

# The Indonesian Update

Monthly Review on Economic, Legal, Security, Political, and Social Affairs



**Main Report:**  
Polemics over Regional Elections Law

**Economy**

Regional Disparity Review ■

**Law**

Democratic Interpretation Inconsistency ■

Regional Disparity Review ■

**Politics**

Observing the Jokowi-JK Cabinet Structure ■

**Social**

Agricultural Land Conversion ■

# CONTENTS

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FOREWORD .....	1
<b>MAIN REPORT</b>	
Polemics over Regional Elections Law.....	2
<b>ECONOMY</b>	
Regional Disparity Review.....	6
<b>LAW</b>	
Democratic Interpretation Inconsistency.....	9
Regional Disparity Review .....	12
<b>POLITICS</b>	
Observing the Jokowi-JK Cabinet Structure .....	15
<b>SOCIAL</b>	
Agricultural Land Conversion.....	17
INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE.....	20
RESEARCH PROGRAMS.....	21
EVALUATION .....	23
PUBLIC DISCUSSION.....	24
TRAINING & WORKING GROUP FACILITATION .....	25

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# FOREWORD

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A plenary session of the House of Representatives had finally passed the Bill on Regional Elections, which took place since Thursday (25/09/2014).

The Law on Regional Elections (Regional Elections Law) had attracted debate since the draft (RUU) submitted by the government. Pros and cons arose when the discussions touched the idea of changing the direct regional elections for Governors and Regents/Mayors into indirect regional elections through elected directly through Regional Houses of Representatives (DPRD).

The October 2014's edition of the Indonesian Update raises a main theme on "Regional Elections Law Polemics". On economics, it talks about "Reviewing Regional Disparities". On law, it reviews "Democratic Interpretation Inconsistency". On social affairs, it discusses "Agricultural Land Function Transfer".

In addition, on law, this edition of the Indonesian Update also discusses "The Constitutionality of Interfaith Marriages". And on politics, it touches on "Looking at Jokowi-JK Cabinet Structure".

The regular publication of the Indonesian Update with its actual themes is expected to help policy makers in government and business environment -- as well as academics, think tanks, and other elements of civil society, both within and outside the country, to get the actual information and contextual analysis of economic, legal, political, cultural and social developments in Indonesia, as well as to understand the public policy in Indonesia.

**Happy Reading.**

## Polemics over Regional Elections Law

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A plenary session of the House of Representatives (DPR) passed a Bill on Regional Elections on Thursday (25/09/2014), deciding to implement the old way of electing regional heads through the Regional Houses of Representatives (DPRDs).

This decision was taken by a voting mechanism to select the option of direct elections (135 people) and the option of a mechanism through DPRDs (226 people). During the process, the Democratic Party decided to walkout from this plenary session around midnight.

### **Polemics over Regional Elections**

Law on Regional Elections (Regional Elections Law) has been debated since it was only a Bill (RUU) initiated by the government. Pros and cons had arisen since there was a discussion on changing the direct regional elections by people to the indirect regional elections by DPRDs.

According to the spokesperson of the Ministry of Home Affairs (Kemendagri), Dodi Riatmadji, the reason for the proposal to change direct regional elections to indirect regional elections is the increased number of legal issues, including corruption, as a result of direct regional elections. In addition, direct regional elections have been assessed to be costly. Direct regional elections also often lead to community conflicts and divisions in the communities (jppn.com, 13/9).

However, the Executive Director of the Association for Elections and Democracy (Perludem), Titi Anggraini, argues that the high cost of direct regional elections should not become a reason to be a reason to justify the direct regional elections by DPRDs. There is no scientific research that can ensure that the regional elections by DPRDs are way more efficient than the direct regional elections (www.rumahpemilu.org, 4/9).

Furthermore, Titi also maintains that there are no data that show that electoral violence has developed into massive acts of violence. This does not mean that electoral violence should be legitimized. Political guidance should be the responsibility of local governments (Ibid., [www.rumahpemilu.org](http://www.rumahpemilu.org)).

### Post-presidential election battles

The polemics over the RUU heightened when the Bill was deliberated in plenary session in the House of Representatives. The fight in the Parliament involved the pro direct regional elections camp and the indirect regional elections camp.

