



South-South and
Triangular Cooperation

***INTERNATIONAL
WORKSHOP ON
ELECTORAL
EFFICIENCY AND
SUSTAINABILITY***

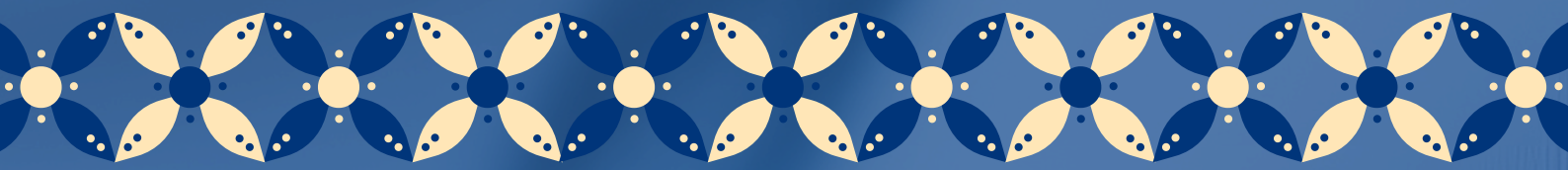


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Background

Elections are fundamental to democracy, manifesting the principles of popular participation in selecting leaders. However, as democracies are evolving, the complexities and costs associated with elections are also progressing. Conducting credible and inclusive elections requires significant resources. In many developing countries, including Indonesia, there is a growing recognition of the need to optimize election costs to improve their effectiveness while upholding democratic integrity.

As the world's fourth most populous country with more than 270 million people, Indonesia has faced this challenge at an unprecedented scale. **In 2024, Indonesia successfully conducted a national presidential election with the highest number of voters, at 168 million voters, for a democratic election globally, surpassing even the 2020 United States election at 161 million voters.** This monumental achievement highlights both Indonesia's capacity and the financial and logistical pressures of running large-scale democratic processes.

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) highlights that election costs encompass more than logistical expenses. They underpin the mechanisms that ensure political equality, public decision-making, and governance stability. For example, inadequately funded election management bodies (EMBs) risk inefficiency, limited voter turnout, and reduced trust in the electoral process. Moreover, EMBs lacking financial independence often face constraints in executing their mandates effectively, compromising election integrity. International IDEA also emphasizes the importance of reframing election financing as a continuous investment in democracy rather than a periodic expense. Investments in well-funded EMBs can improve planning, reduce last-minute expenditures, and enhance overall election quality. Conversely, underfunded systems often result in higher costs, inefficiency, and diminished voter confidence.

Background

In responding to these challenges, Government of Indonesia, Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC) and International IDEA will organize a workshop that will bring together global experts and diverse stakeholders to discuss innovative approaches to making elections both cost-effective and effective. It will also provide a platform for sharing best practices and exchanging practical solutions tailored to their contexts, offering insights into how to make elections not only cost-efficient but also effective.

In honor of the “75 Years of the Asia-Africa Conference” grounded in the Bandung Spirit of solidarity, cooperation, and mutual respect, Indonesia is committed to fostering collaboration among developing countries. As a nation with a rich democratic tradition and a recent history of managing complex and large-scale elections, Indonesia has much to share with the global community. This event will serve as a space for reflection, learning, and collaboration on enhancing the –

cost-effectiveness of democratic elections worldwide and an opportunity to place Global South perspectives at the center of the global democracy agenda.

Coinciding with the 30th Anniversary of International IDEA, this workshop forms part of Indonesia’s broader commitment to lay a strong foundation for its role as the Vice Chair of International IDEA, positioning the country to actively shape and advance global discourse on democracy and electoral integrity. Being a convener of dialogues, International IDEA is bringing some African perspectives to enrich the discussion in the spirit of Asian-African Global South exchanges. As such, the workshop will also reflect on lessons learned from past electoral processes and explore pathways for future reforms to ensure that elections remain both cost-effective and democratic.

Overall Goal

The workshop aims to enhance global understanding and collaboration on managing and optimizing election costs while maintaining democratic integrity. By fostering dialogue among experts, policymakers, and practitioners, the event seeks to identify innovative strategies and best practices for improving the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of elections, particularly in developing countries. It also aspires to position Indonesia as a global thought leader in managing large-scale elections, contributing to the broader efforts of strengthening democracy worldwide.

Objectives

01

Facilitate the sharing of experiences and strategies from developing and developed countries to optimize election costs while ensuring transparency, inclusivity, and democratic integrity.

02

Showcase Indonesia's experience in managing the world's largest voter turnout during its recent election, positioning the country as a leader in addressing the challenges of large-scale democratic processes.

03

Explore innovative solutions and technologies to reduce election costs without compromising efficiency, security, and accessibility.

04

Develop actionable recommendations for policymakers and election management bodies to enhance cost efficiency in election administration.

Scope of the Program

The program will feature facilitated networking sessions, offering participants opportunities to exchange knowledge, foster partnerships, and build collaborative networks. It will bring together a diverse group of stakeholders—policymakers, election management officials, international experts, civil society representatives, and academic researchers—to share insights, discuss best practices, and develop innovative solutions for cost-effective and inclusive election management.

In addition, participants will visit the historic birthplace of the Asia-Africa Conference in Bandung. This visit will serve as a moment to reflect on the shared values of cooperation and solidarity among nations, while also highlighting Indonesia's pivotal role in advancing international collaboration.

