

2019 Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy

October 2-5, Taichung, Taiwan

Day 1: Wednesday, October 2

Taiwan at the Center of a World of Modern Direct Democracy

18h00: Welcome reception and dinner

Welcome speeches by Host City Mayor of Taichung, Ms. Lu Shiow-yen and Arizona State University senior director and Global Forum Co-President Joe Mathews; brief statements by one representative from each continent.

Reception/Dinner at National Hotel in Taichung.

Day 2: Thursday, October 3

Lessons to Learn

09h00 - 09h45: Opening plenary:

Welcome to the 2019 Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy [Main Hall]

What is the Global Forum process? Why have we been developing a Magna Charta for an International League of Democracy Cities? How does the Taiwan Referendum Act work in practice?

- Welcome remarks by President of National Chung Hsing University, Fuh-Sheng Shieu (Taiwan)
- Introduction address by Bruno Kaufmann (Sweden/Switzerland), Co-President, Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy
- Briefing note on the Taiwan Referendum Act by associate research professor at Institutum Iurisprudentiae, Academia Sinica, Yen-Tu Su (Taiwan)

10h00 - 11h10: 1st Plenary Panel: What Can the World Learn From the Taiwan Referendum Act?

The revamping, use and most recent reform of the Taiwan Referendum Act have inspired a flurry of new direct democratic action in Taiwan—and growing attention and respect from around the world. Are there any ways in which the act could be a model for the world? Do the act's problems and flaws hold lessons for other direct democracies around the globe? And what questions does the act pose for the way democratic societies integrate representative and direct democracy?

A conversation moderated by: William Yang, East Asia Correspondent for Deutsche Welle featuring the Director-General of the Planning Department at the Central Election Commission of Taiwan, Mei-Li Kao, Democracy International board coordinator Daniela Bozhinova (Bulgaria), the author of *The Referendum and other Essays on Constitutional Politics*; Coventry University political scientist Matt Qvortrup (United Kingdom); Professor Yen-Tu Su (Taiwan) and the organizer of the Balanced Ballot citizens' initiative Tian-Shuang Chang (Taiwan)

11h10: Bold ideas for direct democracy - #1

IDEA: A global online community for democracy activists and professionals, introduced by Caroline Vernailen, the Global Community manager at Democracy International

11h15: Breakout sessions introduction

11h20: Tea Time/Coffee Break

11h40 - 13h00: Breakout/Workshop Session 1

Room 1 *Comparative Direct Democracy - Initiative & Referendum Systems around the World? (EN)*

This session delves into recent studies on the practice of democracy around the world. The participants will address topics not limited to local and federal elections, online voting, referendum and other democratic experiments. The local discussants will share Taiwan's democratic experiences

Facilitated by: Chang-Lin Li (National Chung Hsing University,)

With contributions from: Chan Ho Kim (Projects & Programmes Department, Korea Democracy Foundation), Hye Yeong Jang (Wagle Internet-based democracy organization), Yu-Quan Gao (National University of Tainan), Shi-Xiu Huang (Nuclear energy referendum), Tian-Shuang Chang (Negative Vote Association, and Balanced Ballot)

Room 2 *What did we learn from Taiwan's referendum on energy? (EN)*

The use of nuclear power has been a hotly debated topic in Taiwan since the 2011 earthquake that shook Japan and caused the tragedy in Fukushima. This session centers on the issue of energy in Taiwan and the lessons to be learned from Taiwan's referendum on whether to embrace or abandon the use of nuclear power.

Facilitated by: Hsing-An Chen (National Chung Hsing University)

With contributions from: Thomas Schomerus (Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Germany), Kenji Shimoyama (Hitotsubashi University, Japan), Joon-Hyung Hong (Seoul National University, Korea), Hsing-An Chen (National Chung Hsing University)

Room 3 *How do cities and regions across Asia develop participatory and direct democracy (EN)*

How are cities and regions in Asia developing local democracy and participation? What are their biggest challenges and greatest successes to date? And are there opportunities for Asia's cities to collaborate more for democratic purposes?

