

WEBVTT

10

00:04:13.550 --> 00:04:20.810

Ferran Martinez i Coma: It's time to start, it's 5... 5 o'clock here in a... here in Brisbane, 3 o'clock...

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00:04:21.100 --> 00:04:27.320

Ferran Martinez i Coma: 4.30, 3 in Manila, 2 in Jakarta, 2.30 in New Delhi.

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00:04:27.380 --> 00:04:38.979

Ferran Martinez i Coma: 4.30 in South Australia, so I think it's time to start. Welcome all. This is another event from the ERN in joint event with International Idea.

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00:04:39.010 --> 00:04:56.750

Ferran Martinez i Coma: We are talking today, we're presenting the report, Managing Natural Hazards and Climate Risk. We're taking a focus on... on elections and in the Asia-Pacific. My name is Ferran Martinez-Coma, I'm one of the editors of... or authors of the report, along with Deliver Yogi.

14

00:04:56.800 --> 00:05:15.460

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Saqued. Sarah is, Sarah is around, so Sarah Bert, welcome as well, from London, and it's an early time, so, especially welcome. Before we start, and before I introduce everybody, allow me to acknowledge the people who are the traditional custodians of the land, and pay respects to the elders past and present.

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00:05:15.460 --> 00:05:19.569

Ferran Martinez i Coma: And extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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00:05:19.570 --> 00:05:28.569

Ferran Martinez i Coma: I am in Brisbane, so that's... that's a... that's a land of the Yugarabul, Yugera, Jagera, and Turbo peoples, and I'm talking to you from Mogul. Mogul.

17

00:05:28.570 --> 00:05:44.989

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Turns out to be a neighborhood, but it comes from Mughal, allegedly, and it's the land of the... of the water lizards. Now, I can tell you, I mean, we're soaked by rain. I haven't seen any lizards in the last two weeks, but I've seen a lot of kangaroos. So for what it's worth.

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00:05:45.000 --> 00:05:50.639

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Welcome from... welcome from this little piece of... of land, which is an amazing... an amazing area.

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00:05:51.630 --> 00:06:00.310

Ferran Martinez i Coma: We have... we're very excited at the RRN today and joining with IDEA. When we talked with Tom, about this event, he was...

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00:06:00.470 --> 00:06:16.140

Ferran Martinez i Coma: already sold, so it wasn't too much... it didn't take too much of convincing. This book we've been working with, we've been editing, working with Sarah... with Sarah and Eric. It's been... it's been a long... took a long time, because as you can see, guys, it's... there are a lot of cases.

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00:06:16.170 --> 00:06:22.370

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Today, we're going to be talking about the cases of India, Indonesia, and the Philippines, and for that, we will have

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00:06:22.940 --> 00:06:39.460

Ferran Martinez i Coma: what else best than the author? So we will have Saaked, we will have Joey, we have Televert. I could... and then, sorry, for commenting to... to us commenters, we have Wien Aguirra from the Philippines, and nobody, and, you know, no less, Tom Rogers that most of you already know.

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00:06:39.530 --> 00:06:43.080

Ferran Martinez i Coma: I will read two liners. Yogi, Saket.

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00:06:43.290 --> 00:06:46.949

Ferran Martinez i Coma: We not deliver, Tom, alum... sorry, yeah, Tom.

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00:06:47.290 --> 00:07:02.879

Ferran Martinez i Coma: understand that I'm not going to read all those TVs, because otherwise we will be here for a long time. So, Saget has worked... has worked as a consultant with the Election Commission of India, and as a program manager at the International Institute of Democracy and Election Management.

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00:07:02.920 --> 00:07:18.120

Ferran Martinez i Coma: for over 7 years, and unsurprisingly, he's the author of the India chapter. Yogi Setia Permana is a researcher at the Research Center for Politics, National Research and Innovation in Bryn, Indonesia, and holds a PhD from Leiden University.

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00:07:18.760 --> 00:07:23.779

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Delivered has been the author of the of the Philippines.

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00:07:23.900 --> 00:07:41.139

Ferran Martinez i Coma: And he first observed an election in 1994. Now, deliver, this doesn't say anything about your age. It may say something about mine. I was young at that time. His first elections observed were in South Africa, with the UN, with the United Nations. In the period of Nelson Mandela.

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00:07:41.180 --> 00:07:54.719

Ferran Martinez i Coma: won the presidency, so, you know, has a bunch of experience, and he has observed elections in many countries as capacity, as executive directions of NAMFREL, for those of you, it's the Philippines National Citizen Movement for Free Elections.

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00:07:54.720 --> 00:07:57.969

Ferran Martinez i Coma: And a very close friend of mine has worked with your organization.

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00:07:57.970 --> 00:08:14.930

Ferran Martinez i Coma: deliver my programming for a long... for quite a while, and has great admiration. Now, Wina Guerra is an associate professor from Political Science at the University of the Philippines in Cebu, and convener of the Urban Studies program of the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies.

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00:08:14.930 --> 00:08:18.290

Ferran Martinez i Coma: And she got her PhD from Nagoya University.

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00:08:19.030 --> 00:08:24.420

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Now, and finally, we have... Both Gina and Tom will be the commenters of the three chapters.

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00:08:24.420 --> 00:08:44.480

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Wina is... sorry, Tom was the, former Australian Electoral Commissioner. He served for 10 years, from 2014 to 2024, the longest tenure ever in the... in the... in the AAC. As you are very much aware, AAC is highly professionalized.

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00:08:44.480 --> 00:08:50.709

Ferran Martinez i Coma: And, Tom, for what is... worth as a user of your data. Thank you. Now...

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00:08:50.850 --> 00:09:06.710

Ferran Martinez i Coma: I am Ferran, I am a professor at the School of Government at Griffith University, and I'm also the ERN Queensland convener. So, the rules of today... the rules of engagement is going to be we're going to give 10 minutes to each presenter. I will be quite

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00:09:06.710 --> 00:09:15.400

Ferran Martinez i Coma: brutal with the time, because I also want Weena, Tom, and you audience to participate after Weena and Tom's. So we're gonna be 10 minutes each.

