Participants

**AFGHANISTAN**

**Hezb-e-Junbish Milli Islami**

The National Islamic movement of Afghanistan political party was established in 1993. It is formally registered in the ministry of justice. It works hard to increase people’s role in the politics of Afghanistan. The party has twelve party members in the Lower House of Afghanistan, eight senators in the Upper house, and 42 provincial council members from different provinces. The party has provincial offices in 24 provinces of Afghanistan. The party is led by General Abdul
Rashid Dostum the former Jahidi commander. The party head is elected based on the congress which is held every two years. The party has different activities for youth such as a yearly program of sending high school graduates for higher education in foreign countries for Bachelors or Master degrees. The party has a strong organization for youths by the name of “Youths Movement of Afghanistan” It has around (100,000) members. In each provincial council of party there are centers for youth to teach them on English and computer skills.

Abdullah Faez

Abdullah Faez was born in the Badakhshan province of Afghanistan. Mr. Faez received a Bachelors in Law and Political Science Degree from Kabul University in 2010. He was the head of Armaghan Jawan monthly publication during his education period. He was also the deputy of the Youth Movement Association of Afghanistan and chief editor of Yashlar Junbishi, a monthly publication. Mr Faez was also a producer of Youth Voice program in Ayena TV station. He has undertaken research on human rights, women rights, women rights in Islam, democracy and elections, peace in Islam, and political parties’ law. He is currently working on a manual about Leadership. Mr Faez is now a member of the National Islamic Movement Political Party of Afghanistan Central Council. He is also a professional assistant in the Lower House of the National Assembly.

Hezb-e-Harakat Islami

Harak-e-Islami party of Afghanistan was founded by Mr. Mohsiny (Hazrat Auyatolah Mohsiny) a famous Islamic scholar in Afghanistan in 1983. In the beginning the party was a military and political party. Harakat-e-Islami fought against Russia’s forces when Afghanistan was occupied by Russia. The party participated in the Jehad. In Mujahidin period Harakat-e-Islami party had two ministers and one deputy of prime ministry. After the war period the party decided to end its military section and started working as political party in the country. Currently Harakat-e-Islami party has 12 members in lower house of parliament, including the party leader. As well the second deputy of Parliament is member of Harakat party. The party leader is Member of Parliament as well. Also, the party has 8 senators in Upper house of parliament. The party has 8 members of provincial council in different provinces. The party has provincial offices in 19 provinces of Afghanistan.

Mohammad Taher Muhammady

Mohammad Taher Muhammady was born in Yakawlang district of Bamyian province. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Political sciences at Baqeroululum University.

He worked in the Presidential palace, as well as in MRRD for one year, then USAID for six months. He has worked as chief editor of Baharistan magazine as well chief editor of people weekly and Hambastagi weekly. He has also worked as provincial council member of Harakat-e-Islami party in Bamyian province and chosen to be the deputy of Bamyian provincial council. He is now the spokesperson and political trainer of the party and has trained more than 1000 party activists throughout Afghanistan.
Mr Muhammady has undertaken research on political power, Islam, peace and tolerance, and sociology in developing countries.

**BANGLADESH**

**Bangladesh Nationalist Party**

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (Bangladesh Jatiotabadi Ddl), commonly referred to as the BNP, is the mainstream center-right political party in Bangladesh. BNP ruled Bangladesh for a total of 14 years since independence, the longest of any party in Bangladesh. It is currently the largest opposition party in the 9th Parliament of Bangladesh. Founded in 1978 by Lieutenant General (retd) Ziaur Rahman, the Seventh President of Bangladesh, the party has evolved into one of the most powerful and influential political entities in South Asia. The BNP was established by President Zia to provide a political platform for him after his assumption of power during Bangladesh’s volatile period that resulted from the coup and counter coup during 1975.

Ideologically, the party has professed Bangladeshi Nationalism, and free market economic policies, including freedom of speech and press. The BNP is described as the Islamic consciousness of the people of Muslim majority Bangladesh, in order to counter the secular Awami League. The BNP has been opposed to Communism and socialism since its inception and advocates vigorous free market policies. It is also seen to distrust Bangladesh’s large neighbour India and often opposes cooperation with the neighboring country in combating terrorism and establishing regional connectivity.

