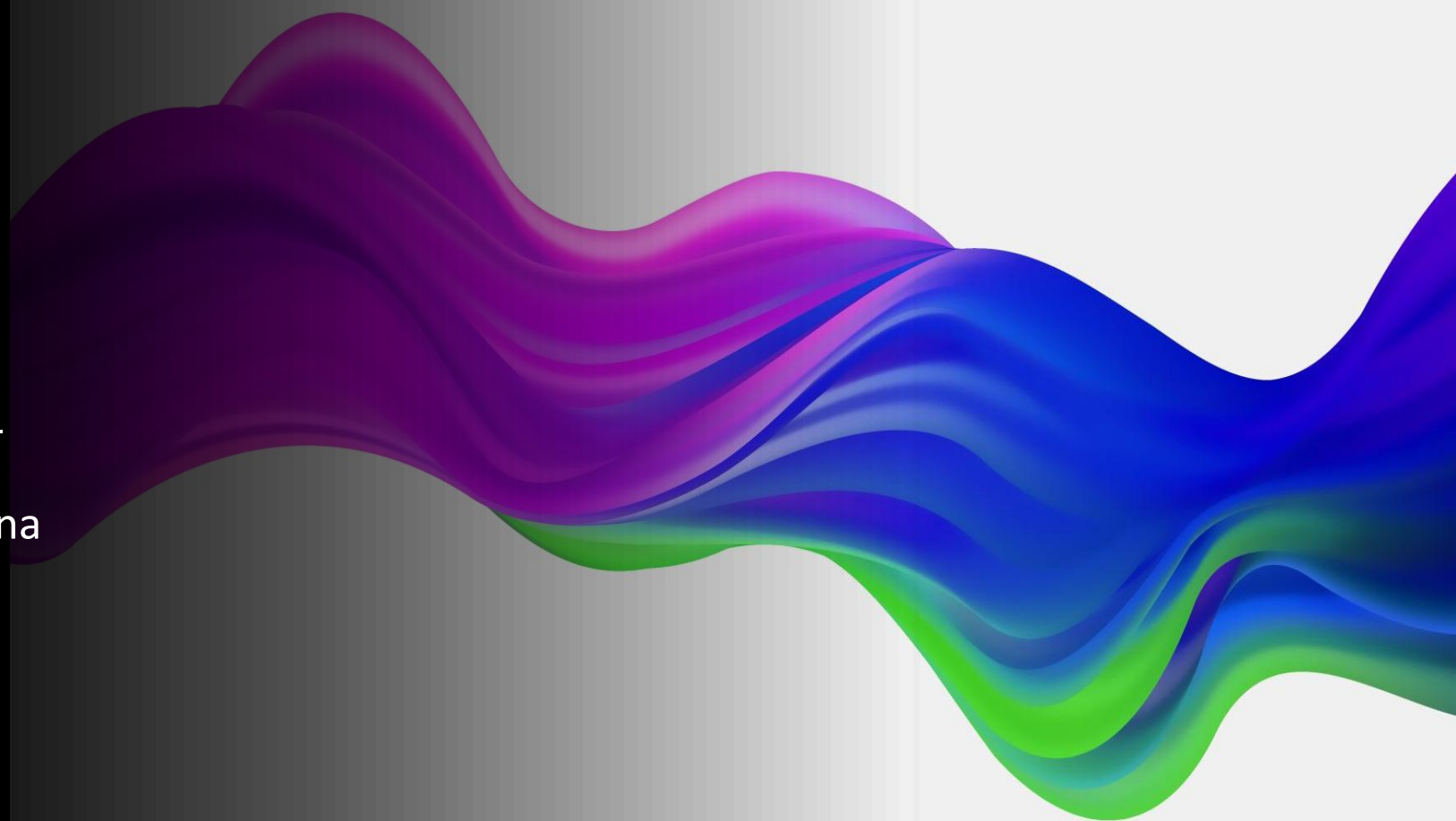




Women in Politics

Jean Encinas-Franco and Elma P. Laguna
University of the Philippines, Diliman



Discussion

- **The case for women's inclusion in formal politics**
- **The Philippine context**
- **The challenges**
- **Ways forward**



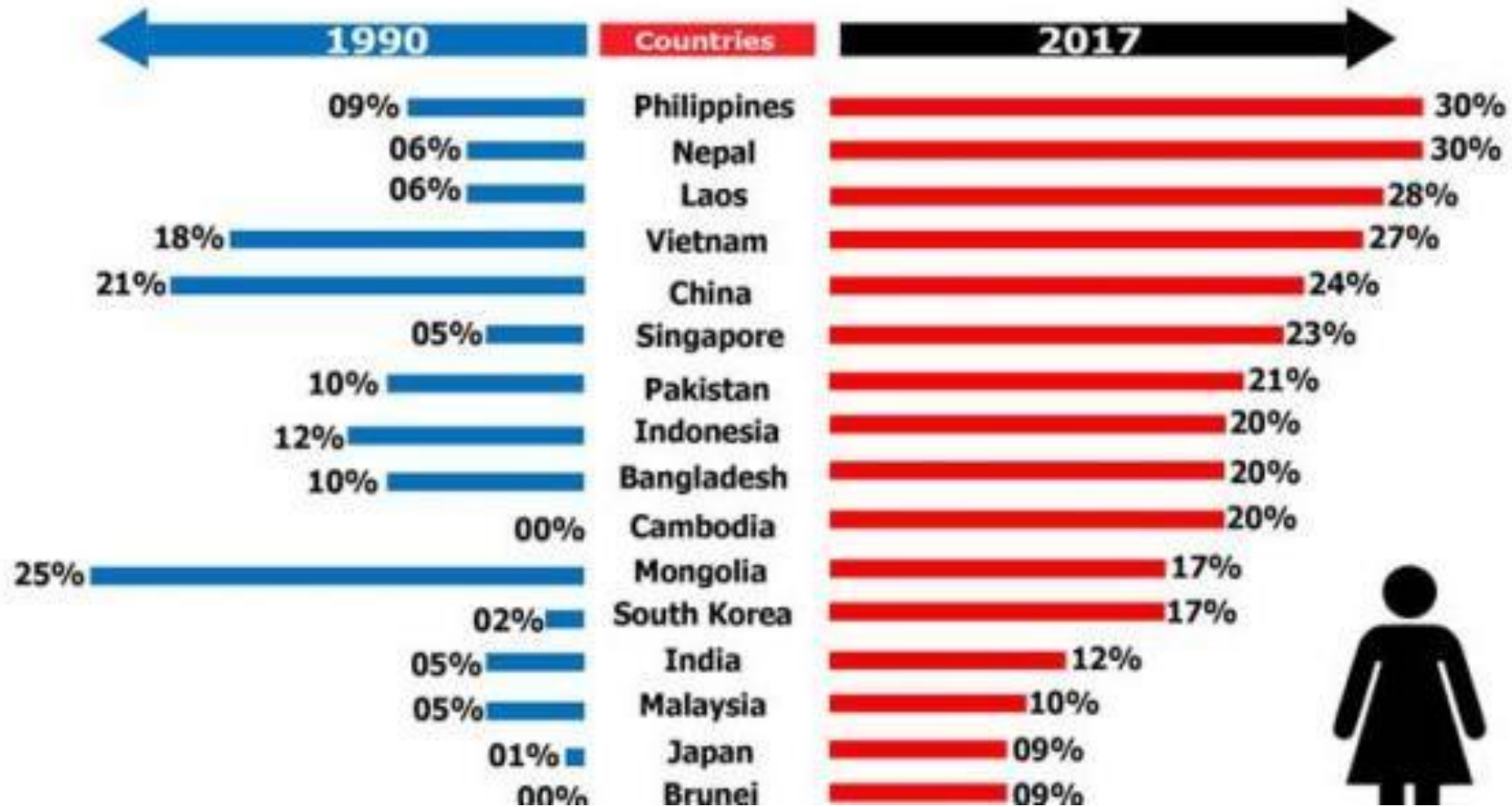
The case for women's political participation

- Democratic imperative (Asia's first democracy)
- Development outcomes (welfare outcomes)
- Symbolic value (women empowerment)
- Normative commitments (CEDAW, SDGs, 1987 Constitution)



Women Representation in Parliaments in Asia

Philippines and Nepal has the highest proportion of parliament seats held by women



Source: IPU 2018

Political Position (2022)	Male	Female
Members of the Sangguniang Panglungsod and Bayan	76%	24%
Vice Mayors	77%	23%
Mayors	77%	23%
Vice Governors	79%	21%
Governors	79%	21%
Members of the House of Representatives	73%	27%
Senators	83%	17%

Key Features

- **Dynastic**
- **Stereo-typed as bench warmers (but not all)**
- **Women who are members of political families are more likely to win**
- **Relegated to committees reifying women's traditional roles**



Estimates in closing the gender gap

- **95 years (World Economic Forum)**
- **48 years in parliaments alone**

Source: IDEA 2021



Barriers to entry

- **Weak political parties**
- **Traditional Norms**
- **Electoral system (first past the post)**
- **Masculinist and male-centric nature of politics (harassment, etc; legislative rules)**
- **Funding (male-centric)**
- **Gendered disinformation**



Ways Forward

- **Strengthening political parties (quota and incentives for gender funding)**
- **Amend the party-list law (zebra type list)**
- **Enact a law on violence against women (including disinformation)**
- **Strengthen COMELEC and train them on gender and politics**
- **Review legislative rules**



- Maraming Salamat!

REFERENCES

- Encinas-Franco and Elma Laguna. 2022. Overcoming Filipino Women's Political Participation. UP Center for Integrative Studies.
- Images are from Creative Commons