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00:09:15.460 --> 00:09:26.439

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Yogi, you will start, or... as we agreed, and then we'll move to Saket and tell Liberty, that's... if that's okay. Perfect, then Weena will go... will make her comments, as... as so will Tom.

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00:09:26.510 --> 00:09:32.990

Ferran Martinez i Coma: you will only see me here, given the time. So now, Yogi, without any further ado, just the floor is yours.

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00:09:40.100 --> 00:09:41.570

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Yo, your mic?

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00:09:45.180 --> 00:10:04.769

Yogi Setya Permana: Hello, yeah, sorry, good afternoon in Indonesia, and good, good, good, it, it is, it is, very nice to, got the, invitation to share with you all, and, but, first of all, I'd like to say thank you to Firan.

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00:10:04.920 --> 00:10:09.730

Yogi Setya Permana: and Paula from ERN to organize this event, so...

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00:10:09.920 --> 00:10:14.109

Yogi Setya Permana: I'd like to start with, my, PowerPoint.

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00:10:14.630 --> 00:10:24.139

Yogi Setya Permana: So, in the, books, chapter, book that, published by, International Idea, I wrote about what happens in,

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00:10:24.220 --> 00:10:41.260

Yogi Setya Permana: Indonesia election in 2020. Why I chose that? Because, it is kind of showing the... the intertwine, yeah, between the flooding, hydrometeorological risk, and frozen COVID. So, we say it's kind of compound hazard.

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00:10:41.570 --> 00:10:49.080

Yogi Setya Permana: So, because at... in the 2020 election.

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00:10:49.570 --> 00:10:55.190

Yogi Setya Permana: some of the Indonesian districts and cities.

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00:10:55.190 --> 00:11:14.380

Yogi Setya Permana: suffering not only because of the COVID, but also with the, flooding. So, I just, I compared some cities that showing how this hazard, either, COVID and also, flooding influenced the, electoral practice.

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00:11:16.040 --> 00:11:30.249

Yogi Setya Permana: But then from, from the, case studies, it shows that there is a governance gap here, because, COVID-19... so the, national, bodies, that arranged for the election.

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00:11:30.250 --> 00:11:41.930

Yogi Setya Permana: have regulated how the, electoral practice within the COVID context. Covid was anticipated through national regulation and formal,

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00:11:42.350 --> 00:12:01.100

Yogi Setya Permana: protocols. However, flooding, by contrast, was handled mainly through local discretion, and this, created a governance gap in electoral race management. So, as you can see in the picture, I compared, how the, national, regulation,

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00:12:01.600 --> 00:12:16.219

Yogi Setya Permana: embrace, the hazard. The left side is a COVID, and right side is, flooding. So, with the COVID, there's, there was kind of a specific regulation for the, electoral management bodies, how to.

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00:12:16.220 --> 00:12:26.199

Yogi Setya Permana: how to, how to arrange the, election, how to prepare the logistics, and so on, and so forth. And also, there's kind of, protocols,

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00:12:26.200 --> 00:12:43.360

Yogi Setya Permana: about health, and so on and so forth. But then, when they suffer with flooding, there is no equivalent national electoral regulation, no detailed flood contingency framework, and no systematic emergency logistic procedure. So, this gap

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00:12:43.530 --> 00:12:56.040

Yogi Setya Permana: Became a quite, institutional problem that also influenced the integrity of the, electoral result.

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00:12:56.980 --> 00:13:02.269

Yogi Setya Permana: Yeah, so... why a contingency framework matters?

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00:13:02.400 --> 00:13:22.330

Yogi Setya Permana: I said, in the previous slide, there was kind of governance gap, because without a national framework, flood response become uneven. The risk mapping depends on local initiative. The relocation decision of the, for the ballots, place.

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00:13:22.500 --> 00:13:40.250

Yogi Setya Permana: depend on local discretion, and the coordination among the state agencies who respond to the disaster is not systematic, and end up the field officers carry the operational burden, and voters may experience unequal access to polling stations.

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00:13:40.830 --> 00:13:45.959

Yogi Setya Permana: So, I'd like to just only to say that flooding is, makes,

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00:13:46.140 --> 00:13:52.849

Yogi Setya Permana: Create that it's not only a logistical problem, but also it is an electoral integrity problem.

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00:13:53.490 --> 00:14:11.189

Yogi Setya Permana: A national contingency framework would not eliminate flooding, but it would clarify who does what, when polling stations should be moved, how voters should be informed, how logistics should be protected, and when follow-up voting or partial postponement should be applied.

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00:14:15.370 --> 00:14:34.800

Yogi Setya Permana: And yeah, this key point came up from my case study that I did in one of the cities in north coast of Java that now suffer with the tidal flooding and river flooding at once in the rainy season.

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00:14:35.350 --> 00:14:54.259

Yogi Setya Permana: And, the, flooding, affected, four, four sub, districts, and on election day, there were 51 polling stations were affected by flooding. Flood water inundated access roads and wood, and waiting,

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00:14:54.580 --> 00:14:59.019

Yogi Setya Permana: Areas, and water level reach around 15 until 20 centimeter.

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00:14:59.290 --> 00:15:13.430

Yogi Setya Permana: And then the local official did, some, adaptation, like moved polling stations to safer or higher location, protected ballots, and election logistics with plastic, plastic bag.

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00:15:13.670 --> 00:15:30.719

Yogi Setya Permana: adjusted voting and counting arrangement, and use local knowledge to keep voting accessible. So, in Duma, the flood directly affected polling stations, voter access, election logistics, and the working condition on frontline election officers.

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00:15:30.720 --> 00:15:41.629

Yogi Setya Permana: But then the, election, continued, but largely because the improvisation of local officials, because there is no national contingency framework that,

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00:15:41.950 --> 00:15:48.409

Yogi Setya Permana: that can be followed by the, frontline officer. So, different with the COVID, protocol.

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00:15:49.350 --> 00:16:03.510

Yogi Setya Permana: And also, I compared, you know, I did my, second, case in, Samarang. It's kind of a city near from Dama, also in, north coast of Jaffa. This is the capital of central Jaffa,

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00:16:04.350 --> 00:16:16.810

Yogi Setya Permana: province, but unlike flooding was less central to the, election day, operations. The main challenge was maintaining voter participation and public confidence.

