



Asian Women Parliamentarian Caucus

Promoting Gender Equality and Climate Change Mitigation in Asian Parliaments

Thimphu, Bhutan
13 - 15 May 2024

<https://www.kas.de/en/web/politikdialog-asien>





Background

Democratic development cannot take place without equal participation of women in all spheres of life, especially politics. As such in lieu of the need to promote female political leadership training and empowerment in Asia, the Regional Programme Dialogue Asia office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Singapore is committed to pursuing programmes to narrow the political gender gap.

Regional networks help to build on existing strategic knowledge and solidarity systems, especially for countries that lack adequate or any representation of women in politics. Women caucuses also help to unite women across party lines, offer opportunities to mainstream gender issues through legislation and provide oversight of government action in the work of parliament. The women's caucus is also a platform to inform and encourage parliamentarians to use and benefit from the laws passed in their respective countries for stronger enforcement. In most instances, women's caucuses do not receive parliamentary support such as financial resources or the meeting venues to organise.

Objectives

With the support of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, a network of 40 Asian women parliamentarians have met annually since 2011 to promote, strengthen and develop female political leadership in the their respective countries through policy discussions and capacity building programmes. The AWPC, which was formally established in 2014 via a regional conference in Singapore, aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Promote more robust engagements in policy issues by encouraging regional discussions on policies impacting women's leadership in Asia
- Strengthen capacities of individual parliamentarians through networking, plenary sessions and skills upgrading workshops
- Identify leadership challenges faced by female parliamentarians in Asia and provide adequate support through leadership training and policy workshops

Policy Focus

The meetings in the form of dialogue programmes and/or study trips, have also strategically addressed thematic policy concerns such as:

- Migration and Human Trafficking
- Anti-Corruption
- Gender Mainstreaming in Policy Making
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Women's political participation in parliaments, and more.



Asian Women Parliamentarian Caucus Meeting
Promoting Gender Equality and Climate Change Mitigation in Asian
Parliaments
Thimphu, Bhutan
12 - 16 May

12th May Sunday	Arrival of International Delegates
19:00 pm	Welcome Dinner for AWPC Delegates Venue: Simply Bhutan
13th May Monday	Inaugural Session 1- Centre for Bhutan Studies
08:45 am	Meeting at the lobby of Norkhil Hotel to depart to Centre for Bhutan Studies (International Delegates)
09:00 am	Departure from Norkhil Hotel to Centre for Bhutan Studies
09:30 am	Registration
09:50 am	Arrival of Chief Guest H.E. Lungten Dorji Speaker, National Assembly of Bhutan, Royal Government of Bhutan
09:55 am	Marchang Ceremony
10:00 am	Inaugural Session



	<p>Welcome Address</p> <p>Mr. Andreas Klein Director, Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia Konrad Adenauer Stiftung</p> <p>Keynote Speech by Chief Guest H.E. Lungten Dorji Speaker, National Assembly of Bhutan, Royal Government of Bhutan</p> <p>Vote of Thanks Tashi Namgyal Director, Member Secretary to National Commission for Women and Children</p> <p>Group Photo</p>
11:00 am	Networking Session
12:30 am	Lunch
14:00 pm	<p>Open Forum on Increasing Women’s Participation in Politics</p> <p>This session will focus on how women participation can be increased in Politics. While our AWPC members will share the best practices and the challenges they have overcome in their respective countries, our delegates from Bhutan will share their best practices as well challenges they face to increase women’s participation in politics.</p> <p>Perspectives from AWPC Members</p> <p>Hon. Dr. Razwana Begum Abdul Rahim Nominated Member of Parliament, Singapore</p> <p>Hon. Heike Wermer Member of Parliament, Germany</p> <p>YB. Mas Ermieyati Binti Samsudin Member of Parliament, Malaysia</p>



<p>15:00 pm</p>	<p>Hon. Eva Abdulla Member of Parliament, Maldives</p> <p>Perspectives from Member of Parliament of Bhutan</p> <p>Hon. Kesang Chuki Dorjee Member of Parliament Bhutan</p>
<p>15:10 pm</p>	<p>Perspectives from Representatives of Civil Society Groups, Bhutan</p> <p>Tandin Wangmo, Executive Director Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy (BCMD)</p> <p>Group discussions with Members of Bhutan National Commission for Women and Children</p>
<p>16:30 pm</p>	<p>Summary of the Proceedings of Day 1</p> <p>Megha Sarmah Programme Manager, 2030 Agenda, Political Dialogue Asia</p>
<p>17:00 pm</p>	<p>Departure from Centre for Bhutan Studies to Norkhil Hotel (International Delegates)</p>
<p>18:15 pm</p>	<p>Meeting at the lobby of Norkhil Hotel to depart to Terma Linca (International Delegates)</p>
<p>18:30 pm</p>	<p>Departure from Norkhil Hotel (International Delegates)</p>
<p>19:00 pm</p>	<p>Dinner Venue: Terma Linca, Babesa-Thimphu Expressway, Thimphu 11001, Bhutan</p>
<p>21:30 pm</p>	<p>Departure from Terma Linca to Norkhil Hotel</p>



