



Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

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3 December 2024

Karl-Heinz Paqué

President, Liberal International

Dear Dr. Karl-Heinz Paqué,

On behalf of the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD), I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you on your election as the President of Liberal International (LI) during the 64th LI Congress in Santiago, Chile. This historic moment, marking the first-ever LI Congress held in South America, is a testament to your unwavering commitment to the liberal values that shape our shared vision for a better world.

Your steadfast commitment to the ideals of liberalism as an elected member of the Federal Executive Committee of Germany's Free Democratic Party (FDP) and as Chairman of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom have consistently demonstrated your deep dedication to human rights, freedom, and democracy. Your work has long been an inspiration to liberals around the world, and I am confident that under your presidency, LI will continue to grow as a global force for advancing these values.

During the pandemic, you reminded us that "liberals are optimists" and that the "task of global liberalism is as full as ever" because liberals can thrive and survive even in times of challenges. I would like to thank you for encouraging us, particularly, the liberals here in Asia who are experiencing the brunt of illiberal governments.

The challenges we face in today's world—be it authoritarianism, the erosion of democratic norms, or the threat to individual liberties—make your leadership more vital than ever. Your vision of a united global liberal network, working collaboratively to protect and promote freedom, is an inspiring call to action. As we confront these challenges, your commitment to upholding the core principles of liberty, equality, and the rule of law will undoubtedly guide Liberal International in its crucial work.

Your strategic focus on strengthening the international liberal movement, building bridges across continents, supporting and empowering liberal parties, and reinforcing our shared commitment to human dignity resonates deeply with all of us who believe in the transformative capacity of liberal values. It is with great anticipation that we look forward

to the progress LI will make under your leadership, ensuring that liberal democracy remains a beacon of hope in the face of rising global challenges.

Once again, congratulations on this remarkable achievement. I look forward to working together with you and the broader liberal community to support and expand the work of both Liberal International and CALD, as we strive to build a freer, more just, and democratic society.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mardi Seng', written in a cursive style with several loops and flourishes.

Mardi Seng
CALD Chairperson
Senator, Kingdom of Cambodia