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00:16:16.810 --> 00:16:36.120

Yogi Setya Permana: the local election bodies relied heavily on online voter education, digital public communication, public awareness videos, and anti-hwax and misinformation prevention, because this is the context of much more urbanized than, Tama.

72

00:16:36.720 --> 00:16:48.589

Yogi Setya Permana: So... So, I'd like to, discuss about the hidden costs of this local resilience,

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00:16:48.850 --> 00:16:52.570

Yogi Setya Permana: Yes, when we, when we,

74

00:16:52.610 --> 00:17:17.250

Yogi Setya Permana: gained the data from the market case, it shows that the local adaptation worked, but it had cost. Frontline election workers operated in very difficult flood conditions. Some lacked, inadequate equipment, including proper footwear, and officers had to protect ballots, BBN polling sites. Some work until done before

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00:17:17.250 --> 00:17:22.829

Yogi Setya Permana: Election Day, and resilience depended heavily on personal commitment and improvisation.

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00:17:23.040 --> 00:17:47.420

Yogi Setya Permana: And I think that electoral resilience should be designed institutionally, not left to the sacrifice of frontline workers. The election did not fail, but its success relied heavily on local officials observing the risk. This is why stronger institutional support is crucial. Local resilience is important, but it shouldn't replace national preparedness.

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00:17:47.840 --> 00:17:57.229

Yogi Setya Permana: And then, because the chapter also, invited me to revise or revisit to make a new update, so...

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00:17:57.230 --> 00:18:10.899

Yogi Setya Permana: I, conducted a study that, focused on 2024 election, and turns out that the problem still continued. There is no, still, national contingency framework

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00:18:11.090 --> 00:18:23.450

Yogi Setya Permana: That applied to, to, to, to, embrace the, flooding, because in, in, in 2024, the, election also conducted in the rainy seasons.

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00:18:23.450 --> 00:18:36.599

Yogi Setya Permana: So, flooding again affected local election in several regions, and the issue now, in 2024, moved beyond logistics and became part of electoral disputes. Because,

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00:18:36.980 --> 00:18:49.579

Yogi Setya Permana: The, the, the, the, the, losing parties, do not want to, approve or acknowledge the, election.

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00:18:49.580 --> 00:19:02.689

Yogi Setya Permana: result. As I... as we can see, from the, two, two cities in Binjai and Maidan, the cities located in, North, Sumatra,

83

00:19:02.930 --> 00:19:19.779

Yogi Setya Permana: province. So, in Binjay, the plaintiffs are good that flooding hindered further mobility, and some polling stations were submerged or difficult to access. Turnout reportedly declined from 71% in 2020 to 60%.

84

00:19:19.890 --> 00:19:38.909

Yogi Setya Permana: and follow-up floating arrangements were considered uneven. So I think this is pretty much the concern here, because when the COVID happened in 2020, and now the COVID disappeared, but in 2024, the food return are declining quite significantly, just because of the flooding.

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00:19:39.080 --> 00:19:55.080

Yogi Setya Permana: And also, in, Mayan, flooding affected 9 sub-districts. Follow-up voting was held in 56 polling stations. Communication about changes was, considered inadequate by some candidates and voters, and turned out declined.

86

00:19:55.510 --> 00:20:12.960

Yogi Setya Permana: So, the key message is like this afterward, is because it shows that the issue did not end in 2020. Now, in Indonesia, still in 2024, flooding became a legal and political issue. This confirms that disaster preparedness is directly connected to electoral integrity.

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00:20:14.360 --> 00:20:17.049

Yogi Setya Permana: So, this is my, 3.

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00:20:17.780 --> 00:20:20.820

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Please, Yogi, we are over time now, so be quick.

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00:20:20.820 --> 00:20:27.540

Yogi Setya Permana: Okay, I... okay, just, my last slide, or can I continue or finish, this slide?

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00:20:27.540 --> 00:20:42.129

Yogi Setya Permana: One minute, okay. So, lessons from Indonesia. So, natural hazard must be formally incorporated into electoral law, electoral risk management, and national contingency planning, because the Indonesian case showing that, first.

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00:20:42.130 --> 00:20:46.850

Yogi Setya Permana: Develop a national electoral contingency framework for natural hazards is very,

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00:20:46.850 --> 00:20:56.799

Yogi Setya Permana: important. And secondly, integrate electoral management with disaster risk governance. And three, clarify legal authority for partial postponement and follow-up footing.

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00:20:56.800 --> 00:21:07.770

Yogi Setya Permana: And fourth, protect frontline election workers and voters. And fifth, the last one, treat natural hazard as electoral integrity. So, I will stop here. I'm sorry, Ferran, if I pass the time.

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00:21:07.770 --> 00:21:17.510

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Perfect. Thank you very much, Yogi. I am putting... I am putting the... I'm including the... the... the...

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00:21:17.850 --> 00:21:32.850

Ferran Martinez i Coma: the link already for the report, so it can be printed and... I mean, it can be downloaded and read. Saqued, it's your turn now, please. So we're moving to the India... to the India case. That would be great.

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00:21:33.690 --> 00:21:40.830

Saket Ambarkhane: Yep. Hello, everyone, and thank you, Dr. Fern. Thank you so much for this opportunity. I mean...

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00:21:40.940 --> 00:21:50.310

Saket Ambarkhane: I mean, we wrote the paper on, for international idea of natural hazards and elections in India, and this was the paper that has been published.

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00:21:50.430 --> 00:22:05.720

Saket Ambarkhane: Published, I think it's not visible here, but they published it. As we speak, I mean, it's 38 degrees temperature, there's a heat wave in India. Yesterday, at 4pm, the temperature was close to, I mean, 47

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00:22:09.000 --> 00:22:16.669

Saket Ambarkhane: 3 degrees, so I think we have, natural hazards and continuous heat waves, while the south is facing other issues as well.

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00:22:16.670 --> 00:22:34.840

Saket Ambarkhane: Starting off, I think the... this is the paper who mostly covered institutional context of what India's elections process means. Adaptive measures, exploring strategies adopted by election commission to safeguard elections against natural hazards. These are adaptation measures.

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00:22:35.100 --> 00:22:51.180

Saket Ambarkhane: The next are providing assured minimum facilities during elections, which are mitigation measures, and then the environmental effect. Basically, things that the election commission has identified, like plastic bands, green elections, electronic voting machines, etc.

