moral standards and professional integrity, such as established religions and traditional media, have now become subjects of distrust and hate. In a world of digital disinformation, everyone has become vulnerable – to being a target and unwitting purveyor of disinformation/misinformation, to data hacking and harvesting, to cyber-attacks and cyber-bullying, even surveillance and censorship. Given the wide-ranging scope of the problem, the possible solutions should also mobilize all stakeholders – the international community, government institutions, civil society organizations, the media, tech and social media companies, educational institutions, even the family.

This seminar-workshop aims to bring key stakeholders on the issue of curbing disinformation, misinformation and hate speech from a political perspective. Three (3) groups of key stakeholders are pre-identified; they are: 1) journalists and civil society activists who can undertake media and information literacy campaigns; 2) tech and social media companies which can adopt self-regulatory standards and measures; and 3) political leaders and legislators who can intervene using appropriate policy or legislation.

Stakeholder analysis, albeit modified to suit the workshop's purpose, will be used as the guiding methodology. It is defined as "the process of systematically gathering and analyzing qualitative information to determine whose interests should be taken into account when developing and/or implementing a policy or program" (Schmeer, n.d.).

The seminar-workshop divides the different steps in stakeholder analysis into the day-long seminar-workshop. The entire ecosystem of disinformation, misinformation and hate speech, along with key stakeholders, will be described











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through panel presentations. The digital disinformation ecosystem will also be discussed in the context of recently concluded and upcoming elections in Asia, where fake news and hate speech have figured/are figuring prominently. Afterwards, the seminar-workshop participants will be divided into three (3) working groups based on the key stakeholders listed above. The working groups, with the guidance of relevant panel speakers from the previous sessions, will then discuss and analyze the main characteristics (knowledge, position, interest, alliances, resources, power, leadership) of the key stakeholders under consideration, in the context of the Asian region or an agreed upon Asian country. Based on their analysis, the working groups should also draw a list of recommended actions and next steps. The working group results will then be presented in the plenary.

With the theme "Defending Democracy Against Disinformation: Stakeholders' Analysis and Intervention", the specific objectives of the seminar-workshop are:

- To understand, in general terms, the ecosystem of disinformation, misinformation and hate speech, including but not limited to their proponents, types, dimensions and impacts;
- To describe how disinformation, misinformation and hate speech impinged on the recently concluded/upcoming elections in Asia;
- To discuss best practices in curbing disinformation, misinformation and hate speech from the standpoint of journalists and civil society activists, tech and social media companies, and political leaders and legislators;
- To conduct a stakeholders' analysis of the three key groups of stakeholders listed above, particularly in terms of their knowledge, position, interest, alliances, resources, power, leadership in addressing disinformation, misinformation and hate speech; and
- To develop action plans among relevant stakeholders to address the breadth and depth of the weaponisation of information in the Asian region.

06:30-08:30	Breakfast Venue: B-one Buffet Restaurant, B1 The Sherwood Taipei
08:30-09:00	Registration Venue: Ching Room Foyer, 3/F The Sherwood Taipei
09:00-09:15	Opening Session









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The opening session aims to set the tone for a more detailed discussion of the workshop theme, "Defending Democracy Against Disinformation: Stakeholders' Analysis and Intervention", in the succeeding panels. More specifically, it hopes to respond to the general question: "How can liberals and democrats defend and strengthen democracy amidst the scourge of disinformation, misinformation and hate speech?"

Session Chair

#### Chih-Wei Chen

CALD Secretary General
Deputy Director for International Affairs,
Democratic Progressive Party, *Taiwan* 

**Opening Remarks** 

#### Ching-Yi Lin, MP

Director, Department of International Affairs Democratic Progressive Party Member, Legislative Yuan, *Taiwan* 

#### **Mahmoud El Alaily**

Former President, Arab Liberal Federation Party Leader, Free Egyptians Party, *Egypt* 

#### 09:15-10:30

#### Session I: Understanding the Ecosystem of Disinformation, Misinformation and Hate Speech

The spread of disinformation, misinformation and hate speech is based on a complex network or interconnected system of actors, process and strategies. How this ecosystem functions and thrives must be understood so that appropriate interventions could be made. This session gathers experts from media, civil society and politics to make sense of the complex but interrelated ways information is weaponised in the digital age.

