

Subject: Endorsement for Suma Shamanna – AP RVC Elections

Dear Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region

I am writing to wholeheartedly endorse Suma Shamanna for another 2-year term as the Democrats Abroad Asia Pacific (AP) Regional Vice Chair (RVC). Working with Suma has been an exceptional experience rooted in collaboration, shared purpose, and consistent leadership.

Suma's leadership style is deeply collaborative. She consistently brings new people into the fold, empowers emerging leaders, and creates space for a diversity of voices. Her efforts have been instrumental in developing new volunteers and leaders, resulting in increased voter engagement and a more representative movement. She demonstrates an unwavering commitment to open discussion and makes it a priority to meet regularly with leaders across the region. Suma is deeply committed to making a difference and to amplifying those quiet voices in the crowd.

There remains significant untapped potential in the Asia Pacific region, and Suma understands the critical need to develop capacity. I've witnessed her skillfully support new leaders through organizational complexities while working alongside country committees to strengthen operations through data analysis and strategic planning. Her guidance helps leaders navigate both technical systems and organizational structures, and throughout her tenure, she has consistently advocated for Asia Pacific's interests at every opportunity.

We need a leader who focuses on elevating the community rather than seeking personal recognition—Suma exemplifies these qualities. Should Suma be re-elected, I am sure many former Country Committee leaders such as myself will be ready to step in to also support capacity development in the region.

It is understandable that many people feel discouraged about the situation in the US, BUT we cannot afford to lose momentum. We need a local AP leader who has been consistently active and present in the region—someone who understands the realities of working with both active country committees and in nations where organizing is limited due to a lack of democratic freedoms.

Suma is able to navigate the unique challenges facing the AP region, especially during this second Trump administration. This is a critical time when we need unity and a leader who thoroughly understands our systems and how to build upon the foundation that's already in place. Re-electing Suma will allow her to build on the work of the past two years and position us more strongly for 2028, when new leadership can step in.

Based on her skills, dedication, and proven track record, Suma Shamanna is undoubtedly qualified to lead AP leaders—both new and continuing—through this pivotal moment. Her collaborative approach is what we need to build unity in the region, develop new CCs, strengthen our organization and achieve our shared goals.

I urge you to support Suma's continued leadership as our AP RVC!

Democratically yours,
Sarajeon Rossitto
DA Japan DPCA representative
AP Deputy RVC