



# Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

Unit 410 4/F La Fuerza Plaza 2, 2241 Don Chino Roces Avenue cor. Sabio St., Makati City 1231 Philippines

Tel: (+632) 819-6071 • Email: [info@cald.org](mailto:info@cald.org) • Website: [www.cald.org](http://www.cald.org)

2 December 2020

**Maria Leonor "Leni" Gerona Robredo**

Vice President, Republic of the Philippines  
Chairperson, Liberal Party of the Philippines

Dear Vice President Leni:

On behalf of your CALD family, I would like to convey our sincere appreciation for your uplifting keynote address during the Closing Panel of the 13<sup>th</sup> CALD General Assembly last 27 November 2020.

We are truly grateful that you took the time out of your busy schedule to share your thoughts on how liberal democracy can be defended in light of the new challenges brought about by the pandemic.

Thank you for reminding us to focus on the tasks before us - to continue to find solution to the pandemic, to continue to reach out to and help the people no matter what, to continue to work together with kindred spirits to uplift the level of discussion and public service, to continue to defend the truth amidst systematic efforts to propagate falsehoods, and to continue to listen to the people and strive for "authentic human connection."

Your inspiring message created waves of positive responses in the region and beyond. The members of the CALD Executive Committee, as well as partner liberal organizations in Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East, have expressed compliments to the determined and compassionate leadership that you have exemplified.

We are hopeful that, together with liberals and democrats across the globe, we can overcome the challenges ahead of us. CALD and the global liberal family will continue to support your leadership because in the face of these daunting challenges, we draw strength from one another. We will continue to respond to our people's call for dignity, human rights, justice, and good governance.

Again, thank you for rekindling the democratic spirit among Liberals and Democrats in the Asian region. We wish you continuing success, and we hope that the members of CALD can again have the opportunity to be with you in person when the pandemic is over.

Sincerely,

**Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan**

CALD Chairperson  
Senator, Republic of the Philippines