

## Authoritarianism in Southeast Asia

Organised by the Southeast Asian Human Rights Scholars Network and the ASEAN University Network-Human Rights Education under the SHAPE SEA Program.

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### Concept Note

In the space of 10 years after the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter, the human rights situation in Southeast Asia changed dramatically from one of cautious optimism to something which may fairly be described as desperate. The preamble of the Charter stated that they were: “Adhering to the principles of democracy, the rule of law, and good governance, respect for and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms” A sense that the region was moving forward in a progressive manner vis a vis human rights was further enhanced by the adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration in 2012.

Today, the human rights situation in the region is dire. We witness the democratic deficit in different countries raging from flawed elections in Cambodia to the rise of Islamist extremism which is influencing mainstream politics in Indonesia and populism in the Philippines and this not to mention military regime in Thailand. The list continues; but there is one underlying theme and that is the region is becoming more and more authoritarian. Strong government with limited personal freedoms and democratic spaces appear to be the order of the day.

The panel aims to examine this phenomenon by bringing together regional experts to discuss a thorough scrutiny of authoritarianism in Southeast Asia. Each speaker will analyse his/her subject matter within the context of how it is created and affected by an authoritarian regime.

### Presenters

1. Deasy Simandjuntak – ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute - Singapore
2. Maita Chan-Gonzaga – Ateneo law School, Ateneo De Manila- Philippines
3. Azmi Sharom - University of Malaya - Malaysia
4. Eakpant Pindavanija- Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University, Thailand

Moderator – Sriprapha Petcharamesree – Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University

### Single session