

# CIVIL SOCIETY AND DEMOCRACY IN INDONESIA: 25 YEARS AFTER REFORMASI

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**Abstract:** Civil society plays essential part in Indonesian reformasi. Yet, 25 years after, there have been a lot of changes on civil society organizations in Indonesia both internally, and externally, including political and economic environment, national leadership, and global context. Internally, Indonesian civil society organizations are increasingly getting pluralized and fragmented, making it difficult to establish a common background. Externally, government's ambition to achieve economic development has marginalized principles of human rights advocated by the civil society organizations. In addition, Indonesia that is now regarded as democratic country, is no longer a priority among global donor organizations. This brings impacts on less resources for democracy agenda. In line with that, the V-Dem institute, which regularly assesses the quality of democracy globally, shows how Indonesian democracy, particularly on element of civil liberties, keeps declining. Scholars argue that this is a major sign of Indonesian "democratic regression." With so many challenges that civil society faces, how do they continue supporting democracy? What are the impacts of the declining quality of democracy to them? What are the challenges and opportunities for future Indonesian democracy? The seminar will explore and elaborate on these three questions.

**Dr. Amalinda Savirani** completed her doctorate from the Amsterdam Institute of Social Research (AiSSR), University of Amsterdam. She wrote her dissertation Business and Politics in a Provincial Town in Indonesia: The Case of Batik and Construction Sector in Pekalongan, Central Java. Her research interests include social movements in the urban sector and labour, using a political economics approach. Amalinda was a chair of Department Politics and Government (2016-2021), and currently is the head of "PolGov" research centre at the same department. Her most recent book is titled "Civil Society Elites in Cambodia and Indonesia" (NIAS Press 2023) co-edited with Dr Astrid Noren-Nilsson and Prof Anders Uhlin. Her other recent academic publication was published in the Journal of Current Southeast Asia Affairs (2018) titled "Adversarial Linkage: The Urban Poor Politics and Electoral Politics in Indonesia," (co-written with Ed Aspinnall). With Prof Olle Törnquist, she edited a book on the results of a democracy survey titled "Reclaiming the State: Overcoming Problems of Democracy in Indonesia" (PolGov, 2016).



**6 November 2023 (Monday)**

**4:00-5:30 PM (HKT)**

**Room 6-213**

**6/F, Lau Ming Wai Academic Building  
City University of Hong Kong**

How to attend this seminar:

Via zoom  
<https://bit.ly/3M13ZKv>  
Passcode: 838319

or in-person (pre-registration and visitor QR code are needed)  
<https://bit.ly/45thYzR>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about the seminar.

