

# 7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ASIA AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

## Democracy and Human Rights in Asia: Progressing or Retreating?

How can we assess current human rights events in Asia?  
What do you know about human rights in the region?  
Are you interested in learning more about Asia and its human rights practices?

**REGISTER NOW**

**Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**LTB 4, University of Essex**  
**10:00am- 17:00pm**

Come and join us at this student-led human rights conference, which is supported by Essex University's Human Rights Centre, to engage in an interactive session with our expert panelists. Our speakers will address some of the most critical human rights issues facing Asia today. We are delighted to have among our speakers: Michael Freeman (University of Essex), Kanak Dixit (*HIMĀL Southasian*, Journalist), Han Dorussen (University of Essex), Alex Wilks (International Bar Association, Human Rights Institute), Tallyn Gray (Westminster University), Hazel Galang (Amnesty International) and Sanae Fujita (University of Essex).

We very much hope that you are able to join us. Lunch will be provided. Please send your registration (Name and Department is enough) to **Miss Nalini at [edelum@essex.ac.uk](mailto:edelum@essex.ac.uk) and cc to Miss Raabia [rasham@essex.ac.uk](mailto:rasham@essex.ac.uk)**

We are really looking forward to seeing you all!

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### Panel 1: 'Asian Values: Cultural Relativism vs Universalism'

#### **Speaker 1: Michael Freeman:**

He is an Emeritus Professor in the Department of Government, University of Essex. He is author of *Human Rights: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, and many academic journal articles on the history, theory and practice of human rights, including the debates about human rights and 'Asian Values'. He has recently contributed a chapter on 'Universalism of Human Rights and Cultural Relativism' to the *Routledge Handbook of International Human Rights Law*, edited by Scott Sheeran and Sir Nigel Rodley. He was a co-founder of the University of Essex Human Rights Centre as an interdisciplinary centre, and its Deputy Director and Director of the MA in The Theory and Practice of Human Rights for several years. He is a former Chair of the Human Rights Research Committee of the International Political Science Association, and a former Chairperson of the British Section of Amnesty International.

#### **Speaker 2: Anubhav D. Tiwari:**

He is pursuing LL.M International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at the University of Essex and is from India. He has previously interned with human rights organisations in India and as part of these worked for Dalit's criminal justice. He has also been part of campaigns/projects for migrant workers from Bangladesh in the State of Bengal, India.

#### **Speaker 3: Teppei ONO:**

He is a Japanese qualified lawyer. He is a staff attorney of Japan Legal Support Centre which is a legal aid organization fully funded by the government. Under the agreement between the Japan Federation of Bar Associations and the University of Essex, he is studying International Human Rights Law at the University of Essex.

#### **Speaker 4: Raabia Abuzer Shams:**

She has B.A. LL.B (Hons.) from Chanakya National Law University, India, where most of her work and research focused on issues surrounding child rights and personal laws. Former legal intern at the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and Prayas Juvenile Aid Centre. Former legal researcher at the Centre for Child and the Law at NLSIU, Bangalore, India.

### Panel 2: Democracy and human rights in Asia, how far are Civil and Political rights progressing in Asia?

#### **Speaker 1: Hazel Galang:**

Miss Hazel is a well - known and experienced Campaigner in Amnesty International based in London and she work closely on Asia region particularly on Malaysia, Philippines, and Singapore

#### **Speaker 2: Dr. Sanae Fujita**

She is an Associate Fellow of the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex, and has been an adviser for the annual student-led Human Rights in Asia conference since the first year it was organised. Previously at Essex, she taught the postgraduate course entitled 'Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region' as a module director. Her areas of research are human rights and development, with a particular focus on the activities of International Financial Institutions. She teaches her area of expertise regularly both in the UK and Japan. In October 2013, she translated the Japanese Secrecy Bill with another Japanese Essex alumnus, and reported about the threat of

the bill to the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression through its urgent appeal procedure, which as a result published an official statement to the Japanese Government. Since then she has been actively engaged in the promotion of transparency in Japan through publishing articles and giving a number of lectures, seminars and talks to students, activists and the general public. She holds a PhD in Law and an LLM in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex as well as an MA in International Development from Nagoya University, Japan.

