



**COURSE LAUNCH**

# INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' SELF-GOVERNMENT AND DEMOCRACY

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29 October 2021

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# BACKGROUND

At the heart of Indigenous Peoples' struggle is the recovery of their right to self-determination because it underpins the enjoyment of all other rights in our context. The capture of our lands and take over of our right to self-government by outsiders has caused immense destruction and tragedy and have destabilized our societies.

We are colonized peoples. It makes little difference whether we were forced to live in countries created and ruled by the descendants of settler colonialists from overseas, or like in Asia, in countries created after the colonizers had left and that are now ruled by the elites of the dominant in society. What all Indigenous Peoples have in common is the experience of discrimination, dispossession, and disempowerment that follows colonization.



Many of our communities have been forcefully relocated, our lands have been taken away, forests have been destroyed, mountains mined, valleys dammed and flooded. Children are forced into schools where none of our languages are spoken, none of our knowledge and values are taught. And we are all forced to live under governments that are not our own, in which we can hardly participate, and on which we have no influence.

The loss of self-government in our communities accelerates social disintegration, alienates us from our roots, it robs us of our capacity to collectively identify and address our problems and needs, to envision a better future and find the path that can lead us there.



In the international arena, the adoption of ILO Convention 169 was the beginning of recognizing the unique history and situation of Indigenous Peoples focusing on our security and cultural integrity. Further, by adopting the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), states recognized Indigenous Peoples' unique characteristics and distinct worldviews, and our right to self-determination. However, our unique characteristics and systems of governance, which sprang from intimate association with our lands, are not yet part of the architecture of the states in Asia.

Recognizing the right to self-determination entails democratization and strengthening of democracy in Asia. This could provide an opportunity for the State to revisit its institutional architecture for accommodating and protecting our autonomy and right to self-determination that is based on self-governance of Indigenous Peoples.



**Not only are Indigenous Peoples struggling and reclaiming their right to self-determination, but several Indigenous Peoples are currently involved in peace negotiations for different forms of self-determination or for the implementation of negotiated agreements on autonomy. It is in this context that Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) is launching its first Regional Course on Indigenous Peoples' Self-government and Democracy from 27 October 2021 to 14 November 2021, to engage in reflective conversation and build the capacity of indigenous leaders, scholars and organizations in Asia.**



# OBJECTIVES

**General objective:** To prepare a pool of indigenous leaders who are schooled in the knowledge and practice of indigenous governance systems, such that the nucleus for a regional movement for indigenous sovereignty, self-determination and democratization can be consolidated and advanced in Asia.

## Specific objectives:



To catalyze and build capacities of indigenous leaders and scholars on Indigenous Peoples' epistemology, values, and governance systems through the conduct of the course on IP's Self-government and Democracy at the regional and country level.

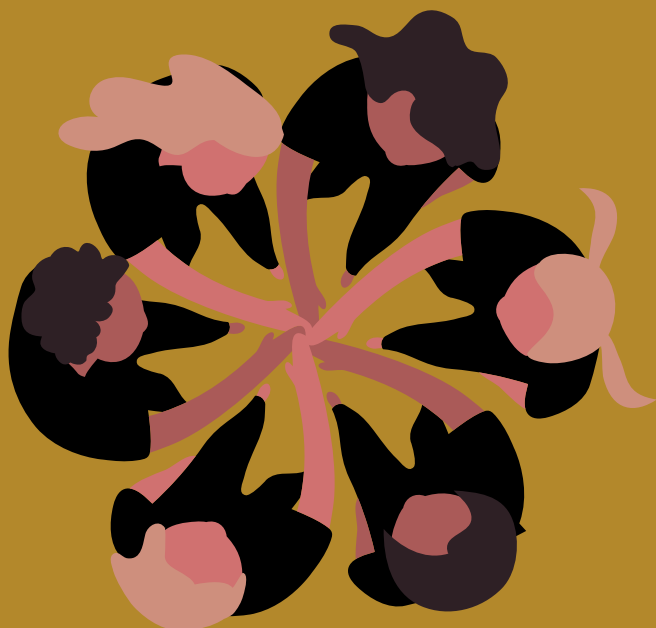


To build regional and country level movements on self-determination and self-government across Indigenous Peoples and communities in Malaysia, Nepal, India, and Bangladesh and initiate a coalition of civil society platform for self-determination and democratization.



