

Discussion on “Constitutionalism and Political party design: a comparative view”

One of the core functions of any constitution is to frame the institutions of government and to determine who exercises the power and authority of the state, how they do so and for what purpose. But constitutions neither fall from the sky nor grow naturally on the vine. Instead, they are human creations and products shaped by convention, historical context, choice, and political struggle. In the democratic system, the citizen claims the right of original bearer of power. For him or her, the constitution embodies a social contract that limits the use of power by government to benefit the citizen in exchange for his or her allegiance and support. The term ‘constitutionalism’ sums up this idea of limited power.

At the same time, the core importance of constitutions today stretches beyond these basic functions. Constitutions come onto the public agenda when it is time to change to a better political system. People search for constitutions that will facilitate the resolution of modern problems of the state and of governance. Today, these problems are multifaceted and increasingly global—from corruption to severe financial crises, from environmental degradation to mass migration. It is understandable that people demand involvement in deciding on the terms of the constitution and insist upon processes of legitimizing constitutions that are inclusive and democratic.

A democracy needs strong and sustainable political parties with the capacity to represent citizens and provide policy choices that demonstrate their ability to govern for the public good. In parliamentary democracy, the role of political party is connected to the legislative body, which are central to the institutional design of a constitution. The allocation of powers and the interrelation between the three branches of government—the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary—are key elements of such a structure. The three basic functions of the legislature are representation, law-making, and oversight. As the most representative institution in politics, at its best, it represents the political arena in which society’s divergent opinions compete.

On these awareness, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in cooperation with Institute of Democratization Studies provides the discussion on “Constitutionalism and Political party design: a comparative view” to Thai society as a proposal for promoting constitutionalism.

Objectives

1. To exchange knowledge and experience about the development of constitutionalism, its essential elements and different forms from various perspectives.
2. To create awareness about new challenges among policymakers, academicians and public about the process of globalization on constitutionalism and political party design.

3. To collect information/problems/obstacles of the linkage between constitutionalism and political party design for future improvement.

Expected outcome

At the end of the session, the participants shall benefit in gaining knowledge, being able to explain and making analysis about the important role of constitutionalism and political party design, its essential and its characteristic, from the various perspective.

Venue

Date : Monday, August 8th, 2022, Time: 1.30 pm. – 3.30pm (Bangkok, Thailand Time)

Place : Online meeting via Zoom meeting application

Speakers

1. Dr. Allen Hicken, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan
2. Dr. Stithorn Thananithichot, director of the Office of Innovation for Democracy at King Prajadhipok's Institute
3. Prof. Dr. Vichean Tansirikonkol, Director of Ph.D. program(political science),Burapha university
4. Prof. Dr. Pailin Phujeenaphan, Dean of Faculty of political science, Chiang Mai University
5. Prof. Noppon Phon-amnuai, Ramkhamhaeng University
6. Prof. Purawich Watanasukh, King Prajadhipok's Institute

Participants

Approximately 50 participants: policymakers, academicians, political scientist, public, and press.

Contact person

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