



Asia Democracy
Research Network



Asia Democracy Research Network

Supporting Global Democracy
with Collaborative Research

EAST ASIA INSTITUTE
ADRN SECRETARIAT
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

About Us

The Asia Democracy Research Network (ADRN) was launched in November 2013, as a network of research institutions supporting democracy. We conduct research related to democratic governance and human rights in Asia.

By identifying emerging threats to democracy and suggesting policy responses, the network aims to contribute to the consolidation of democracy in the Asian region. By sharing expertise about our own countries, all members can develop a deeper understanding of problems and challenges in other countries and identify the issues that the region faces as a whole.

ADRN members are strengthening their research quality and impact through collaboration, engagement of practitioners and activists fighting for democracy, and network outreach to other regions for global democratic unity.

Vision

Our vision is to provide action-oriented and policy-driven research that supports the advocacy activities of Asian civil society organizations and the cooperation with the related international organizations.

We aim to achieve a region-wide consensus on how to deal with both specific and general threats to democracy, and to initiate inter-state and inter-institutional dialogues to reach such consensus.

Mission

Our mission is to support democracy-related research collaboration and accompanying activities among our member institutions and think tanks. Ultimately, ADRN is commissioned to defend and promote democracy through critical analysis and policy suggestion.

ADRN Members



Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development And Transparency

Pakistan Institute of

Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT)

Pakistan



SAP-PAKISTAN

South Asia Partnership Pakistan

South Asia Partnership Pakistan (SAP-PK)



Sandhi Governance Institute



Yangon School of Political Science (YSPS)



SAMATA foundation

Samata Foundation

India

Nepal



Observer Research Foundation (ORF)



Knowledge. Voice. Democracy.

PRIA

Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA)



Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF)

Bangladesh

Myanmar



King Prajadhipok's Institute (KPI)

Thailand



Verité Research



Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA)

Sri Lanka



**สถาบันเอเชียศึกษา
INSTITUTE OF ASIAN STUDIES
Chulalongkorn University**

Institute of Asian Studies (IAS)

Mongolia

South Korea

Japan

Taiwan

Philippines



Academy of Political Education



EAI
EAST ASIA INSTITUTE

East Asia Institute (EAI)

IRIM

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MONGOLIA

Independent Research Institute of Mongolia (IRIM)



Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE)



Hitotsubashi University Institute for Global Governance Research (GGR)

ASIAN BAROMETER

Academia Sinica / Asian Barometer



TAIWAN FOUNDATION for DEMOCRACY

財團臺灣民主基金會

Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD)



La Salle Institute of Governance (LSIG)



International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Governance (INCITEGov)

IDEAS
INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS)



BRIN
BADAN RISET DAN INOVASI NASIONAL

National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)

Malaysia

Indonesia

ADRN History

Nov. 2013 - Sep. 2015

ADRN was founded in November 2013 with nine members, and held its first workshop in South Korea.



1st Workshop (2013, Seoul)

Oct. 2015 - Sep. 2016

ADRN invited observers from think tanks in fledgling democracies, diversifying ADRN's voice and enriching its collective perspectives on Asian democracy.



3rd Workshop (2016, Ulaanbaatar)

Oct. 2016 - Sep. 2017

ADRN membership expanded to nineteen institutions and saw increasing interest and solidarity from our membership.



4th Workshop (2017, Taipei)

Oct. 2017 - Sep. 2018

Populism in Asia was selected as the first research topic for all members. Notable public discourses were made at national level as members engaged with governments and lawmaking bodies. ADRN also welcomed two new members—Indonesia and Japan.



7th Workshop (2018, Bangkok)

Oct. 2018 - Sep. 2019

ADRN reaffirmed its solidarity as every partner member was represented on-site. ADRN further developed its relations with the Asia Democracy Network, jointly discussing and preparing for the workshop with the goal of "Going Forward Together."



8th Workshop (2018, Seoul)



10th Workshop &
Bali Democracy Forum
(2019, Bali)



ADRN Online Seminar
“Democracy Cooperation”
Series



12th Workshop (2022, Seoul)



14th Workshop (2023, Bangkok)

Oct. 2019 - Sep. 2020

ADRN members extended their collective support for Asian democracy by engaging with non-ADRN members from governments, civil society, and business sector.

ADRN also launched an official website and widened its audience by providing issue briefings in English and local languages.

Oct. 2020 - Sep. 2021

Due to COVID-19 induced travel restrictions, ADRN continued its activities online instead of in-person. ADRN emphasized unequivocal support from Asian democracies for the civil disobedience movements in Burma to sustain their momentum. ADRN published the book entitled *Populism in Asian Democracies: Features, Structures and Impact*.

