

## **Third Wave of Democracy: A myth or reality from South Asian perspective**

### **Democracy, participation and governance in South Asia**

In the post Cold War scenario, many scholars were enthusiastic about the third wave of democracy around the globe. Though more than 100 democratic regimes exist in the world today, the future of *consolidated democracy* stands as a big challenge to the region of Asia particularly as hypothesis of bourgeois democratic movements cannot be generalised to Asia.

This panel will focus on the region of South Asia (SA) where except for one country (which has its own problems too in certain states), rest of the countries either have not seen democracy at all or trying unsuccessful attempts to turn democracy functional from time to time.

However, before moving to the analysis and normative approach for assessing the future of third wave of democracy in the region, the contributors to the panel are encouraged to answer the fundamental question of *why have democracy in the first place?* They will discuss what is the *basic understanding of democracy within country specific public at large and academic and political elites in SA and what can possibly be changed?* Are there any Asian values' myths holding back countries in SA to implement Western model of democracy? Contributors are expected to focus their academic attempts on answering the following questions:

- What will democracy offer to the countries in the region when they are already undergoing the challenges of secularism, weak institutions to hold political elites accountable, absence of mechanism for representative democracy on one hand and on the other, challenges like social disparity, non-inclusive growth models of capitalistic economic growth models, contested role of religion and state, role of international political players for democracy promotions vis-à-vis state sovereignty?
- How is the concept of sustainable development perceived in SA and is democratic model of political regime the answer to ensure sustainable development in this region?
- If political structures and regimes are not one single-fit, what can be best served model of democracy to the needs of SA region? What can be the right conceptual construction for the term *democracy* and how can it be promoted?
- Is third wave of democracy a myth for SA? Or is there still some hope?

#### **Panel Organiser:**

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