Facilitated by: Joe Mathews, Global Forum co-president and editor and California columnist at Zocalo Public Square (Arizona State University, USA)

With initial inputs by: Marc Pinol Rovira (Phd student in Cambodia) and comments by Taipei City Councilor Chih-Chiang Lo

Room 4 *Modern Direct Democracy Roller Coaster—How the Netherlands introduced and abolished modern direct democracy (EN)*

What can citizens do when democratic space is shrinking? What can we do to prevent a rollback of citizens' rights? Which lessons are offered by the Dutch case, where newly introduced rights have been abolished again? How is the situation in the U.S. states?

Facilitated by: Arjen Nijeboer, Meer Democratie (The Netherlands) and with comments by Paul Jacob, president, Citizens in Charge (US)

Room 5 *The Negative Vote: How It Will Work and Why We Need It (EN and CH)*

How the Negative Vote option can improve all election systems (including FPTP, RCV, Proportional Rep, Approval Voting).

Everyone can contribute to the workshop by voting below. Imagine that after two rounds of a French-style presidential election elimination contest, we have the following two candidates as President of Planet Earth, Donald Trump and Xi Jinping. The winner will govern Earth for 4 years and have the same level of authority as they have in their domestic country presently, and will represent Earth to negotiate with Planet Avatar, an alien species about whom we know virtually nothing. How would you vote? What if a third choice is Rodrigo Duterte?

Click the following link to vote:

President of Planet Earth Contest

<https://bit.ly/2TNY8w1>

The result and its implications will be discussed in the workshop.

Questions to be addressed for discussion:

1. Should the choice of voting NO be a basic right?
2. Will it increase participation?
3. Will it reduce the influence of extremists
4. Will it increase or reduce negative campaign?
5. How can it be incorporated into Proportional Representation?
6. How can this reform be implemented and where?
7. How can this be researched further?

Facilitated by: Tian-Shuang Chang, president of the Balanced Vote initiative (Taiwan)

Room 6 *The equality of participation: Public rights without representatives (CH)*

This session gathers representatives from under-represented or minority groups in the country to share their experiences of speaking out for the marginalized in society. The participants will share their stories of struggle and hardship and hope to raise the general awareness over blind spots in democratic societies that tend to challenge unfortunate groups.

Facilitated by: Han-Tang Chen (National Chung Hsing University)

Han-Tang Chen (National Chung Hsing University), Shi-Zhe Lai (Taoyuan City Government's Department of Education), Ying-Da Wang (Serve the People Association), Xin-Yi Lin, (Taiwan Reach-Out Association for Democracy), Shi-Yu Hong (Taiwan Reach-Out Association for Democracy), Qiao-Ming Zhang (the Kaohsiung Participatory Budgeting for Youth)

Room 7 *Winning With "People" Power: Petitioning Your Way Through Democracy...Directly (EN)*

This session teaches the basics on how to start a political process that puts issues on the ballot and brings the community together from gathering signatures.

Facilitated by: Arenza Thigpen Jr.

Amphitheater/outside Storytelling - Young activist forum (EN)

Younger generations have often played the role of accelerators of democracy developments. In this session, activists will share examples of youth protests and projects as drivers for democratic renewal. Democracy activists and researchers from around the world will share success stories from campaigns and projects they have worked on.

Facilitated by: Daniel Schily, Democracy International

13h00 **Lunch**

14h00: **Bold ideas for direct democracy - #2**

IDEA: A World Citizens' Initiative presented Daniela Vancic, Democracy International

14h05: **2nd Plenary Panel: What Can Taiwan Learn From the World's Direct Democracies?**

More than 100 countries around the world have some form of direct democracy. What lessons from their varied experiences apply to Taiwan? Can countries with long experience with direct democracy, like Switzerland, Uruguay and the United States, provide models for Taiwan—or are their national contexts too different? What do we know about the best processes for different elements of direct democracy, from petitioning to constitution-making? Do more recent adaptations of direct democracy, like those seen in Germany, hold special lessons as Taiwan builds a 21st-century direct democracy?