The configuration of powers in the Parliament still reflects on the battle between the coalitions competing in the previous 2014 presidential elections. bearers of the candidates contesting in the 2014 looks at legalization voting Regional Head Election on Friday (26/09/2014) morning.

The Jokowi-JK coalition consisted of F-PDIP, F-PKB-F, and F-Hanura, which supported the option to have direct regional elections by the people. The coalition was also supported by some members of the F-F-Democratic Party and the Golkar Party.

On the other hand, the Red-and-White Coalition (KMP) comprised Gerindra, Golkar, PAN, PPP, PKS. The Red-and-White Coalition supported the option to elect regional heads by DPRDs.

**Tabel 1. The details of Voting of Regional Elections**

OPTION	F-PDIP	F-PKB	F-Hanura	F-Demokrat*	F-Golkar*	Total
Direct elections option	88 members	20 members	10 members	6 members	11 members	135 members
OPTION	F-Partai Golkar	F-PKS	F-PAN	F-PPP	F-Gerindra	Total
Indirect direct elections by DPRDs	73 members	55 members	44 members	32 members	22 members	226 members

\* Several members of the F- Democratic Party and F-Golkar supported the direct regional elections option, having a different opinion with their political parties.

The Democratic Party had actually officially supported direct regional elections, as it was trying to make a third option that included 10 conditions to improve the implementation of direct regional elections. But, the Democratic Party's stance changed during the voting process.

The Democratic Party, which had originally supported the direct regional elections, eventually chose to walk out from the voting process at a plenary session. 129 members of the Democratic Party left the plenary hall.

### **The Passing of the Regional Elections Law Draws Public Criticisms**

After the passing the Regional Elections Law, public criticisms have been directed at political parties that are members of the Red-and-White Coalition, which voted for the regional elections by the DPRD's.

In addition, severe criticisms have also been directed at the President for not being seriously defending the direct regional election option. The public believes the Democrats have been performing an act, first showing that they would support direct regional elections but walking out from the plenary meeting during the voting process.

It should be noted that the rejections and criticisms have mostly been done in cyberspace. Monitoring PoliticaWave, for 48 hours since Thursday, 25 September 2014 (ahead of the passing of the Regional Elections Bill) until Friday afternoon, 26 September 2014, there were 279 619 conversations in cyberspace (tempo.co, 28/9).

Twitter is the social media that has been widely used (with 274 936 conversation). Forums, such as Kaskus, ranks second (with 1,646 conversations). While Facebook ranks third (with 1,045 conversations). Also Online news portal posted 1,884 news articles (*Ibid.*, Tempo.co).

Special Twitter hashtags on the direct regional elections such as #ShameOnYouSBY, #RIPDemokrasi became world trending topics. Hashtag #ShameOnYouSBY was in 97,500 tweets.

The criticisms are quite reasonable, because in fact the majority of the people do not agree if the regional elections are done through DPRD's. According to a survey by the Indonesian Survey Circle (LSI) on 5 - 7 September 2014, 81.25 percent of the public agreed that regional heads needed to remain directly elected. Only 10.71 percent of the public wanted indirect regional elections by DPRD's.

4.91 percent of the public wanted the president to be elected by the regional heads, and 3.13 per cent did not answer (<http://lsi.co.id>, 9/9).

In addition, criticisms have also appeared in the form of the civil society submitting a judicial review to the Constitutional Court.

### Conclusions

The passing of the Regional Elections Law has indicated a decline in the democratic regional head elections in Indonesia. The ideals of the reform era have been diverted from their purposes by a handful of elite political parties. This will have a negative impact, as the public will not have the right to choose their leaders directly.

Second, public leadership opportunities will be narrowed. Independent candidates will be eliminated. Oligarchy will be stronger in our national political system, because leaders will only be determined by a handful of people. Third, this will in turn perpetuate corruption that has occurred between regional heads and DPRD Speakers.

***The passing of the Regional Elections Law has indicated a decline in the democratic regional head elections in Indonesia***

**- Arfianto Purbolaksono-**

## Regional Disparity Review

A general indicator used to measure human quality is the Human Development Index (HDI). The fact is that Papua Island has a low HDI level that is below the national average HDI.

