

# Overseas Voters in Indonesian 2014 General Election

Posted by [Abdul Qowi Bastian](#) on 17th September 2013 in [Blog](#) with 0 comments



By: *Arvelia Yardhika Ong*

As Indonesians anticipate a new president next year, political parties continue to gear up their competitiveness in the highly anticipated general election. While the legislative election (which determines seats in parliament) is going to be held on April 9, the presidential election is expected to be held in July.

The fiesta of democracy can be felt all over the archipelago as various campaign materials such as media advertisements, banners and billboards are found everywhere. The political parties are promoting themselves and their candidates for Member of Parliament.

Soft approaches to the voters are also conducted by way of political 'socializing' and mass rallies in different Indonesian cities. Moreover, various bodies claiming independency from political parties also conduct surveys that are aimed to analyze the electability and popularity of candidates; these surveys are presented by the different political parties.

It is reported that only one third of the 6 million eligible overseas voters have their names registered for the election in 2014.

For the overseas voters, apart from the lack of awareness and concern regarding the upcoming elections, there are other constraints, such as difficulties in taking leave from work, which limit the participation, especially among the informal and domestic workers.

In 2009, only around 22 percent of Indonesian diasporas participated in the general election.

Furthermore, many Indonesian diasporas are not aware that they have opportunities to vote for legislative representatives in the parliament. Their votes will contribute to the distribution of parliamentary seats at the Jakarta II Constituency.

Currently for these Indonesian diasporas, the main portal for obtaining information on the upcoming general election is through social media such as Twitter and Facebook.

"We have to be proactive in finding information [about the general election] online," said Martin Tamsil, an Indonesian professional in Singapore when asked on how easy it is to get information about the election procedure.

Execution of Indonesian general election in embassies Overseas Election Committees (PPLN) were formed in Indonesian embassies and consulates around the world, with numbers close to 140 PPLN posts. In addition, around 26 Election Supervisory Board (Bawaslu) were formed to monitor overseas elections.

In the past months, the PPLN have been socializing information regarding the general elections in their respective websites, as well as through embassy events such as Independence Day celebrations. Various students' associations were also involved in reaching out to university students.

The list of legislative candidates that will represent the Indonesian diaspora in the Jakarta II Constituency [can be found here](#). Information regarding overseas election registration, schedule and procedure can be found in PPLN websites of the respective countries:

Australia: [www.kbri-canberra.org.au/ppln/](http://www.kbri-canberra.org.au/ppln/)

USA: [www.pplndc.org](http://www.pplndc.org)

Singapore: [www.pplnsingapura.org](http://www.pplnsingapura.org)

Malaysia: [www.kbrikualalumpur.org/ppln/web/](http://www.kbrikualalumpur.org/ppln/web/)

Den Haag, the Netherlands: <http://ppln.nl/>

London, Inggris: [pemilu2014.org.uk](http://pemilu2014.org.uk)

New Zealand: <http://www.pemilu.co.nz>

Ottawa, Canada: <http://www.indonesia-ottawa.org>

Islamabad, Pakistan: <http://pplnislamabad.blogspot.com/>

Paris, France: <http://ppln2014paris.blogspot.com/>

Dubai, Uni Emirates Arab: <http://pplnDubai.org/>

Kuwait: <http://pplnkuwait.com/>

Bern, Switzerland: <http://www.ppln-bern.org/>

*This article originally appeared in [Global Indonesian Voices](#), an independent online media written by Indonesians abroad.*