Moderated by: Patrick Böhler (Editor, swissinfo) in a conversation with professor David Altman (Chile/Uruguay), Citizens' initiative organiser Ting-Yu Wang (Taiwan), Democracy International's Caroline Vernailen (Belgium), Swiss author Andreas Gross (Switzerland), and Taiwan legislator Mei-Nu Yu (Taiwan)

15h15: **Breakout sessions introduction**

15h20 – 16h40: **Breakout/Workshop session 2**

Room 1 ***Political Economy of Direct Democracy in Southeast Asia (EN)***

In terms of democratization, perhaps the most critical factor is economic development. As Southeast Asia continues to grow, what is the prospect of direct democracy in the region? This session will examine and evaluate democratic progress in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Myanmar and the Philippines.

Facilitated by: Ming-Ping Chiu (National Chung Hsing University)

Participants: Peter Ractham (Department of Management Information Systems, Thammasat University), Ming-Ping Chiu (National Chung Hsing University), Monthinee Teeramungcalanon (Pan, Pridi Banomyong International College, Thammasat University),

Laddawan Kaewkitipong (Thammasat Business School), Tsung-Yen Chen (National Sun Yat-sen University), Chien-Wu Hsueh (National Chengchi University)

Room 2 *What is the relationship between direct democracy and economic growth? (EN)*

It's widely believed that economic growth underpinned the development of democracy. Is the relationship between democracy and growth still the same today? In this session, the participants will explore the changing relationship between democracy and economic growth, noting cases in Southeast Asia.

Facilitated by: Wayne Tan (National Chung Hsing University)

Participants: Charles Hankla (Georgia State University, US), Suthikarn Meechan (Mahasarakham University, Thailand), Jenn-Jaw Soong (National Cheng-Kung University), Yu-Tai Tsai (National Chung Cheng University), Hsin-Yi Chang (Nanhua University), Wayne Tan (National Chung Hsing University)

Room 3 *Using direct democracy to fight for nature and preservation (EN)*

In Germany, there is a new direct-democratic movement, which works with referendums on the state level for a different form of interacting with the natural contemporaries. We want to report about this successful and encouraging development. In Austria, there are possibilities to develop citizens' assemblies geared towards protecting the environment. Featured initiatives include "Save the bees," "Changing climate change," "Keep the water clear," "Exit industrial livestock farming," Austrian "BürgerInnenkonferenz" on climate change and energy issues.

Facilitated by: More Democracy's Alexander Trennheuser with Michael von der Lohe from the Omnibus and Austrian democracy promoter Erwin Mayer

Room 4 *Laws for direct-democratic instruments: Contents and possible pitfalls (EN)*

The Workshop deals with the typical structure of a law regulating the use of direct democratic instruments by citizens. The aim of the workshop is to better understand and analyse the content of such a law and to identify problematic regulations from the citizens' point of view. After an introduction to the characteristic structure of a corresponding law, the participants should in groups independently draft and present an "ideal law."

Facilitated by: Klaus Hofmann, Direct Democracy Navigator with Vanessa Diaz and Carlos Gonzalez both from Mexico

Room 5 *Right-wing politics and democratization (EN)*

The recent rise of populism in Europe has led to the concurrent rise of radical right wing political parties and politicians across the continent. What is the implication of such trends for Western democracies and the future of Europe? What is the effect of such developments for post-communist states?

Facilitated by: San-Yi Yang (National Chung Hsing University)

Participants: Anna Rudakowska (Tamkang University), Ewa Trojnar (Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland), Justyna Nakonieczna-Bartosiewicz (University of Warsaw, Poland), Tzu-Li Lin (Tung-Hai University), Chung-Hung Cho (Tamkang University), San-Yi Yang (National Chung Hsing University)

Room 6 *Taiwan referendum and direct democracy in Asia (EN)*

In 2018, Taiwan went to the polls over the question of legalizing same-sex marriage among other issues, and successfully became the first country in Asia to recognize the right of LGBT couples to marry. Noting such precedent, this session centers on comparable examples and the prospect of the referendum to be used as a way to advance democracies in Asia.