For instance, in 2010, the National Bureau of Statistics (BPS) recorded that the HDI in Papua Island was at a level of 67.04, below the national HDI level of 72.27. Meanwhile, Java Island reached a level of 73.36 in the same year. The existence of regional autonomy through fiscal decentralization should have answered the disparity problems of subnational development.

### **Problem Review: Education and Human Resource Quality**

There are a lot of literatures explaining about the strong relationship between the quality of education and the aggregate output in a country. It is then further emphasized with the role of government in improving the education through investment in education.

The Ministry of Finance records that the actual education spending of local governments is the largest component compared to the other spending components. The newest data in 2012, the average of actual education spending at the subnational level reached a level of 32.89 percent. This was followed by public service spending at a level of 28.69 percent. While the other spending components were only at a level of below 10 percent each.

However, if we review the study on Papua Island, the fact seems different. The local governments do not allocate the spending more on education.

In 2012, Papua Island, which consists of West Papua and Papua Provinces, only allocated education spending of 15.41 percent. Meanwhile, the average spending on Java Island reached a level of 43.03 percent in the same year. The percentage of course was not in line with the constitution mandate that education spending at the national and local levels must be at a minimum level of 20 percent.



The author also conducted a statistic test to compare the allocation for education spending between Java and Papua Island. Statistically, the author proves that Java Island allocated 23.18 percent more in education spending compared to Papua Island (Dachlan, 2014).

According to BPS, West Papua and Papua provinces in 2010 had the lowest ranks for HDI; that is, ranks 29 and 33 respectively. The low HDI levels indicated the low human resource quality in Papua. Nevertheless, the goal of regional autonomy is to balance the development in all regions.

The low HDI levels of course can be associated with the low education quality. Winters' and Chiodi's (2011) study in Mexico showed that investment in education might enhance the wages for beneficiaries from agriculture wages (relatively low) to non-agriculture wages.

The low wages of course will cause people to live below the poverty line. In 2012, BPS recorded that the percentage of people who lived below the poverty line in Papua Island was far above the percentage of the national average.

The poverty in West Papua and Papua provinces in 2012 reached levels of 27.04 percent and 30.66 percent respectively. Meanwhile, the average percentage of people who lived below the poverty line at the national level was only at a level of approximately 9 percent.

On the other hand, if we analyze the number of poor people data, then they were concentrated on Java Island. The number of poor people in West Java reached a level of 4.42 million, Central Java 4.86 million, and East Java 4.96 million people. This indicated that there was a failure in urbanization and local developments, so the people were concentrated on Java Island and lived below the poverty line.

### **Finding the Solution**

It is a must that regional autonomy becomes the solution for developing the regions and for lowering regional disparity. Fiscal decentralization through intergovernmental fiscal transfers from the central government to the local governments should encourage subnational development. There are some points that should be emphasized by the central and local governments.

First, the central government together with local governments should be synergizing in enhancing the quality of education. The author believes that regional development should start with the

increase in the human quality at the local level. Therefore, investing in education is in line with the control of education quality, and this should become a priority in developing the regions.

The second is that the local government should be prioritizing more spending for long term interest and local basic needs, such as education, health, and other social safety nets. This is because there are still many governments that allocate more for civil service expenditures compared to the above mentioned expenditures.

The third is that the central government should work together with the local governments in fulfilling the local needs, as this is not the sole responsibility of the central government. Every local government has different priorities and problems. For instance, Papua is much more concerned with improving infrastructure and education quality, while Java Island is concerned with overcoming the urbanization issues.

Finally, the synergy between the central and local government is needed in developing regions so that the disparity will no longer pose a problem for Indonesia.

- Akbar NikmatullahDachlan -

***The existence of regional autonomy should overcome the regional disparity problems in Indonesia. Therefore, synergy is needed between the central and local governments in realizing local development.***

## Democratic Interpretation Inconsistency

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Indonesian political history will mark 26 September 2014 as a turning in one of the pillars of democracy in Indonesia, especially in the regions of the country. On that particular date, the 2009-2014 DPR passed the the Regional Elections Bill into Law.

With some political dramas, the bill had finally been passed as a law that acts as a basis for the implementation of indirect regional elections in Indonesia. The Regional Elections Law is an implementation of Article 18 of Paragraph (4) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (UUD 1945).

According to the Constitution, regional heads should be democratically elected. This is different from the election arrangements for the president and vice president mentioned in the Constitutions; that is, direct elections.