**Musammat Shammi Akhter**

Musammat Shammi Akhter has more than 23 years active experience in student/party politics and is currently a Member of Parliament. She is a member of the Parliamentary standing committee on library and Vice President of A11 Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Agriculture. Musammat has been interested in politics since her student days when she joined the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's student wing- Bangladesh Chhatra Dal. She was as a student leader of Dhaka University and was elected twice as a Member and once as a Joint Secretary of the Bangladesh Student Party during 1992 and 1998. After student life Musammat joined the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) inspiring by the great leader and founder of Bangladesh Nationalist party Ziaur Rahman. She was a Member of the National Committee for the Celebration of the 1400 anniversary of Bangali New Year. Presently she works as a Member of the National Executive Committee of Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Joint Convenor of Jamalpur District BNP and as a Member of the Central Women's Committee.

**Bangladesh Awami League**

On 23rd June of 1949 Bangladesh Awami League was founded while current Bangladesh was part of Pakistan. Bangladesh Awami League, the biggest party of Bangladesh, under the leadership of our father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh MujiburRahman led all the historic movements of Bangalee people such as the language movement of 1952, the 6-points movements of 1966, and the great non-cooperation movement of 1969. The culmination of all these led to the epic liberation war of 1971. After independence, Awami League served the country for the period of
three and half years while successfully initiated the daunting task of rebuilding the war ravaged country.

After the controversial election of 2001, Awami League activists were brutalized like never before. An unprecedented numbers of politically motivated cases were lodged and government-backed atrocities knew no bounds. Against this back drop the party leadership took bold steps to reorganize the party again from bottom to the top. These organizing activities across the country created tremendous enthusiasm among the party workers and also gave them courage to fight back against oppression. In 2007, another military-backed government took power and tried to thwart the movement for democracy and fair election. But our party leadership’s uncompromising stance and people’s unyielding support foiled all the conspiracy and paved the way for a fair election in 2008 through which Awami League came to power again.

Tanvir Shakil Joy

Mr Tanvir Shakil Joy started his political activities when he participated actively in the student wing of the Awami League in 1988. He campaigned for elections from 1991 to 2001 in the constituency of Sirajgonj. He was also an active member of Awami League unit of Kazipur and participated in the reform and reorganizing process of the party unit. He is now an elected member of parliament from Sirajgonj-1 constituency and the second youngest member in the parliament.

As the chief coordinator of Awami League, he maintains the right discipline among different units of the party structure, ensuring true democracy inside the party along with regular consultation with grass roots level party workers.

Zunaid Ahmed Palak

Zunaid Ahmed Palak was the youngest member of parliament when he was elected in 2008 as a representative of the Awami National League Party. Since 2010 he has been an Advocate for the Bangladesh Supreme Court and a Member of the parliamentary standing committee of Bangladesh. He has been a Member of the Bangladesh Awami League, Natore District and Organising Secretary since 2009.

Zunaid has a Bachelor of Law from the National University of Bangladesh, an MSS in Political Science from Dhaka College and completed a Capstone Course at the National Defense College of Bangladesh.

FIJI

National Federation Party

The National Federation Party was established in 1963 out of the struggle of the cane farmers lobbying for long tenure lease, cane contracts and fair price for the cane, equal opportunity for education, employment in the civil service and small business development, propagation of the ideology of Fijian Independence from the British Colonial Rule and equal rights for all the people of Fiji based on the premise of one vote- one value- one nation. The party was established as result of the achievements made by the Cane Growers Federation- a industrial association that successfully negotiated the 1961 cane contracts via a Commission of Inquiry headed by Sir Malcolm Trustum Eve and the success of the Citizens Federation- a political arm of the Cane
Growers Federation in the 1963 Legislative Council of Fiji elections which saw the election of its leaders - Messers AD Patel, SM Koya and James Madhavan. They were later joined by the nominated Member - Mr. Chirag Ali Shah.