Facilitated by: Chang-Lin Li (National Chung Hsing University)

Participants: Matt Qvortrup (University of London, UK), Sang Ho Jeong (Seo Won University, Korea), Chung-Li Wu (Academia Sinica), Chwen-Wen Chen (National Taiwan University), Fu-Chang Chang (Graduate Institute of Europe Studies, Tamkang University), Chang-Lin Li (National Chung Hsing University), Heon Yoon Lee (Projects & Programmes Department, Korea Democracy Foundation)

Room 7 *Developing the Magna Charta for an International League of Democracy Cities (EN)*

Citizens confront a paradox. The challenges of the world are big, complicated and global. But citizens don't live in the world; they live in cities and towns, and it is at this local level that we can make the greatest impact on democracy. How can we bridge the gap between global challenges and local democratic power? By linking cities all over the world to address global challenges through local democracy. The pressures facing democracy itself constitute one such global challenge. And to work together democratically, cities themselves must be more democratic and more participatory, so their people have more power. We are already seeing efforts to democratize our local democracies. Local governments all over the world have taken the lead in protecting and expanding democratic practice and culture – they are committed to involving their citizens at every step of the decision-making process. Such local governments are democracy cities, because they are committed to ever greater democracy. We want to expand and formalize democratic links between democracy cities by launching the International League of Democratic Cities. The 2018 Global Forum adopted a first draft of the Magna Charta. Now it is time to assess the process since then and look into the next steps.

Moderated by: Bruno Kaufmann, Co-president, Global Forum in an exchange with Thomas Scuderi (Metz/France), Johanna Seppälä (Helsinki), Marco Banti (Brno), Regula Buchmüller (Bern/Switzerland) and others.

Room 8 *The European Citizens' Initiative - Direct Democratic Participation in the EU (EN)*

This session gathers a diversity of participants from around the world with different stories to share on the practice of direct democracy. A central question that will be explored is how democratic experiences spillover among countries and how both the East and the West have lessons to share with each other.

Facilitated by: Yuh-May Li (National Chung Hsing University)

Participants: Daniela Vancic (European Programme Manager at Democracy International), Matthias Knauff (Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena), Chien-Liang Lee (Institutum Iurisprudentiae, Academia Sinica), Chen-Jung Chan (National Chengchi University), Naiyi, Sun (National Taiwan University), Yuh-May Li (National Chung Hsing University)

Amphitheater/Outside Yoga for Democracy (EN)

Welcome to the Global Forum Yoga Space! Join us for Democracy Yoga in the amphitheater on Thursday and Friday afternoons! The Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy is all about democratic conversations, exchanges, insights – and about doing well as a citizen of your town, province, country, continent and the world. And it's easier to do well as a citizen when you feel well in your body and soul. Therefore, you are most welcome to our special Global Forum Yoga Space – in the amphitheater outside the University building. The yoga exercises are done standing or sitting and help relieve back-, leg- and neck pain after sitting still for a long time. You are most welcome to join and make your body (and mind) feel better!

Led by: Elisabeth Erlandsson Kaufmann (Sweden)

16h45 – 18h00: Breakout/Workshop session 3

Room 1 Global Comparative Referendum Systems (EN)

As a relatively successful democratic society, Taiwan has many experiences to share with its neighbors. With representatives from municipal government, think tanks, and academia, this session seeks to share the democratic experience of Taiwan from various angles and consider the potential for Taiwan to play a larger role in the international community in spreading democratic values.

Facilitated by: Chang-Lin Li (National Chung Hsing University)

Participants: Andreas Rolf Gross (Atelier pour la Démocratie Directe, St.Ursanne/Switzerland), Raul Magni-Berton (Université Grenoble Alpes), Tyler Prochazka (Basic Income Initiative), Shigehito Sasaki (Future Foundation, Japan), Fu-Te Liao (President, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy), You-Tan Li (National Chengchi University), Chang Yen Lee (National Chung Hsing University)

Room 2 Switzerland's Direct Democracy: Journalists' Perspectives (EN)

Hosted by SWI swissinfo.ch, two Taiwanese journalists explored social and political issues related to democracy in Switzerland. In a conversation with SWI's executive editor, they discuss what struck them as interesting, inspiring and problematic in one of the world's oldest living democracies and what lessons could be relevant for Taiwan.

Moderated by: Patrick Böhler (SWI swissinfo.ch) with Jason Liu, Journalist, The Reporter; Hedy Chiu, Data Journalist, Commonwealth Magazine and East Asia Correspondent William Yang

Room 3 How do cities and regions across the world outside Asia develop participatory and direct democracy (EN)

How are cities and regions outside Asia developing local democracy and participation? What are their biggest challenges and greatest successes to date? And are there opportunities for cities to collaborate more for democratic purposes?

