



Women-Up Democracy Conference

Date: 27th - 29th Oct 2024

Agenda

Date: 27th Oct

Time	Agenda	Notes
10.00 – 19.00	Flight and check in to hotel	FNF will arrange for transportation
19.00 – 21.00	Welcome Dinner	At the hotel for the speakers and staff from FNF and WFD – 30 ppl



Date: 28th Oct

Time	Agenda	Speaker
9.00 – 9.30	Registration	
9.30 – 9.40	Opening Remarks	Thekla Ebbert Regional Programme Manager, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom Southeast and East Asia
9.40 – 9.50	Welcoming Remarks	Katchada Prommachan Country Director, Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) Thailand



**FRIEDRICH NAUMANN
FOUNDATION** For Freedom.
Southeast and East Asia



WFD



In partnership with
Canada

9.50 – 10.00	<p style="text-align: center;">Video Keynote Speech</p> <p>Overview of the challenges faced by women in politics in Southeast and East Asia.</p>	<p>Leila De Lima Spokesperson, Liberal Party of the Philippines Former Senator, Republic of the Philippines</p>
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee Break	



**FRIEDRICH NAUMANN
FOUNDATION** For Freedom.
Southeast and East Asia



WFD



In partnership with
Canada

<p>10.30 – 12.00</p>	<p>Panel Discussion 1</p> <p>A sharing session featuring prominent female politicians, where they will recount their personal challenges and the inspiring strategies they used to overcome them.</p>	<p>Moderator</p> <p>Panisa Aemocha Journalist and News Presenter at BBC News</p>	<p>Fuziah Salleh Deputy Minister of Domestic Trade and Costs of Living</p> <p>Sun-woo Kang Member of Parliament, Democratic Party of Korea</p> <p>Jaslyn Go Chairperson, CALD Women’s Caucus Cadre Member, Singapore Democratic Party</p>
--------------------------	--	--	--



**FRIEDRICH NAUMANN
FOUNDATION** For Freedom.
Southeast and East Asia



WFD



In partnership with
Canada

12.00 – 13.30	Lunch		
13.30 -15.30	<p>World Democracy Café</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mentorship and Networking for Female Politicians - Combating Gender-Based Violence in Politics - Work-life Balance in Political Careers - Media Representation of Women Politicians - Advancing Gender-sensitive policies 	<p>Participants will engage in discussions at three different tables. After the rotations, facilitators will present a summary of each table's discussion.</p>	<p>Chompunut Chaliebun Regional Programme Manager, Westminster Foundation for Democracy Thailand</p> <p>Wasin Punthong University lecturer at Thammasat University</p> <p>Kwankaow Kongdecha Researcher, Office of Innovation for Democracy, King Prajadhipok's Institute.</p> <p>Jaslyn Go Chairperson, CALD Women's Caucus Cadre Member, Singapore Democratic Party</p> <p>Raiyan Abdul-Rahim Deputy Chief of Strategy at a National Level, Malaysia</p> <p>Yogeswary Veelo Lead UP Malaysia</p>



**FRIEDRICH NAUMANN
FOUNDATION** For Freedom.
Southeast and East Asia



WFD



In partnership with
Canada

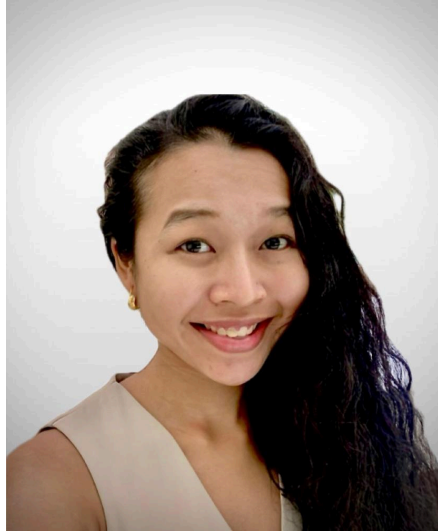
			Sita Aripurnami Executive Director of the Women Research Institute
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee Break		
16.00 – 17.30	Short Presentation from each group		
17.30 – 17.45	Closing remarks	Sky Warisala Chatuchinda Regional Communication Officer, Friedrich Naumann Foundation Southeast and East Asia	
17.45 – 18.00	Networking		



Date: 29th Oct

Time	Agenda	Notes
9.00 – 14.00	Check out of hotel and travel back	FNF will arrange transportation to the airport.

Profile of Master of Ceremonies



Suchada Hnoonpakdee

Founder of Thai Youth Coalition for Social Impact

An AI fintech software engineer and founder of Thai Youth Coalition for Social Impact
From a farming family in Northeastern Thailand's impoverished, climate vulnerable village to being the first generation to access education and a volunteer for marginalized and indigenous communities in Colombia through a scholarship program, Suchada Hnoonpakdee has become passionate about social impact. Currently working as a software engineer in an AI fintech startup, she aims to promote women in tech and innovation as well as diversity, equity, inclusion lens investing and climate finance with the focus on empowering marginalized communities in Thailand with social impact and entrepreneurship. As a youth advocate, she led campaigns fostering youth engagement in policy-level decision-making processes and contributed to UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review and Amnesty International's campaigns and organized initiatives supporting refugees and human rights awareness at Chulalongkorn University.