To form a pool of indigenous leaders and scholars from the course participants to reinforce indigenous leadership and bolster the capacity building and mobilization on self-determination and democracy at the local and country level.

# PARTICIPANTS



The regional team of Indigenous experts, researchers, resource persons who have been engaged in this field for decades will facilitate the sessions during the regional training course.

The target of the course is for the 14 countries of AIPP, and this pilot phase will cover Malaysia, Nepal, India and Bangladesh (2021).

Participation in the event will be open to the public and will include speakers from grassroots organisations, government representatives, international organisations, and many more. If you are interested in participating, please contact us through:



For any enquiries write to:  
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[fuji@aippnet.org](mailto:fuji@aippnet.org)



[visit this page](#)

# LAUNCH AGENDA

29 October 2021, 7pm -9 pm onwards Bangkok time

## WELCOMING AND INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAMME

Gam A. Shimray, Secretary General (AIPP)  
19:00 - 19:15

## OPENING RITUAL ACTIVITY

- Indigenous Peoples from Thailand
  - Indigenous traditional song from Taiwan
- 19:15 - 19:35

## INAUGURATION SPEECH & PROGRAMME LAUNCHING

Tuomas Aslak Juuso, President, Sami Parliament, Norway  
19:35 - 19:55

## CONNECTING WITH THE HISTORICAL ASPIRATION OF AIPP

Gam A. Shimray, Secretary General (AIPP)  
19:55 - 20:10

## PRESENTATION OF TRADITIONAL SONG

Indigenous song from Thailand.  
20:10 - 20:25

## GLOBAL SOLIDARITY MESSAGES

H.E David Choquehuanca Céspedes, Vice President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

Francisco Cali Tzay, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Antonia Urrejola Noguera  
Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples & Commissioner of Inter-American  
Commission on Human Rights

Dr. Chayan Wattanaphut, Chairperson, Center for Ethnic Studies and Development, Faculty  
of Social Science, Chiang Mai University

20:25 - 20:53

## WORDS OF APPRECIATION & CLOSING

Patrick Earle, Diplomacy Training Programme  
20:53 - 21:00

**THE RIGHT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO  
SELF-DETERMINATION: DIVERSE  
PEOPLES, ONE STRUGGLE**

WEBINAR ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCHING OF  
THE COURSE ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' SELF-  
GOVERNMENT AND DEMOCRACY

1st November 2021, 1:30pm -4pm Bangkok time



# OBJECTIVES



To understand the drivers and trends of the shrinking civic space in Asia and its impact on the right to self-determination of Indigenous Peoples in Asia.



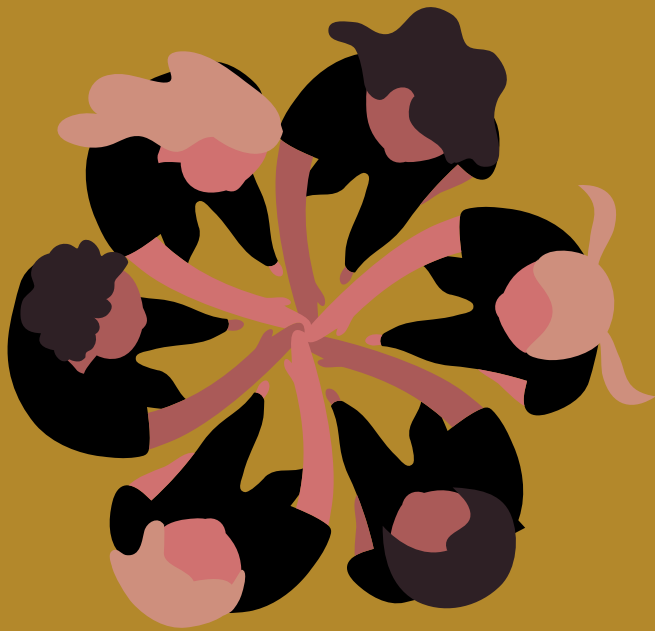
To strengthen solidarity and Indigenous Peoples' movements for right to self-determination and democracy at the local, regional and global levels.



