

Event organized by



In partnership with



ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN ASIA WHAT ARE THE STRATEGIES AT HAND?

26 and 27 May 2023 in Taipei, Taiwan

DAY 1 26 MAY 2023 (FRIDAY)

8.30 AM \ 9.00 AM

Registration

9.00 AM \ 10.15 AM

Opening & Welcoming Remarks

Witness - experience sharing session with former death row prisoner (tbc)

Group Picture

10.15 AM \ 10.45 AM

Coffee break

10.45 AM \ 12.00 PM

Setting the Stage: Progress Towards Abolition in Asia

Opening discussion and conversation about the progress towards abolition in Asia and a reflection of the successes and progress achieved.

- Abolition of Mandatory Death Penalty in Malaysia, paving the way towards total abolition
- Adoption of the new Criminal Code in Indonesia, presentation of a contested reform
- Abolition of the Death Penalty in Papua New Guinea, lookback on the journey to abolition

Q&A / Exchange with participants

12.00 PM \ 1.00 PM

Lunch

1.00 PM \ 2.30 PM

Collaboration between Stakeholders and National Human Rights Institutions Towards Abolition

Sharing sessions with human rights commissions and other rights-based bodies on collaboration and cooperation with civil societies for abolishing the death penalty and preventing executions.

- The National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan)
- Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)
- National Human Rights Commission of Taiwan
- Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF)

Q&A / Exchange with participants

2.30 PM \ 2.45 PM

Coffee break

2.45 PM \ 4.00 PM

Workshop: Media Campaigns and Engagement with New Media in Abolitionist Campaigns

Sharing sessions on effective media campaigns and discussions with content creators working through new media on how abolitionists can support, facilitate and build narratives in partnership.

- **Opening conversation:** How do influencers shed the light on abolitionist campaigns and how to engage campaigners, in particular abolitionist youth, through new media.
- **Group 1: NGOs and social media:** Good practices and impact on the abolitionist campaign – what's the next step.
- **Group 2: Journalists and Death Penalty:** How do journalists and media creators work on the topic of the Death Penalty in Asia.

Restitution

4.00 PM \ 5.00 PM

Sharing Session : General Conversation on the abolitionist movement in Asia

Open session for participants to share their views on the abolitionist movement and other matters of interest or relevance that have yet to be raised.

Lead conversation and topics

- Sexual offences and Death Penalty
- Migrant workers and Death Penalty
- Disabilities on Death Row

DAY 2 27 MAY 2023 (SATURDAY)

8.30 AM \ 9.00 AM Registration

9.00 AM \ 10.00 AM

Setting the Stage: Challenges Faced by Abolitionists in Asia

In 2022, the use of the death penalty has been unfortunately prolific in terms of sentencing and executions across the continent. This panel will contextualize the challenges that abolitionists across Asia face in their advocacies. Topics will be further developed through the different panels.

- Challenges to representing capital cases: the Death Penalty in Singapore
 - Narcotics: War on Drugs or instrumentalization? The use of the Death Penalty in Iran
 - Transparency, the opaque use of the Death Penalty in authoritarian regimes: the situation in Myanmar
- Comments and remarks from participants

10.00 AM \ 10.30 AM Coffee Break

10.30 AM \ 12.00 PM

Workshop: Addressing Gap and Challenges in Access to Counsel & Legal Representation in Death Penalty Cases

Participants will split into theme groups to discuss potential solutions, successful campaigns and strategies.

- **Group 1:** Representing people facing the Death Penalty: when lawyers are in danger
- **Group 2:** Experience sharing, challenges and good practices
- **Group 3:** How do lawyers work with other stakeholders

Restitution

12.00 PM \ 1.00 PM Lunch

1.00 PM \ 2.30 PM

Workshop: Gaining Access to Data and Information on the Death Penalty

Workshop held in plenary, tackling the lack of transparency via different political contexts.

- How to work in the context of an illegitimate government? The Case of Myanmar
- How do abolitionist campaigners work in an authoritarian regime? The Case of Viet Nam
- How do abolitionist campaigners access data in a country with a Freedom of Information Commission? The Case of Pakistan
- How do international mechanisms help in accessing and disseminating information?

Questions, Comments and Experience by participants are highly encouraged

2.30 PM \ 3.00 PM Coffee Break

3.00 PM \ 5.00 PM

Reflection and Way Forward: Challenging the Politicization of the Death Penalty

An introspective session for participants to share their views on why their respective States retain and advocate for the death penalty (or advocate towards abolition) and how they justify their stance on the death penalty.

Issues developed:

- Instrumentalization of Death Penalty for drug-related offences
- Impact of executions on population
- Death Penalty and illegitimate political regimes
- The Death Penalty - an electoral stake

Participants are also encouraged and welcome to share the actions they have undertaken to challenge the death penalty.

5.00 PM

Closing remarks by organizers

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