CROSS-COUNTRY INTER-PARTY COLLABORATION:

Terms of Reference for a Seminar

The Idea

A cross-country inter-party collaboration is a kind of collaboration comparable to G to G collaboration, people to people collaboration and inter-parliamentary collaboration. It is based on the observation that one of the weaknesses of the present political parties in Indonesia is that most of them tend to be very inward-looking and are preoccupied with their own internal affairs.

What is lacking is a perspective on comparison with the workings of political parties in various countries worldwide. In order to make this idea workable, KID plans to invite politicians from other countries to come and to talk to their fellow politicians in Jakarta. It is assumed that the exchange of experience between politicians from different countries will provide a comparative perspective as to what political parties should be like, what their missions should be, which programs they are to undertake and to implement, and how to settle conflicts and to deal with challenges that arise from local inequalities, national disparities, and international imbalances.

This seminar aims to become an entry point and the beginning of an inter-party collaboration based on common needs and commonalities in the workings of political parties in respective countries and to provide a forum for mutual learning from the differences which result from specific historical background and cultural particularities which give shape to the content and form of national politics of each country.

It would be very ideal if KID could bring as many politicians as possible to meet in one place and to let them talk to one another for two three days but this seems to be very costly in terms of time, availability of the politicians as well as fund.

The exchange of experience between and among politicians can be seen as a south-south, north-north, or south-north dialogue and interaction. As a first step to implement this idea, KID has decided to organize a small regional meeting within the framework of south-south collaboration.

Two South East Asian countries will be involved in this seminar, namely Myanmar and Indonesia. The transition from autocratic to democratic government, and the relatively non-violent political reform are commonalities that the two countries share in the last decades of their national politics, this being a common ground on which to build a political dialogue and particularly an inter-party discourse and interaction.

So far KID has organized such cross-country interparty dialog with politicians from the Netherlands. This was done by organizing a visit of the politicians of seven political parties of Indonesia to the Netherlands, and by hosting the chairpersons of Dutch political parties that had their seats in the second Chamber. Needless to say, such dialog is very much needed within the regional framework of South-East Asia.
The Seminar

For that purpose KID has planned to hold a seminar on cross country inter-party collaboration in Jakarta, with participants from Myanmar and Indonesia. The participants will consist of active party politicians, civil society organizations that have experience in working with political parties, governmental officials and political observers from foreign institutions.

The exchange of experience, between Indonesian and Myanmarese party politicians, is expected to comprise the following issues:

- The impact of multiparty system on presidential government.
- The prospects and constraints in inter-party relations.
- The dynamics between political parties and government.
- The role of constituency in giving shape to political parties.
- The position of political parties between private and public domain.
- The civil society as a supplier of human materials to political parties.

The Speakers

KID expects to be able to have H. E. U Min Lwin, Ambassador of the Republic of Myanmar as keynote speaker at this seminar.

Other speakers will consist of:

- Mr Hkyet Hting Nan, Unity and Democracy Party (Kachin State), Myanmar
  "The impact of multiparty system on presidential government and the dynamics between political parties and government"

- Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Pyithu Hluttaw MP, The National League for Democracy Party at the Mandalay Region, Myanmar
  "The position of political parties between private and public domain"

- Dr. Eva Sundari, Member of Parliamentary – Indonesian Democratic Party for Struggle, Chairwoman for ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus
  "The prospects and constraints in inter-party relations and the role of constituency in giving shape to political parties"

- Dr. Ignas Kleden, Chairman of Komunitas Indonesia untuk Demokrasi – KID (Indonesian Community for Democracy),
  "The civil society as a supplier of human materials to political parties"

Moderator: Prof. Mohtar Mas’oed, Member of KID Board of Directors.

Seminar organizations

Venue: Jakarta, Hotel Gran Melia, Room Legian 1
Date: Tue, 29 October 2013
Time: 09:00-12:45
### Seminar Rundown

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>09:00 – 09:15</td>
<td>Keynote speech (tentative)</td>
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<td>H. E. U Min Lwin, Ambassador of the Republic of Myanmar to Indonesia</td>
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<td>09:15 – 09:35</td>
<td>Mr. Hkyet Hting Nan, Unity and Democracy Party (Kachin State), Myanmar</td>
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<td>09:55 – 10:55</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>Coffee break will be served during discussion</td>
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<td>“The position of political parties between private and public domain”</td>
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<td>11:15 – 11:35</td>
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<td>11:35 – 12:35</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>12:35 – 12:40</td>
<td>Concluding remark</td>
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<td>12:40 – 13:00</td>
<td>Press conference</td>
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<td>13:00 – 14:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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### The Organizer

This seminar will be organized by KID- an acronym standing for Indonesian Community for Democracy based in Jakarta. KID is a civil society association, which specializes on the promotion of multiparty democracy through adult democracy education. This education takes the form of democracy schools, which now available in eight provinces of Indonesia.

The duration of education is one year and the schooling and learning take place over the weekend. The education has three main components, which are democratic knowledge, democratic values, and democratic skills. The students are obliged to go through both in-class learning and out-class learning.

The students of Democracy Schools are recruited from among the four targets group of KID, namely political parties, government bureaucrats, business community and civil society organizations. 30% participations of female students are mandatory.
The ultimate aim of this school is to facilitate the developments of home-grown democracy, without nonetheless, compromising universal values and principles of democracy.

In seven years of its work, KID Democracy Schools have produced 1,754 alumnae who are expected to become local actors who can push for democracy from below.

However, Indonesian politics is very much dependent on national politics. KID managed to make use of the situations by organizing a forum where major political parties can meet regularly. This forum is called Political Party Consultation (PPC) whereby major political parties mean those that have their seats in national parliaments.

By now, PPC program of KID has nine parties as its members. The dialogues between major political parties is expected to reflect democracy from up above whereas, democracy schools represent democratic movement from below. It is assumed that somewhere these two movements will meet and consolidate each other.

As a civil society organization that works for the promotion of democracy through adult democracy education and through political party dialogue at national level KID has some experience in connecting civil society organizations which engage in various sort of social movements and political parties that are suppose to become representative of body-politic.

In organizing this Seminar KID has invited the Nyein Foundation, an important and experienced civil society organization based in Yangon as its counterpart, from which KID has benefitted much help in getting the necessary information on Myanmar politics and in having the competent speakers for this seminar.