



RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY CONFERENCE
STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY IN ASIA

**CANADA – ASIA STUDENT FORUM:
THE ROLE OF YOUTH AND STUDENT MOVEMENTS
IN PROMOTING DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

HOSTED BY THE RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY NETWORK

June 13, 2006
Radisson Admiral Harbourfront
249 Queen Quay West
Toronto

Overview

As part of Rights & Democracy's Conference on *Strengthening Democracy in Asia*, that will be held in Toronto on June 14-15, 2006 (see attached document), the Rights & Democracy Network is organizing a Student Forum to allow Canadian and Asian university students to discuss the role of youth and student movements in promoting democracy and human rights.

The Student Forum will be an opportunity for a comparative and cross-cultural dialogue about the role of youth in recent democratic transitions; the examples and techniques of effective student activism; and potential partnerships between Canadian and Asian youth for the promotion of human rights and democracy.

The participants in the Student Forum will also participate in the Conference. Through their interaction with the Canadian and Asian experts; through their pointed questions in the discussion periods; and through the preparation of a video montage of their reflections and concerns, the students will help ensure that the Conference conclusions are meaningful and relevant for the future of human rights and democracy in Canada and Asia.

Agenda

- 9:30 – 9:45 *Introductory Remarks*
Rights & Democracy Network
- 9:45 – 10:15 *Overview: Student movements and democracy in Asia*
Charm Tong, Shan Women’s Action Network, Burma
- 10:15 – 12:00 Panel Discussion
How students change their world: Experiences with student movements and protests in Asia.
- Moderator: Jean-Philippe Deschamps-Laporte, Business Administration, HEC Montréal
 - Aung Din, Policy Director, US Campaign for Burma
 - Alina Kharel, Bachelor in Pharmacy, Katmandu University, Human rights activist and reporter in Nepal
 - Michael P.Spavor, International Relations, University of Calgary, Work, studies and volunteer experiences in North and South Korea
 - Discussion period
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch and informal discussions
- 1: 00 – 2:00 Panel Discussion
The Millennium Youth Campaign: Examples from Canada and Asia
- Moderator: Lloyd Lipsett, Senior Assistant to President, Rights & Democracy
 - Shasheen Jayaweera, Youth for a Sustainable Future Pacific (YSFP)
 - Genevieve Paul, Liaison Officer, Rights & Democracy Network, Rights & Democracy
 - Discussion period
- 2:00 – 2:30 Presentation
The Internationalization of R&D Network: Building partnerships between Canadian and Asian university students
- Cynthia Gervais, Coordinator of Rights & Democracy Network, Rights & Democracy
 - Discussion period
- 2:30 – 3:00 Break and informal discussions

3:00 – 4:45

Group Activities

Preparing student input and participation for the Conference

- Preparation of questions for the expert panels
- Forming interview teams that will get commentary from the experts
- Video montage of student perspectives and preoccupations

4:45 – 5:00

Concluding remarks

Jean-Louis Roy, President, Rights & Democracy

Rights & Democracy (International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development) is a non-partisan organization with an international mandate. It was created by Canada's Parliament in 1988 to encourage and support the universal values of human rights and the promotion of democratic institutions and practices around the world. (View the Act of Parliament to establish the *International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development*). Rights & Democracy works with individuals, organizations and governments in Canada and abroad to promote the human and democratic rights defined in the United Nations' International Bill of Human Rights. For more information: www.dd-rd.ca

The Rights & Democracy Network (the “Network”) is an initiative through which Rights & Democracy creates spaces in Canadian and foreign universities and encourages students to come together, propose and initiate activities that promote human rights and democracy. Since the launch of the Network in September 2003, our efforts, combined with the financial support of Foreign Affairs Canada (FAC), have led to the creation of student associations known as Rights & Democracy Delegations in nearly 40 Canadian universities. We are currently launching the internationalization phase of the Network, which aims to provide opportunities for the development of long term partnerships between students in Canadian universities and university students in developing countries. For more information: www.rightsdemocracy.net