Facilitated by: Bruno Kaufmann with Johanna Seppälä (Helsinki), Adrià Duarte (Spain), Bernado Valle (Mexico City), Marco Banti (Brno), Mehdi Ben Mimoun (Tunis) and others.

Room 4 *Towards a UN World Citizens' Initiative (EN)*

The United Nations (UN) is the most important hub of international politics. However, it is an exclusive club of representatives of UN Member States. While the UN has made some effort to include representatives of civil society and other major groups in some of its deliberations, there are no means for ordinary citizens to take influence. The idea of a UN World Citizens' Initiative (UNWCI) is that if a certain number of global citizens endorses a citizen-launched initiative, UN bodies have to put the item on their agenda and give representatives of the initiative the floor to make their case. A UNWCI will allow global citizens to have more impact on growing dilemmas that require global cooperation of both states and citizens alike. It will help create a citizen-based global political sphere.

Moderated by: Caroline Vernailen with Daniela Vancic (Democracy International), Paul Jacob (US) and Ben Murphy (UK)

Room 5 *When democracy meets ordinary life (CH)*

This session gathers representatives from local grassroots groups to share their experiences of practicing democracy in everyday life. The participants will reveal how democracy is not merely a concept confined to government and academia.

Facilitated by: Han-Tang Chen (National Chung Hsing University)

Participants: Sih-Yue Lu (The Chairman of Association of Community Activist in Taiwan), Yu-Ru Yang (Executive Director of Association of Community Activist in Taiwan), Yu-Yi Liou (founder of Taketheseawind in Yuanli), Pei-Qi Hung (The social worker of Urban aboriginal group), Han-Tang Chen (National Chung Hsing University), An-Ni Guan (Culture studio 1095)

Room 6 *Towards the 2020 Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy (EN)*

Next year the Global Forum will take place in Bern, Switzerland. As this 9th World Conference on participatory and direct democracy will take place around a countrywide voting day, the practice and future of modern direct democracy will be the main focus of the gathering. What can we learn from the Swiss experience and what can the Swiss learn from the world? In this roundtable, stakeholders, hosts and organizers will brief on the process leading up to the Forum, which will take place from September 23 to 26, 2020 - with a pre-tour offer on September 21-22 and the observation of the federal referendum day on September 26.

Facilitated by: Adrian Schmid (Swiss Democracy Foundation), Regula Buchmüller (City of Bern) and Andreas Müller (Democracy International)

Room 7 *Democracy and educational governance (CH)*

Controversies involving China's Confucius Institute have raised global awareness about democratic education and institutional governance in higher education. This session observes the debates generated by the Confucius Institute and ponders actions that might be taken to secure a democratic teaching and learning environment.

Facilitated by: Jin-Fu Wu (National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan)

Participants: Chih-Feng Lai (University of Education, Taiwan), Sung-Po Lin (National Chi Nan University, Taiwan), Chun-Wen Teng (National Taiwan University of Sport, Taiwan), Chun-Wei Chen (National Taiwan University of Sport, Taiwan), Chia-Wei Tang (National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan), Jin-Fu Wu (National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan)

Amphitheater/Outside: How can universities inspire Direct Democracy (EN)

Universities and their campuses are some of the last truly public spaces remaining. Frequented by many young, ambitious and mindful people, they provide wonderful circumstances for direct democracy. In this workshop we want to exchange several experiences from student activists around the world (with students from Taiwan and the Sunflower Revolution being a prime example) and think about possibilities to unleash the direct-democracy-potential of our universities. Doing so would mean to rediscover the question on what to actually do with all these studies we do and to seek better connections between universities and the environments in which they are embedded. Everyone is a student, after all.

Facilitated by: Enoch Tabak (Germany)

Day 3, Friday, October 4

09h30: Bold ideas for direct democracy - #3

IDEA: Using direct democracy to reshape our economy, by Daniel Schily and Michael von der Lohe from the European Credit Initiative

09h35: Bold ideas for direct democracy - #4

IDEA: We need democracy developers! How to achieve a learning democracy by Raban Fuhrmann, Academy for a Learning Democracy

09h40: 3rd Plenary Panel: How Do We Turn People Power into Direct Democracy in Asia and beyond?