102

00:22:51.190 --> 00:23:10.300

Saket Ambarkhane: This is just the basic framework of how elections are conducted in India. What is important to realize is that the disaster management, there are... there is some resilience mechanism at the national level, there is nothing at the state level, and it is individually handled, sort of more,

103

00:23:11.750 --> 00:23:29.139

Saket Ambarkhane: depending upon the area, depending upon the district, depending upon the state, and how things progress. Mostly, the disaster management-related work is handled by the district election offices, because they are the primary ones who manage the election as well. So this is their duty in most cases.

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00:23:29.440 --> 00:23:37.460

Saket Ambarkhane: In order to run a smooth and fair election, the electoral risk management strategies involved

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00:23:37.460 --> 00:23:56.110

Saket Ambarkhane: during elections in India have sort of transformed over a period of time. Initially, there were absolutely no contingency measured, and now we have come to a place where we are looking at developing backup emergency plans, and this has been primarily kicked in with what is called as the National Disaster Relief

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00:23:56.110 --> 00:24:13.939

Saket Ambarkhane: management agency, which is NDMA, and then there are the statewide branches, as well as the local district branches of the National Disaster Management Authority of India, and these work in tandem with the state election officials, the district election officials, as well as the national election officials.

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00:24:13.940 --> 00:24:26.279

Saket Ambarkhane: This includes some amount of training for the personnel, proper communication system in cases of massive disasters, which India is very highly prone to, and, you know.

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00:24:27.040 --> 00:24:38.779

Saket Ambarkhane: Have been some mechanisms that are in place, in an organized structure, and does also include infrastructure and facilities in case of, for voters as well as for election officials.

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00:24:39.270 --> 00:24:54.009

Saket Ambarkhane: three very specific things that we had looked at. I'm sorry, my screen is... my face is somehow visible in this. The... the three very specific things we looked at during the case study was the... was the case of Bihar, which is one of the states of India.

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00:24:54.010 --> 00:25:13.570

Saket Ambarkhane: which was flooded during COVID. So the flood happened in September, and the election was in November 2020, and I looked at that case study, and there was a huge number of issues involved in bringing the voters to the polling stations, as well as

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00:25:13.570 --> 00:25:28.949

Saket Ambarkhane: managing the flood-affected areas on how to get... how to bring people to vote. And one of the interesting elements that Election Commission in India regularly uses is to create what is called as auxiliary polling stations.

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00:25:28.950 --> 00:25:48.639

Saket Ambarkhane: which is basically smaller polling stations in areas which are affected by any issue, any specific issue, which could be law and order, it could be flood, it could be natural disaster, anything. So they created multiple smaller polling stations in smaller communities, and created more staff... I mean, brought in more staff to be... to help them to

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00:25:48.640 --> 00:25:49.470

Saket Ambarkhane: vote...

114

00:25:49.760 --> 00:26:09.239

Saket Ambarkhane: during elections, so that the process was much more smoother. The other case was Himachal Pradesh, which is another state. In 2022. They worked with the National... the State Disaster Management Authority and created their own election-related plan, because the state is extremely prone to landslides, floods.

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00:26:09.240 --> 00:26:13.149

Saket Ambarkhane: And snow as well during... during elections.

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00:26:13.150 --> 00:26:22.089

Saket Ambarkhane: So these are some of the, some of the, you know, adaptation strategies that have been identified by, by various,

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00:26:22.090 --> 00:26:39.070

Saket Ambarkhane: State bodies, although there is... there are some national plans as well, but these are something that, depending upon the situation, localization of the... of the... of the natural disasters, and how the election, system is sort of responding to those issues.

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00:26:39.090 --> 00:26:45.179

Saket Ambarkhane: These are some of the adaptation strategies that are on a national level. This is now a given during Indian elections.

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00:26:45.180 --> 00:27:07.280

Saket Ambarkhane: because of extreme heat, apart from some areas, most of the country faces heat, and in 2024, when the national election was held, India was going through a severe heat wave again, and these are some of the supports that is provided to elections... to voters as well as election officials during the elections. These are called assured minimum

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00:27:07.280 --> 00:27:20.400

Saket Ambarkhane: Facilities, this includes medical kits, toilet seating, drinking water, preventing health-related issues. They have... they have... this time, they included fans, mist fans, and cool air coolers, etc, in polling stations as well.

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00:27:21.620 --> 00:27:24.440

Saket Ambarkhane: Some of the eco-friendly electronic

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00:27:24.630 --> 00:27:41.419

Saket Ambarkhane: election practices that election commission has identified would include, of course, the electronic voting machines, and, you know, GPS fitted truck for movement of the voting machines, so that there is transparency in the movement of election... on the voting machines at all times.

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00:27:41.420 --> 00:27:47.480

Saket Ambarkhane: However, obviously, there... there is... there is... it's... it's only partial reduction of carbon emission, because

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00:27:47.480 --> 00:28:00.569

Saket Ambarkhane: while you're saving trees, you are definitely, I mean, there is carbon emission due to excessive vehicle use, excessive use of batteries, etc. There are other issues as well.

125

00:28:00.620 --> 00:28:18.169

Saket Ambarkhane: These are some of the milestone and ban of single-use plastics, which we had identified during the process... during the... during the case study. These includes various advisories starting from 1999, amendment of rules, and now definite and complete... most complete ban on

126

00:28:18.170 --> 00:28:32.769

Saket Ambarkhane: use of plastics during elections. These include ban on campaign material that is made out of plastics, single-use plastics, and instructions to all political parties on not using single-use plastics during elections.

127

00:28:32.870 --> 00:28:38.490

Saket Ambarkhane: These are some, as I've already discussed, some of these waste.

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00:28:39.760 --> 00:28:56.230

Saket Ambarkhane: management issues, plastic-free campaign, eco-friendly advisories, campaign material bans that are non-biodegradable, polling stations, model polling stations to reduce waste. All of these elements have definitely been brought in by India in elections to identify ways to sort of promote.