### **Inconsistency of Interpretation**

The Founding Fathers and those who prepared the 1945 Constitution had included the word “democratically” not without a reason. Regional diversity in Indonesia is a fact that cannot be denied. The method to find regional heads should consider the diversity.

Therefore, the word “democratically” is considered capable of providing the legal basis for the differences in regional election methods. Even so, there should be a standard method applicable to all regions in Indonesia, except for the special status regions.

Law Number 32/2004 on Regional Government had interpreted the word “democratically” as direct elections. Therefore, in the last decade the method that was used was the direct regional elections.

The reform atmosphere and momentum had prompted the enactment of Law No. 32/2004, which was considered a new era of democracy in the regions. Like a toddler who is learning to walk, the implementation of direct regional elections has not been easy.

In the beginning, there were complaints about the amount of budgets that should be provided, the length of stages of the elections, the practices of money politics, and horizontal conflicts due to different choices. However, a decade of direct elections has brought changes to the people's understanding of democracy and the awareness about choosing their own leaders.

Ten years after the implementation of direct regional elections, both the Parliament and the government have decided to change the interpretation of the word "democratically". Now, the word is construed as elections by the Regional Houses of Representatives (DPRD).

Before changing the law, the government and the Parliament should have convinced the public about the reasons for the change in the interpretation. Are direct regional election considered undemocratic? Inconsistency problems such as interpretation are quite fatal, as in the future, there will be opportunities to interpret wording in the 1945 Constitution based on political considerations and power calculations.

The written Constitution has expressly stated that Indonesia is a legal state. This means that not only are there laws in the country, there should also be the management of the country based on the principles of law. Indonesia should have Law as the leader, not politics or economics as the leader.

The democratic interpretation inconsistency is very unfortunate. Especially, if it is done only for political reasons and power sharing. If so, then the indirect regional elections are an act to cut off the people's right to choose their own leaders.

### **Future Steps**

The substance of the recently passed Regional Elections Law has sparked controversy and resistance from many parties. Even President SBY felt the need to issue a Government Regulation in Lieu of Law (Perppu) to cancel the Regional Elections.

In addition, many elements of the civil society have begun to consolidate themselves to submit a judicial review to the Constitutional Court (MK). Almost all elements of the society have moved to try and invalidate the controversial law. It means that the awareness about the importance of direct regional elections has already been widely spread in the community.

Future steps that need to be taken by the elements of the society who feel aggrieved because of the enforcement of the Regional Elections Law are to make efforts to challenge the Law legally and constitutionally at the Constitutional Court and also to propose to the Parliament to revise the Regional Elections Law.

If the President finally issues a Perppu, this will certainly change the situation. This would mean that SBY has the same interpretation of the word “democratically” as the Law No. 32/2004; that is, direct regional elections.

***The democratic interpretation inconsistency is very unfortunate. Especially, if it is done for political reasons and power sharing.***

**-Asrul Ibrahim Nur-**

## Regional Disparity Review

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- Akbar NikmatullahDachlan -

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## Observing the Jokowi-JK Cabinet Structure

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The structure of cabinet of the President- and Vice President-elect Joko Widodo (Jokowi) and Jusuf Kalla (JK) began to unfold on Monday (15/9). On that particular day, Jokowi-JK announced that their cabinet would consist of 34 ministers.

The detail is that 18 ministers will be pure professionals, and 16 others of them will be professionals with political party backgrounds.

Jokowi explained that of the 34 ministers in the cabinet, the three coordinating minister positions from the SBY cabinet will be retained. In addition, all Vice Minister positions (Wamen) will be erased, except for the Vice Foreign Minister.

### **Pros and Cons of the Jokowi-JK Cabinet Formation**

The pros and cons have emerged since the announcement of the cabinet structure. Previously, the Jokowi JK pair said that they would streamline the cabinet. But, the 34 ministerial posts that were announced by Jokowi-J do not change the number of ministers, as the Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (SBY) cabinet also has the same number of ministers. This means that the promise to downsize the cabinet cannot be kept by Jokowi-JK.

But, a political observer from Gadjah Mada University, Ari Dwipayana, argues that whether or not there will be problems in the cabinet cannot be measured merely by the number of ministers. A change must also be seen from the implementation of the ministries' work, including for example rearranging the relationships amongst ministries, which are overlapping and not well coordinated. Furthermore, the changes must also occur at the micro level in the internal work processes in each ministry (bbc.co.uk, 16/9).

