

Webinar Series on “*Indonesia in Korea and Korea in Indonesia*”

Seoul National University Asia Center &
Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Indonesia

A Critical Analysis on Indonesia’s Governance to COVID-19 Crisis

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The outbreak of the coronavirus starkly illustrates Indonesia’s vulnerability to public health governance. Indonesia's responses to the coronavirus are likely to be typical of a failed case. The sequence of denial, reluctance, and alarm in Indonesia’s response to the coronavirus crisis follows in the footsteps of countries that failed to properly respond to the coronavirus. Indonesia has kept the highest infection fatality rate from coronavirus in Southeast Asia since the outbreak of CVODI 19. My research illustrates Indonesia’s governance to COVID 19. First, it analyzes President Jokowi's responses to COVID 19 in terms of agency and investigates the structure that has a decisive impact on the president's decision. Second, it investigates what role Jokowi has played in shaping the structure surrounding him. Third, it examines how local and village governments, MUI, and civil society have contributed to flattening the curve of coronavirus spread as a reaction to the central government's failed responses to COVID 19. Finally, from a comparative point of view, Korea's responses to COVID 19 are briefly addressed in the research.

Jihyouk Lee is a research fellow at the Center for Social Sciences in Seoul National University. He teaches graduate students Southeast Asian Studies at Graduate School of International Studies, Korea University as a visiting professor. His research interests lie primarily in International Relations of Southeast Asia and Area Studies with focus on Indonesia and Malaysia. He obtained his Ph. D. and M.A. in the field of International Studies and Southeast Asia Studies from Graduate School of International Studies, Pusan National University. His dissertation deals with Indonesia’s traditional dyeing method, ‘Batik’ from a political perspective. He has published a book on Batik and a number of chapters and research papers on contemporary issues in Indonesia and Malaysia.

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