

POLITICS IN ASIA

Parliaments in Asia

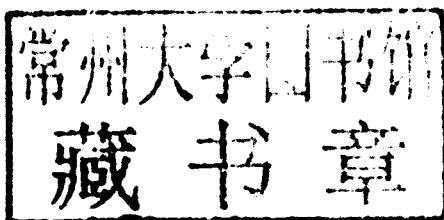
Institution building and political
development

Edited by
Zheng Yongnian, Lye Liang Fook and
Wilhelm Hofmeister

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First published 2014
by Routledge
2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN

Simultaneously published in the USA and Canada
by Routledge
711 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017

Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, an informa business

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Parliaments in Asia: institution building and political development/edited by Zheng Yongnian, Lye Liang Fook and Wilhelm Hofmeister.

pages cm. - (Politics in Asia series)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

1. Legislative bodies-Asia. 2. Representative government and representation-Asia. 3. Asia-Politics and government -21st century. I. Zheng, Yongnian, editor of compilation. II. Lye, Liang Fook, editor of compilation. III. Hofmeister, Wilhelm, editor of compilation.

JQ33.P38 2013

328.5-dc23

2013007609

ISBN: 978-0-415-68158-2 (hbk)

ISBN: 978-0-203-79501-9 (ebk)

Typeset in Times New Roman
by Deer Park Productions



Printed and bound by CPI Group (UK) Ltd, Croydon, CR0 4YY

Parliaments in Asia

Much writing on politics in Asia revolves around the themes of democracy and democratisation with a particular focus on political systems and political parties. This book, on the other hand, examines the role that parliaments – a key institution of democracy – play in East, Southeast and South Asia including Taiwan and Hong Kong. Parliaments in these locations function in a variety of historical, political and socio-economic circumstances with different implications for institution building and political development. This book examines questions like how accessible, representative, transparent, accountable and effective are parliaments? To what extent are parliaments able to hold other political actors to account or how far are they constrained by the political environment in which they operate? Going further, this book considers how new media such as the Internet and other social platforms, through providing avenues for individuals to articulate their views separate from official channels, are influencing the ways parliaments work. To stay relevant, parliamentarians need to reach out and engage these individuals in formulating, deciding and fine-tuning policies. In the information age, being a parliamentarian has become more challenging and how a parliamentarian copes with this change will shape the nature and pace of political development.

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Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the authors for their contributions to this book publication as well as for their conscientiousness and understanding in working with us to revise the chapters.

The chapters here arose from a conference jointly organized by the East Asian Institute (EAI) of the National University of Singapore and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) in Singapore. Over the years, EAI has worked closely with KAS to hold various conferences of interest to policy-makers, academics and the civil society. The themes of these conferences cover both domestic and foreign policy issues of common concern such as political parties, party systems and democratization to China's rise and the response of other countries in the region to such a rise. In line with the past tradition of collaboration, the chapters in this collection focus on the role of parliaments in Asia particularly in terms of their contribution to institution building and political development. We are confident of having many more good years of working together.

Our thanks also extend to Lily Hong Ciyuan, our colleague at EAI, for her painstaking efforts in editing the chapters, liaising with the authors to incorporate the revisions, compiling every page and eventually making a submission to Routledge. In addition, we would like to thank Jessica Loon Mann Ha and Ho Wei Ling, our other EAI colleagues, for their meticulousness in coming up with the index.

We further wish to express our appreciation to the anonymous referees who have devoted precious time and effort in offering their valuable comments to improve the chapters.

Last but not least, we would like to convey our gratitude to the staff at Routledge for their excellent job in producing this publication. In particular, we commend Ms Jillian Morrison for her dedication, drive and utmost patience in working with us to deliver the final product.

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