



Introduction

The East Asia Democracy Forum (EADF) is a network of civil society movements and organizations that promotes and consolidates democratic development in the region. As an international forum to advance democratic progress in Asia, the EADF focuses on strengthening solidarity in Asia and serves as a platform for exchanging ideas, sharing best practices, and empowering civil society in Asia. The EADF was launched in September 2014 at its first full meeting in Taipei. In order to strengthen and broaden the EADF network, in January 2018, the EADF Steering Committee adopted a formal charter for the governance of the EADF. Since the EADF's founding, the Forum has been holding annual events including Steering Committee meetings, international conferences, and workshops in Asia. The EADF hopes more democracy advocates and civil society organizations can exchange their ideas through the Forum.

This year's forum will focus on *Strengthening Democratic Resilience*, addressing the critical challenges democracies face today and the role of an active civil society in consolidating democracy. As authoritarian regimes increasingly attempt to undermine democracy through tactics such as information manipulation and intimidation, it is important that democracies work together to adapt to and resist these pressures. Additionally, the rapid rise of artificial intelligence, surveillance, and other technologies offer both opportunities and threats for democratic governments. This year's forum also aims to bring civil society organizations together across disciplines and borders and discuss how doing so is key to fostering resilient democracy across Asia.

(Tentative Agenda Below)

Tentative Agenda

Date: Oct. 16, 2024

Time: 09:00-14:30

Venue: The Howard Plaza Hotel Taipei B2 Banquet Hall

2024 East Asia Democracy Forum Strengthening Democratic Resilience	
09:00 - 09:30	Registration
09:30 - 09:40	Welcoming Remarks
09:40 - 10:40	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Authoritarian Evolution: Strategies and Tactics Undermining Democracy in Asia</p> <p>This session will delve into the evolving tactics of authoritarian regimes across Asia and beyond, focusing on how these regimes have adapted to undermine democratic institutions. By comparing different countries, the discussion will highlight the common strategies used by authoritarian governments, the impact on civil liberties and human rights, and the lessons that can be learned to counter these threats.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● J. Michael Cole, Senior Non-Resident Fellow, Global Taiwan Institute● Yun Wang, Associate Professor, Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies, National Chengchi University <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Da-chi Liao, President, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy
10:40 - 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 - 12:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Navigating the Opportunities and Risks of Emerging Technologies</p> <p>Emerging technologies hold the potential to both consolidate and undermine democracy. This session will examine the dual-edged impact that technologies such as artificial intelligence and social media have had on democracy. Discussions will focus on how these tools can be used for good—to enhance transparency and civic participation—while also addressing the ways they have been used to attack democracy, such as through surveillance and information manipulation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speakers:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● James Gomez, Regional Director, Asia Centre ● Chihhao Yu, Co-Director, Taiwan Information Environment Research Center (IORG) <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lulu Keng, Program Manager, Freedom House
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch
13:15 - 14:15	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strengthening Civil Society’s Role in Safeguarding Freedom</p> <p>Civil society is a cornerstone of democratic resilience, yet it often faces challenges in cooperating effectively. This session will explore strategies for empowering civil society organizations, focusing on case studies of how different organizations have been successful in working together for a common goal. Experts will also discuss barriers to cooperation, offering insights on how civil society can better work together to strengthen democracy and guard against authoritarian influence.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Faisal Aziz, Chairperson, BERSIH 2.0 ● Undariya Tumursukh, Regional Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Director for Asia, International Rescue Committee <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ingrid Yeh, Supervisor, International Department, the Garden of Hope Foundation
14:15 - 14:30	Closing Remarks