

## **Call for Papers**

**südostasien 3/2019**

### **Topic: Asia First! Authoritarianism and the Struggle for Democracy**

Political and religious populism and authoritarianism are also on the rise in Asia. They undermine democracies and restrict civil society's scope for action. In Thailand, for example, in 2014 the military seized power and a return to democracy is a long way off. In Cambodia, prime minister Hun Sen has been in power for over three decades. In the Philippines, president Rodrigo Duterte is pursuing a policy of repression that massively undermines democratic norms and fundamental rights, while in Indonesia Islamic populism is increasingly shaping the political landscape. Moreover, China propagates its rise without liberalization and democratization as an alternative development model. With the Belt and Road Initiative, China is opening up new spaces in Southeast Asia. The authoritarian developments in the region have an impact on democratization processes in Southeast Asian countries.

Worldwide, right-wing, conservative and fundamentalist movements are becoming stronger and occupy key political positions. They take advantage of the fears and frustrations that flourish in the wake of globalization and increasing social inequality.

Despite all these alarming developments, a wide variety of actors is pursuing the expansion and strengthening of democratic standards and the rule of law. Environmentalists, human rights defenders, trade unions, social movements, minorities and opposition activists are under increasing pressure. But despite massive repression and the curtailment of room for maneuver, civil societies - regional, national and transnational - are networking and showing solidarity in order to develop counter-strategies.

#### **The following questions will concern us:**

- What is the situation in the Southeast Asian countries with regard to authoritarianism and populism? To what extent is it linked to regional and global trends?
- What are the effects of authoritarianism and populism on the human rights situation, conflict landscape, elections and democratization processes?
- What are the (counter-)strategies of civil society actors, social movements, etc.?
- What influence do these regimes and movements have on gender stereotypes and gender relations? How do feminist or LGBTIQ movements get involved?
- What roles do conventional and 'social media' assume under the influence of populist and authoritarian states? How is freedom of opinion and information defended? To what extent are 'social media' used as 'agents for change' or to influence public opinion, for example?
- What economic policies and infrastructure measures do authoritarian regimes pursue? What about access to and distribution of natural resources?

We would like to address these questions in as many different ways as possible: Reports, background reports, analyses, and portraits of actors, interviews or photo essays. We are looking forward to your ideas! Please send them to us in advance by e-mail!

Deadline for articles (max. 15,000 characters) is 30 July 2019.

In addition to the publication at [www.suedostasien.net](http://www.suedostasien.net), selected articles will be published in the printed brochure "Asia First! Authoritarianism and the Struggle for Democracy ", which is published by **philippinenbüro** e.V. and Stiftung Asienhaus.

### **Editorial information:**

**Media:** Please include relevant and titled photographs of sufficient quality (min. 1000px width, min. 300dpi) Please make sure the copyright is dealt with beforehand.

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**Deadline** for submissions (max. 15.000 characters) is July 30, 2019.

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