**Speaker 3: Nalini Elumalai:**

She is pursuing LLM in International Human Rights Law in Essex and she is from Malaysia. In 2006, after she graduated, she joined as a full time Activist in SUARAM, a leading human rights NGO in Malaysia, which has campaigned for better human rights conditions and an end to arbitrary detention in Malaysia. She have also represented Malaysian Civil Societies on numerous occasions in national and international level on a wide range of human rights issues, including freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, indigenous peoples and arbitrary detention.

**Speaker 4: Jane Aileen Tedjaseputra:**

She has a Bachelor in Laws from Catholic University of Atma Jaya Jakarta. As a assistant Public Interest Lawyer at the Jakarta Legal Aid Institute, she worked on cases related to freedom of religion, labor rights, right to water, eviction and violence against women. Former empolyee at the National Commission on Violence against Women (Komnas Perempuan) and the Indonesian Human Rights Working group (HRWG).

**Panel 3: Transnational justice in Asia**

**Speaker 1: Prof. Han Dorussen:**

Professor Han Dorussen is Professor in the Department of Government at the University of Essex and member of the Michael Nicholson Centre of Conflict and Cooperation and the Transitional Justice Network. His current research interests include the relationship between trade, policy convergence in the EU, and the peacekeeping and the governance of post-conflict societies. He has a particular interest in Timor Leste where he has done fieldwork to examine the perception of security following the departure of UN peacekeepers. Prof.Han Dorussen received his MA in political science from the University of Nijmegen and his PhD in government from the University of Texas at Austin. He has lectured at NTNU-Trondheim (Norway), University of Konstanz (Germany), and University of Kobe (Japan).

**Speaker 2: Alex Wilks:**

Alex is a UK-qualified lawyer and has experience in domestic and international human rights litigation. He has been a parliamentary legal officer in the UK House of Lords, advising on human rights issues and international law and, between 2007–2008, was the IBA legal specialist in Afghanistan where he worked to establish Afghanistan’s first national bar association. At the IBAHRI, Alex covers the Latin American region and projects in Afghanistan, Bahrain, East Timor, Hungary, Libya, and Sri Lanka. He also leads on monitoring and evaluation and impact assessment for IBAHRI activities. Alex speaks French, Portuguese and Spanish and has an LL.M in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex, UK.

**Speaker 4: Kanak Dixit:**

He is an editor, journalist and founder of Himel Southasian. He obtained his Bachelor of Laws from Delhi University and Masters degrees in International Relations and Journalism from

Columbia University. He worked at the UN Secretariat in New York between 1982 and 1990. He promotes documentaries as a means of cultural self expression and exchange, and in 1997 founded Film South Asia, a biennial festival that brings the best of South Asian films. In 2009, he was honored with a Prince Claus Award from the Netherlands, for his stimulating role behind the cultural development within his region.

**Moderators:**

**1. Miss Sayamon Srisompetch:**

Sayamon is a student of LL.M. International Human Rights Law at University of Essex. In 2013, she graduated LL.B. International Law at Chulalongkorn University and she is a member of the Lawyers Council of Thailand. Prior to study at University of Essex, she was an intern at Mekong Migration Network (MMN) and DLA Piper (Thailand) Limited in Thailand.

**2. Miss Gulinoza Janibekova**

Miss Gulnaza pursuing human rights studies in University of Essex.

**3. Miss Olivia Solari Yrigoyen**

Sciences Po Paris, BA in Latin American Politics and Master in Public policy with a focus on Human Rights. Was part of the visiting professionals program of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. She is pursuing LLM in International Human Rights and humanitarian law in University of Essex.