Hong Kong's people have risen up by the millions to challenge Beijing's influence in their city. Koreans rallied to oust a president. And protests from Thailand to Tokyo have forced governments to change. How can democratic activism and progress in Asia be used to create more citizen participation and direct democracy? What lessons does Taiwan's democratization--and its more recent move to develop a strong initiative and referendum system--hold for its Asian neighbors?

Moderated by Michael Y.M. Kau, founding president of the Taiwan Democracy Foundation in a conversation with Jung-Ok Lee (Korea), Ichal Supradi (Indonesia), Thy Try, (Cambodia), Bernardo Valle Monroy (Mexico City), Mehdi Ben Mimoun (Tunisia) and Lutgard Lams (Belgium)

11h00: Bold ideas for direct democracy - #5

IDEA: Gaming for democracy by Johanna Seppälä, City of Helsinki

11h05: Breakout sessions/workshops introduction

11h10: Tea/Coffee Break

11h35 - 13h00: Breakout/workshop session 4

Room 1 Democracy and educational reform (EN)

It is widely recognized that education plays an important role in the advancement of democracy. Unfortunately, with the global decline in investment in general education, particularly in the humanities and social sciences, the world is challenged with the peril of regressing democracy. This session addresses the need for education reforms on all levels for better democracy.

Facilitated by: Jen-Jang Sheu (National Chung Hsing University)

Participants: Nuchwana Luanganggoon (Khon Kaen University, Thailand) , Su-Ling Hwang (National Chung Hsing University), Jen-Jang Sheu (National Chung Hsing University), Wen-Rong Tsay (National Chung Hsing University), Sumalee Chaijaroen (Khon Kaen University, Thailand), Teerachai Nethanomsak, (Khon Kaen University, Thailand), Saowanee Sirisooksilp (Khon Kaen University, Thailand))Wallapha Ariratana, (Khon Kaen University, Thailand), Kanokorn Somprach (Khon Kaen University, Thailand), Hui-Chuan Pai (National Chung Hsing University), Tze-Chang Liu (National Chung Hsing University)

Room 2 Taiwan's new referendum act and its initial experience (CH)

With ten questions in total, the 2018 ballot marked the first time Taiwan experimented with sizeable numbers of referendums. Although the international community cheered over the adoption of same-sex marriage in Taiwan, the neglect towards other questions raises doubts as to the success of the referendum. In this session, the participants will evaluate the 2018 experiment and discuss the future prospects of referendum in Taiwan.

Facilitated by: Hwai-Tzong Lee (National Chung Hsing University)

Participants: Hwai-Tzong Lee (National Chung Hsing University), Chien-Hung Liu (National Chung-Cheng University), Yi-Kai Chen (National Cheng-Kung University), Chia-Chi Chiang (National Chung-Cheng University), Yun-Ju Wang (National Chung-Cheng University)

Room 3 Taichung Declaration on Modern Direct Democracy (EN)

The Taichung Global Forum intends to produce a final declaration describing the most important factors and features for a well-designed and practice-friendly modern direct democracy. In this workshop we will get key inputs, thoughts and reports from the ongoing insights and conversations during the Forum. Out of the workshop the Forum presidency will draft a proposal for the Forum to adapt.

Facilitated by: Joe Mathews (US) with David Altman (Chile), Andi Gross (Switzerland), Matt Qvortrup (UK) and Bruno Kaufmann (Sweden)

Room 4 *Professionalizing Democracy Development (EN)*

Democracies face continuous struggles. They need to be improved steadily, learning each day how to do it better. For that, we need to professionalize democracy developers and to build-up a development-infrastructure and strengthen the human resources of democratic institutions (government, parliaments and civil society) That is the goal of the Academy for a Learning Democracy, run by Democracy International (www.lernende-demokratie.de/). In this Workshop we will give you insights in our current work: (for example, with the State Parliament of Nord-Rhein-Westfalen, the Intersectoral School of Governance of the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg or the German-Union-for-City-Development). One focus is the training democracy-innovators and civil-servants to set up and run agile democracy development projects on the local, state and national levels in an inter-sectoral governance setting.

