



Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

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24 September 2024

Hon. Yoshihiko Noda, MP

President, Constitutional Democratic Party

Former Prime Minister of Japan

*Thru: **Hon. Shu Sakurai, MP***

Deputy Director of the International Bureau

Constitutional Democratic Party

Dear Hon. Yoshihiko Noda:

On behalf of the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD), a regional network of liberal and democratic political parties in Asia, please allow us to extend our heartfelt congratulations to you on your recent election as president of the Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP) of Japan.

With you as leader of the opposition, we have confidence that the CDP would be in a better position as the party prepares for the upcoming general elections. We in CALD believe that Japan, as a supposedly mature democracy, should have a competitive party system where multiple parties can realistically win elections and assume governmental power. With you as CDP president, we sincerely hope that Japan can again witness the victory of an opposition party against the dominant Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in the polls.

We support your vision of having the CDP cooperate with other opposition parties so as not to split the anti-LDP vote. Being a network of mostly opposition parties, we in CALD know the importance of such cooperation when operating in a political landscape dominated by a single party. Moreover, we are also supportive of your economic policies which emphasize the provision of basic services – particularly healthcare and childcare – to prop up the middle class. We think that these policies would eventually reap the necessary economic benefits in the future.

Again, please accept our warmest congratulations. We are very pleased that we had the opportunity to interact with your colleagues in the CDP International Bureau during our visit to Tokyo on 8-10 September 2024.

We are proud to be associated with the CDP, and we can only hope that our relationship will further strengthen under your presidency.

Sincerely yours,

Mardi Seng

CALD Chairperson

Francis Gerald Abaya

CALD Secretary General