**Bimal Prasad**

Bimal Bimlesh Prasad was a Law Clerk (1994), Clerical Officer and then Executive Officer in the Opposition and then Government Member’s Office in the Parliament of Fiji. (1997-2000). He taught at DAV College in Suva from 2004 to 2005 and at DAV Girls College at Suva in 2006. From 2007 to 2011, Bimal was employed as an Administrative Officer by the Southern Forest Products (Fiji) Limited at Navua specializing in timber products and sports sponsorship for the sport of football. In the sphere of community work, Bimal has served as a Member (1999-2002) and then Chairman (2002-2004) of the Navua District Advisory Council and as a Member of the Navua and Central Divisional Development Committee from 2002 to 2004. In addition to that, he has served on the local and national bodies of the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji and numerous other local and national social, cultural and educational institutions as a volunteer, member and executive.

Bimal joined politics at a very early age as an activist in 1990. He was instrumental in the revival of the NFP Youth Movement and served as the Treasurer (1994-1996) and then as the National Vice President (1996-1998) of the NFP Youth Movement. Bimal has been a Member of the NFP Management Board and the Assistant General Secretary of the NFP since 2008. He unsuccessfully contested the General Elections in 2006.

**INDONESIA**

**Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDIP)**

Indonesian Partai Demokrasi Indonesia Perjuangan, Indonesian political party formed in 1973 through the forced merger of five non-Islamic political parties. In the final three decades of the 20th century, it was one of two opposition parties officially recognized by the government, and though it often was supportive of the policies of President Suharto, its antigovernment faction, led by Megawati Sukarnoputri, was instrumental in Suharto’s fall from power in 1998. In 1999 the PDIP became the largest in the legislature, and in 2001 Sukarnoputri was elected Indonesia’s president. In 2004, however, Sukarnoputri was defeated in her bid for reelection, and the PDIP was supplanted by Golkar as the largest party in the legislature.

**Diah Pitaloka**

Diah is a member of the Indonesian Democratic Party-Struggle (PDI-P) and has attended many international training courses and events as their representative in Australia, China, France, US and also within Indonesia. Diah is passionate about improving the participation of women and young people in politics and public life in Indonesia. She has worked in various positions for the Women Headed Household Empowerment Campaign. Diah studied journalism at Padjadjaran University, graduating in 2004. She is currently in the final stages of her thesis majoring in International Relations at Parahyangan University in Banding.
**Iraq**

**Kurdistan Democratic Party**

Since its inception in 1946, the party has led the struggle of the Kurdish people in Iraq to regain their legitimate rights and raise the banner of democracy for Iraq and autonomy for Kurdistan. It led a great revolution in September 1961 under the leadership of the Kurdish leader Mustafa Barzany where he had always preferred a diplomatic solution and accepted negotiations whenever called by the governments in Baghdad in an effort to stop the bloodshed and bring peace. March 11, 1970 was the first diplomatic victory for the Kurds, where the revolution forced the Iraqi government to sign an agreement that recognized the rights of Kurds and gave them autonomy in Kurdistan Iraq. In 1974 the Iraqi government reneged on the Convention and fighting began again to the year 1991. After the second Gulf War, the party popular uprising that resulted in the formation of the Parliament of Kurdistan of Iraq is the first democratic parliament freely elected by the people and the formation of the first government of Iraqi Kurdistan in 1994. Since that time, the Kurdish people to choose its own parliament and his government and himself at full liberty.

After the liberation of Iraq in 2003 the party helped coalition forces a lot and the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Kurdish leadership are the main sponsors and protectors of the democratic process in Iraq and the safety valve to unify Iraq.

