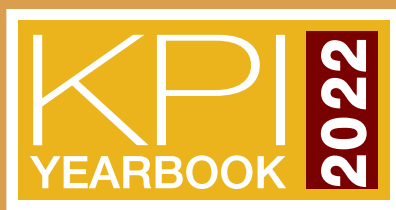




King Prajadhipok's Institute



A Look at Political Parties :

Various
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Preface

The King Prajadhipok's Institute (KPI) publishes the KPI Yearbook annually to provide an review of current political, social, and economic events in Thailand and overseas. It features analysis of politics and governance issues in Thailand's democratic system from other countries worldwide each year. Developed based on academic principles, the KPI Yearbook is aimed at improving the general public's understanding of politics. In 2022, political party reform has become a topic of interest in both the political sector and among the general public. This is largely due to the fact that there have been joint efforts to design mechanisms that enable political parties to function effectively as political institutions under democratic constitutional monarchy. Therefore, through the articles in this volume, KPI presents a comparative overview of how political parties have been designed in eight notable countries including established democracies, advance democracies, and emerging democracies. Each of these articles reflects on intent, principles, and undertakings in relation to political parties based on the unique political context of each country.

The KPI Yearbook 2022, titled “**A Look at Political Parties: Various Perspectives in Many Countries,**” consists of 10 articles arranged into three sections. The first section, consisting of the article, **Political Parties and Democracy: Theories, Expectations, and Reality** by *Assoc. Prof. Siripan Nogsuan Sawasdee, Ph.D.*, discusses ideologies and theories about political parties as well as expectations concerning political parties, political phenomena, and the current state of political parties.

The second section consists of articles that explore political context and how political parties are designed in eight countries, specifically the United States, New Zealand, Indonesia, Colombia, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Germany, and Japan. In this section, the article by *Asst. Prof. Chanintorn Pensute, Ph.D.* titled, **Political Parties in the United States** discusses political party formation in the United States within a historical context, key legal issues related to political parties, structure of political parties, and the connection between U.S. political parties and their respective members. Next, *Asst. Prof. Suthikarn Meechan* proposes a perspective on development and existence of political parties in New Zealand in the article, **New Zealand Political Parties : Development of Democracy through an Inclusive and Equitable Election System** highlighting the mixed member proportional system (MMP), adopted in New Zealand with an aspiration to build a quality political society where inclusion of all groups and parties including smaller political parties and indigenous political parties can be achieved. The case study of Indonesia, a Southeast Asian country, is covered by *Asst. Prof. Onanong Thippimol, Ph.D.* who wrote the article, **Indonesian Political Parties : From the Struggle for Independence to the Development of Democracy Under Constitutional Reform** to illustrate how Indonesia has designed a political party law with stringent controls that has significantly changed and strengthened the face of Indonesia’s democratic development. Following the Colombia case is the article, **Colombia’s Political Party System : Existence Amid the Collapse of Political Institutions** by *Asst. Prof. Chaowarit Chaowsangrat, Ph.D.*, which demonstrates how Colombia, a pioneer country in constitutionalism, has developed its political party system in a way that enables political parties to withstand the collapse of political institutions. Meanwhile, *Duangyiwa Uttarasin, Ph.D.* lays out the way a financial

framework was created to facilitate development of political parties in the U.K. with the article titled, **The United Kingdom : Establishment of Financial Management for Political Parties**. Further, *Asst. Prof. Nithi Nuangjamnong, Ph.D.*, in the article, **Political Parties and the Creation of a Stable and Sustainable Democracy in South Korea: Are These Parallel Lines that Cannot Converge?**, explains the confrontation and interaction between two critical components of political party development: stability of competition and elections in South Korea's political context. Then, *Purawich Watanasukh*, in his article, **Political Parties in Germany : Development, Laws, and Lessons for Thailand**, reflects on how Germany has stipulated the position, roles, and responsibilities of political parties under its constitution and the Political Party Act to institutionalize political parties as important institutions in its political system. The case of Japanese political parties is also important, so *Asst. Prof. Chaiwatt Mansrisuk, Ph.D.* presents the article, **Japanese Political Parties : Development and Post-Political Reform Trends**, to project changes in Japanese politics after political reform and amendment of laws related to the country's election system and political parties.

In the third and final section of the KPI Yearbook 2022 : A Look at Political Parties: Perspectives of Different Countries, *Stithorn Thananithichot, Ph.D.* and I identify lessons learned from the eight case studies above. We discuss the current political party landscape and analyze the existence of political parties and their environment in the past and the present. These are elaborated in the article, **The Institutional Design of a Political Party** to note and make recommendations on Thai political party design for creation of parties that connect with their members, social groups, interest groups, and the people as well as function as a key political institution in Thailand's democratic constitutional monarchy system.

KPI hopes that the case studies of political parties in other countries will lead to the building of knowledge and lessons to be applied as a model for alternative education and Thai political party design, aiming for political parties to become a key factor in Thai political development. On this occasion, KPI would like to thank all experts and

researchers who contributed to this volume for their efforts in dissemination of knowledge to the public as part of our mission and endeavor to develop a strong and sustainable democracy.



(Professor Woothisarn Tanchai)
Secretary General of King Prajadhipok's Institute
5 September 2022

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