

Innovation for Change (I4C)

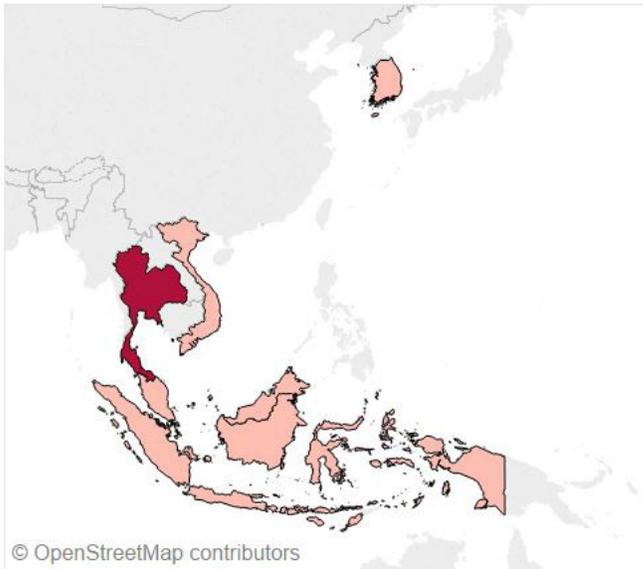
East Asia Hub

Challenge

Civil society is faced with laws restricting funding and operations, including national security laws used to harass and curtail civic activities for alleged threats to national security, connections to drug trade or extremist violence. Increasing levels of xenophobia towards LGBT communities, refugees and asylum seekers has also had an impact on civic space participation in the region.

The East Asia Hub is working towards creating a mutual assistance network in order to help activists and advocates strengthen and defend the existing civic space.

Engagements in East Asia



of Convenings 1 10

The East Asia Hub focuses on creating spaces for invisible sectors and silent voices, addressing divisions among civil society, probing growing restrictions to funding opportunities, and researching the lack of political support for civil society organization in Southeast and Northeast Asia.

Innovations

Accountability & Transparency: Highlighted challenges to civic space based on corruption and regional dialog events.

Advocacy: Provided skillshares on a variety of advocacy topics including strategy, messaging and movement building.

Digital Security: Provided digital tools and trainings to activists to mitigate online risks.

Global Partnerships: Held a series of regional partnership dialogues to address challenges to freedom of expression in civic spaces in Asia.

Innovation Pipeline: Hosted a Civic Innovation Fair to highlight regional successes, which included a skillshare on how to engage with civic technologists and social media techniques.

Knowledge sharing: The East Asia Resource Portal has become a one-stop online space on innovationforchange.net for sharing resources among CSOs.

Research and Development: Applied research approaches were used for a Malaysia Youth Study Tour held in June 2017 in Kuala Lumpur to increase the awareness of thirteen youth on civic space challenges.

The **East Asia Hub** is one of six hubs across the global south in the I4C network. The Helper Hub, comprised of Counterpart and CIVICUS for direct technical support, and Tides, the fiscal agent, assists the regional hubs to become self-sufficient.

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About the Hub

The East Asia Hub was initiated in August 2016 by twenty-seven civil society organizations (CSOs) from twelve countries across the region, and exited its incubation phase in February 2017.

The Hub aims to support civil society initiatives, and strength citizen engagement and people's ability to hold government to account by defending, expanding and creating civic space in Southeast and Northeast Asia.

Our Focus



Our Work



349 Event Participants



93 Members



16 Engagements



10 Countries

Successes

East Asia Resource Portal: Hosted a one-stop online space on innovationforchange.net for sharing resources among CSOs on topics such as human rights, digital security, freedom of speech, democracy, legal frameworks, media and religious freedoms, extremism, corruption and good governance.

Malaysia Youth Study Tour on Rights and Dignities: Increased the awareness of thirteen youth from the region on the civic space challenges, during a week-long tour in June 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Participants discussed democracy, activism, refugees and migrant worker communities and learned the practical lesson that social movements do not necessarily lead to change.

Regional Partnership Dialogue: Problem-solved freedom of expression challenges in the region and learned new ways to overcome these challenges during a 2017 event held in Bangkok. Participants were from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Burma/Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

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