Profile of Speakers



Thekla Ebbert

Regional Programme Manager, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom Southeast and East Asia

Thekla started working for FNF in June 2019 in the Berlin State Office and became Head of the FNF Brandenburg State Office in 2022. Previously, she worked as a research assistant at the University of Munich and gained further professional experience at the Canadian Embassy in Berlin. She studied Political Science, International Relations, and International Law at LMU Munich and Fudan University in Shanghai.



Katchada Prommachan (Muay)

Country Director, Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), Thailand

Nearly 20 years of working with civil society locally and internationally to raise awareness on equality in many aspects through delivering social work services and implementing development activities in the south provinces and Thai-Myanmar border areas, which she has cultivated more knowledge and understanding. She is aware that gender inequality is an ongoing concern and present at every level of the society, including at the political leadership level. Khun Muay has worked with WFD since 2022, particularly through the programme of Advancing Equality Society through Women Political Leadership and Participation in ASEAN, gender equality and enjoyment of fundamental human rights through empowering of women leaders in ASEAN countries to exercise and sustain political careers safely and with influence at regional and national level.



**FRIEDRICH NAUMANN
FOUNDATION** For Freedom.
Southeast and East Asia



WFD



In partnership with
Canada



Leila De Lima

Spokesperson, Liberal Party of the Philippines. Former Senator, Republic of the Philippines

Leila is the current spokesperson of the Liberal Party of the Philippines. She is a politician, a human rights advocate, and a lawyer, fearlessly criticizing human rights abuses in the Philippines as a Senator. In her capacity as Justice Secretary from 2010 to 2015, she had a strong stance against corruption and human rights violations, launching an investigation into the Davao Death Squad during the time of then-Mayor Rodrigo Duterte. After seven years of detention over allegations of drug trafficking during her tenure, she was cleared of all her charges and was freed last June 2024.



Fuziah Salleh

Deputy Minister of Domestic Trade and Costs of Living

Fuziah binti Salleh is a Malaysian politician who serves as the Deputy Minister of Domestic Trade and Costs of Living in the Unity Government administration under Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and Ministers Salahuddin Ayub and Armizan Mohd Ali as well as Senator since December 2022. She is a member of the People's Justice Party (PKR), a component party of the PH coalition. She has also served as the State Chairperson of PKR of Pahang since May 2024. She also served as the Women Chief of PKR from July 2020 to July 2022 and Vice President of PKR from November 2010 to August 2014 as well as the State Chairperson of PH of Pahang from March 2019 to September 2022.



Panisa Aemocha

Journalist and News Presenter at BBC News, specializing in economy, finance, and business coverage in Thailand

Since joining BBC News in January 2024, Panisa has reported on key developments in these sectors. Prior to this, Panisa worked as a journalist at AFP for over a year, where she debunked global misinformation and covered breaking news across Thailand and Southeast Asia.

Panisa holds a Master of Arts in Financial Journalism from City, University of London, completed in June 2022 as a Chevening scholar. With over five years of experience in economics journalism, she has crafted engaging and informative content for diverse audiences. Panisa also has a strong background in creative writing, news writing, and SEO content, with additional certifications in financial and data journalism.



Sun-woo Kang

Member of Parliament, Democratic Party of Korea

Kang Sun-woo is a South Korean politician.

She earned her Bachelor's in English education and master's degree in consumer studies and human development from Ewha Womans University. She received her doctorate degree in human development and family studies from University of Wisconsin–Madison where she worked as an instructor from 2010 to 2012. She continued to teach as an assistant professor at South Dakota State University from 2012 to 2016.

In 2016 she joined the Democratic Party and ran for 2016 general election as the number 29 on the list for proportional representation. From 2016 to 2017 she worked as a standing deputy spokesperson of her party. She worked at then-candidate Moon Jae-in's presidential campaign in 2017. She also participated in various policy advisory instruments of Moon government such as National Education Council, National



Jaslyn Go

Chairperson, CALD Women's Caucus Cadre Member, Singapore Democratic Party

Jaslyn has represented the SDP internationally since 2008. She participates and speaks at many events organized by the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD), Liberal International (LI), and other political and civil organizations. Jaslyn contested as a candidate for SDP in the 2015 General Election. She is also currently the Chairperson of the CALD Women's Caucus.

She was a fundraiser for the SDP from 2008-2018. A two-term member of the Party's Central Executive Committee, Jaslyn served as its Treasurer in one of the terms. Even though it has been more than 14 years in the political scene in Singapore, Jaslyn has not forgotten what moved her into politics. She had wanted to champion the cause of underprivileged citizens, who are oppressed by Singapore's repressive and authoritarian regime. The same passion still burns in her today as she seeks to forge a freer and more egalitarian world.