14 th May Tuesday	AWPC Closed Door Meeting Centre for Bhutan Studies
08:30 am	Meeting at the lobby of Norkhil Hotel to depart to Centre for Bhutan Studies (International Delegates)
09:00 am	Departure from Norkhil Hotel to Centre for Bhutan Studies (International Delegates)
09:30 am	<p>Updates from the Region - Elections and Other Political Events and its impact on Gender Equality</p> <p>Hon. Yu-Lan Sandy Professor & Former Member of Parliament Taiwan</p> <p>Hon. Ledia Hanifa Member of Parliament, Indonesia</p> <p>Hon. Dr. Shammi Ahmed Member of Parliament, Bangladesh</p> <p>Hon. Eva Abdulla Member of Parliament, Maldives</p> <p>Perspectives from Bhutan</p> <p>Q&A</p>
10:30 am	Tea/Coffee Break
11:00 am	<p>Gender and the Climate Crisis</p> <p>Climate change is the foremost crisis of the 21st century, with devastating environmental, economic, and social impacts. It affects everyone, but the impacts are unequal and the burden of climate change falls to those who have least contributed to it, particularly girls and women. Parliamentarians will share experiences from their country discuss policy priorities and campaigns, center frontline experiences, and coordinate for urgent needed action.</p>



	<p>Hon. Shizuka Terata Member of Parliament Japan</p> <p>YB. Ng Shy Ching Member of Parliament, Malaysia</p> <p>Hon. Nisha Dangi Member of Parliament Nepal</p> <p>Hon'ble Tashi Chhozom Member of Parliament, Royal Government of Bhutan</p> <p>Hon. Sakuna Saranun Member of Parliament, Thailand</p> <p>Dasho Dil Maya Rai Former Member of Parliament, Bhutan</p>
12:15 am	Perspectives from AWPC Members
13:00 pm	Lunch
14:00 pm	<p>Women on the Move: Migration and the Gender Equality</p> <p>Overview and analysis of the opportunities, risks and vulnerabilities for women migrants. The session will dive into the realities of women migrating around the world, specifically the experiences of both high-skilled and low-skilled migrant workers employed in a range of 'care' professions, from domestic workers to nurses and doctors.</p> <p>Hon. Heike Wermer Member of Parliament, Germany</p> <p>Hon. Baintan Adil Ampatuan Member of Parliament, Philippines</p> <p>Hon. Pramila Yadav Member of Parliament, Nepal</p> <p>Hon. Sasinan Thamnithinan Deputy of Thai Women Parliamentarian Caucus</p>
15:15 pm	Perspectives from AWPC Members and Bhutan
16:00 pm	Tea/Coffee Break



16:30 pm	<p>The Way Forward to Achieve SDGs in Asia</p> <p>Moderated by Megha Sarmah Programme Manager, 2030 Agenda, Political Dialogue Asia</p> <p>Round Table Discussions</p>
17:00 pm	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Mr. Andreas Klein Director, Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia</p> <p>Tashi Namgyal Director, Member Secretary to National Commission for Women and Children</p>
17:15 pm	Departure from Centre of Bhutan Studies (International Delegates)
19:00 pm	Meeting at the lobby of Norkhil Hotel to depart to dinner venue (International Delegates)
19:15 pm	Departure for Dinner from Norkhil Hotel (International Delegates)
19:30 pm	<p>Dinner (International Delegates)</p> <p>Venue: Capital Hotel Thimphu</p>
21:45 pm	Departure from Dinner Venue to Norkhil Hotel
15th May Wednesday	Site Visit (International Delegates)
08:00 am	Meeting at the lobby of Norkhil Hotel to depart for Site Visit Trip
08:30 am	Departure from Thimphu to Punakha



08:30 am	Departure from Thimphu to Punakha
10:30 am	Visit to Walakha Nunnery
13:00 pm	Lunch
14:00 pm	Visit to Punakha Dzong
16:30 pm	Departure from Punakha to Thimphu
19:30 PM	Dinner Venue: Norkhil Hotel
16 th May Thursday	Departure of International Delegates