Stakeholders

01 Ministry of State Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia 02

03 International Institute of Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)

Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM-CSSTC) 04

05 General Elections Commission of Indonesia

Network for Democracy and Electoral Integrity (Netgrit) 06

Methodology, Expected Outputs, and Outcomes

Methodology will include:

- The program will utilize a combination of structured and interactive approaches to encourage the exchange of knowledge, practical experiences, and collaborative solutions.
- Expert-led workshop and panel discussions will provide insights into election cost management and highlight diverse perspectives from policymakers, election officials, and academics.
- Facilitated group work will be utilized to develop actionable recommendations for policymakers and election management bodies to enhance cost efficiency in election administration.

Expected Outputs:

- Participants will gain valuable insights and share best practices for optimizing election costs.
- Actionable recommendations will be developed to help policymakers and election management bodies improve cost efficiency while maintaining integrity and inclusivity.
- The field visit will enhance participants' understanding of Indonesia's infrastructure and its role in democratic processes, as well as its historical leadership in international diplomacy.

Expected Outcomes:

- Election management bodies and policymakers adopt improved strategies and innovative practices for managing election costs.
- International partnerships and networks for knowledge sharing are strengthened to address challenges in election administration.
- The program enhances democratic resilience globally by addressing financial and logistical challenges.
- Stakeholders gain a deeper understanding of the complexities and opportunities in election cost management, leading to better decision-making.

Program Agenda

The program will take place for **5 days in Bandung, Indonesia** (including days of arrival and departure), offering a strategic and accessible venue for experts and participants. The program will feature a series of panel discussions, experience-sharing sessions, and actionable recommendations designed to foster knowledge exchange and collaboration on electoral processes and cost efficiency. It will feature as follows:

TIME	TENTATIVE AGENDA
Day 0 Sunday, 19 October 2025 – Monday, 20 October 2025	
Arrival of the Participants in Jakarta and Departure for Bandung	
Day 1 Tuesday, 21 October 2025	
Inaugural Session	
08:00 – 09:00	<i>Registration</i>
09:00 – 10:05	<i>Opening Ceremony</i>
09:05 – 09:15	<i>National Anthem “Indonesia Raya”</i>
09:15 – 09:40	<u>Welcome Remarks</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IDEA• NAM CSSTC• General Election Commission of Indonesia (KPU)
09:40 – 10:00	<u>Keynote Speaker</u> Vice Minister of State Secretary (TBC)
10:00 – 10:10	<i>Group Photo</i>
10:10 – 10:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>

Program Agenda

TIME	TENTATIVE AGENDA
10:30 – 12:00	Session I: Introducing Financial Principles in Relation to Electoral Processes
	Tentative Speakers from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Election Commission of Indonesia • IDEA • Electoral Commissioner of Australia
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
13:00 – 14:30	Session II: Effect of Financing on Electoral Integrity
	Tentative Speakers from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Finance of Indonesia • Electoral Commissioner of India • Electoral Commission of South Africa
14:30 – 16:00	Session III: Use of Technology Processes
	Tentative Speakers from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Netgrit, Indonesia • Commission on Elections of The Philippines • Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission of Kenya
16:00 – 16:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:00 – 17:30	Session IV: Considerations on Logistics and Personnel
	Tentative Speakers from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Netgrit, Indonesia • Solomon Islands Electoral Commission • Commission Electorale Nationale Indpendente, DR Congo
19:00 – End	<i>Welcome Dinner</i>

Program Agenda

TIME	TENTATIVE AGENDA
Day 2 Wednesday, 22 October 2025	
Workshop Session	
09:00 – 10:30	Session V: Campaign Cost Item and Sources of Funding
	Tentative Speakers from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parliament of Indonesia (Commission II) • Representative from Asia-Pacific • International IDEA
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee Break
10:45 – 12:15	Session VI: Innovations in Making Campaigns Less Costly
	Tentative Speakers from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association for Election and Democracy (Perludem) • Indonesian General Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) • Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL)
	Session VI Discussion
12:15 – 13:15	<i>Lunch Break</i>
13:15 – 15:15	Session VII: Plenary Session for Actionable Recommendations
Day 3 Thursday, 23 October 2025	
Field Visit	
09:00 – 10:00	Field Visit Museum of the Asian-African Conference
10:00 – 11:00	General Election Commission of Indonesia, West Java

Program Agenda

TIME	TENTATIVE AGENDA
11:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00 – 16:00	<i>Shopping Indulgence</i>
16:00 – 18:00	<i>Self-Guided Activities</i>
18:00 – 19:30	<i>Dinner</i>
19:30 – 20:30	<i>Departure to Jakarta</i>
Day 4 Friday, 24 October 2025	
Prepare for Departure for Origin Countries	

Selection of the Participants

25 persons

- Workshop resource persons,
- Participants

17 EMB representatives from:

Asia & the Pacific

- Bangladesh
- Fiji
- India
- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Mongolia
- Nepal
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Sri Lanka
- The Philippines
- Vanuatu

Africa

- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Kenya
- South Africa

8 resource speakers:

- Representative Legislators from Asia and Africa regions,
- International Experts from International IDEA and the Asian Network for Free Elections,
- Indonesian Experts from Netgrit and Association for Election and Democracy

Requirements of the Participants

1. **Professional Role** – Participants should hold a leadership position directly related to democracy, governance, or institutional strengthening in their respective country. Preference will be given to individuals serving as the Head of a Democracy Institution, with senior officials designated to represent the Head also eligible to participate.
2. **Experience** – At least five (5) years of professional experience in the field of governance, public policy, or institutional management.
3. **Commitment** – Willingness to actively participate in the full duration of the program, including pre-program preparations, in-session discussions, and post-program follow-ups.
4. **Nomination** – Officially nominated or endorsed by the respective government or relevant authority in the participant's country.

Contact Information

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