Oct. 2021 - Sep. 2022

ADRN resumed the offline event following the COVID-19 pandemic, and participated in a number of international conferences including Forum2000 and Bali Democracy Forum. ADRN stood in solidarity with the people and government of Ukraine, posting statements from both the Asia Democracy Network and Forum 2000 on the ADRN website.

Oct. 2022 - Present

Celebrating its 10th Anniversary, ADRN holds two workshops in 2023, respectively in collaboration with the 2nd Summit for Democracy (S4D) and ADN Assembly.

What We Do

Engagements

ADRN collaborates with other networks focused on democracy research and advocacy. ADRN is a member the Asia Democracy Network (ADN), which is a network of practitioners and activists. Established at the same time, the two entities work closely in various capacities. ADRN also cooperates with EAI's Myanmar program, which assists in the capacity building of local civil society think tanks.

ADRN engages with the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), a bipartisan funding and research organization based in Washington D.C., as well as other international forums on democracy. ADRN seeks to widen its cooperation with both non-profit and for-profit organizations who are friends of democracy and with governments interested in promoting democracy in Asia.



A promotional graphic for an online seminar. The title is "Climate Change and Democracy" under the "ADRN-International IDEA Joint Online Seminar (Democracy Cooperation) Series 17". The date and time are "19 June, 2023 (Mon) 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM KST". It lists a moderator, four speakers, and three panelists with their names and affiliations. Logos for EAI, IDEA, and ADRN are also present.



A promotional graphic for "THE ASIA DEMOCRACY ASSEMBLY". It features the ADN logo and the text "RISEAsia 2022: Resilience, Inspiration, Synergy, and the Empowerment of Asia's Democracy Movement". The theme is "Forging a Stronger and Consolidated Movement for the Future of Democracy in Asia". The event is held in Bali, Indonesia, from November 7-8, 2022.

[27th Forum 2000]

Global Cooperation for Democracy: Challenges and Opportunities

ADRN co-hosted a session on “Global Cooperation for Democracy: Challenges and Opportunities” with the Forum 2000 during its participation in the <27th Forum 2000> conference held on October 2023. Panelists discussed the primary obstacles to democratic coordination and ways to overcome them, and the sustainable forms of democratic cooperation required in the long run.

[ADRN-International IDEA Joint Online Seminar]

Climate Change and Democracy

ADRN hosted the online seminar titled "Climate Change and Democracy" on June 2023 with International IDEA, which published its "Climate Change and Democracy: Insights from Asia and the Pacific" report. Panelists discussed why democracies can better cope with climate change in the long run and explore the areas of improvement that Asian democracies should work on together.

[EAI Democracy Cooperation Seminar] South Korea’s Role in International Cooperation for Anti-Corruption in the Indo-Pacific

EAI held a democracy cooperation seminar on April 2023, to share the result of a research project on agenda setting for successful Summit for Democracy (S4D), and to find Korea’s strategy for anti-corruption international cooperation. Researchers proposed a way of Korea’s democracy diplomacy, and external experts from the government and civil society presented ways to strengthen anti-corruption capacity.

[ADRN-ADN the Asia Democracy Assembly]

Democracy Resilience and the Future of Democracy in Asia

The Asia Democracy Assembly, hosted by the Asia Democracy Network (ADN), was held in November 2022 at Bali, Indonesia. The ADRN participated as a member of this event and jointly organized the session. Along with participants from civic groups such as the Asian Network for Free Elections and the Forum-Asia, ADRN members discussed on a host of topics related to democracy, such as on civic movements, promotion of democracy and good governance.

What We Do

Workshops and Online Seminars

ADRN organizes regional workshops, generally twice a year, under the rotating initiative of our member institutions. All member institutions are encouraged to hold a national or a sub-regional workshop in order to engage local civil society organization leaders and policymakers. Some ADRN workshops and sub-group forums are held as side events at larger forums such as the World Movement for Democracy, Prague Forum 2000, and the Bali Civil Society and Democracy Forum.

ADRN frequently hosts online seminars as part of the “Democracy Cooperation” series, with various topics from annual ADRN research focus areas to timely global issues. Webinars aim to inform and engage stakeholders as well as the public, including ADRN member institutions, government officials, youth activists, and diverse public figures. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, online seminars have been a critical medium of promoting linkage and unity among the larger ADRN network.



[\[ADRN 14th Workshop\] Bangkok, Thailand](#)

During the 14th Regional Workshop on November 2023, ADRN members presented research questions and plans for the upcoming year-long research project on vertical accountability. ADRN also collaborated with the International IDEA and youth politicians in Thailand to share findings from "the Global State of Democracy 2023" report and experiences of the youth movement in Thailand.

