



12th BALI DEMOCRACY FORUM

Nusa Dua, Bali, 5-6 December 2019

KEY ELEMENTS

Panel A

Info:

Inclusivity lies at the core of democracy and its underpinning principle of equal participation for all. The principle foundation of democracy is that all who are affected by a decision should have the right to participate in making that decision, either directly or through their chosen representatives. This assertion is consistent with the UN's SDGs goal (number 16 targets 16.7):

'...ensuring inclusive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels...' and '...ensuring full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making of women in political, economic and public life...'. This assertion implies the inclusion of all unique groupings in a particular society.

In order to guarantee inclusive democratic process in any society, that particular country/government must invest a great amount of resources, including financial, human, material or otherwise, in order to establish the right conditions necessary for fostering inclusive democracy which ensures peace, political stability and economic prosperity.

Inequality of opportunity persists worldwide. Not all citizens in society feel represented in decision making nor the same rights to access the benefit of democracy, thus many feel marginalized. Democratic institutions are viewed as failing to be inclusive thus lead to the erosion of public trust in democracy. Has the democracy and its benefit not been inclusive enough?

Panel A-1

“Moving Towards Inclusive State Building”

Current Conditions & Challenges

Panel A-1 accommodated 4 Panelists and 12 Discussants, highlighted some related issues on administrating democratic process while building an inclusive state building, as follow:

- The need to provide access to education and improving literacy rate;
- Management challenges for archipelagic states;
- Difficulties practicing democracy in young independent countries;
- Recovering post conflict countries;
- Answering demand for government transparency;
- Combatting discrimination and exclusivity practices;
- The need to establish corruption and electoral watch;
- Dealing with unfair treatment from other countries;
- Facing technology backfire (hoaxes, social media misuse, etc);
- The impact of climate change on democracy.

Way Forward:

The Panelists and discussants in Panel A-1 shared some common experiences to tackle the challenges to build an inclusive state building, as follow:

- Taking advantage on various potential from women and youth;
- Promote nationwide education and literacy programs;
- Embracing differences, tolerance, and peace coexistence;
- Creating tailored democracy for different states;
- Creating transparency on government's budget spending;
- Establishing corruption and electoral watch;
- Taking advantage of technology as a tool of inclusivity.

Conclusion & Recommendation:

The Moderator concluded Panel A-1 by conveying three recommendations, as follow:

- Balancing political and economy inclusivity;
- Creating and maintaining inclusive relations with neighboring countries;
- Avoid unnecessary conflicts.

Panel A-2
“Developing Inclusive Policies: Market, Services and Spaces”

Current Conditions & Challenges

Panel A-2 accommodated 4 Panelists and 6 Discussants, highlighted some related issues on developing inclusive policies and how they relate to strengthening democracy, as follow:

- Every country is facing various challenges in its unique ways; geographical situations, socio-cultural fragmentations, economic inequality, and disproportionate effects of rapid technology developments.
- Those challenges widen the gap between its people.

Way Forward:

The Panelists and discussants in Panel A-2 shared some common experiences to tackle the challenges to build an inclusive policies, as follow:

- Despite of the challenges, the government should ensure that no one should be left behind.
- Policies shall be made inclusive to provide equal access to political participation and economic activities.
- Basic economic architecture, such as infrastructures and equal accesses to housing, education, and healthcare, is critical to fulfill the basic needs of its people thus enabling more participation.
- Together with, protection on basic human rights is the foundation of the architecture.
- Keep developing and maintain the independence of the human rights and anti-corruption institutions are also very important to safeguard human rights, in particular the minority rights. This is important to ensure the inclusiveness of democracy.

Conclusion & Recommendation:

The Moderator and panelists concluded Panel A-2 by conveying recommendations, as follow:

- Governments should generate innovative ideas, listen more to its people, and set actions to enact inclusive policies.
- A government must be transparent, since democracy is about ownership of the people and government is owned by the people.
- GDP also cannot be taken for granted if per capita is low and inequality is high.