This symposium draws from an edited collection titled “Social Enterprise in Asia: Theory, Models and Practice” that was published as part of International Comparative Social Enterprise Models (ICSEM).

For more than 20 years conceptual literature on social enterprise globally has been tackling an array of issues including: the role social entrepreneurship and innovation, especially social innovation, in the success of social enterprises; contextual factors driving the initiation social enterprises and the social economy; factors underlying trust, including social enterprises’ governance and their distribution of profits or surplus; the autonomy afforded to social enterprises in setting their own agenda; and tensions between social goals and market forces. In relation to Cambodia, Indonesia, and the Philippines, this Symposium explores: different types of models and missions of social enterprises; historical traditions and contemporary forces that are shaping the growth in social enterprise and also shaping their modus operandi; the distributive philosophies of social enterprise and attributes that contribute to stakeholder empowerment and resilient communities.

Discussion questions/prompts
1. What are the upmost priorities for social enterprise in Asia, and what social enterprise discourse is most conducive to sustainable results?
2. In the context of current realities, how is social enterprise in Asia responsive to ethical coordinates for economic decisions and economic democracy?