

## German Quarterly Journal *südostasien*, Issue 1/2014

### Call for Papers

Editorial deadline: **1.12.2013**

Contact editorial board: Kristina Großmann: [rossarigo@gmx.net](mailto:rossarigo@gmx.net)

### Media Freedom and Freedom of Opinion in Southeast Asia

The consolidation of human rights, democracy and good governance is an essential element of the UN Millennium Declaration which was implemented to secure global peace in this millennium. In general, good governance includes transparency of administration, efficiency, rule of law and participation. But, in order to enable citizen's participation, granting freedom of opinion is crucial. Media freedom and freedom of opinion are fundamental rights that could be directed against state and other authorities to prevent one-sided limitations in the opinion forming process. Thus, freedom of opinion comes along with freedom of information what includes the access to relevant information. Referring to this, media freedom is a tool to guarantee various information channels in order to secure a free opinion forming process. Media freedom contains free practice in broadcasting, press and other (online-) media and is mainly focused around the possibility of uncensored publication of opinions and information.

There are numerous countries in which media freedom and freedom of opinion are extremely limited. Prominent examples are the trial against the band *Pussy Riot* in Russia or the controversial allegations against the artist and regime critic Ai Weiei in China. In this matter, Southeast Asia makes no exception. A lot of people living in one of the region's countries are far from being able to publicly say, write or express what they think and the access to information is often limited.

These topics will be addressed in the upcoming issue 1/2014 of the journal *südostasien*. Additionally, we would like to address questions of the limitation of media freedom and freedom of opinion due to national security, or concerning extremist, racist or discriminating contents.

Articles for the issue 1/2014 "Media Freedom and Freedom of Opinion in Southeast Asia" may cover the following topics/questions:

- Overview or comparison of state-run / non-state run censorship and / or the situation of freedom of opinion in Southeast Asian countries
- How and by which medium is criticism of the government formulated? How does freedom of opinion appear in public spaces?
- Which (new) media(s) are used by activists? How do print media, television and radio as well as the internet, blogs, social networks (Facebook, Twitter) and cell phones contribute to spread critical/oppositional content?
- What risk could activists face by using certain media?
- Overview of the transnational scene of politically motivated bloggers in Southeast Asia
- How do artists (musicians, cartoonists etc.) express their criticism on the government and which consequences are they facing?
- What kind of forms of communication is able to subvert state-run control instruments?

- What consequences does the interference of the state against critics have on the media landscape and the use of particular media?
- How do governments handle freedom of assembly? How do they treat critics, opposition groups or single dissidents?
- How can the relationship between constitution/legislature and media freedom/freedom of opinion be described?
- Description of ownership status in large media corporations and the impact on contents
- How is the access to media professions regulated and what results from that?
- Are representatives of the media paid adequately? If not, which consequences follow from that?
- Should governments limit free speech to a greater extent in case the constitution or human rights are attacked?

## **Format Specification**

Maximum character count per page (including spaces):

1 page = 3.800,

2 pages = 6.900,

3 pages = 11.000

Articles should not exceed three pages. The character count includes the headline, a prologue and one picture per page. In an optimal way, each article should contain one picture per page, hence three pictures for a three-page article.

Formatting: no, or only paragraph marks; footnotes and annotations included in the running text. Please insert subheadings, on an average two per 2.000 characters.

If you got matching pictures we could use for your respective article, we would be deeply thankful for any assistance according to that. They should, however, be suitable for monochrome printing (at least 300 dpi). Please check copyright questions and label the pictures (copyright owner and caption).