

Asia Centre

Introduction

Dr. James Gomez, Chair, Board of Directors, Asia Centre, will visit Washington D.C. and New York to introduce the Centre and its 3 year project on Freedom of Expression in Southeast Asia. He seeks to meet with government officials, members of international organizations and academia to highlight the impact on freedom of expression arising from legal and non-legal measures currently developed by governments in Southeast Asia to combat fake news. He will share the findings from Asia Centre's international conference on Fake News and Elections in Asia, 10-12 July 2019 held in Bangkok, Thailand. He will also introduce the Centre's next international conference, Hate Speech in Asia: Challenges and Solutions, 8-10 July 2020, Bangkok, Thailand as well as Authoritarian Disinformation and Propaganda in Asia, planned for 14-16 July 2021, Bangkok, Thailand. At the end of the visit, Dr. Gomez hopes to identify potential US partners to jointly undertake evidence based research and advocate for rights-based solutions to combat fake news and hate speech in the region.

Objective

- Provide an overview of fake news and hate speech issues in Southeast Asia
- Identify potential US partners for collaboration with Asia Centre
- To promote and defend freedom of expression in Southeast Asia

Presentation Topic

Title: Fake News Legislations in Southeast Asia and the Impact on Freedom of Expression

Abstract: Since 2017, individual governments in Southeast Asia have established task forces, convened select committee hearings and have proposed or passed legislation to combat "fake news". In May 2018 ASEAN ministers responsible for information agreed in a joint statement to collaborate and exchange best practices to combat fake news and mitigate its effects. These developments have occurred on the back of increased internet penetration across Southeast Asia and the sharing of content over social media through mobile devices. How does the issue of fake news and elections intersect? What are the key issues around the emerging legal and non-legal measures in Southeast Asia in relation to fake news? What are the effectiveness and impact of these measures? What is the impact of fake news on democracy, rule of law and freedom of expression in the region?

About the Speaker

Dr. James Gomez is Chair, Board of Directors of Asia Centre, a not-for-profit organisation that seeks to create human rights impact in the region. He provides strategic oversight for the development and regionalization of the Centre. Dr. Gomez currently oversees its operations in both Thailand and Malaysia and is leading the partnerships for the Centre's many activities in other parts of the region. He represents the Centre in media and public speaking engagements and builds relationships with key stakeholders around the world. Dr. Gomez brings to Asia Centre over 25 years of international and regional experience in leadership roles at universities, think-tanks, inter-governmental agencies and non-governmental organisations. He is the convener of Asia Centre's international conference on Fake News and Elections in Asia, 10-12 July, Bangkok, Thailand.

About Asia Centre

Asia Centre seeks to create human rights impact in the region through its programme of activities. It does this through building human capital and undertaking timely efforts to influence policy directions on significant issues for the benefit of communities. Asia Centre delivers its work through its two offices in Bangkok, Thailand and Johor Bahru, Malaysia. In Bangkok, Asia Centre's work focuses on thematic issues related to civil society, democracy, elections and human rights, while in Johor Bahru, the Centre's work focuses on thematic issues related to arts, culture, higher education, media and technology. Cross cutting regional themes related to ASEAN, Southeast Asia and how it relates to China, India, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, North America and Europe are jointly coordinated by both the Bangkok and Johor Bahru offices. Asia Centre co-convenes activities to extend the reach and scope of the Centre's and its partners' programmes and events. Asia Centre is a not-for-profit entity and operates as a social enterprise.

Target Audience

The event is aimed at civil society, international organizations, NGOs as well as academia.

For more information, contact Programme Coordinator Yawee Butrkrawee at: contact@asiacentre.org