Second, the coalition will be formed unconditionally. But, considering that there will be 16 cabinet seats allocated to political parties, then the next cabinet will not change because it is still filled with the interests of the parties.

In response to this, Vice President Jusuf Kalla had decided to shed some light on the reasons behind that number. JK said this was because of political reality. The reality is that there is a representative democracy where there is a relationship between the government and the Parliament. JK said that the most important thing was the work that must be corrected. The second one is the speed (detik.com, 15/9).

Third, there is fear of intervention from political party leaders. In response to this, Jokowi has asserted that the decision on the names of the ministers are the prerogative of the president. Anyone, including Chair of the Democratic Party of Struggle Megawati Sukarnoputri has no right to intervene. But he was still receiving proposals from ministerial candidates from all parties, such as the political party members, a group of volunteers, and the general public (kompas.com, 25/9).

### **Tight Candidate Selection for Ministers**

After the announcement of his cabinet structure, then the people have waited for the names of candidates who will join the cabinet of Jokowi-JK.

Jokowi mentioned that he was still selecting 200 minister candidates. This number is conical. Currently, the process is more conical. Later on, and later at a time to be announced by Jokowi. According to Jokowi, the names of candidates prepared by the ministers in his cabinet was traced by including PPATK background, to KPK (kompas.com, 21/9).

Responding to the desire to explore candidates' track records to assist ministers, the Commission has invited the leadership of the Transition Team Jokowi-JK. KPK spokesman Johan Budi said the agenda of the meeting between the Transition Team KPK is to talk about the eight anti-corruption agenda and over the selection of cabinet ministers Jokowi-JK (liputan6.com, 26/9).

Indeed, the integrity of the ministers who will help Jokowi-JK is specifically important. In addition to those charged by professionals in their fields. The next cabinet that should be filled by the people who have track records of anti-corruption, has credibility, and have the courage to fix the bureaucracy that has been undermined by a culture of corruption.

**- Arfianto Purbolaksono-**

***The next cabinet should be filled by people who have a track record of anti-corruption, have credibility, and have the courage to fix the bureaucracy that has been undermined by a culture of corruption***

## **Agricultural Land Conversion**

54 years after the first celebration of 24 September as the National Farmers Day, there are still many issues in the agricultural sector in Indonesia. These issues include the declined number of farmers, the increased number of food imports, and massive agricultural land conversion.

### **Objective facts of Agricultural Land Conversion**

In relation to land conversion, Presidential Regulation No. 39/2014 on List of Closed Business Sectors and Open Business Sectors with Requirements has the potential to kill small farming sectors. This is because in the Presidential Decree it is regulated that the agricultural sector is an area of business that is open with the requirements for capital investment.

Although there are several requirements, but the tone of the liberalization of the agricultural sector is very pronounced, as the Presidential Decree states that the presence of this policy is to increase investment activities in Indonesia and is in the framework of the implementation of Indonesia's commitments to the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

The understanding is that if the agricultural sector is controlled by large investors, it would require large farms. Extensive agricultural land can only be obtained by purchasing the agricultural land of small farmers all over the place. A process called 'buying' is often believed to be unequal and unjust. In addition, agricultural land is often converted to plantations and mining sites.

Smallholder farmers are forced to sell their land under the pretext that their agricultural land is needed for development (according to Law No. 2/2012 on Land Procurements for Development and Public Interests). Small farmers are also indirectly forced to sell their land; that is, when their land productivity is stagnant, when the distribution of their agricultural products falters and when there is no longer a market for their agricultural commodities. These

processes have caused many land and agrarian conflicts.

According to the data collected by the Consortium for Agrarian Reform (KPA) throughout 2013, there were 369 cases of agrarian conflicts in which the peasants defended their land from being seized by the owners of capital. During the SBY era (2004-2013), the number of conflicts touched level of 987 cases, with a total area of 3,680,974.58 hectares of conflicts, The plantation sector has the highest potential for conflict, after infrastructure, mining, forestry and marine.

Farmers who were victims of the conflict in 2013 are not half-hearted: 21 people were killed, 30 people were shot, 130 people were tortured, and 239 people were detained by security forces.

