



TAIWAN FOUNDATION  
for DEMOCRACY

財團法人臺灣民主基金會

## **The Role of the New Generation in Building a Democracy: Child and Youth Participation in Taiwan in light of its Commitment to uphold the Provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**

**Speaker: Veronica Mae C. Yan**  
**Democracy and Human Rights Fellow, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy**

**Date:** Thursday, June 13, 2019

**Time:** 14:00 – 16:00

**Venue:** Taiwan Foundation for Democracy

No.4, Alley 17, Lane 147, Section 3, Sinyi Road, Taipei 106, Taiwan

**Moderator:** Ms. Ye Ta Hua (葉大華秘書長)

Secretary General, Taiwan Alliance for Advancement of Youth Rights and Welfare

**Discussant:** Ms. Hsiao Ethan (蕭伊真研究員)

Researcher, Youth Synergy Taiwan Foundation

### **Agenda:**

14:00 – 14:10 Opening remarks by Ms. Ye Ta Hua

14:10 – 15:00 Presentation by Ms. Veronica Mae C. Yan

15:00 – 15:30 Comments by Ms. Hsiao Ethan

15:30 – 16:00 Open discussion

**※ Please note that this event will be conducted in English.**

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The Legislative Yuan of Taiwan passed the Implementation Act of the Convention on the Rights of the Child where it has adopted the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) as part of its domestic law. Despite not being a member of the United Nation, Taiwan has decided to integrate and implement international human rights standards within its borders including the rights of the child. Taiwan has recognized the value of children and youth and the need to respect, protect and fulfill their rights.

The rights of a child, as enumerated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, can be classified into four (4) categories: the rights to survival, development, protection and participation. While all the rights under each category are equally important, the rights to

participate are often least prioritized, or worse, ignored and set aside. Reasons for this vary – it can be due to necessity as when issues on survival or protection of children are more pressing. It may also be cultural, following the adage that ‘children should be seen and not heard’ thereby cultivating a culture where children and youth are not given the opportunity to speak out. Yet, the right to participation still exists and should necessarily be given the appropriate recognition and attention.

The research will look into the role of children and youth as citizens and how they can contribute to nation-building through meaningful participation, especially in the context of a young, yet rapidly growing democracy of Taiwan. Existing measures available for children to participate in governance both at the local or national level will be discussed as well as the surrounding historical and cultural nuances that may have an effect on the openness to child participation in general.

Children and youth are valuable members of any society. While they are expected to be the leaders in the future, they are still of value at the present. The next generation leaders are not meant to simply and idly wait for their turn as even the younger members of society can contribute to strengthening democracy, provided that they are equipped and empowered to play the roles they were meant to fill.

- Veronica Mae C. Yan

### **Speaker Biography**

Veronica Mae C. Yan, J.D., is a human rights advocate and child rights lawyer from the Philippines. She graduated from the University of the Philippines with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and pursued her Juris Doctor degree at the Ateneo de Manila University School of Law. After passing the Philippine Bar in 2014, she worked as a Program Officer at the Ateneo Human Rights Center (AHRC) where she was trained as a human rights lawyer. Working at AHRC exposed her to different areas of human rights advocacy – from engaging with grassroots to education as well as policy development. After a year of working on general human rights issues, she focused on children’s rights and became a Program Officer for the Adhikain Para sa Karapatang Pambata (AKAP) or the Child Right’s Desk of AHRC. She was involved in several projects for the promotion of children’s rights, both locally and in the ASEAN region. Since then, she has been involved in developing child rights policies for children. Currently, she is a Democracy and Human Rights Fellow at the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy. Her research is focused on Child Participation in Taiwan.

## RSVP

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No.4, Alley 17, Lane 147, Section 3, Sinyi Road, Taipei 106,  
Taiwan

※Please RSVP by Monday, June 10, 2019

Will attend

Unable to attend

Mr./Ms./Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: Sih-Wei, Li 李僖璋  
Phone: (02) 2708-0100 ext. 119  
Fax: (02) 2708-1148  
Email: [lisihwei@tfd.org.tw](mailto:lisihwei@tfd.org.tw)