

Course Name

Democratic resilience: Youth participation in Indonesia's democracy

Background

Indonesia's large millennial population carries significant political weight. They have immense potential to drive positive change and hold the government and parliament to account, but they are also vulnerable to political and social disillusionment, misinformation and messages of intolerance. There is a need and opportunity to enhance their civic engagement, political and media/social media literacy, and connection with democratic institutions; including to support the next generation of political and civil society leaders. Indonesian young generation is also expected to play an active role in engaging with global issues. This course aims to respond to these challenges and opportunities.

While there was a worry that the participation rate in the 2019 general election among the youth population would be low, it seemed that the worry was unfounded. Despite the efforts to boycott the election the participation rate was 81%, higher than the 77.5% target set by the General Election Commission (KPU). The 2019 participation rate was also higher than the 2014 general election participation rate of 70%. It was estimated that out of 193 million voters in the 2019 election, 70-80 million voters were categorised as millennials (i.e. 35-40% of votes). Considering the high participation rate in the election it can be concluded that a large proportion of millennials voted. The Presidential Special Staff Member, Diaz Hendropriyono stated that the participation rate of youth in the 2019 election was the highest in record—80.9%. This increase in the voter participation rate could be attributed to many factors, including better political education, the success of public campaigns to increase participation rates, and also the rising fear among the minorities about the potential victory of the Islamists, which in turn attracted more of the minorities to the polling booths. Indonesia has a positive growth outlook thanks to its large population and strong domestic demand.

The mass student protests in 2019 show that the Indonesian youth care about democracy processes and systems. The protests focused on the weakening of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) and potential human rights curbs proposed in the revised criminal code. The government's response to encouraging communication and participation of the youth in the political and democratic processes received criticism.

This course will support the efforts of the Indonesian government and CSOs to improve and encourage youth participation in the democratic processes, support policy advocacy and find ways to counter misinformation and disinformation.

This course will be delivered over a 2-week period in Australia and two 3-day workshops in Indonesia (or online): TBC, subject to COVID-19. Should the COVID-19 travel restrictions remain in place in 2021 or if the course cannot be delivered in Australia for other reasons than the delivery of the whole course or part of it will be online. As part of the program the participants will have the opportunity to meet with Australian government agencies, CSOs, youth organisations working on social and political sphere, individual young politicians/activists and leading experts in the sector. Upon their return to Indonesia the participants are expected to implement their group development projects, Award Projects and disseminate the learnings from the course in their organisations.

The following learning objectives will be further refined in consultations with the Australian Embassy in Jakarta and participating Indonesian agencies. The objectives will be finalised during the pre-course workshop to match participants' individual learning objectives.

Indonesian government agencies and CSOs will be invited to deliver sessions at the pre and post-course workshops in Indonesia.

Learning objectives:

The course will focus on the following learning objectives:

- Analyse efforts to increase youth participation in democratic processes (what could be done, what has been done using different analysis tools, including SWOT)
- Benchmark and develop strategies to improve and encourage youth participation in democratic processes and enhance civic engagement
- Develop strategies to support the next generation of political and civil society leaders to advocate matters important to them (discuss with young Australian leaders who are known for advocating specific issues how they deal with the political environment; use social media, IT and other alternative media; understand the role of social media for their roles as leaders; encourage people to provide feedback on their initiatives; engage with the community; optimise the use evidence and develop analytical skills to help support their initiatives; and use volunteers to help with advocacy)
- Promote inclusive democratic governance by exploring the principles of democracy (both political and non-political processes) and collaboration between civil society, government and the private sector
- Discuss political economy and explore how the economy, society and political interests are linked (global, regional and local case studies)
- Identify ways to improve youth and communities' political, media/social media literacy and crowdfunding/fundraising skills, including using social media and networks for outreach and policy advocacy
- Provide exposure to initiatives, programs and policies to encourage youth participation in the region and globally and share lessons learned
- Be able to identify critical development issues to advocate
- Identify ways to improve leadership skills of youth to be able to influence change, take on more responsibilities in their organisations and to encourage other youth to participate in democratic processes

To achieve these outcomes, the proposed short course offers a structured learning process for participants that will utilise a range of learning methodologies, such as classroom sessions; case studies; site visits to Australian government (state and federal) agencies, CSOs, community groups, professional associations and other relevant agencies; workshops, discussion and planning sessions; simulations and role plays; networking events; and an in-depth course project. Participants are required to develop an Award Project as a method to implement learning.

Dates and location

The award is divided into three parts: pre-course workshop in Indonesia, in-Australia program and a post-course workshop in Indonesia. Attendance in the whole three parts of the course is **compulsory**. The course is scheduled as below:

- Pre-course workshop online over 3 days (TBC)

- Course in Australia or online: the objective is to deliver the 2-week course in Australia in the second half of 2021; however, if travel restrictions remain in place, the course will be delivered online. Dates and delivery method TBC subject to COVID-19 travel and health restrictions
- Post-course online or face-to-face in Indonesia: Dates and delivery method TBC subject to COVID-19 travel and health restrictions

Participants

- Staff to Echelon II (government) or specialists/middle-managers (non-government) with minimum of two years of relevant experience in social and politics, CSOs, government, media or other related field. Targeted agencies and professions include:
 - i. Relevant Indonesian government ministries
 - ii. Youth-focused CSOs
 - iii. Faith-based organisations
 - iv. Community groups / hubs
 - v. Media
 - vi. Digital platforms and online communities
 - vii. Start-up companies
 - viii. Social media influencers
 - ix. University students involved in social and political movement
- Have a minimum High School (SMA) level qualification
- Be endorsed by your current manager / supervisor
- Be committed to preparing and implementing an Award Project, a small group development project as part of the course
- Applicants are expected to have professional working proficiency in English. The applicants' English language competency is part of the selection process. The assessment of language competency is based on a phone interview and any additional evidence provided by the applicant (proof of studies or living in an English-speaking country, working in an English-speaking environment, completion of studies in English, language courses or language tests)

Women and people with disability are strongly encouraged to apply.

Gender equity will be a consideration and encouraged but not a constraint, given that participants are selected through a competitive selection process.

Participants will be identified through a competitive process whereby there is a call for applications; applicants submit an online application which is reviewed by Independent Panel Reviewers, Australia Awards and the Australian Embassy to explore motivation and other demonstrated competencies to ensure commitment and interest in the study program.

Applicants shall submit their application forms directly through **online application** by **20 September 2020**.

Please prepare documents below when submitting:

- Copy of KTP
- Latest academic certificate (Ijazah)
- Recommendation letter from supervisor/Business partner (for Business owner/Director)
- Proof of English (e.g. overseas education certificate, training certificate, TOEFL IELTS, etc.)

The selection panel will convene to select up to 25 participants. The short-listed participants will be informed of the outcome by **mid of October 2020**.