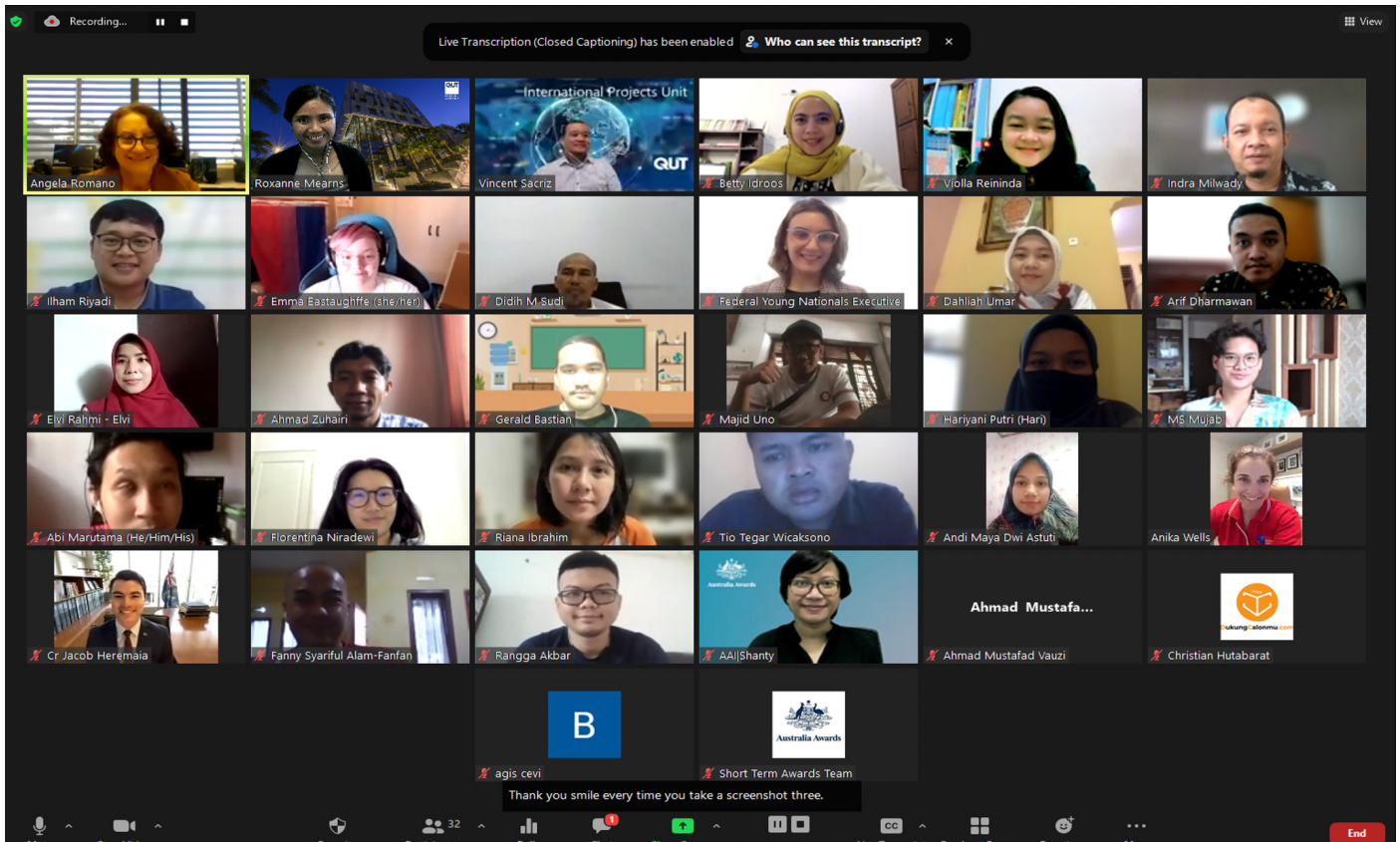




Australia Awards

Australia Awards in Indonesia - Short Term Award Democratic Resilience – Youth Participation in Indonesia's Democracy



Discussion with Australian Young Politicians – **Hon Anika Wells**, Member of National Parliament; **Cr Jacob Heremaia** (Queensland's youngest councillor), **Ms Emma Eastaughffe** (Young Greens and state election candidate for Gladstone), **Ms Alessia Maruca** (President, Young Nationals)

Course Highlights:

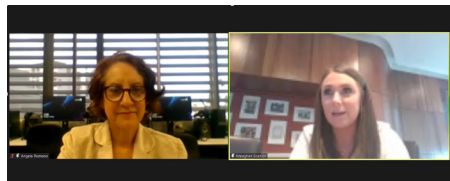
- Pre-Course (Zoom): 22, 23 & 25 February 2021
- Preparation Meetings (Zoom): 7 April, 5 May, 9 June 2021
- Course (Zoom): Twice weekly, 13 September-18 November 2021
- Award Project Mentoring Workshops (Zoom): 6 & 13 December 2021
- Post-Course Workshop (Bogor and Zoom): 14, 16 & 17 February 2022
- Workshops, guest panels and presentations, roundtables, simulations, virtual site visits.

The Australia Awards Democratic Resilience STA was a learning process for the course participants and more than 40 guest speakers and facilitators from Indonesia, Australia and other countries about building youth engagement in democracy. Activities were run mainly through Zoom due to the pandemic. A highlight of this Course was the sharing of free and frank insights from millennial and Gen Z politicians, including Queensland Youth Affairs Minister Meaghan Scanlan, Queensland Opposition Youth Affairs Minister Sam O'Connor, Federal Member of Parliament Anika Wells, and local government councillors. They offered new ideas and practical advice about building political careers, finding mentors, communicating with impact, taking action through formal and informal politics, and strategies for achieving social change.