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00:28:56.230 --> 00:29:09.979

Saket Ambarkhane: eco-friendly measures. There was another case during COVID-19, during when the elections were held, there was definitely an issue of biomedical waste management, and that was very effectively managed by some of the states

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00:29:09.980 --> 00:29:12.099

Saket Ambarkhane: Where they, they, they would collect

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00:29:12.100 --> 00:29:31.540

Saket Ambarkhane: waste from polling booths within 2 hours of post-poll, and a lot of the state bodies were very active in managing waste very effectively. Vehicles used for waste disposal were tracked using mobile apps in different, different states as well.

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00:29:31.780 --> 00:29:36.439

Saket Ambarkhane: And these were usually masks, gloves, face shields, hand sanitizers, etc.

133

00:29:38.090 --> 00:29:51.880

Saket Ambarkhane: I think some of the important elements of what lessons being... are being learned during elect... from elections in India is that there is definitely a place where we are looking at...

134

00:29:52.800 --> 00:30:03.650

Saket Ambarkhane: managing the natural hazards. There are mitigation, adaptation, various, various mechanisms of dealing with this, with this situation. However,

135

00:30:03.650 --> 00:30:15.659

Saket Ambarkhane: there is no plan that is... that is all-encompassing, and as Yogi very effectively pointed out, that this needs to be a central part of the election risk management.

136

00:30:15.660 --> 00:30:22.259

Saket Ambarkhane: work, as well as, the compromise... despite all these efforts during the 2024 national elections.

137

00:30:22.260 --> 00:30:38.019

Saket Ambarkhane: 33 election officials died due to heat strokes and other causes, so this is definitely at the risk of the life of election officials, and there were discussions by the National Election Commission on moving the national elections

138

00:30:38.020 --> 00:30:54.770

Saket Ambarkhane: From the summer periods to other points in time, but obviously it will need a huge political commitment, including for mitigation and adaption measures for electoral risk management during natural hazards and floods, cyclones, etc, etc.

139

00:30:55.080 --> 00:30:59.380

Saket Ambarkhane: So, yeah, I mean, that would be my bitch.

140

00:30:59.760 --> 00:31:00.550

Saket Ambarkhane: Here.

141

00:31:01.880 --> 00:31:04.059

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Thank you, Saget, that's been...

142

00:31:05.190 --> 00:31:10.439

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Precise, and Lentas with it, you know? Spot on. Thanks very much, that's been very...

143

00:31:10.570 --> 00:31:18.970

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Very insightful. Deliver, we're gonna give you the floor now for the Philippines, and as before, I'm gonna put your...

144

00:31:19.380 --> 00:31:23.109

Ferran Martinez i Coma: I'm gonna put the link again, so you can access Saget's chat.

145

00:31:24.190 --> 00:31:24.850

Saket Ambarkhane: Thank you.

146

00:31:24.850 --> 00:31:25.490

Telibert Laoc: Huh?

147

00:31:25.620 --> 00:31:28.160

Telibert Laoc: Thank you, thank you, Farrah, and thank you,

148

00:31:28.280 --> 00:31:34.939

Telibert Laoc: Paula, on behalf of the team that's my co-authors, I'd like to thank International Idea, too.

149

00:31:35.090 --> 00:31:38.230

Telibert Laoc: For allowing us to contribute to the body of knowledge.

150

00:31:38.450 --> 00:31:46.420

Telibert Laoc: on, election administration as regards climate change. So, Philippines, first off,

151

00:31:47.490 --> 00:31:55.509

Telibert Laoc: Voters, we are 69 million voters, 1.2 million of which are dispersed throughout the world. They have 77-0.

152

00:31:55.630 --> 00:32:09.149

Telibert Laoc: polling stations or posts where they cast their vote, but a huge number, of course, is in country. We look at 93,000 polling stations, over 370,000 poll workers.

153

00:32:09.250 --> 00:32:24.589

Telibert Laoc: Now, elections are synchronized. It's in our Constitution that we vote in one go, half of the Senate, members of the Senate, there are 24 members. Every three years, we vote for 12 of them. And then we also vote for members of Congress, district representatives.

154

00:32:24.970 --> 00:32:43.710

Telibert Laoc: Provincial and city municipal officials, all in one go, as I've said, so we're looking at 18,000 positions, over 45,000 to 50,000 candidates, but of course, the voters will not vote for all of them. They vote for positions in their respective locations. When we vote, we use paper ballot.

155

00:32:44.100 --> 00:32:46.389

Telibert Laoc: But machines will count our ballots.

156

00:32:46.730 --> 00:32:53.099

Telibert Laoc: The administrator of the elections, of course, is the Commission on Elections. It's a constitutionally mandated body.

157

00:32:53.300 --> 00:33:10.399

Telibert Laoc: And I will go to the bit of detail on their powers, because it impacts on the way they're handling, hate-related or climate-related issues as regards elections. On the right... on the left-hand side, you will see the ballot, how it looks like. When we vote, we just shade the name of the candidate.

158

00:33:11.180 --> 00:33:14.139

Telibert Laoc: And then, feed it into a machine.

159

00:33:14.360 --> 00:33:29.539

Telibert Laoc: then the vote is recorded and not yet transmitted. I mention this because we're looking at equipment and how the equipment should be made ready, when, under... subject to heat and water conditions, the same way as in India and in

160

00:33:29.650 --> 00:33:46.890

Telibert Laoc: Indonesia, there are places where we saw rain and floods, and for the most part, we saw a dry season. But again, local, local conditions, those close to the body of water are experiencing different climates. They call it a climate, microclimate.

161

00:33:47.520 --> 00:33:50.759

Telibert Laoc: For elections... for the elections in 2025.

162

00:33:50.850 --> 00:34:02.699

Telibert Laoc: Voter registration is all year round. We register anytime. The vote... the voter registration period is suspended as the election... as close to election periods.

163

00:34:02.700 --> 00:34:18.519

Telibert Laoc: But then it, again, continues throughout the year. Now, this has relatively small, if not at all, impact on climate, because, of course, the voter will have to choose when he or she will go to the Commission on Elections to register. Now, registration is

164

00:34:18.520 --> 00:34:26.699

Telibert Laoc: Mostly online, but you have to go to the election officer office so that your biometric information can be captured and stored.