**Maryuan Fouad Abdulhasan**

Maryuan joined the Kurdistan Democratic Party in April 2003 after the liberation of Iraq. During high school he practiced as a member in the Student’s Union of Kurdistan and then in July 2003 he was elected as an administrator of the Commission on secondary schools in the Union. In April 2003 he was elected as an administrator in the Baghdad branch then in March 2006 he was elected to membership of the organization’s office in section V of the party in Baghdad. In October of 2006 he was elected as watcher on the Students Union of Kurdistan and in July 2007 he joined the covenant of the development of party cadres of the Kurdistan Democratic Party of and then department head of Culture and Information in April 2008 in section V of the party in Baghdad. Maryuan was elected as an administrator, department organization in the local committee Altaakhi and is now responsible for 1300 members in his committee.

**MALAYSIA**

**Parti Keadilan Rakyat**

PKR is a centrist political party in Malaysia formed in 2003 by a merger of the National Justice Party and the older Malaysian People's Party. Keadilan was led by Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail and increased its parliamentary representation from 1 seat to 31 seats in the Malaysian general election, 2008 until the five-year political ban imposed on former Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim was lifted on 14 April 2008.

Keadilan promotes an agenda with a strong social justice and anti-corruption emphasis. Recently the party adopted a platform that seeks to abolish the New Economic Policy and replace it with a policy that emphasises on a non-ethnic approach in poverty eradication and correcting economic imbalances.
Isnaraissah Munirah

Munirah is born in 1982 and graduated from University Malaysia Sabah as B. Eng Hons Electrical Engineer. She was the secretary for sports bureau under student council during my university year and she is now the Leader of Srikandi Negeri for Negeri Sabah. She leads younger women members of the party in the state to be aware of what is going on in the nation.

PAKISTAN

Pakistan Peoples Party

This party was founded in 1967, on November 30th and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto became the first Chairman. He was working a number of liberal leftist who wanted Pakistan to disregard the idiom of Religion in Politics in favor of a Program of rapid modernization of the country and the introduction of a socialist economy. The Party Creed is Islam is our faith, Democracy is our Politics, Socialism is our Economy and All power to the people.

Pakistan people’s party believes on the power of the people and always chose a Constitutional path to strengthen democracy in Pakistan and it will continue in a same way as its leader has done.

Hina Gulzar

Hina Gulzar is currently the Information Secretary for the Pakistan People’s Party (PPP). She has run workshops for PPP members on internal party communication and elections and campaigning. In 2006 she was elected as the first woman leader of the PPP youth wing. Hina’s involvement in politics is motivated by events in her country including the exile of various prominent leaders and the assassination of Benazir Bhutto. In 2007 she gave a presentation on the role of media in society to a training run by NDI for the PPP youth wing.

Awami National Party

On 1st May 1986 a combined convention of the country’s four nationalist and progressive parties i.e. National Democratic Party (NDP) of Sher Baz Mazari, the Pakistan National Party (PNP) of Latif Afridi, the Mazdoor Kissan Party (Afzal Bangash Group) headed by Sardar Shaukat Ali and the Sindh Awami Tehrik (Palijo group) was held in Bilour House Peshawar. A sixteen members committee was organized which includes four from each component parties to draft manifesto, constitution and etc. for the new born party.

On 3rd May another meeting of the leaders of four parties held in Hakim Ali Zardari (Father of Asif Ali Zardar and Father in law of Benazir Bhutto) house at Karachi. Sardar Shaukat Ali, convener of the conference, who released details about the initial organization structure of the proposed party made public the final decision. For the final merger, a committee was formed comprising two members from each party. The central council includes one hundred members having equal number from each party. The above-mentioned four parties merged together and
formed a new political party, the 'Awami National Party' (ANP). Abdul Wali Khan was elected its first president and Sardar Shaukat Ali as first Secretary General of the party. On 3rd September 1987, Afzal Khan was elected provincial president of NWFP and Arbab Hamayun (younger brother of Arbab Sikandar Khan Khalil, former Governor General of NWFP) as a provincial General Secretary, Bashir Ahmed Bilour as senior vice President and Jahangir Khan Tareen as vice President. The party manifesto will strive for the establishment of prosperous, peaceful and liberal society.