To provide recommendations to the UN mechanism inter alia UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



# PARTICIPANTS



- **Governments**
- **Indigenous Peoples' organisations and movements**
- **UN mechanisms, mandate holders and agencies**
- **CSOs from Asia and beyond**



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# WEBINAR & BOOK LAUNCH AGENDA

1st November 2021, 13:30 – 16:00, Bangkok Time

## FACILITATOR

Gam A. Shimray, Secretary General (AIPP)  
13:30 – 13:45

## WELCOME REMARK

Kittisak Rattanakrajangsri, Chairperson, AIPP  
13:45 – 13:55

## SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Civic Space and Self-governance of Indigenous Peoples: Why we need to go back to the roots

Dr. Colin Nicholas, Center for Orang Asli Concerns  
13:55 – 14:10

## SPEAKERS

**Philippines:** An analysis of the prospects and challenges of Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (1997) in the face of rise in authoritarianism – Beverly Longid, Katribu Nasyunal

**Malaysia:** Challenges to democratization in Malaysia and the prospects for right to self-determination of Indigenous Peoples – Jannie Lasimbang, Member of Legislative Assembly, Sabah State

**Indonesia:** Indigenous Peoples' initiatives towards self-governance – Rukka Sombolinggi, Secretary General, Alliance of Indigenous Peoples of the Archipelago (AMAN)

## BOOK LAUNCH OF THE AIPP SERIES ON RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION & INDIGENOUS SELF-GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS

Facilitator

Gam A. Shimray, AIPP  
14:40 – 14:45

Book launching

Ann Nourgam, Chairperson, UNPFII  
14:45 – 15:00

Inclusion of Indigenous youth and Self-determination  
Chandra Tripura, Executive Council Member (Youth), AIPP  
15:00 – 15:05

Solidarity messages

1.Embassy of Sweden, Thailand

2.Binota Moy Dhamai, Vice Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples  
15:05 – 15:15

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**WEBINAR: CONTINUED WITH SPEAKERS**

Bangladesh: Trend of shrinking civic space and its implication on the implementation on the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Bangladesh and the Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord – Gautam Kumar Chakma, Member, Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council(CHTRC) and political leader

India: Deciphering the Indo-Naga peace talks from the perspective of right to self-determination – Neingulo Krome, Secretary General, Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights (NPMHR)

Nepal: Towards Indigenous Peoples' vision for self-determination and democracy in Nepal – Dr. Krishna Bhattachan, Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Tribhuvan University  
15:15 – 15:45

**SUMMARY**

Gam A. Shimray, Secretary General, AIPP

15:45 – 15:55

**WORDS OF APPRECIATION & CLOSING**

International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)

15:55 – 16:00

# CREATING INDIGENOUS LEADERS

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' SELF-GOVERNMENT AND DEMOCRACY



# REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE

8-18 November, 10am-5pm Bangkok time

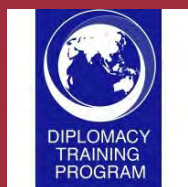
## INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' SELF-GOVERNMENT AND DEMOCRACY

### COURSE CONTENT

1. Self-reflection (Where are we coming from? Where are we now? Where are we leading to and predicting our future? - understanding our past, present situation and future.)
2. Learning about concept and idea of “Indigenous Self-government and Democracy” (Self-determination, Autonomy, Self-government/Self-governance, Pluralism, Federalism, Subsidiarity, Liberal-democratic governance, Communitarian Governance, Party Politics and Indigenous Peoples in Mainstream Politics etc.)
3. Identifying grounding values and guiding principles of Indigenous Self-government
4. Deepening the understanding (reading and discussing the case studies, joint exercise: applying assessment criteria to case studies.
5. Re-assessment (re-assessing the situation using new concepts, ideas, innovations and criteria for good self-government)
6. Envisioning our future (what we want? How could the self-determination of our peoples and communities look like?
7. Assessing possibilities for change. How can this be achieved: developing a strategy)?

## CO-HOSTS

Diplomacy Training Programme (DTP)  
International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)



## SUPPORTED BY:

SIDA  
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