165

00:34:27.130 --> 00:34:43.260

Telibert Laoc: Elections are 90 days... campaign period for national positions. In the case of 2025 elections, which we refer to as midterm elections, because we don't elect the position of president and vice president. The senators had a 90-day,

166

00:34:44.080 --> 00:34:47.250

Telibert Laoc: campaign period starting in February and ending

167

00:34:47.570 --> 00:34:53.760

Telibert Laoc: on May 10, with a one-year silence... a one-day silence period before the voting started on May 12.

168

00:34:54.020 --> 00:35:09.810

Telibert Laoc: Campaign for other positions, provincial, local, are 45 days. They began in March 20... in March 28th. The average temperatures during that period from February all the way to a few days after May 12, voting day.

169

00:35:09.850 --> 00:35:13.690

Telibert Laoc: Ranged from 35 to 39, average of 32.

170

00:35:13.710 --> 00:35:16.710

Telibert Laoc: However, the heat indices were a bit high in

171

00:35:16.710 --> 00:35:36.810

Telibert Laoc: some places, up to 42 to 46 degrees, and this is actually the wet bulb temperature, right? So, it's temperature and humidity all together, you have the wet bulb temperature. On record, that year, 2025, election year, we had the longest and most intense heat wave, ever experienced.

172

00:35:37.060 --> 00:35:45.789

Telibert Laoc: So, in our study, we picked 10 provinces with the highest recorded temperatures. We looked at the averages, and we looked at the

173

00:35:45.900 --> 00:35:50.109

Telibert Laoc: The, the standard deviation of the temperature, so we chose

174

00:35:50.180 --> 00:36:06.660

Telibert Laoc: this, 10 district... 10 provinces, and then we also included Metro Manila, because it is highly, highly urban, and about 40 million voters of population there. Now, we talked to... we interviewed election officials from the province of Bulacan.

175

00:36:06.740 --> 00:36:14.129

Telibert Laoc: Pangasinan and Metro Manila, so that's how we got our information to support our, research.

176

00:36:15.110 --> 00:36:20.700

Telibert Laoc: What was the impact of the heat wave? As I said, voter registration, not much, if any.

177

00:36:21.160 --> 00:36:25.840

Telibert Laoc: And then campaigning, of course, the candidates adjusted how and when they campaigned.

178

00:36:26.280 --> 00:36:33.520

Telibert Laoc: Essentially, no campaigning on... on... from, like, 10 up to about 3.

179

00:36:33.650 --> 00:36:48.310

Telibert Laoc: But it picked up in the evening and during the end of the day. Now, voter information sheets, I'd like to emphasize on this one. Voter information sheets are where votes are distributed to all voters. They contain the

180

00:36:48.440 --> 00:36:52.509

Telibert Laoc: Of course, the polling station, the polling place and the polling station.

181

00:36:52.770 --> 00:36:55.099

Telibert Laoc: The candidates who are running.

182

00:36:55.280 --> 00:37:07.989

Telibert Laoc: and other piece of information that's... that is important to the voter, how to use the vote counting machine, and how to mark the ballot. So, this one in our interviews had an impact... he had an impact on, because

183

00:37:08.040 --> 00:37:23.669

Telibert Laoc: there... this has to be distributed to all voters, and voters have to sign off when they receive them. So, distribution could not wait until the day cools. It had to go all day long, and the election officers are,

184

00:37:23.670 --> 00:37:36.230

Telibert Laoc: Officials saw that, some did not... they had an issue of distribution because there were no contractors, so they had to access local village... village officials to help them in the distribution.

185

00:37:36.980 --> 00:37:41.769

Telibert Laoc: On election day, on the run-up, health protection became a

186

00:37:41.770 --> 00:37:57.750

Telibert Laoc: central concern. Of course, first aid and other equipment were made available, and the Commission on Elections reached out to local governments to provide them water stations and then cooling fans and other support mechanisms to get

187

00:37:57.770 --> 00:38:06.179

Telibert Laoc: the elections going. Now, elections are, polling centers are election... are public schools, so,

188

00:38:06.360 --> 00:38:22.830

Telibert Laoc: people know where to find them, except that the public schools are not really also set up for comfort, not even during, when they're used to teach, also much less for election use. Now, turnout remains strong, despite, the heat.

189

00:38:22.930 --> 00:38:41.700

Telibert Laoc: The turnout for 2025 was at 83%, and the highest of all the previous midterm elections. So we did, in our study, not... not an... did not create an impact at all temperature. This is a vote of the water information sheet, I'll skip that. So.

190

00:38:42.130 --> 00:38:53.760

Telibert Laoc: How did the COMELEC deal with these issues? Because they're a constitutional body, they enjoy certain authorities and conditions that other departments of government do not.

191

00:38:54.110 --> 00:39:04.050

Telibert Laoc: fiscal autonomy is one, but essentially they are able to deputize any and all agencies of government in pursuit of credible elections. So.

192

00:39:04.320 --> 00:39:09.300

Telibert Laoc: They get the military to help them transport the ballots.

193

00:39:09.390 --> 00:39:25.339

Telibert Laoc: public school officials, or teachers, actually, are the primary personnel for administering elections. The National Disaster Management and many other instrumentalities of government can be summoned by the Electoral Commission to help. So.

194

00:39:25.340 --> 00:39:41.209

Telibert Laoc: It's a critical, critical mandate, because it essentially allows the Commission on Elections to do whatever they think is necessary, and in this case, and future and moving forward, address, anticipate issues relating to climate.

195

00:39:41.460 --> 00:39:44.010

Telibert Laoc: What conclusions have we on...

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00:39:44.200 --> 00:39:53.670

Telibert Laoc: based on our studies, similarly to the previous presenters, we believe that it's important to institutionalize climate adaptation.

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00:39:54.480 --> 00:39:57.279

Telibert Laoc: Extreme heat,

198

00:39:57.890 --> 00:40:11.269

Telibert Laoc: embed extreme heat risk management with deputized agencies, so that it is not just the Commission on Elections that trigger the preparation, but also, like the Department of Education, so that they can prepare the schools better.

199

00:40:11.280 --> 00:40:19.030

Telibert Laoc: In our recommendation, we saw what India does during the hot season, right? Painting the roofs white.