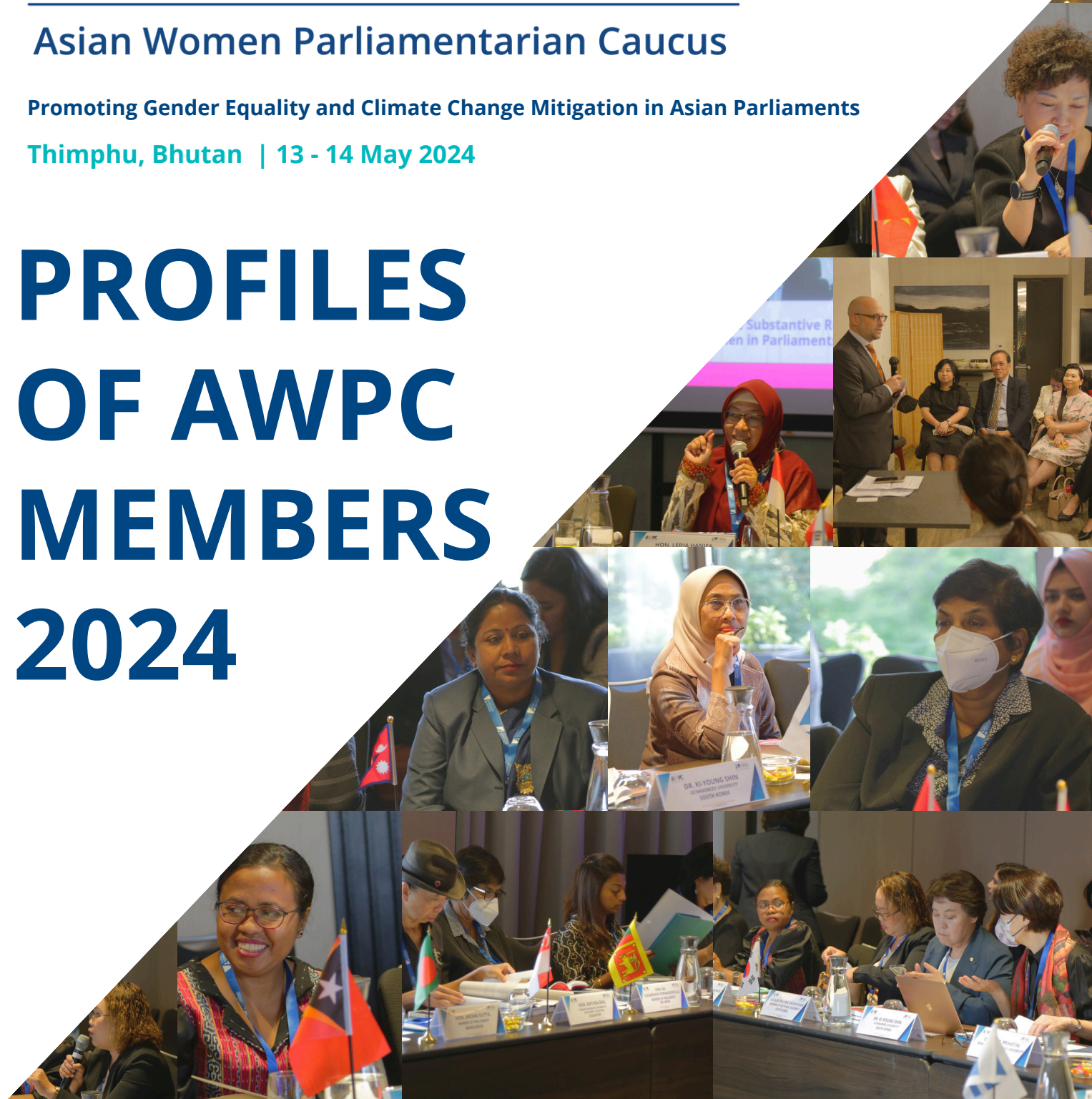
AWPC

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PROFILES OF AWPC MEMBERS 2024





HON. DR. SHAMMI AHMED
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
BANGLADESH

Hon. Dr. Shammi Ahmed is a Bangladeshi politician and currently serving as the Member of Parliament in the Bangladesh National Parliament and performing her role of Internal Affairs Secretary of the Central Working Committee of Bangladesh Awami League. Dr. Ahmed was born in a renowned political family from Mehendiganj, Barishal. Her father, the freedom fighter, late Mohiuddin Ahmed was a veteran politician and member of parliament who has served as a trusted political companion of Banglabandhu Shiekh Mujibur Rahman. Dr. Ahmed began his political journey since she was a student in 1990 and has served as the assistant secretary of the International Affairs Sub-Committee of Bangladesh Awami League in multiple previous terms as assigned by the Party President Sheikh Hasina.

She has been successfully serving as the international affairs secretary for the party over consecutive three terms since 2016. Dr. Shammi Ahmed has a great experience in working at the national and community level politics for upholding democracy, political activism and development work. She has over 20 years of proven experience in international development, project management programs, in South Asia, Asia Pacific and Australia. During her long career with International AID programs, she got commendable organizational, administrative and financial management skills especially in the sector of gender and other social issues. She has exceptional interpersonal and negotiation skills and capabilities to handle multi-cultural stakeholders. She holds PhD degree from Victoria University Melbourne and a Masters in Development Studies from University of Melbourne, Australia.



