



## API Public Forum

### “Elections, Democracy and Regional Community-Building: Implications from Malaysia and Cambodia in 2013”

Monday, August 5, 2013 at 01.30 – 04.00 p.m.

Saranites Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Main Auditorium, Chulalongkorn University

In collaboration with the Institute of Security and International Studies (ISIS) and the Department of Government, Chulalongkorn University, Asian Public Intellectuals Fellowships Program (API) is pleased to invite you to this public forum.

Kindly signify your attendance by returning us the attached Reply Form to [banyong.h@chula.ac.th](mailto:banyong.h@chula.ac.th) or by fax to 02-652-5283. For any inquiry, please contact API Fellowships Program office (c/o Mr. Banyong or Ms. Somkamol at 02-218-7409/218-7422).

#### Speakers:

**Dr. Chheang Vannarith**, Former Executive Director, Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace; API Fellow 2013

**Prof. Dr. Francis Loh**, Former Professor of Politics, Universiti Sains Malaysia; President of ALIRAN

#### Discussants:

**Assoc. Prof. Siripan Nogsuan**, Department of Government, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Thitinan Pongsudhirak**, Director, Institute of Security and International Studies, Chulalongkorn University

#### Moderator:

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chantana Banpasirichote Wun’Gaeo**, Department of Government, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University

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Southeast Asia is one of the most diverse and sophisticated regions in the world. However, regional countries have been working to realize its common vision through building regional unity and community based on diversity. Democracy, which is differently defined and prioritized, is regarded as one of the core principles and values of regional community building process. In the ASEAN Charter, it states “ASEAN adheres to the principles of democracy, the rule of law and good governance, respect for and protection of human rights and fundamental freedom”.

General elections, one of the key elements of democracy, have been practiced in almost all countries in the region through different means. 2013 is an interesting year for Malaysia and Cambodia, with the elections taking place in these two countries. Learning from these two elections, we learn that the people in the region become more demanding in terms of getting access to independent media and fundamental freedoms, enhancing social equality and justice, strengthening the rule of law and good governance, and improving democratic institutions.

Against such backdrop, the seminar will look into the current development and debates on the national and regional implications of the general elections in Malaysia and Cambodia. It also aims to exchange views and share different perspectives from regional countries in developing and sustaining democratic value and institutions, which put the people at the heart of regional integration. It is, at least normatively, believed that democratic institutions promote peace, stability and sustainable development. The remaining question and challenge, however, is how to build and strengthen such democratic institutions through regional cooperation and experiences sharing.

## Program

**01.30 – 02.00 p.m. Registration and Coffee**

**02.00 – 02.10 p.m. Opening remarks:**

**Prof. Surichai Wun'Gaeo**

API Program Director for Regional Coordinating Institution; Director, Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, Chulalongkorn University

MC: **Ms. Michiko Yoshida**

API Program Coordinator for Regional Coordinating Institution, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University

**02.10 – 03.30 p.m. Key presentations:**

**Dr. Chheang Vannarith**

Former Executive Director, Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace; API Fellow 2013

**Prof. Dr. Francis Loh**

Former Professor of Politics from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM); President of ALIRAN

**Discussion:**

**Assoc. Prof. Siripan Nogsuan**

Dept. of Government, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Thitinan Pongsudhirak**

Director of ISIS Thailand, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University

**Moderator:**

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chantana Banpasirichote Wun'Gaeo**

Dept. of Government, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University

03.30 – 04.00 p.m. Open Forum