

## COMPLETION REPORT

Reaching the Young Citizens:

Contrasting Model of Japanese and Indonesian Civic Engagement in the Web Sphere

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Campus organization, community, and extracurricular /club activity may be a way to start the political conversation. This group of people may also interact in the online media, where the social capital is growing in the current fashion. Through online interaction, the response to government policy or political issue can be gained easily and citizen has access to connect with their community.

(1) Participants from Japan and Indonesia are skeptical in similar issue, which is the idea of power. As the social capital grows, the question of whether individual has power to change any regulation or policy is also growing. The notion of *“Should we involve in politics? Do we really have power to change anything in the government for the better life of our society?”* Or *“I don't think I have an important position in politics. Because there are so many steps before citizen's request comes true in politics”* are examples of how the narrative of “change or power to change” is important for the participants. As an example, from 59 participants in FGD from Japan and Indonesia, there are 27 notions of skepticism caused by the participants' perception on their inability to change or believe to their incompetency to change system or regulation or condition. Therefore, it is important for any political party or public figure in both countries to bring the narrative of “man power” and “change” to convince the young people that their political participation can change something and they have a great power in politics. The importance of strengthening the social capital as a tangible power is needed to increase the optimism of the young people in Japan and Indonesia.

(2) The research also indicates that cultural differences may trigger the notion of how easy politics become a part of daily conversation in each country. Participants from Indonesia can easily posted political message on their Facebook page, or twitting about their condemnation of a bad political figure. Other than that, Indonesian young people are easy to search for information through viral conversation rather than obtain the information in the official website of the political figure or party or even the government. However, their counterpart in Japan simulates different culture. Japanese is not used to daily conversation about politics online. This condition strengthen the previous researcher discussion on the development of civic participation of *“deru kugi wa utareru”* (The nails that sticks out, gets hammered or those who fight against the authority will be in danger), or is still applicable in contemporary citizenship in the point of civic lifestyle is still not used to publish their political opinion in the daily online discussion (Degucci, 1999 and Yoshida, 1996). They also choose the formal and official media to search for information such as government website and political party's website. This finding shows different culture and communication style. In term of social capital both cultural and communication styles will result to different quality of government, responsive character of citizen and government, and the shape of mobility for social community (Mouritsen, 2003). There will be a need for further quantitative research in both

countries to determine the influence of degree of citizen participation to the quality of democracy and government.

(3) The similarity on the participants' critique to their countries' politics regarding online political participation are the lack of information for politic, the low understanding of political logic for citizen, communication style, and political image by political figure. It is very important for Indonesian and Japanese government, political party, or figure to consider the public information to increase the well-informed citizen. Currently, both government in Japan and Indonesia are in the right direction in "softening" and "lightening" the message and channel of political issue through Youtube channel, Social Media. On the other hand, the government in Japan and Indonesia need to maintain the development of technology and the progress of social welfare as both of these factors are part of the flourishing factor for youth online political participation.

#### Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

Murti, D. (November 27, 2015). The Power to Change: A Lesson Learned from Comparative Research of Japan and Indonesian Youth Civic Participation in the Online Sphere. *COMICOS (Conference on Media, Communication, and Sociology)*, Yogyakarta: Universitas Atma Jaya Yogyakarta

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

Murti, D. (August 3, 2015). Am I Political Enough?: Praktek E-Citizenship oleh Pemuda yang Aktif dalam OKP secara Offline, *Jurnal Wacana XIV*: 203 - 296, Jakarta: Universitas Prof. Moestopo (Beragama) ISSN: 1412-7873. Can be retrieved from: <http://jurnalfikom.moestopo.ac.id/edisi-2015/juli-september-2015/>

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