



## **NATIONAL CITIZENS' MOVEMENT FOR FREE ELECTIONS (NAMFREL)**

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**PRESS RELEASE**  
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### **“Leading by example”: NAMFREL conducts an election monitoring workshop for Asian watchdogs**

On November 10 to 11, 2014, the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL) and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) conducted the Asian Citizens' Election Monitoring Organization (ACEMO) Workshop at the Dusit Thani Manila, Makati City.

The workshop aimed to help newly-formed citizens-led election monitoring organizations from six different Asian countries transitioning to more democratic states, to address the growing challenges that they face. To attain this objective, NAMFREL resource persons discussed the status and emerging challenges to Asian democracy and the importance and role of election monitoring organizations (EMOs) in this context. NAMFREL also shared how it was able to help restore the faith in the electoral process in the Philippines through engagements, projects and an established relationship with its election management body, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC).

Michael McNulty, NDI Senior Program Manager for Elections and Political Processes, wrote in his letter to NAMFREL days after the event that, in addition to presenting theories and history, NAMFREL was also able to “demonstrate in practice those principles” by involving the members of the organization from the leaders to the volunteers in the organizing of the ACEMO and the succeeding event, the 9th Implementation Meeting of the Declaration of Principles on International Election Observation (DoP-IEO), and (the) leveraging of private sector sponsorship to help support the cost of the two events. “This ‘leading by example’ approach helped the citizen observer participants, many of whom are fairly new groups, see first-hand how they can build a sustainable organization that have real impact on electoral integrity and broader democratic processes,” he added.

The following organizations participated in the ACEMO workshop : the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR-India), Democracy and Elections Watch (DEW-Nepal), Transparency International – Cambodia (TIC), Jaago Foundation (Bangladesh), Myanmar’s People’s Alliance for Credible Elections (PACE), Afghanistan National Participation Organization (ANPO), Afghanistan Youth National Participation Organization (AYNSO) and Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan (TEFA).