200

00:40:19.030 --> 00:40:31.630

Telibert Laoc: will help bring down temperature, and essentially, we told the Department of Education this, and the response to me was, we are going to send this to the infrastructure unit and consider it.

201

00:40:31.810 --> 00:40:35.269

Telibert Laoc: Standardized health and safety measures at polling places.

202

00:40:35.700 --> 00:40:43.119

Telibert Laoc: And then specify for equipment, both counting machines, so that they are, even from the

203

00:40:43.150 --> 00:40:52.709

Telibert Laoc: crafting of the terms of reference in the bidding. They're already embedding temperature resilience in the contract.

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00:40:52.710 --> 00:41:06.720

Telibert Laoc: And then continue, register anywhere. Our election commission, as I've said, you'd register anywhere. They go to schools to encourage the youth, the young, the in-school youth, to register. We can register at shopping malls.

205

00:41:06.990 --> 00:41:19.309

Telibert Laoc: And we can also vote at shopping malls. So this is really the authority of the Commission on Elections. Our laws mandate that voting will be held in public buildings.

206

00:41:19.910 --> 00:41:22.810

Telibert Laoc: But the Comelec, because of that.

207

00:41:23.320 --> 00:41:32.889

Telibert Laoc: I would say overarching authority has considered and has implemented voting in poly... in shopping malls, especially for seniors and pregnant women.

208

00:41:32.890 --> 00:41:43.679

Telibert Laoc: and others who need, that kind of, comfort as they vote. So, and they will continue, as far as we know, they will continue to do so. So, all in all, in conclusion,

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00:41:43.860 --> 00:41:46.230

Telibert Laoc: Awareness is there, but nothing has...

210

00:41:46.630 --> 00:42:02.990

Telibert Laoc: yet been done in terms of institutionalizing it. Just like the other presenters, local election officers are able to use the mandate of the Electoral Commission so that they can summon different local instrumentalities of government to help them manage elections.

211

00:42:03.660 --> 00:42:05.310

Telibert Laoc: All from you, Farrah. Thank you.

212

00:42:05.700 --> 00:42:13.680

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Excellent, Deliver. Thanks very much. Appreciate, appreciate also just... adjusting to the time. Fantastic.

213

00:42:13.900 --> 00:42:18.930

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Weena, now we're gonna give you the floor. Thanks very much. So, floor's yours.

214

00:42:20.390 --> 00:42:21.630

Weena Gera: Good day, everyone.

215

00:42:21.670 --> 00:42:34.739

Weena Gera: Thank you for inviting me. It's an honor to be able to share insights in this important discourse. I'd like to begin by extending my warmest congratulations to the authors and editors of the newly released book.

216

00:42:34.740 --> 00:42:44.670

Weena Gera: and the important contributions of international IDEA in continually advancing democratic reforms and strengthening electoral institutions, particularly for the Global South.

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00:42:45.120 --> 00:42:52.460

Weena Gera: Listening to the presentations of Yogi for the case of Indonesia, Sakir for the case of India, and Telebert for Philippines.

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00:42:52.730 --> 00:43:00.969

Weena Gera: We are reminded that at a time when climate hazards are increasingly shaping the environments in which elections take place.

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00:43:01.880 --> 00:43:07.039

Weena Gera: Climate and disaster resilience must be viewed not only as an environmental imperative.

220

00:43:07.200 --> 00:43:09.050

Weena Gera: But also as a democratic one.

221

00:43:09.680 --> 00:43:20.570

Weena Gera: The climate change and the increasing severity of hazards such as typhoons, floods, landslides, extreme heat and drought have become electoral governance challenges.

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00:43:20.570 --> 00:43:31.909

Weena Gera: As these increasingly intersect with electoral processes, affecting everything from voter registration and campaign activities to election day operations and post-election processes.

223

00:43:32.390 --> 00:43:46.610

Weena Gera: Climate hazards damage physical electoral infrastructure, they displace voters, disrupt logistics, and strain already limited state capacities, and challenge the ability of election management bodies to conduct credible elections.

224

00:43:47.500 --> 00:43:55.159

Weena Gera: Clearly, climate adaptation needs to be institutionalized, as it becomes inseparable from electoral preparedness.

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00:43:55.300 --> 00:44:06.210

Weena Gera: Election management bodies are therefore compelled to consider climate resilience as a core component of electoral administration, rather than an ancillary concern.

226

00:44:06.540 --> 00:44:14.620

Weena Gera: As Yogi argued, contingency framework matters, and Saket emphasized the imperative for eco-friendly elections.

227

00:44:15.410 --> 00:44:17.970

Weena Gera: The core message is not lost on me.

228

00:44:18.130 --> 00:44:27.920

Weena Gera: That safeguarding electoral integrity in the 21st century increasingly requires adapting democratic institutions to conditions of climate uncertainty.

229

00:44:28.730 --> 00:44:32.339

Weena Gera: Coming from the Philippines, I'd like to build on the argument of the Tiliban.

230

00:44:32.460 --> 00:44:35.759

Weena Gera: When he emphasized, Especially in his paper.

231

00:44:36.050 --> 00:44:51.310

Weena Gera: along with his authors, or co-authors, that safeguarding electoral integrity in a warming world requires expanding the definition of, quote, credible elections to include physical safety, health protection, and climate resilience.

232

00:44:51.460 --> 00:44:53.379

Weena Gera: I completely agree.

233

00:44:53.800 --> 00:44:59.440

Weena Gera: The Philippines is among the Southeast Asian countries that have invested the most in disaster risk reduction.

234

00:44:59.590 --> 00:45:10.209

Weena Gera: For example, we have introduced scientific tools to track weather disturbances and in identifying vulnerable and high-risk areas to mitigate disruptions during elections.

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00:45:10.850 --> 00:45:18.409

Weena Gera: But as Stilbertas emphasized, inasmuch as there is demonstrated institutional resilience by Philippine electoral authorities.

236

00:45:18.450 --> 00:45:34.899

Weena Gera: Existing risk management frameworks continue to be limited in a way we have not yet systematically integrated heat-specific hazards, as most contingency planning continues to prioritize floods, security threats, or technology failures.

237

00:45:34.900 --> 00:45:39.470

Weena Gera: Leaving health-related and temperature-sensitive risks under-addressed.

