

A Roundtable



The Subversion of Democracy in Asia: Case Studies from Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia

Organized by

- Hong Kong Campaign for the Advancement of Human Rights and Peace in the Philippines (HKCAHRPP)
- Southeast Asia Research Centre (SEARC), City University of Hong Kong

**2 to 5 pm, 20 May 2006 (Saturday), City University of Hong Kong
Room Y5-306, 5/F, Yellow Zone, Academic Building (please use Lift no. 4)**

This Roundtable is the first in a series of discussions about recent anti-democratic events in certain Asian countries that supposedly had democratic institutions already established – i.e. the Philippines (martial law), Thailand (“Thaksinocracy”), Nepal (monarchic authoritarianism), Indonesia (military actions in Papua). Speakers will present arguments about the subversion of democracy in these countries and narrate related events, including human rights violations. The Roundtable will also focus on the role of people’s movements in these countries to bring about democratisation.

Some of the questions to be discussed are:

- What is democracy? Is democracy just about holding elections?
- Are elections in these countries free and fair? Why or why not? Are, indeed, these countries really democracies?
- In the light of extra-constitutional means to remove unpopular leaders in Asia, do constitutions really matter?
- What institutions need to be created and maintained for a democracy to function?

It is hoped that the discussion will generate ideas for subsequent forums that can focus in greater depth on the issues in each country.

Speakers

Philippines: Jun Tellez, Mission for Filipino Migrant Workers

Indonesia: Ade Ahmad, National Students Front of Indonesia

Nepal: Bhakta Bahadur Gurung and Madhav Nepal, Asian Students Association

Thailand: Bungon Tamasorn, Thai Regional Alliance

Eman C. Villanueva, United Filipinos in Hong Kong (Compiler of visuals)

Bruce Van Voorhis, Asian Human Rights Commission (Moderator)

Vivienne Wee, Southeast Asia Research Centre (Discussant)

☞ ALL ARE WELCOME ☞

Languages: English with simultaneous translation into Cantonese

Seat reservation/enquiries: Angel Ho at tel: 21942352, email: seangel@cityu.edu.hk

<http://www.cityu.edu.hk/searc>

Registration Form

A Roundtable: The Subversion of Democracy in Asia on 20 May 2006

Please fax the registration form to 2194-2353 or email to seangel@cityu.edu.hk to reserve a place.

Personal Particulars (* delete as appropriate)

Title: * <i>Prof. / Dr. / Mr. / Mrs. / Ms</i>	
Name: (Last Name)	(First Name)
Institutional Affiliation:	
Position:	
Contact Address:	
Email:	
Telephone:	Fax:
* I <i>wish / do not wish</i> to receive information about upcoming events from Southeast Asia Research Centre	

Free Admission