Session Chair

#### Jaslyn Go

Singapore Democratic Party, Singapore











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	Speakers
	Rosalind Liu
	CoFacts, Taiwan
	John Nery
	Philippine Daily Inquirer, <i>Philippines</i>
	Nangamso Kwinana
	Coordinator, Africa Liberal Network, South Africa
	Silvia Mercado
	Coordinator, Red Liberal de America Latina (RELIAL), <i>Bolivia</i>
	Open Forum
	Open Forum
10:30-10:45	Coffee/Tea Break
10:45-12:00	Session II: Dealing with Disinformation and Hate Speech during Elections
	In the recent electoral exercises in the Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand Indonesia and India, disinformation and hate speech figured prominently, resulting in decline of civil discourse, absence of substantive political debate and a highly polarized society. In Hong Kong, Cambodia, Philippines and Singapore, disinformation has been weaponised to target political opponents or dampen political support for the opposition. Worse, in countries like Myanmar, India and Sri Lanka, disinformation and hate speech are said to contribute to the persecution of ethnic and religious minorities. In this session, the impact of disinformation and hate speech will be analyzed in the context of recent elections in Indonesia and the Philippines.  Session Chair  Francis Gerald Abaya, MP Liberal Party of the Philippines Member of House of Representatives, Philippines
	Member of House of Representatives, <i>Philippines</i> Speakers
	Bambang Harymurti Senior Journalist and Former Chief Editor of Tempo, <i>Indonesia</i>











12.00.12.15	Sarah Elago, MP Member, ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights Member of House of Representatives, <i>Philippines</i> Open Forum	
12:00-13:15	Lunch Venue: Yuan Room, 3/F The Sherwood Taipei	
13:15-14:30	Session III: Legislating to Address Digital Disinformation	
	In recent years, a number of countries in Asia have established task forces, convened select committee hearings and have proposed or passed legislation to combat digital disinformation. However, as UNESCO (2018) observed, "new and stringent laws are scapegoating [genuine] news institutions as if they were the originators, or lumping them into broad new regulations which restrict all communications platforms and activities indiscriminately. Such regulations also often have insufficient alignment to the international principles requiring that limitations on expression should be demonstrably necessary, proportional and for legitimate purpose. Their effect, even if not always the intention, is to make genuine news media subject to a 'ministry of truth' with the power to suppress information for purely political reasons." In this session, existing or proposed Asian legislation to combat digital disinformation will be compared with laws from other regions, particularly on how they balance the need for regulation and respect for fundamental freedoms.	
	Session Chair	
	Huwaidiyah Pitsuwan Useng Former Member of Parliament Democrat Party, Thailand	
	Speakers	
	Robin Ramcharan Executive Director, Asia Centre, <i>Thailand</i>	
	Zachary Lampbell Legal Advisor, International Centre for Non-Profit Law, <i>United States</i>	











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Former Secretary General, Liberal International Former State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, *Macedonia* 

Open Forum

#### 14:30-17:00

#### **40th CALD Executive Committee Meeting**

Venue: Ming/Yuan Room, 3/F The Sherwood Taipei

*Presided by:* 

Bi-khim Hsiao, MP

**CALD Chairperson** 

Member, Legislative Yuan, Taiwan

With the participation of ALF, RELIAL, ALN, NDI and other guests

(Coffee/Tea Break at 15:30)

#### 18:00-21:00

#### **Working Groups (Discussion) with Dinner**

Venue: Han Room, 2/F The Sherwood Taipei

In the working groups, the participants will be asked to group themselves based on the pre-identified key stakeholder groups (listed below). Together with the key experts from the three sessions, they will conduct a stakeholder analysis and come up with action plans or interventions that can be implemented to address the rise of disinformation, misinformation and hate speech in Asia, particularly those that use new technology. The outcome of the group's discussion will be presented to the plenary.

- 1) journalists and civil society activists
- 2) tech and social media companies
- 3) political leaders and legislators

**Working Groups (Presentation and Feedback)** 

**Closing Session and Evaluation** 

Workshop Evaluation











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Closing Remarks

#### Chih-Wei Chen

CALD Secretary General
Deputy Director for International Affairs,
Democratic Progressive Party, *Taiwan* 

# <u>Schedule of Activities (22 October, Tuesday)</u> Presidential Building Visit / Free Time / Farewell Party

06:30-08:30	Breakfast
	Venue: B-one Buffet Restaurant, B1 The Sherwood Taipei
08:45	Meet at the hotel lobby and depart for Presidential Building
10:00-11:00	Keynote Address
	Ing-Wen Tsai
	President, <i>Taiwan</i>
	Group Photo
11:00-12:00	Tour of the Presidential Building
12:00	Return to the hotel
13:00-14:30	Buffet Lunch
	Venue: B-one Buffet Restaurant, The Sherwood Taipei
14:30-18:30	Free Time
18:30	Meet at the hotel lobby and depart for dinner
19:00-22:00	Farewell Party
	Venue: Sui Business Lounge
	No. 7, Section 5, Xinyi Road, Xinyi District, Taipei City
22:00	Return to hotel
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#### <u>Schedule of Activities (23 October, Wednesday)</u> *Departure*

Variable	Departure and Check out of the hotel
06:30-10:30	Breakfast Venue: B-one Buffet Restaurant, B1 The Sherwood Taipei







