



Indonesia Civil Society Forum 2023
Civic Space, Capacity and Sustainability
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Breakout Session 2: Civil Society Preparations for the 2024 Elections

June 14, 2023, 13:30-16:00

Host: The Asia Foundation and JPPR

Since democratization in 1998, Indonesia have held five free and fair elections that have produced legitimate presidents with peaceful transitions. However, for the first time in 2024, general and local elections will be held during the same year: general elections in February and local elections in November. The general elections were already the largest one-day electoral events in the world; the addition of local elections for governors, bupati and mayors might add extra stress to the system.

In past year, money politics in the form of vote-buying has been a major issue. Adding to the tensions is an increasing polarization of society and the prevalence of online misinformation. Many other countries have also recently seen increasing interference in the elections through digital technology by both domestic and international anti-democratic actors.

Civil society has a mandate to ensure free and fair elections by monitoring elections and preparing voters. Monitoring requires a broad coalition of organizations, unconnected to political parties or candidates, that can prepare monitors at polling stations to ensure that the voting and vote counting is free, fair, peaceful, transparent and without money-politics. CSOs can also encourage the effective engagement of citizens in the political decision-making process by educating people about their rights and obligations as democratic citizens and encouraging them vote freely in elections.

This session, hosted by The Asia Foundation and JPPR, will discuss what steps are being taken for civil society to prepare itself for the 2024 elections, and what still is needed to prepare.

Guiding Questions:

1. What are the lessons from previous general and local elections that civil society can build on for 2024?
2. How can we support the emerging national civil society coalitions for democratic elections?
3. What are the electoral weak spots (*titik rawan*) that civil society can focus on?
4. What can the international community (donors and INGOs) do to support civil society preparation for 2024?
5. What lessons can Indonesia draw from electoral processes in other countries?
6. What are the best entry points in government to pursue necessary reforms?

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