From the above explanations, in terms of policy, siding with small farmers is also non-existent. There has also been some tendency to curtail the rights of farmers. The momentum of the changing of guards in Indonesia should be utilized completely.

### **Jokowi-JK's Agriculture**

The Jokowi-JK pair has nine priorities in its future government agenda. The nine priorities are called the Nawa Cita. Specifically related to agriculture, priority number seven explicitly discloses that the Jokowi-JK will achieve food sovereignty through policies on repairing damaged irrigation and building irrigation networks in three million hectares of paddy fields; one million hectares of new rice fields outside of Java; Farmers Bank has supported the establishment of SMEs, with warehouses and post-harvest processing facilities at each production center.

In addition, the Jokowi-JK pair will improve soil fertility quality and irrigation systems for water contaminated by industrial and household waste, stop the conversion of productive land into other businesses, such manufacturing residential estates and mining sites.

Jokowi and Kalla have explicitly mentioned agrarian conflicts. But, the implementations of their commitments have to be monitored. The discourse on the establishment of the Ministry of Agrarian Affairs will specifically deal with the agrarian questions and problems. This should be appreciated, considering the many agrarian questions and problems in Indonesia. The ministry's structure, mission and authorities need to be further examined in order not to deviate from its original ideals.

Another important thing that we should also do is to evaluate all

policies related to the agricultural sector. We should identify and separate the pro-farmer legislations; that is, the ones that have the vision to empower farmers, not merely expecting profits from the agricultural land management.

**-Lola Amelia-**

***Evaluating all agriculture-related policies is mandatory. We should identify and separate the pro-farmer legislations; that is, the ones that have the vision to empower farmers, not merely expecting profits from the agricultural land management.***

 THE INDONESIAN INSTITUTE  
CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

**The Indonesian Institute (TII)** is a Center for Public Policy Research which was officially established since 21 October, 2004 by a group of young and dynamic activists and intellectuals. **TII** is an independent, nonpartisan, and non-profit institution having its main funding source from grants and donations from foundations, corporations, and individuals.

**TII** aims to become the center for major researches in Indonesia for issues regarding public policy and committed to contribute to debates on public policy and to improve the quality of the creation and results of public policy in the new democratic situation in Indonesia.

**TII's** mission is to conduct researches that are reliable, independent, and nonpartisan, and to channel the researches results to policy makers, the business world, and civilians in order to improve the quality of public policy in Indonesia. **TII** also has the mission to educate the community in policy issues that affect their livelihoods. In other words, **TII** is in a position to support the process of democratization and public policy reform, as well as taking an important and active role in that process.

The scope of the researches and public policy studies conducted by **TII** covers the fields of economics, social, and politics. The main activity conducted in order to reach the vision and mission of **TII** among others are researches, surveys, trainings, working group facilitation, public discussions, public educations, editorial writings (**TII** expression), publications of weekly analysis (*Wacana*), monthly studies (*Update Indonesia*, in Bahasa Indonesia and English) and annual studies (*Indonesia Report*), and public discussion forum (*The Indonesian Forum*).

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## POLITICAL RESEARCH

The consolidating democracy needs direction and guidance in order to realise a strong national political system. In addition, decentralization as part of democratization has created room for more issues in the development of political system in Indonesia. Therefore, political analysis are present for the government, political parties, the business sector and professionals, academics, non-governmental organizations, donors, and civil society to answer recent political issues.

**TII's** Political Research Division provides policy analyses and recommendations in order to produce strategic policies to consolidate democracy and to achieve good governance at the central and local levels. Types of political research offered by TII are: **(1) Public Policy Analyses, (2) Media Monitoring, (3) Mapping & Positioning Research, (4) Needs Assessment Research, (5) Survey Indicators.**

## RESEARCH ON THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Social development needs policy foundations that come from independent and accurate research. Social analysis is a need for the government, the businesspeople, academia, professionals, NGOs, and civil society to improve social development. The Social Research Division is present to offer recommendations to produce efficient and effective policies, steps, and programs on education, health, population, environment, women and children.