Other sessions involved the Course Leaders and many guests from government departments, the Australian Election Commission, youth wings of political parties, youth-led movements, digital activism, multicultural agencies, peak bodies representing youth workers,



social enterprise and the business sector, non-government organisations and academia. Through workshops, panels, roundtables, presentations and simulations, the facilitators have shared theories, models of best practice, and ways to challenge meaningful youth inclusion in politics and democracy.



Discussion with Meaghan Scanlon MP, the Queensland Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs

This was a two-way learning process, and participants also enlightened speakers and facilitators about Indonesia's political culture, election systems and activism.

The participants had enormous expertise, reflecting their work in government and state agencies (Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Human Rights and Law, General Elections Commission, General Election Supervisory Agency and Corruption Eradication Commission), non-government / civil society organisations (United Nations Development Program, TEDx and other CSOs), journalism (Kompas, TVRI Riau, SIGAB Indonesia and AJI/freelance), education (universities, KokBisa online learning and Bandung School of Peace) and a political party (Indonesian Solidarity Party).

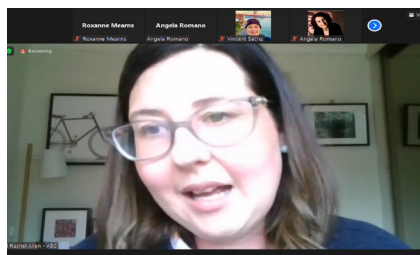
Participants sought ways to engage better with youth, to have political and digital literacy, to build the knowledge and skills of young people to engage in democratic action in both the community and formal democratic institutions, and to promote 'clean' and effective government

They also shared challenges, such as how to overcome the public perception that only big business leaders, celebrities or people born into a political dynasty can have the funds, connections or social status to succeed in Indonesian politics.

The Course was supported by Pre-Course and development workshops that introduced core theories and featured contributions from young Indonesians engaged in politics and democratic change: a Gen Z politician representing the Ministry of Youth and Sport, Alia Laksono, and Institute for Criminal Justice Reform's program director, Erasmus Abraham.

A Post-Course allowed the presentation of the Award projects developed in response to their learning, and a chance to network in person after disruptions caused by the pandemic prevented the previous activities from running in face-to-face formats.

The Post-Course also featured presentations and engagement with the Deputy of Youth Development from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Dr Asrorun Ni'am Sholeh, and human rights and social media activist, Anita Hayatunnufus Wahid.



Discussion with Rachel Allen from the Australian Electoral Commission

Award Projects

Participants completed complex, high-quality Award Projects. They still keep in contact, with plans to progress further action and collaboration following the course completion. The projects included:

- A policy handbook and information campaign to overcome the stigma that prevents youth with disabilities from participating in government institutions, policymaking and lawmaking processes. The handbook also outlines pathways for young people with disabilities to become involved in decision-making processes.
- A webinar to build political and digital media literacy so that youth can become more effective democratic actors. More than 1600 youth attended, with a WhatsApp group continuing to allow the building of networking and skills.
- An education campaign to build awareness of young people's role in politics. Digital seminars were run for youth involved in becoming involved to boost their knowledge and practice skills to engage effectively. A three-part series of articles in Kompas daily newspaper about the political activity of Indonesian youth.



TedX Jakarta's Countdown forum promoted 'green democracy' to Indonesian youth

- Activities to support 'green democracy' in Indonesia. KokBisa launched the 'Friday Night Live' discussion forum through Instagram Live and a Twitter Space seminar to talk about green politics and how youth can contribute. The launch attracted more than 9000 social media users and almost 50,000 posts. Another online forum with nine speakers who discussed different

solutions to the climate crisis attracted a live audience of more than 400 plus ongoing visits to the recordings at the TedX Jakarta Countdown 2022 site.



Workshops for youth and young political party members explored practical strategies to build electoral integrity.

- An online campaign to build elections with integrity. Two online forums were run – one for young politicians and the other for youth interested in political affairs – to explore responsibilities, opportunities and challenges in combatting money politics and engaging youth in elections.



A workshop to build effective strategies for youth inclusion in local government in Banyuwangi, East Java

- Building links between youth and local government officials. Two workshop-style webinars were run to build youth skills and facilitate networking between youth and local government in Banyuwangi, East Java. A talk show was also produced for TVRI Riau about women in political office in local government.
- Training 'Youth Ambassadors' who use digital media to promote political participation. Sixty-four ambassadors were trained in effective political communication and digital content creation.



Nine 'Youphoria' workshops explored themes about building tolerance

- 'Youphoria' workshops to build inclusion and tolerance among youth. Nine online workshops trained youth from across Indonesia in tolerance of differences of politics, race, religion, gender and sexuality.
- Video guidelines for youth on election procedures. Short videos were created for youth and schools in Banda Aceh to educate future voters about democracy, elections and the damage caused by vote buying.
- Research on strategies for inclusion of urban and rural youth. Research was conducted to consider strategies for organisations to ensure that their inclusion of youth is meaningful and effective.

Quotes:

"I am beyond grateful to be one of the Australia Awards Short Course participants. This year is unforgettable as I met and learned a lot from these inspiring mentors and remarkable fellow participants. It's a good start to 2022. (The best is yet to come.)"

"Everyone is really valuable to my work. Their information from each class deepen my existing knowledge about democracy."

"All the sessions... give new understanding, insights, and opportunities to network with great and inspiring people"

"I couldn't thank you enough!... It is amazing to work with you this year."

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