

The Asia Democracy Study

At the origin of the Asia Democracy Study (ADS) is an original capital-level opinion survey, which the SAIS Southeast Asia Studies Program designed in 2000 to investigate the 1997 East Asian financial crisis as a possible cause of broad social, economic, and political changes that might alter the development trajectory of Indonesia, the Philippines, South Korea, and Thailand. In 2011, following the 2008 global economic downturn, the SAIS Southeast Asia Studies Program and U.S.-Korea Institute at SAIS (USKI) upgraded the original 2000 opinion survey to a national-level survey, with a total sampling size of 4,000 individuals across the four original countries. To date, the ADS Research Team includes Dr. Karl D. Jackson, director of Asian Studies at SAIS and ADS primary investigator; Dr. Jae Ku, director of the U.S.-Korea Institute at SAIS; and Dr. Giovanna Maria Dora Dore, post-doctoral fellow.

Overall, the ADS research initiative is allowing the SAIS-USKI research team to acquire significant methodological know-how in the design and management of nationwide surveys on citizens' political attitudes and behaviors in Asian countries, and to develop a significant body of academic work that will enhance and strengthen existing scholarship, as well as the ongoing debate on the Asia-democracy nexus. The edited volume *Unpopular Concepts of Democracy in Asia-Pacific* (Dore, Ku and Jackson, eds.), to be published by Palgrave MacMillan in 2014 for their Critical Studies in Asia Pacific Series, presents and discusses some of the critical findings emerging from the ongoing research. Furthermore, Dr. Dore in collaboration with Routledge is developing a book rendition of her dissertation for publication in 2014.

On January 31, 2013, SAIS and USKI held the Asia Democracy Study Workshop to showcase and discuss key findings of the 2011 national level survey for Indonesia, the Philippines, South Korea, and Thailand. Discussants for the ADS Workshop included: Dr. Larry Diamond, senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and director of the Center for Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies; Dr. Robert Albritton, Department of Political Science at the University of Mississippi and Asian Barometer; and Dr. Allen Hicken, associate professor of Political Science, research associate professor at the Center for Political Studies, and director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Michigan.

In addition, the data of the 2000 capital-level and 2011 national-level opinion surveys:

- (i) has informed the preparation of the dissertations of Dr. Giovanna Maria Dora Dore, "Democracy? Hardly the Only Game in Town in Indonesia, South Korea and Thailand" (2012); Dr. Jae Ku, "Participation, Culture and Regionalism: Korea's Process of Democratic Consolidation" (2002); and Dr. Prine Apirat, "From Subject to Citizen: Political Participation in Bangkok" (2001);
- (ii) was included in Dr. Karl Jackson's U.S. Congress testimony on democracy in Thailand in 2011; and
- (iii) is being used as an integral part of the syllabi for Asian Studies courses on: Politics of Indonesia, Domestic Politics of Southeast Asia: Thailand and the Philippines, and International Relations of Asia: The Policy Process.