[\[ADRN 13th Workshop\] Seoul, South Korea](#)

ADRN members presented the interim outcome of horizontal accountability research, and discussed regarding S4D agenda, North Korean human rights, and solidarity for Myanmar's democracy during the special workshop sessions. Prior to the workshop, members also participated in the second S4D Indo-pacific regional meeting.

[\[ADRN Online Seminar\] Democracy and New Generations](#)

The Academy of Political Education (APE) Mongolia hosted an online seminar on August 2023, as the Democracy Cooperation series of the ADRN. This seminar aimed to explore the factors influencing the new generations' attitude toward social development, their perceived "exclusiveness" from social life duties, the nature of the challenges they face, and how to address these issues. In this webinar, panelists introduced the research trends on political participation of youth and discussed ways to enhance their influence.

[\[ADRN Online Seminar\]](#)

[How Grassroot Democracy Contributes to Make Democracy Works](#)

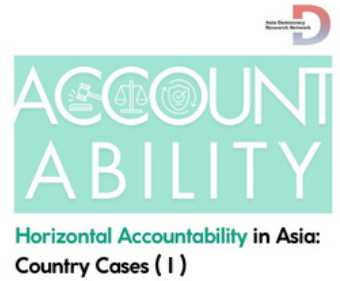
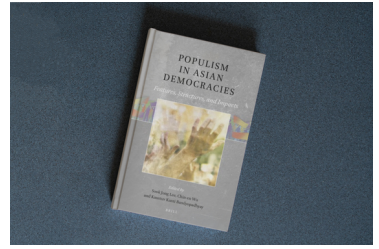
The National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) hosted the Grassroots Democracy Webinar on July 2023, as the Democracy Cooperation series of the ADRN. Panelists introduced citizens' struggle to achieve democratic reform and the protection of fundamental rights in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Myanmar, and the Philippines, and discussed strategies to reinforce citizens' participation in governance.

What We Do

Publications

ADRN publishes its research both online and offline. Our publications include issue briefings, working papers, and thematic books. Issue briefing articles cover ongoing democracy issues in Asian countries and worldwide, featuring topics and authors primarily selected from the ADRN expert network. The working paper series mainly comprises the outcomes of annual research projects by ADRN member institutions.

ADRN also share videos of interviews with different experts, policymakers, researchers, and civil society activists as well as news about our workshops. We also share important democracy-related publications from our member institutions that are separate from ADRN activities.



[\[Book\] *Populism in Asian Democracies: Features, Structures and Impact*](#)

For the 2018-2019 round, ADRN members selected populism as the research focus. Based on the research produced by eleven member institutions, ADRN published a book consisting of various country cases discussing diverse subtypes of populism, their structural elements, and societal impacts. The book has been published by Brill and is available in paperback, hardcover, and e-book.

[\[ADRN Working Paper\] *Horizontal Accountability in Asia: Country Cases*](#)

Checks and balances between state institutions are crucial for holding the government accountable, and preventing executive aggrandizement and corruption. Recognizing the significance of horizontal accountability in achieving robust and sustainable democracy, ADRN has conducted research from 2022 to evaluate the current trends and trajectories of horizontal accountability in the region, as well as proposing key reforms for the future.

[\[ADRN Interview\]](#)

[Gatekeeping Saves Democracy: How Fake News is Plaguing Asia](#)

On March 2023, ADRN invited Maria Ressa, founder and CEO of Rappler and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, to share her insights on improving media freedom in Asia and fighting disinformation on social media. She warns that disinformation disseminated by social media algorithms exploit the way that users behave and think, and urges to seek changes in the information ecosystem to defeat political polarization and radicalization caused by the uncontrolled spread of fake news.

[ADRN Issue Briefing Series](#)

ADRN Issue briefing articles cover ongoing democracy issues in Asian countries and worldwide, featuring topics and authors primarily selected from the ADRN expert network. You can read the latest articles by scanning the QR code on the left side.

About ADRN Secretariat



The East Asia Institute (EAI) is one of the leading independent think tanks in Korea dedicated to developing ideas and formulating policy suggestions on the main challenges facing the region. By hosting scholarly seminars, forums, education program and various publications, the EAI focuses on forming a true knowledge-net community in Asia. Fostering engagement and intellectual collaboration with recognized scholars, leading policymakers and various stakeholders, we are at the center of producing meaningful research outcomes reflecting innovation and policy debate.

The EAI serves as the secretariat of the ADRN responsible for supporting and managing collaborative research and related activities of the member institutions. EAI has received global recognition, thanks to its active, network-based research activities and organization of regional think tanks in Asia. EAI continues to promote linkage between ADRN and other trans-regional and global forums and networks working for democracy.

Research Centers





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