Social research that **TII** offers: **(1) Social Policy Analysis; (2) Explorative Research; (3) Mapping & Positioning Research; (4) Need Assessment Research; (5) Program Evaluation Research; and (5) Indicator Survey.**

## RESEARCH ON LEGAL AFFAIRS

According to stipulations in Law No. 12 Year 2011 on the Formulation of Laws and Regulations, every bill which will be discussed by the legislative and the executive must be complemented with academic paper. Therefore, comprehensive research is very important and needed in making a qualified academic paper. With qualified academic papers, the bills will have strong academic foundation.

**TII** can offer and undertake normative and legal research related to harmonization and synchronization of laws and regulations, especially in making academic papers and bills. In addition, the research will be conducted with sociological, anthropological, and political approaches in order to produce a more comprehensive academic papers and bills. It is expected that with such a process, the laws and regulations will be produced through such a participatory process, which involves the making of academic papers and bills to also go through process, such as focus group discussion (FGD) which will involve stakeholders related to the laws and regulations that will be discussed.

## RESEARCH ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

The economy tends to be used as an indicator of the success of the government as a policy-maker. Limited resources have often caused the government to face obstacles in implementing economic policies that will optimally benefit the people. The increase in the quality of the people's critical thinking has forced the government to conduct comprehensive studies in every decision-making process. In fact, the studies will not be stopped when the policy is already in place. Studies will be continued until the policy evaluation process.

The TII Economic Research Division is present for those who are interested in the conditions of the economy. The results of the research are intended to assist policy-makers, regulators, and donor agencies in making decisions. The research that TII offers: **(1) Economic Policy Analysis; (2) Regional and Sectoral Prospects; and (3) Program Evaluation.**



## Project or Program Evaluation

One of the activities that have been conducted and offered by TII is a qualitative evaluation on a project or a program of a non-governmental organization or a government agency. Evaluation activities that are offered by TII are a mid-term evaluation and a final evaluation.

As we may already know, evaluation is one of the important stages in the implementation of a project or a program. A mid-term evaluation is intended to see and analyze challenges, lessons learned during the project or the program, and to give recommendations on the implementation of the project or the program. Meanwhile, a final evaluation will be useful to see and analyze the achievements and lessons learned to ensure that all the projects or the program's goals are achieved at the end of the project or program.

## THE INDONESIAN FORUM

**The Indonesian Forum** is a monthly discussion activity on actual issues in the political, economic, social, legal, cultural, defense, and environmental fields. TII organizes these forums as media for competent resource persons, stakeholders, policymakers, civil society activists, academicians, and the media to meet and have discussion.

Themes that have been raised were the ones that have caught public attention, such as migrant workers, social conflicts, domestic politics, and local direct elections. The main consideration in picking a theme is sociological and political reality and the context of the relevant public policy at the time that the Indonesian Forum is delivered.

It is expected that the public can get the big picture of a particular event as the Indonesian Forum also presents relevant resource persons.

Since its inception, the Indonesian Institute is very aware of the passion of the public to get discussions that are not only rich in substance but also well formatted, which support balanced ideas exchanges ideas and the equal involvement of the different elements of the society.

The discussions, which are designed to only invite a limited number of participants, do not only feature idea exchanges but also regularly offer policy briefs (policy recommendations) to relevant policymakers and also summaries to the participants, especially the media people and the resource persons at the end of each discussion. Therefore, the discussions will not end without solutions.

## LOCAL COUNCIL TRAINING

The roles and functions of local councils in monitoring local governments are very important. They need to ensure that participative and democratic policies will be espoused. Members of provincial and regent local councils are required to have strong capacity to understand democratization matters, regional autonomy, legislative techniques, budgeting, local Politics, and political marketing. Thus, it is important to empower members of local councils.

In order for local councils to be able to response every problem that will come out as a result of any policy implemented by the central government or local governments, the Indonesian Institute invites the leaderships and members of local councils to undergo training to improve their capacity.

## WORKING GROUP

The Indonesian Institute believes that a good public policy process can be held with some engagement and empowerment of the stakeholders. The Indonesian Institute takes a role as one of mediator agencies to facilitate some forums in which the Government, Council Members, Private Sectors, NGOs and Academicians can meet in interactive forums. The Indonesian Institute provides facilitation on working groups and public advocacy.

The Indonesian Institute takes the role of mediator and facilitator in order to encourage the synergy of public policy work between the stakeholders and policy makers and also to have a synergy with funding agencies (donors).

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