HON. HEIKE WERMER
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
GERMANY

Since 2017, **Hon. Heike Wermer** has been a member of the State Parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia, where she has served as the CDU spokesperson for culture and arts in the relevant committee since 2022. Throughout this period, the CDU (Christian Democratic Union) has led the government in Germany's most populous federal state.

From 2017 to 2022, Heike Wermer actively shaped migration policy as the spokesperson for her party in the committee for integration. In her second term, starting in 2022, she joined the parliamentary group executive's board and shifted her focus within the committees. Since 2022, she has also taken on roles as a member and spokesperson for the committee on arts, culture, and media, and as the deputy chairwoman of the committee for science. Despite these changes, Heike Wermer continues to be an influential voice in migration policy, taking a leading role in this area within her party's new foundational program. Additionally, from 2019 to 2022, she was the deputy chairwoman of the Junge Union, the CDU's youth organization at the national level.

Prior to her tenure in the State Parliament, Heike Wermer pursued higher education in Applied Linguistics (M.A.) and German Linguistics and Political Science (B.A.) at the University of Münster, Germany. She also completed a semester abroad in Salzburg, Austria. From 2013 to 2016, she worked as a constituency staffer responsible for press and public relations for German Bundestag member Mr. Johannes Röring.

Heike Wermer's political priorities extend beyond culture, science, and integration to encompass issues critical to rural areas. North Rhine-Westphalia is characterized by its large cities and expansive rural regions. As a representative elected directly by her constituency in Borken/Münsterland, Wermer prioritizes the needs and concerns of her constituents, focusing on areas such as agriculture, the economy, and mobility.

Additionally, Heike Wermer appreciates and values the close relationship between her region and the Netherlands, recognizing the unique opportunities and challenges that come with sharing a border. Her work often reflects the cultural exchange, economic interdependence, and bilateral cooperation that are essential to the vibrant cross-border dynamic. This international aspect of her political work underscores her commitment to fostering good neighborly relations and leveraging shared interests to benefit both North Rhine-Westphalia and the Netherlands.



HON. LEDIA HANIFA AMALIAH
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
INDONESIA

Hon. Ledia Hanifa Amaliah is a member of the The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia (DPR RI) from the Prosperous Justice Party (PKS) for the Bandung City and Cimahi City electoral districts who really cares about issues of Education, Family and People with Disabilities.

Ledia who currently serves as Secretary of the PKS Fraction of the DPR RI, has been a member of the DPR RI for 3 terms, starting from 2009-2014, 2014-2019 to 2024-2029.

Spending her elementary to high school years in Jakarta, Ledia completed her undergraduate education at the University of Indonesia majoring in Chemistry and continued her Masters in Applied Psychology with a specialization in Social Intervention at the Faculty of Psychology from the same university, the University of Indonesia.

Since she was young, Ledia has been active in organizations. Starting from Scouting, then being active in student associations, until then being involved in national and international level organizations such as being on the Expert Council of the Central Board of Women of the Islamic Community and Member of the Women's Caucus of the Asian Parliament until now.

In 1998 Ledia entered into political activities when she joined the Justice Party and was active as a party administrator until the party changed its name to the Prosperous Justice Party.

When she was Chair of the PKS Central Executive Board (DPP) for Women from 2005 to 2010, Ledia and her friends activated 4,500 Pos Wanita Keadilan (currently called Rumah Keluarga Indonesia) in 33 provinces as one of the flagship programs in community empowerment, especially for women, family and children.

During her time as a member of the DPR RI, Ledia has been active in Commission IX which is in charge of health and employment issues, Commission VIII which is in charge of religious, social, women's and children's issues, and most recently in Commission X which is in charge of issues of education, youth and sports, tourism and the creative economy as well as national library.

While working on Commission VIII DPR RI, Ledia was Chair of the Working Committee on the Halal Product Guarantee Bill, the Draft Law on Revision of Law No. 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection, and the Bill on Disabilities and she oversaw these three bills until they were passed into Law No. 34 of 2014, Law No. 35 of 2014 and Law No. 8 of 2016.

In between her busy schedule as a wife, mother, member of parliament and party activist, Ledia poured out her life experiences and thoughts in the books *If We Want, We Can* (2011), *Arranging Halal Guarantees in Indonesia* (2016), *From Disability Development to Disability Development* (2011). 2016), and *Kartini Legislation- An Anthology of the Progress of PKS Women Legislative Members* (2017)



HON. SHIZUKA TERATA
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
JAPAN

Hon. Shizuka Terata is a member of the House of Councillors in Japan, first elected in 2019 from the Akita Prefectural district. She graduated from Waseda University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Sciences in 1998.

Since joining the House of Councillors, she has been actively serving on the Committee on the Environment and the Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries.

Terata's primary areas of focus include education, gender equality, and environmental issues. She is dedicated to improving social welfare and promoting foster care, as well as advocating for tuition-free education. Terata has also been actively working to eliminate gender discrimination in medical school admissions and pushing for legal reforms to reduce sexual crimes.