238

00:45:40.190 --> 00:45:49.259

Weena Gera: I'll perhaps add that more still could be done to address the threats at the intersection of conflict and climate change.

239

00:45:50.000 --> 00:45:54.850

Weena Gera: The Philippines is still dealing with the effects of long-standing armed conflicts.

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00:45:55.020 --> 00:45:59.930

Weena Gera: A separatist struggle in Mindanao, and a nationwide communist insurgency.

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00:46:00.530 --> 00:46:15.439

Weena Gera: Conflict over land has been a constant in the country, and climate-induced pressures, especially in the context of extreme heat and drought, magnify these tensions and intensify land disputes in Mindanao's Bangsamoro region.

242

00:46:15.910 --> 00:46:26.130

Weena Gera: The International Crisis Group produced data that both the periods of increased rainfall and droughts have coincided with an uptick of violence in central Mindanao.

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00:46:26.910 --> 00:46:39.289

Weena Gera: They also presented anecdotal evidence suggesting that, in some instances, the poor moros, mostly farmers, have joined an armed group or a clan militia to compensate for losing their livelihood.

244

00:46:39.840 --> 00:46:54.069

Weena Gera: This contributes to a highly contentious politics in the country's south, potentially straining a fragile peace deal and severely disrupting elections in an area beset by decades of rebellion and communal conflict.

245

00:46:54.380 --> 00:47:04.100

Weena Gera: Violent conflicts and natural hazards also tend to harm the poorest the most, and make it difficult for disadvantaged people to exercise meaningful political participation.

246

00:47:04.470 --> 00:47:08.719

Weena Gera: Rural women, for instance, are disproportionately affected by hazards.

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00:47:09.100 --> 00:47:13.979

Weena Gera: Given that climate-induced calamities seem to hit women particularly hard.

248

00:47:14.290 --> 00:47:17.259

Weena Gera: Gender-responsive electoral planning is a must.

249

00:47:18.110 --> 00:47:27.359

Weena Gera: Electoral bodies should also do more to ensure the rights of the country's indigenous communities and take inspiration from their customary traditions.

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00:47:27.380 --> 00:47:42.829

Weena Gera: In fact, the papers reminded us that climate-induced and natural disasters create asymmetries in political participation by disproportionately affecting marginalized communities, rural populations, informal settlers, and internally displaced persons.

251

00:47:43.140 --> 00:47:53.979

Weena Gera: So in this sense, climate hazards can generate new forms of electoral inequality that remain largely invisible within conventional assessments of election quality.

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00:47:54.360 --> 00:48:00.460

Weena Gera: So, what affirmative electoral policies can be designed for the most vulnerable to this intersection?

253

00:48:01.780 --> 00:48:09.970

Weena Gera: And for countries which are disaster-prone and have fragile democracies, such as the Philippines and Indonesia, and maybe India.

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00:48:10.570 --> 00:48:14.190

Weena Gera: The implications extend beyond electoral administration.

255

00:48:14.560 --> 00:48:24.049

Weena Gera: The question is, what happens to democratic accountability when elections occur in communities repeatedly affected by climate-related disasters?

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00:48:24.260 --> 00:48:34.720

Weena Gera: Certainly, disasters do not merely affect the technical conduct of elections. They also shape the political and social conditions under which citizens make democratic choices.

257

00:48:35.210 --> 00:48:51.930

Weena Gera: In disaster-affected communities, citizens often become heavily dependent on humanitarian relief and government assistance. In the Philippine context, many voters place significant value on the provision of immediate aid, or we call *ayuda*, during times of crisis.

258

00:48:52.360 --> 00:49:07.009

Weena Gera: In contexts where survival and recovery depend on access to state resources, citizens may understandably prioritize access to assistance over broader concerns about institutional accountability or long-term government performance.

259

00:49:07.440 --> 00:49:24.520

Weena Gera: Disaster assistance can become a powerful political resource conducive to populist political performances, and incumbents often enjoy greater visibility during relief efforts, while vulnerable communities may become more susceptible to political appeals tied to the distribution of aid.

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00:49:24.780 --> 00:49:38.249

Weena Gera: In many cases, humanitarian assistance may be incorporated into existing patronage networks and clientelistic mobilizations, reinforcing political dependencies, rather than strengthening democratic accountability.

261

00:49:38.610 --> 00:49:49.149

Weena Gera: So this dynamic points to an imperative for understanding how recurring climate hazards may create conditions that compromise credibility of electoral outcomes.

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00:49:49.150 --> 00:49:58.950

Weena Gera: In the sense, the challenge posed by climate change is not simply whether elections can be conducted cleanly, safely, and peacefully during disasters.

263

00:49:59.160 --> 00:50:12.079

Weena Gera: The deeper question is whether democratic accountability itself can be sustained when citizens are forced to navigate political choices under conditions of heightened vulnerability and independence.

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00:50:12.310 --> 00:50:25.079

Weena Gera: So, building upon the important foundation laid by the current works, I look forward to further discourses and stock-taking on what shall constitute credible elections and electoral integrity.

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00:50:25.610 --> 00:50:36.210

Weena Gera: That... which also examine how climate disasters reshape political incentives, alter accountability relationships, and influence the broader quality

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00:50:36.530 --> 00:50:38.179

Weena Gera: of democratic governance.

267

00:50:38.410 --> 00:50:51.370

Weena Gera: What institutional and electoral reforms might be designed so electoral bodies can implement robust measures to mitigate the weaponization of disasters and public relief for political advantage?

268

00:50:51.560 --> 00:51:07.359

Weena Gera: In conclusion, I guess, by understanding these wider political consequences, can we fully appreciate the implications of climate change for democratic resilience? Climate adaptation, after all, is not merely about protecting infrastructure for electoral management.

269

00:51:07.460 --> 00:51:14.239

Weena Gera: It is also about protecting the democratic relationships of accountability that give elections their meaning.

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00:51:14.680 --> 00:51:15.460

Weena Gera: Thank you.

271

00:51:22.410 --> 00:51:27.429

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Thanks for that, Wina, sorry, put the mic on, and thanks, because you, you, I think you raised

272

00:51:28.470 --> 00:51:32.500

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Very relevant questions, I think we all agree. