Over thirty-six years ago, the Philippines set in motion a series of demonstrations which eventually led to the overthrow of the dictatorial regime of former President Ferdinand E Marcos. Hoping to avoid a repeat of the human rights abuses during the Martial Law years, the Philippines drafted and adopted a new Constitution – the 1987 Constitution.

More than three decades later, how is the Philippines doing? Has it preserved the lessons of the Martial Law years?

**SPEAKER**

Maria Victoria Sardillo

Maria Victoria Sardillo (2023 AsiaGlobal Fellow) is an Assistant Solicitor General from the Office of the Solicitor General in the Philippines. She has represented the Republic of the Philippines before the domestic courts and also international arbitration tribunals, like the International Chamber of Commerce, Permanent Court of Arbitration, and more recently, the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes.

Maria has extensive experience in legal practice and has worked on wide-ranging litigation, which includes cases dealing with the regional autonomy of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao and the independence and jurisdiction of the Commission on Elections insofar as local election officials are concerned, among other landmark cases.

**CHAIR**

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