She is challenging Japanese society, where a significant gender wage gap exists, and one in every two single-mother households falls into relative poverty. Distressed by the news of cases involving the abandonment of newborn babies, she is also actively working to establish an anonymous childbirth system, despite facing strong opposition from conservatives who argue that it encourages baby abandonment. She believes that promoting SRHR (Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights) and the introduction of comprehensive sex education by UNESCO, as well as improving access to contraceptive methods that women can use autonomously to prevent unintended pregnancies, are key factors. However, with only 15% of female lawmakers, it is challenging to gain widespread understanding.

In Japan, women still spend 5.5 times more time on housework and childcare than men. With the belief that, for women to actively participate in politics and the economy, it is essential for men to spend more time on housework and childcare, she has been promoting paternity leave and advocating for male cabinet members to take paternity leave as well. In 2020, former Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi became the first male cabinet member to take a two-week paternity leave.

As a member of the Japanese Parliament, where gender equality ranks low (125th in the gender gap index), Terata places a strong emphasis on increasing women's participation in politics.



HON. SANDREA NG
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
MALAYSIA

Hon. Sandra Ng is a student activist turned state lawmaker from Malaysia, representing The People's Justice Party. She was first elected in the historic general election in 2018 that witnessed the first regime change in Malaysia since its independence.

She was re-elected in the 2022 Malaysian general election. With the formation of the unity government in Perak state, Sandra was appointed as the Perak State Executive Council member, holding the housing and local government portfolios.

Sandra is currently the exco member of her party's national women's wing, as well as the information chief of Perak state. She is also a member of the Asian Women Parliamentarian Caucus and an alumni of KASYP batch 4.



HON. YB DATUK WIRA HAJJAH MAS
ERMIEYATI BINTI HAJI SAMSUDIN
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
MALAYSIA

Hon. YB Datuk Wira Hajjah Mas Ermieyati binti Haji Samsudin or known as YB Emy amongst colleagues and people of Masjid Tanah, is a Malaysian Politician who has served as Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) since April 2023 and the Member of Parliament (MP) for Masjid Tanah since May 2013. She became the first female MP in Melaka. She is also the second female PAC chairperson after Noraini Ahmad in Malaysian history.

She served as Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department in charge of Parliament and Law under former Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob from year 2021 until November 2022, Deputy Minister of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives from March 2020 to August 2021 and the Deputy Minister of Tourism and Culture from July 2015 to May 2018.

She is a member of the Malaysian United Indigenous Party (BERSATU), a component party of the Perikatan Nasional (PN) coalition and served as the 2nd Deputy Women Chief of BERSATU since August 2020 and the Women Youth Chief of the UMNO from October 2013 to June 2018.

After graduating from the Law Degree in UKM in the year 2000, she started her career as an advocate and solicitor and later in 2004, with two partners, she opened their own legal firm, Messrs. Ermiey Nizam & Ho. Since school age and as early as 15, she has been active with the volunteering and activism throughout various platform and awarded as Tokoh Beliawanis Negeri Melaka for the year 2013.

She is now actively participating in projects and programmes related to social and economic development, sustainability and women and youth to connect with experts across the globe and exchange ideas for the betterment of the people.



HON. EVA ABDULLA
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
MALDIVES

Hon. Eva Abdulla has been a representing member of parliament of the People's Majlis (Parliament of Maldives) since 2009. She also previously held the position of Deputy Speaker of the People's Majlis for the 19th Majlis until her resignation on 3rd December 2023.

Eva serves on the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Oversight of the National Security Services. She sponsored the Maldives Customs Act and Maldives Anti-Torture Act in 2010, the Whistleblower Protection Act in 2019, and the Asset Declaration Bill in 2022. Additionally, she submitted to the parliament: a Resolution in 2023 calling on the State to implement measures outlined in previous resolutions regarding debt repayment and bringing these concerns to the Government's attention; a Resolution in 2023 urging for a comprehensive national study to address various mental and physical health issues affecting women, along with the formulation of relevant policies based on the study's findings; a Resolution in 2022 addressing the challenges faced by women councilors and members of women's development committees in carrying out their duties; and a Resolution in 2020 calling for a parliamentary inquiry into policies, systems, laws, and regulations to eliminate discrimination against women in the Maldives.

She was the elected representative from Asia-Pacific region for the IPU Committee on Women Parliamentarians from 2010 to 2013; and since 2021, she is serving as the elected member from Asia Pacific region for the IPU High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism. Since 2023, she has also been a member representing Asia Region at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Small Branches Steering Committee. Her term will end in 2025.

Eva has been an advocate democracy and human rights in the country, and in the formation of the first political party in the country- the Maldivian Democratic Party, and in the national reform movement which ushered in the first democratic elections in 2008. She became the first woman to be elected to a governing council in a political party and won her first Parliamentary seat in the first multi-party general elections of 2009. She now represents the newly formed political party, The Democrats.