Moderator: Raban Fuhrmann

Room 5 *Journey of Democracy: From West to East (EN)*

Taking a historical perspective on the issue of democracy, this session will review the spread of democracy from Anglo-Saxon communities to other regions around the world and look at the accomplishments of democracy in Asia over the past four decades. Issues that will be addressed include the success and failure of different democratic systems in the region, the development of democratic cultures and values, and internet/online democracy.

Facilitated by: Chang-Lin Li (National Chung Hsing University, NCHU)

Participants: Uwe Imre Serdült (ZDA, University of Zurich, Switzerland), Felix Schiller (University of Zurich, Switzerland), Clara Marie Egger (University of Groningen Netherlands), Guo-Xiang Zeng (National Sun Yat-sen University), Tai-Lin Zhang (National Chengchi University), Qun-Jie Ma (National University of Tainan), Chang-Lin Li (National Chung Hsing University)

Room 6 *Islamic World and Democracy (EN)*

The typical impression of the Islamic world is that the development of democracy is slow and sporadic if not non-existent. This session examines the progress of democracy in the region and its implications around the world. The participants will discuss the case of Tunisia among others.

Facilitated by: Chin-Kuei Tsui (National Chung Hsing University)

Participants: Mehdi Ben Mimoun (INAT, Tunisia, Host of 2015 Global Forum), Takuro Kikkwa (Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan), Chin-Kuei Tsui (National Chung Hsing University), Hsiu-Ping Bao (National Cheng-Chi University), Ching-An Chang (National Cheng-Chi University), Shan-De Xu (Yuan Yow ,Ltd)

Room 7 *Democracy Houses around the World (EN)*

What is a House of Democracy? At the 2018 Global Forum in Rome, representatives and supporters of new forms of spaces for political dialogue met to present and discuss the options and limits of such infrastructures, which are linked to civil society and offer the opportunity for civic education and public debate. In this workshop new Houses of Democracy from across the world are presented and further ways of cooperation are considered.

Facilitated by: Thomas Göttin (Director at Politforum Bern, Switzerland's first House of Democracy)

Room 8 *Roundtable: Taiwan, Asia, and the World - Understanding Democracy in Taiwan and beyond Language? (EN)*

This session focuses on how the term 'democracy' is understood in the Taiwanese public domain, as can be gathered from opinion pages in the print media. A first presentation by Lutgard Lams (KU Leuven, Belgium) looks into the various arguments about the desirability of democracy in the English-language newspapers in Taiwan at crucial moments, such as the presidential elections of 2008 and 2016. This will be followed by a short talk by Frank Cheng-shan Liu (National Sun Yat-sen University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan) on partisan perception about democracy in Taiwan, which is meant to give food for a discussion with all roundtable participants on issues of perception and understanding of the concept 'democracy' in its various shapes.

Facilitated by: Lut Lams (KU Leuven) and Frank Cheng-Shan Liu (National Sun Yat-Sen University)

Amphitheater/outside Storytelling (EN)

Democracy activists and researchers from around the world share success stories from campaigns and projects they have worked on.

Facilitated by: Daniel Schily, Democracy International

13h00 Lunch break

13h15 – 18h00: Taichung Study Tours

Taichung is endowed with a rich history and beautiful natural scenery. Modern Democracy is at the heart of Taiwan's second most populous city. Please join us for one of the six different study tour programmes during the afternoon of Friday, October 4 - and please note that each of the tours has limited seats available.

The first two tours--Route 1 and 2-- start at 13.15 and conclude at 18.00

Route 1: Ecological Democracy - Our Mountains (starts at 13.15, lunch box provided)

Route 2: Ecological Democracy - Our Sea (starts at 13.15, lunch box provided)

The next four tours: Routes 3, 4, 5, and 6, start at 15h55 after workshop session 5 and conclude at 18.00

Route 3: Cultural Democracy - Religion and Taiwanese Life

Route 4: Cultural Democracy - Democracy and Literature

Route 5: Urban Governance - Industry Regeneration: Cultural and Creative industry

Route 6: Urban Governance - River Democracy

14h15 – 15h50: Breakout/Workshop session 5

Room 1 *Towards an Asian school of participatory leadership (EN)*

The fast development from autocratic regimes to democratic governance in many Asian countries has been slowed down by old-style types of pre-democratic leadership. In several polities, openly illiberal leaders have made it difficult to strengthen human rights, the rule of law and participatory democracy. But with a younger generation of local leaders taking power, the need for support and education is growing. This workshop looks into the possibilities of establishing an Asian school of participatory leadership.