Kamellah Khan

Kamellah has worked as a political activist with the Awami National Party (ANP) for the past 8 years. She chose ANP because it’s a secular party with a history of non-violence and her father worked for ANP for 35 years. During university Kamella was president of the law department which gave her confidence to engage with men as a leader. In 2009 she joined the Baacha khan educational foundation youth leadership program as a master trainer and visited all the districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhawa giving training to youth. In the same year she was elected as provincial vice president of Pakhtoon student’s federation. Kamella works to strengthen the ANP’s youth wing. She worked with forum of Federation for 1 year and attended the conference on constitutional reforms in Berlin. She has also worked with UNDP to implement a project on Alternative Dispute Resolution. Kamella is passionate about motivating women and making them aware of their rights. For this reason she has established an organization for political education for women and youth. She is now at the senior level working as a central vice president of ANP and is the youngest member of the central cabinet.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Papua New Guinea Country Party

Wilson Thompson

Wilson Thompson, MBE, is the Secretary and Public Officer of the PNG Country Party since 2001. Wilson joined the Party at a critical time as it was about to be deregistered and was involved in bringing one Member of Parliament (Dickson Maki) in 2002. In 2007, with good administrative support and development of campaign strategies and policies, the Party managed to nominate 40 candidates and won 3 seats which is exceptional for a small and growing party. Since 2007 Wilson has been involved with the Liberal Party of Australia, Centre for Democratic Institutions and the Asia Pacific Democratic Union which has resulted in the development of Regulations, Party Platforms and amendments to the Constitution and a 2012 National Election Policy. Wilson has used his leadership and vision as Party Secretary to capture the visions of the Parliamentary Wing and the national executive.
Party Demokratiko Pilipino

Partido Demokratiko Pilipino (PDP) was founded in 1982 by Aquilino Pimentel, Jr. In 1983, it merged with the Lakas ng Bayan party, founded earlier by former Senator Benigno Aquino, Jr. in 1978. Thus PDP-Laban party was born. It has survived in the Philippine political scene for the past 30 years by entering into coalition and alliance with other parties. PDP LABAN today is headed by its chairman, current Vice-President of the Philippines, Hon. Jejomar Binay.

Fermin Mabulo

Fermin Mulleda Mabulo was Commissioned as a Regular Officer in the Philippine Army with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant upon graduation at the Philippine Military Academy. He held various positions in the Philippine Army from Platoon Leader to Infantry Company Commander and he received several awards and decorations. He is a qualified Airborne Trooper and trained scuba diver.

Fermin organised the Magdalo Group, a group of young military officers who staged a coup d’ etat against former President Gloria Aroyo. He was imprisoned for 3 months because of that involvement. He was later cleared by the Supreme Court of his coup d’ etat case. In 2004, he went on self exile to the United Kingdom and worked as a Security Manager for almost 4 years.

In 2007, he decided to return to the Philippines where he ran for public office and was elected as Mayor of the Municipality of San Fernando, Province of Camarines Sur. During his term as Mayor, he implemented numerous pro-poor programs, projects and activities and instituted reforms within his sphere of influence. In 2010, he ran for a seat in the Philippine House of Representatives against the incumbent Congressman who happened to be the son of then sitting Philippine President. He lost the race amid rampant electoral fraud and vote buying. Fermin was appointed Provincial Administrator of the Provincial Government of Camarines Sur. He now works at the Provincial Capitol as the alter-ego of the Governor.

Non Party

Eirene Jhone Aquila

Eirene Jhone E. Aguila is a Consultant to the Department of Finance’s Privatization and Management Office as well as the Department of the Interior and Local Government. She chairs the Technical Working Group of the Inter-Agency Committee on Persons Deprived of Liberty.

Eirene completed her Bachelor in Science major in Management Engineering at the Ateneo de Manila University. She earned her Juris Doctor from the Ateneo de Manila School of Law in 2004. Following law school, she worked as an associate at the office of the former Solicitor-General and Secretary of Justice, Estelito P. Mendoza. In 2009, because of her active involvement in the Kaya Natin! Movement for Good Governance and Ethical Leadership, she resigned from the firm to focus on the National Elections of 2010.