

IBC Business Forum

Post Election Economic Policies in Indonesia

Synopsis: Amid the hardship caused by the global crisis, Indonesian economy is expected to continue to grow this year although at a relatively lower rate. There were indeed signs of slowdown in exports and industrial production last year, but their magnitude was not so great as to suggest an impending collapse. Yet, the current global crisis has made a tough time for the incumbent President Yudhoyono's economic leadership.

After the parliamentary election on April 9th, Indonesians will directly elect their president-vice president on 8 July 2009. If no pair of candidates wins more than 50.0 per cent of the vote, the two leading pairs will go to the second round in September 2009. The elected pair of president-vice president would be sworn in October 2009. Whoever the winner, the newly elected pair would have to face hard economic, social, and political challenges as the global recession did not seem to recover soon.

The presentation started with an evaluation of the results of the parliamentary election and possible coalitions made by the parties as well as pairs of president-vice presidential candidates. It then made an overview of past performance of Indonesian economy as well as the challenges during the worsening global economic climate. The speakers outlined some scenarios of the winners in the presidential election along with their possible economic policies.

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About the Guest Speakers

Dr Aris Ananta, a Senior Research Fellow at Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore since 2001, was a Senior Fellow at the Department of Economics, National University of Singapore during 1999-2000. He is a retired professor at the Faculty of Economics, University of Indonesia. As an economist-demographer with an interdisciplinary approach, he has been working in various aspects of Indonesian economic development, including ageing, migration, ethnicity, religion, and electoral behaviour. He earned his Ph.D in Economics from Duke University, the United States.

Dr Evi Nurvidya Arifin is currently a visiting research fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore. With statistics as her tool, she has been examining a wide interdisciplinary area, covering economic, social, and political issues in Indonesia. She received her PhD in Social Statistics from Southampton University, the United Kingdom in 2001. She then joined Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis, c/o Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore as a postdoctoral fellow. She was a researcher at the Demographic Institute, Faculty of Economics, University of Indonesia before pursuing her Ph.D degree.