



Workshop on Democratic Leadership in Southeast Asia

Date : 25th September 2026 (Friday)

Venue : Penang Institute

Sponsor : Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (publisher of *Taiwan Journal of Democracy*)

Host : Penang Institute

TIME	SESSION	DETAILS
8:30–8:40	Registration	
8:40–9:00	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Tun-jen Cheng, William & Mary / Taiwan Journal of Democracy Dato' Dr Ooi Kee Beng, Executive Director, Penang Institute Da-Chi Liao, President, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy
	Morning Panel	Chair: Ooi Kee Beng

9:00–9:50	Paper 1	Why Toxic Leaders Thrive but Fail to Consolidate: Dynastic Democracy, Performative Populism, and Democratic Resilience in the Philippines Aries Arugay, University of the Philippines, Diliman
9:50–10:00	Tea Break	
10:00–10:50	Paper 2	Performance, Proximity, and the Popular Foundations of Democratic Erosion in Indonesia Burhanuddin Muhtadi, Rizki Rahmadian and M. Adam Kamil State Islamic University, Jakarta
10:50–11:00	Tea Break	
11:00–11:50	Paper 3	Political Leadership in a Meritocratic Democracy: Lessons from Singapore Tan Lee Ooi, Penang Institute
12:00–2:00	Lunch	Penang Institute
	Afternoon Panel	Chair: Tun-jen Cheng
2:00–2:50	Paper 1	The Nature of Leadership in Malaysia: Ethnocentrism, Federalism, and the Issue of a Deep State Ooi Kee Beng, Penang Institute
2:50–3:00	Tea Break	
3:00–3:50	Paper 2	Leadership by Permission: The Making of Political Leadership in Thailand after the 2014 Coup Purawich Watanasukh, Thammasat University
3:50–4:00	Tea Break	

4:00–4:50	Paper 3	Political Leadership in Southeast Asia: Divergence and Variety Meredith Weiss, State University of New York, Albany
5:00–5:15	Concluding Remarks	Chair: Tun-jen Cheng Thank-you remarks by President Liao and Executive Director Ooi Kee Beng
6:00–8:00	Dinner	Irama Dining