Chompunut Chaliebun

Regional Programme Manager, Westminster Foundation for Democracy Thailand

Air has been working in the fields of elections, politics, and human rights for over fifteen years. She started working with ANFREL in 2008 and was involved with We Watch, a youth network for election observation and democracy during Thailand's Constitutional Referendum in 2016 and Thailand's 2019 election. During 2020-2021, Air worked with Amnesty International Thailand as an Impact and Learning Officer and was a part of the working group on children's rights to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly.

Currently, Air is working as a Regional Programme Manager for Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), based in Thailand. The current programme she is managing focuses on women's political leadership in Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, and Thailand.



Kwankaow Kongdecha

Researcher, Office of Innovation for Democracy King Prajadhipok's Institute.

Working for 4 years as a researcher at one of the leading academic institutes under the supervision of Thailand National Assembly, I have dedicated my year of working in exploring the dynamics of democratic engagement and the development of participatory governance models through different innovations. I have collaborated and worked with numerous international organizations, civil engineering organizations, political parties, the domestic educational sector and governmental agencies, leading research as well as developing innovative mechanisms to enhance the democratic value and principle of political engagement. Some of my notable projects include the design and implementation of an election watch in Thailand at the local and national election levels and the development of digital platforms to enhance civic participation.



Raiyan Abdul-Rahim

Deputy Chief of Strategy at a National Level, Malaysia

Raiyan was elected as a member of the party's Supreme Council and holds the position of Deputy Chief of Strategy at a National level. She is also on the National Committee of the party's training academy. The training she conducts focus on strategy, campaigning, election management, political narratives and communication.

Raiyan was previously the National Chief of Srikandi Keadilan, which is the party's young women's wing. During her tenure, she recruited many young women into the party and prepared them for various leadership and government-related positions. She was the Campaign Manager for Malaysia's youngest ever election candidate, who was a young woman aged 21 years old. This was during the Malacca State Elections in 2021.



Yogeswary Veelo

LEAD UP Malaysia

A former banker; Yogeswary S Veloo is now the Communication and Research Officer of Member of Parliament Bandar Tun Razak. A masters holder in Human Resource Management (MHRM) and currently pursuing her PhD in Economy and Management in Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. A certified human resource trainer (HRD Corp) from Ministry of Human Resources Malaysia. Actively developing and supporting NGO projects in the local community of Bandar Tun Razak, Kuala Lumpur. She also the Head of Komuniti Madani Zone 2 in Bandar Tun Razak, Kuala Lumpur which involves in integrating and implementing the Malaysia MADANI (Civil Society) principles among the local community. Deputy National Campaign Manager of #SayangiDiri (Love Yourself) which supports HPV (Human Papilomavirus) and KYL (Know Your Lemons) awareness in Malaysia.



Sita Aripurnami

Executive Director of Women Research Institute

Sita's involvement in women's movements began in 1984, focusing on labor and land eviction issues. This led to the creation of the women's organization Kalyanamitra in 1985, where she advocated for gender awareness. She was a member of Asia Pacific Women, Law, and Development (1988-1996) and the Global Fund for Women (1989-1996). Sita spoke at major events like the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo and the 1995 UN Women's Conference in Beijing.

In 1996-1997, she earned her Master's in gender studies from the London School of Economics. Returning to Indonesia, Sita co-founded INSIST in Yogyakarta. During the Reformation, she advocated for victims of violence, including the sexual violence victims of the 1998 May Tragedy, and coordinated a program for the National Commission on Violence Against Women.

From 2001 to 2004, she advised UNDP's Partnership Program and worked as a consultant and gender evaluator for organizations like ILO, TIFA, and Elsam. She has been active at the Women Research Institute since 2002, focusing on the impact of decentralization on women's daily lives. Sita is also a mother of four.



Wasin Punthong

University lecturer at Thammasat University

New-gen researcher with a demonstrated history of working in the political organization industry. Skilled in Stata, Translation, Training Facilitation, Qualitative Research, and Simultaneous Interpretation. Strong research professional with a Master of Arts - MA focused in Baltic Sea Region Studies from University of Tartu.



Sky Warisala Chatuchinda

Regional Communication Officer for the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom Southeast and East Asia

As a Regional Communication Officer at Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF), Sky promotes democracy, human rights, economic freedom, and efforts to curb climate change in Southeast and East Asia. Sky works with various partners and stakeholders, including the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats, the Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism, the Asia Centre, and the ASEAN Prosperity Initiative. Sky holds a Master's degree in Humanitarian Action from University College Dublin and a Physician Associate degree from St George's, University of London. Sky is passionate about public health and women's empowerment, with extensive experience in project management, social media content creation, and advocacy.