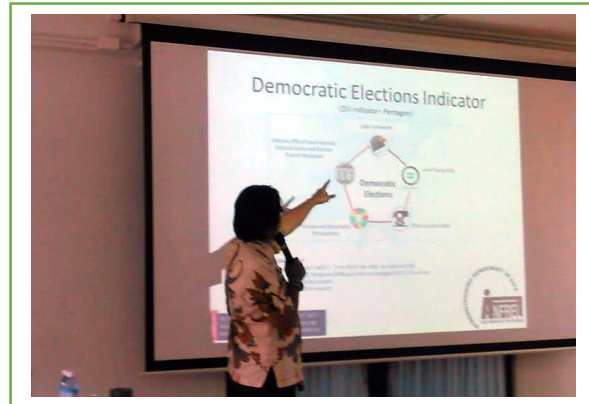


ANFREL visits Mahidol University to increase awareness on election issues

ANFREL Executive Director represented the organization in a lecture with the Graduates Studies of the Institute Human Rights and Peace (IHRP) Mahidol University, which was attended by 25 students from Asia-Pacific as part of the Institute's joint program. The ANFREL ED imparted the general overview of Asian elections, and discussed further the electoral situation in 10 Asian countries based on the research that was published through the Asian Election Resource Center (AERC). The ED also introduced election principles including Bangkok Declaration, Dili Indicator, and Bali Commitment to the students. ANFREL donated 2 (two) copies of the research book, the "Electoral Challenges in Asia Today" to enrich library reference of the IHRP and Mahidol University. The students and professors attended the lecture, and the discussion and presentation were appreciated. The IHRP requested for future periodic lectures which ANFREL agreed to hold. Based on the interactions with the students, developments in the electoral situation especially in China, Brunei Darussalam, and some from Pacific islands such as Samoa, Fiji, and New-Guinea were identified.



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However, ANFREL learned inadequate awareness of university students in terms of election issues, therefore ANFREL appealed to Mahidol University for further engagement and development of a more intensive approach to increase awareness on election issues to Mahidol students, as well as other students in other higher education institutions under the Southeast Asia Human rights Studies Network (SEAHRN), which has ties with universities in Southeast Asia like Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, and Vietnam. For more information about SEAHRN, please go to <http://shapesea.com/members1/seahrn-the-southeast-asian-human-rights-studies-network/>

ANFREL will explore engagements with SEAHRN. The IHRP leadership agreed to discuss how to achieve this, but due to current repression against the faculty, the discussion might get sidelined for a while.