Eva has also previously worked the WHO, the UNFPA and was Manager for the local newspaper 'Minivan Daily'. She graduated from the University of Kent, UK, holding a BA in Politics and Government and a MA in Politics and International Relations from the University of Warwick, UK.



HON. PRAMILA YADAV
FORMER STATE MINISTER FOR
EDUCATION, SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY
NEPAL

Hon. Pramila Yadav is a former State Minister for Education, Science and Technology of Nepal. She is also holding the position of Central Member and Politburo Member of the People's Socialist Party, Nepal

She has been elected as a Member of National Assembly (Upper House) since 2018. Her designated area of responsibility is Madhesh Province. She has more than 15 years experiences of politics. She is involved actively in the Madhesh Janadhikar Forum. She has been raising her voices in the Parliament and making laws for them for the Madheshis. She has gained a lot of popularity in the politics as well as education sector.

She has worked in the education sector for 25 years. She was Secondary English Teacher and the principal in Sunsari, Nepal. She has worked as a trainer of Child Friendly Education, Female Education, Adult Education, Distance Education, Secondary School Teacher Training and so on.

She has worked as a General Manager in National Trading Limited, Kathmandu, Nepal for two years (2011, 2012). She has been awarded by National Education Ministry, Teacher Forum, Female Forum, NGO/INGO on the occasion of Women's International Day and so on. In this way she is also very interested in the international politics and social work.



HON. NISHA DANGI
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
NEPAL

Hon. Nisha Dangi a distinguished Member of Parliament, holds a unique position as the youngest member ever to grace the House of Representatives in the Federal Parliament of Nepal. As a testament to her leadership abilities, she serves as the Whip of the Rastriya Swatantra Party Nepal, where she plays a pivotal role in shaping party policies and directions. Her commitment to driving progress is further underscored by her membership in the Infrastructure Development Parliamentary Committee, where she actively contributes to the country's development agenda.

Nisha is a versatile individual, holding a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and a Master's degree in Journalism. Her academic background underscores her deep understanding of social issues and effective communication strategies. As an MP, Nisha Dangi has tirelessly championed the voice of the people, advocating for social justice, equality and the rights and well-being of marginalized communities together with the promotion of domestic production. Her unwavering dedication to these causes solidifies her position as a respected and influential leader in Nepali politics.



HON. BAIN TAN ADIL-AMPATUAN
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
PHILIPPINES

Hon. Engr. Baintan Adil-Ampatuan, MNSA has been a legislator for more than five (5) years and a development planner for more than two decades. MP Ampatuan stands as one of the 80 presidential appointees of the second Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) Parliament, from February 2019 to date.

As a Member of Parliament, she is one of the vice-chairpersons of the Committee on Finance and a member of eight (8) committees of the Parliament, specifically, the Committees on 1) Rules; 2) Ways and Means; 3) Agriculture; 4) Public Works; 5) Education; 6) Health; 7) Women, Youth, Children, and other vulnerable sectors; and 8) Committee on Labor and Employment.

As of December 2023, she principally authored 43 Bills and 101 proposed Resolutions. Of the 101 filed Resolutions, 31 have been adopted by the Parliament.

Additionally, she is one of the co-chairpersons of the Joint Task Force on Camps Transformation (JTFCT), on the side of the Government (GPH). The JTFCT is one of the peace mechanisms under the socio-economic cluster of the Inter-Cabinet Cluster Mechanism on Normalization (ICCMN).

She earned her degree in Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering (BSCE) from the Notre Dame University in 1991. She became a licensed Civil Engineer and a Career Service Professional right after obtaining her undergraduate degree in 1991. She also obtained her Master in Professional Studies – Development Management, major in Public Affairs Management in 1994. In 2021, she finished her Senior Executive Master in National Security Administration (SE-MNSA) from the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP), where she received awards. As a result of graduating with SE-MNSA, she also became a commissioned reserve officer of the Philippine Army, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

She has an in-depth understanding of autonomous government bureaucracy, having rose from the ranks from a Development Management Officer to the Executive Director of the Regional Planning and Development Office – Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (RPDO-ARMM). She has accumulated robust experience in planning, investment programming, budgeting, project implementation, alongside monitoring and the evaluation of policies, programs, and projects. She left a significant footprint in the defunct ARMM by leading the creation and development of various regional plans and notably, the ARMM Transition Report.

She was also an awardee of the Civil Service Commission-ARMM 2014 Regional Outstanding Lady Executive (ROLE).

She has also undergone several trainings locally and abroad, ranging from leadership programs in the United States of America (USA) and Japan, to exchange and learning visits to Timor-Leste, Edinburgh, Scotland, Canada (Toronto, Kitchener, and Ottawa), Europe (The Netherlands, Germany, and Belgium), and International Training Program 3 (ITP3) on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Stockholm, Sweden.