Facilitated by: Bruno Kaufmann with Ichal Supradi (Asian Democracy Network), Thy Try (Cambodia), Miyae Kamioka (Okinawa), Michael Kau (Taiwan Foundation for Democracy) and Lim Chaewon (Korea Democracy Foundation), Raban Fuhrmann (Learning Democracy Academy)

Room 2 *How to build an online community? (EN)*

Over the past decade, several digital democracy platforms have been created and released on the internet. Around the world, particularly at the local city level, digital democracy is starting to take root. Each of these innovations attempts to overcome the democratic deficit but none has, as yet, truly captured the attention and imagination of the wider global voting public. I seek to take a high-level look at what digital democracy is today, what are the opportunities and what are the challenges for the future.

Facilitated by: Dion McCurdy, NewVote (Australia), with Andreas Mueller, Caroline Vernailen (Democracy International)

Room 3 *Art rather than politics (EN)*

The OMNIBUS for Direct Democracy in Germany is an NGO which has worked for more than 30 years for the "People's Initiative Referendum" on all levels in Germany. We think that future communities have to transform to a new level of interacting with every being. We need to lift our consciousness to a new, mostly unknown level, to come into contact with every (not only human-) being – to listen to how they want to be. Our task: create the world into a living piece of art—the "Social Organism in its Freedom Appearance."

Facilitated by: Michael von Der Lohe, OMNIBUS for Direct Democracy

Amphitheater/outside Yoga for Democracy (EN)

Welcome to the Global Forum Yoga Space! Join us for Democracy Yoga in the amphitheater on Thursday and Friday afternoon! The Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy is all about democratic conversations, exchanges, insights – and about doing well as a citizen of your town, province, country, continent and the world. And it's easier to do well as a citizen when you feel well in your body and soul. Therefore, you are most welcome to our special Global Forum Yoga Space – in the amphitheater outside the University building. The yoga exercises are done standing or sitting and help relieve back pain, leg pain and neck pain after sitting still for a long time. You are most welcome to join and make your body (and mind) feel better!

Led by: Elisabeth Erlandsson Kaufmann

15h55 – 18h00: Taichung City excursions: Routes 3-6 (see above)

Taichung is endowed with a rich history and beautiful natural scenery. Modern Democracy is at the heart of Taiwan's second most populous city. Please join us for one of the six different study tour programmes during the afternoon of Friday, October 4 - and please note that each of the tours has limited seats available.

Route 3: Cultural Democracy - Religion and Taiwanese Life

Route 4: Cultural Democracy - Democracy and Literature

Route 5: Urban Governance - Industry Regeneration: Cultural and Creative industry

Route 6: Urban Governance - River Democracy

19h30: Dinner and Party at National Hotel

Day 4, Saturday, October 5

Concluding plenary on the Taichung Declaration on Modern Direct Democracy

09h00: Summing up

Greeting, summaries, and brief reports from Thursday and Friday events (panels, workshops, roundtables) are presented, based on posters from breakout sessions.

Convened by Caroline Vernailen and Andreas Müller (Democracy International)

09h45: Presentation and adoption of the Taichung Declaration for Modern Direct Democracy and Invitation to the 2020 Global Forum in Bern/Switzerland

Ten principles for the Taiwan Referendum Act and for direct democracy around the world. In the declaration, we summarize key conclusions of the Forum, and try to identify 10 principles or ideas that could govern improvements of I&R in Taiwan--and the development of democracy and participation around the world. What have been the most important and powerful points of the forum?

Presented and facilitated: by Joe Mathews

10h30: Invitation to the 2020 Global Forum by Regula Buchmüller and Adrian Schmid (with video message by Bern Mayor, Alec von Graffenried)

10h50: Family photo

Conclusion of Taichung World Conference sessions