



## CALL FOR PAPERS

### **Democracy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Challenges and the Ways Forward**

An international conference sponsored by the World Society Foundation

**Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 9-10 July 2018**

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION IS OCTOBER 31, 2017

At the 2005 World Summit, all the world's governments reaffirmed "that democracy is a universal value, based on freely expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their participation in all aspects of their lives". However, values of democracy and human rights are different in every region. In Europe and America democracy is highly valued, while in Africa and Central Asia it is least valued. Although developed countries set examples and good practices of democracy, they also show signs of back-pull, given the recent cases of the USA's presidential elections and Great Britain's "Brexit" proposal to leave EU.

With this call for papers the World Society Foundation (WSF) and the Independent Research Institute of Mongolia (IRIM) encourage scholars to investigate the evolution of democratic structures, the main challenges and the ways forward to advance democracy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In order to investigate these topics, we are inviting academics to submit papers on any of the following focus areas. Presentations will promote the sharing of knowledge and information between participants:

#### **1. Urban-Rural cleavages and democracy**

- Impacts of rural-urban cleavages on democratic processes and foundation
- Political differences between rural and urban areas in Asia
- Quality of democracy and its dimensions in rural and urban areas
- Democratization and value change in rural and urban areas
- Freedom of information, human rights and gender in rural-urban settings
- Voter behavior, political parties and the electoral system
- Social cohesion in rural and urban areas and democracy

#### **2. Civil society and democracy**

- Role of civil society in democratic governance
- Role of civil society in promoting democracy and good governance
- New forms of citizen participation and democratic engagement
- Citizen participation and public confidence
- Role of civil society in democratic consolidation in Asia
- Role of civil society organizations for democracy's leadership
- The role of social media for civil society's political engagement and democracy

### **3. Extractive economics, resources-rich countries and democracy**

- Governance transparency and accountability (corruption)
- How does democracy work in a resource based world economy system
- The relationships between natural resources, democracy and corruption
- Democratic governance and multinational corporations: Political regimes and inflows of foreign direct investment

The conference activities will be in **English**. There is no fee for registration. We welcome original work from all scholars and academics on any related to the topic of challenges and ways forward in development trends for democracy and leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### **Travel grants**

The WSF provides funding for up to **15 hospitality grants** for authors that have submitted the most outstanding papers. The grants will cover conference travel to Ulaanbaatar and accommodation (for four nights) and will be awarded to the most outstanding papers, though with a strong affirmative action policy for submissions by scholars from Central and South-East Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America, as well as graduate students and early career scholars.

#### **Instructions for submission of abstracts and paper drafts**

Interested applicants wishing to present original research should send their abstract to **contact@irim.mn**. The abstract should not exceed 1000 words and it should include the title of the paper, the name of the author(s), present address (including e-mail address), the name of the institution to which the author is affiliated, as well as the issues/theories, research methods, data sources and analytical tools to be used. The World Society Foundation will give highest priority to papers that combine a general theoretical discussion with new empirical findings. The scientific advisory board members and the World Society Foundation's board members will evaluate the abstract proposals and ask successful applicants to elaborate their proposals into full papers (25-30 pages, but no more than 8000 words) in English.

#### **Deadline for submitting abstracts and full papers**

- Abstract submission: October 31, 2017
- Acceptance/rejection notification: November 15, 2017
- Submission of full papers: February 28, 2018
- Final paper acceptance/rejection notification: March 15, 2018

**Local organizing committee members:** Yadmaagiin BYAMBASUREN (National Academy of Governance, Mongolia), Aldaryn DOLGION (IRIM), Chultemsurengiin TAMIR (National University of Mongolia).

**Scientific advisory board members:** Khasbazaryn BEKHBAT (IRIM), Yadmaagiin BYAMBASUREN (National Academy of Governance, Mongolia), Aldaryn DOLGION (IRIM), Oidovyn KHATANBOLD (National Academy of Sciences, Mongolia), Christian Suter (World Society Foundation Zurich / University of Neuchâtel), and Chultemsurengiin TAMIR (National University of Mongolia).

**Publication:** The most outstanding conference contributions will be published in a forthcoming conference volume.

**Conference Sponsorship:** The main sponsor of the conference is the World Society Foundation (Zurich, Switzerland).

**Contact:** For all conference issues contact **contact@irim.mn** and visit our website for updates at <http://www.worldsociety.ch/doku.php> and [www.irim.mn](http://www.irim.mn)