**HON. DR. RAZWANA BEGUM BT
ABDUL RAHIM
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
SINGAPORE**

Hon. Associate Professor Razwana Begum Bt Abdul Rahim (Razwana) was appointed as a Nominated Member of Parliament on 24 July 2023.

Razwana holds a PhD in business ethics and restorative justice from Monash University, Australia, as well as a Bachelor of Law (University of Woverhampton, UK), a Master of Law (University of London, UK), and a Master of Counselling (Monash University). She also holds a Graduate Diploma in Social Work (National University of Singapore), and International Diploma in Computer Studies, and a Diploma in Administrative Management. Razwana is currently an Associate Professor at the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) and is Head of the Public Safety and Security Programme within the School of Humanities and Behavioural Sciences, Singapore University of Social Sciences.

Her research interests include - public safety; causes of criminogenic behaviour; effective criminal justice systems; restorative justice; children and family protection; individuals in contact with the justice system; and leadership and ethical behaviour within the commercial and social services sector. Razwana is Vice President II of the Singapore Muslim Women's Association (PPIS), a member of the Bowen Secondary School Advisory Committee, and the Ministry of Family and Social Development (MSF) Fostering Committee and is also an Advisory Member to the Singapore Youth Court.

She also provides expert advice to Lutheran Community Care Services (LCCS), and the European Forum for Restorative Justice. Prior to joining SUSS, Razwana worked as a Social Worker at Pertapis Children's Home, then spent 18 years with the MSF where she worked directly with children and families in contact with the Criminal Justice and Child Protection systems. Razwana is regarded as a leading national and international expert, and is regularly approached to provide advice and training, cooperate on research projects, and present at seminars and conferences. Razwana is married with two children, and enjoys travelling, trekking, cooking, and watching movies.



HON. DR. SANDY (YU LAN) YU
FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
TAIWAN

Hon. Dr. Sandy (Yu Lan) Yu, also known as Sandy Yeh, was a legislator at large representing Kuomintang (KMT), the largest opposition party of Taiwan, the Republic of China till Jan. 31st 2024.

Sandy was a police officer after her graduation from Central Police University, and became a lecturer/professor after she completed her MA in Law Enforcement Administration from Western Illinois University in 1986, and Ph.D. in Public Policy Analysis from University of Illinois at Chicago, USA, in 1994.

In addition to her academic career in the Central Police University as a faculty, Dr. Sandy Yu have been very active in police reform, and committed herself to non-government organizations in advocating victim assistance and anti gender-based violence. She served as the board member and chair of board of Taipei Women Rescue Foundation which has been playing a vital role in pushing through the legislations of anti gender-based violence including: Domestic Violence Prevention Act, Sexual Assault Prevention Act, Sexual Harassment Prevention Act, and Human Trafficking Prevention Act.

Dr. Sandy Yu retired from Central Police University in 2014, worked as a human rights volunteer, and a free-lance commentary writer. She was nominated by KMT and was elected to be the legislator in 2020. During this tenure, she has been the member of Internal Administrations Committee, Judicial and Legal Affairs Committee, and Procedure Committee. She served as convening member to chair the Judicial and Legal Affairs in 2021, and is currently the convening member/chairperson of the Internal Administration Committee.

After stepped down from the Legislative Yuan, Dr. Sandy Yu serves as the Presidents of several NGOs focus on the human rights promotion, public safety and gender-based violence prevention issues.



HON. SAKUNA SARANUN
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
THAILAND

Hon. Sakuna Saranun is a Thai Parliamentarian from Wanon Niwat, Sakhon Nakhon Province in Northeastern Thailand. She holds a B.Sc. in Agricultural Studies from Khon Kaen University and an M.Sc. in Biotechnology from King Mongkut's University of Technology.

In the 1990s, she worked at the Jacob Institute for Desert Research in Negev, Israel and later at Thailand's National Science and Technology Development Agency. Subsequently, Sakuna founded a garment business that transitioned into Kram Sakon, a firm committed to local textile production, co-development of cultural assets and revitalization of Sakon Nakhon's Indigo industry.

Sakuna firmly believes that self-reliance is essential for societal equality for both individuals and communities. As the current chair of the science and technology subcommittee, national assembly of Thailand, she promotes the integration of scientific research to bolster Thailand's grassroots economy, especially in agricultural sector.



HON. SASINAN THAMNITHINAN
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
THAILAND

Hon. Sasinan Thamnithinan has a lot of positive energy, has the ability to manage her time, and loves solving problems. She attributes these ability traits from her role of being a mother to 2 children. She has been a human rights lawyer since 2013. She then decided to be a female politician with the a democratic and progressive party; "Move Forward Party". She strongly believes that Thailand can change and she will not let it be and she wishes to be a part of this change and this is part of the Move Forward Party motto.

