

Tallózó

Democracy that Delivers #408 – FEDN Global Conference – Democratic Challenges and Opportunities in Asia

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Abstract

According to the podcast article of Democracy that Delivers “FEDN Global Conference – Democratic Challenges and Opportunities in Asia” (2024) [1], both host and guests from the Center for International Private Enterprise were deeply discussing the chances and challenges that Asian regions will face.

The beginning of the conversation was started with the strength of the economic part of Asia, which is recognized internationally as China and India. Even though their economies are strong, meanwhile their democracy has struggled with the political side which leads their democratic to be slightly decreased by the policies. In case, Bangladesh for instance, has been over controlled, and people would be unsatisfied with what their government have been doing presently.

However, if we are talking about Asian nations that can make companies or partnerships from all over the globe to invest in, they would think about Japan, Korea and Taiwan. As the countries have their own markets and sort of power in the global economic stage. According to that, investors might turn to those mentioned nations instead of China for independent policies. As well as the variety through the political, markets and also the governments’ criterias.

Apart from democracy, the conversation was focusing on the liberal democracy as well, which was a huge difference between both of the terms. Due to liberal democracy it has limits of the government, as well as the freedom and rights are also protected. Which makes many countries in Asia probably unable to accept it. Moverover, trust was also the important point that had been raised to discuss. As the more governments have alliances the more citizens are trusted, they would be blissful if the government didn’t act in terms of corruption for example, which means people can be impressed with the real democracy by the government that has taken the certain action to them.

Another challenge of democracy was the government needs to make democracy functional and to gain support. As liberal democracy contains small elements such as justice and the ability to join the markets, people can see that the relationship among the government and private sectors is none of corruption involved.

The opportunities, on the other side, Asia is the largest continent in the world which means that if there is a population that would be a big market there. The companies from the western countries are slowly moving to take action or thinking about Asian countries more to invest. Not only the nations such as India and China, but Japan, and Korea and so on also have a big market and have economic improvement as well.

Southeast Asian countries such as Singapore are also being recognized globally. As well as Thailand and Vietnam which are developing to draw the attention from the investors to do the investments in their regions which are the opportunities to grow more.

In my point of view, based on the article that I have found, I believe that every challenge comes with opportunities to open new innovation, knowledge and development in certain divisions of economy and business sides. The investors will invest more and more in the near future in Asia or Southeast Asian countries. According to the population and business man that can surely drive the enterprise sectors including China, India, Japan, Korea, Singapore and Thailand. As they are presently developing and growing their businesses competitively. And they also have strength to purchase and invest with.

In addition, as I come from Asia, I can see how they improve their own countries in economics. Compared to western countries which mostly developed, many companies would like and be able to expand their investments to Asia as I mentioned that Asian people have sort of power to purchase and invest if the enterprises from Europe or the US aim to grow their businesses in Asia. I can expect that the economics in Asian countries will be more competitive and have lots of investments around the globe.

Democracy that Delivers #404 – ACGC – Anti-Corruption in Mexico: Elections, Programs, and North American Trade

Based on the conversation under the article “Anti-Corruption in Mexico: Elections, Programs, and North American Trade”, 2024 [2], the host welcomed the guests, Ambassador Tony Wayne and Gabriela Blanco, an anti corruption expert. In the conversation, all of the speakers were talking about the anti-corruption in Mexico, including the small and medium industries or SMEs and how to take serious action about the certain case.

Beginning with an Ambassador Wayne had mentioned about Mexico facing the challenges of the struggling and managing the corruption situation. Even Mexico has many effective rules to focus on, unfortunately there is a lack of tools to make the laws work well. Mexico had an

agreement for the project with the US and Canada, USMCA under NAFTA in the 1990s and 2020 to reduce the corruption mainly with the large enterprises to start their businesses in the USA and North America.

Along with the deal under USMCA and has a good framework to stand up for corruption, however Mexico has lack of funds to support and the management will be left in power soon. So it leads Mexico to the struggle of fighting the corruption situation and to face the rate crimes of the bribe as well. In this matter, both private sector and government should work well together to solve the certain problem by organizing the transparency system, prosecution system and to decrease the impunity towards corruption.

In addition, companies and enterprises are facing the challenges that there was not enough support by the public sector, although they have such a good framework of integrity and they also would like to rely on transparency and justical. However the public sector does not work with them properly, therefore the businesses have to fight for the right as they need license and permission to run their businesses.

On the other hand, since Mexico and the US had traded together, they have a huge number of companies that are following the regulations of anti-corruption. Big companies have to take responsibility and ensure that their suppliers are under and respect the rules. Moreover, the President, Claudia Sheinbaum, the new government of Mexico is going to take charge of her job in October. Hopefully, she will distribute the USMCA agreement to assist the small and medium enterprises to understand the rules of anti-corruption well and effectively.

In addition, people who respond to this project have been working through CIPE and Dexis by assisting the training and enhancing the program to widely understand the transparency and reduce corruption to the government division. Also, they are currently working with private and public sector and civil society to see how great of framework and important materials that they have.

In the last session of the article, they summed up how to make anti-corruption strong which they should reconsider and set new arrangements among USMCA including the enforcement of corruption practices and improve the cooperation with other nations. Also, to assist both private and public sectors to understand more and make a renegotiation in the future. Revision is also important, as they wish to make a renegotiation, but to have a review of the framework can be done well or better implementation by rearrangement the agreement in economy sectors.

In my perspective, Mexico has such a great framework of their anti-corruption work, however they need more support from the public sector or government to work with efficiency. As their small and medium enterprises have a potential for the material and are assisted by USMCA, but lack the implementation to make it work.

Their rules and regulations need to be widely trained and followed, however it is not good enough for related people who do not really see how important transparency is. Luckily, they will find hope from their new government which potentially may change the rules to become better and more effective in the near future.

References

- [1] Democracy that Delivers #408 – FEDN Global Conference – Democratic Challenges and Opportunities in Asia. (2024, September 11). Center for International Private Enterprise. <https://www.cipe.org/podcast/democracy-that-delivers-408-fedn-global-conference-democratic-challenges-and-opportunities-in-asia/>
- [2] Democracy that Delivers #404 - ACGC - Anti-Corruption in Mexico: Elections, Programs, and North American Trade - Center for International Private Enterprise. (2024, August 7). Center for International Private Enterprise. <https://www.cipe.org/podcast/democracy-that-delivers-404-acgc-anti-corruption-in-mexico-elections-programs-and-north-american-trade/>