AWPC

Asian Women Parliamentarian Caucus

Promoting Gender Equality and Climate Change Mitigation in Asian Parliaments

Thimphu, Bhutan | 13 - 15 May 2024

ABOUT NCWC





The National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC) is the national machinery dedicated to promoting and safeguarding the rights of women and children through gender-responsive and children-centered approaches. Under the leadership of a Commission Chaired by the Cabinet Secretary and comprising high-level officials from governmental and non-governmental sectors, the NCWC operates as the authoritative body entrusted with overseeing the implementation of key legislations. These include the Child Care and Protection Act of Bhutan 2011, the Child Adoption Act of Bhutan 2012, and the Domestic Violence Prevention Act of Bhutan 2013. Additionally, the NCWC focuses on policy formulation, regulation, monitoring, and reporting, aiming to optimize its efficiency and effectiveness in advancing its mission.



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MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT OF BHUTAN



<https://www.kas.de/en/web/politikdialog-asien>





HON. KESANG CHUKI DORJEE
EMINENT MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
BHUTAN

Hon. Kesang Chuki Dorjee is currently serving as an Eminent Member of the National Council. She is the Chairperson of the Social and Cultural Affairs and the Foreign Relations Committees. She is also a Steering Committee Member of the Desuung Skilling Programme.

She started her career in BBS when TV was introduced and then worked privately as a social documentary filmmaker. Her works, Inspiring Women to Lead - a series of workshops for girls and women leaders to interact and inspire, followed by films Nangi Aum to Go-thrip (Home maker to Leader) and La, Aum Lyonchhen (Yes, Madam Prime Minister) and documented the journeys of women at the local Government and national Parliamentary elections from 2008 to 2013.

Hon. KCD contributed to the efforts of encouraging women leadership and continues to advocate for the rights of girls and women in her current responsibility.



HON. TASHI CHHOZOM
EMINENT MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
BHUTAN

His Majesty The King granted Dhar to Supreme Court Justice **Hon. Tashi Chhozom**, appointing her as the Eminent Member of the National Council of Bhutan, in accordance with Article 11.1 of the Constitution. She served as a Supreme Court Justice since 2012.

Hon'ble Tashi Chhozom was a Hubert Humphrey Fellow in the Washington College of Law and completed her Master's Degree, LLM from the Queensland University of Technology, Australia. She also received the University's Special Excellence Award in 2013.

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KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG ORGANISING TEAM





ANDREAS KLEIN
DIRECTOR,
REGIONAL PROGRAMME,
POLITICAL DIALOGUE ASIA,
KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG
SINGAPORE

Andreas Michael Klein has more than 20 years of working experience for the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) since February 2000 as director of the newly established country office in Skopje/Macedonia (2000-04), as desk officer at the Department for International Cooperation in Berlin/Germany (2004-06) as well as director of the KAS' offices in Dusseldorf/Germany(2006/07), Riga/Latvia (2007-12), Hamburg/Germany (2012-16) and Santiago de Chile (2016-22). Since April 2022, Andreas is the Director of KAS' Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia. He has studied Political Science, Modern History and Spanish at the University of Bonn/Germany (1993-1999), of which he holds a MA degree in Political Science, and Intercultural Communication at the University of Jyväskylä/Finland.



MEGHA SARMAH
PROGRAMME MANAGER
AGENDA 2030
POLITICAL DIALOGUE ASIA
KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG
SINGAPORE

Ms. Megha Sarmah is Programme Manager of the 2030 Agenda at the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia, Singapore. She is responsible for the Konrad Adenauer Sharing Political and Civil Engagement Spaces(KASpaces)and the Asian Women Parliamentarian Caucus. She is also managing the Consortium of South Asian Think Tanks, a partner project of the foundation. After graduating with an honors degree in Political Science from Calcutta University, India, Megha attained her Masters in International Relations from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore. Megha has also completed a course on UNESCO-Approved Advanced Course on International Understanding for Human Unity under The Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Kolkata, India.



RUBIAH MOHAMED
ADMIN ASSISTANT
POLITICAL DIALOGUE ASIA,
KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG
SINGAPORE

Rubiah Mohamed has been working with the Regional Programme Political Dialogue with Asia and the Pacific at the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Singapore office since 2014. She supports the team in Singapore with organisation and preparation of events, especially in logistical matters with flight bookings and visa arrangements. Rubiah also supports the ongoing daily activities and administrative affairs of the KAS office.



KISMET ABU BAKAR
REGIONAL ADMIN EXECUTIVE &
PRODUCER
POLITICAL DIALOGUE ASIA
KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG
SINGAPORE

Kismet Abu Bakar has been with KAS PDA since January 2016. She started her journey in KAS as a Secretary and has now since move on to the role of Regional Admin Executive and Producer. She assists PDA in the back end administration of the logistics of events and also the producer of PDA's social media design and content. Her administrative experiences have been cultivated through experiences in various MNCs, advertising agencies and also a Singapore statutory board. She is also currently a part time student in the area of social services as she wishes to understand further on how society's could be helped through the understanding of human behavior.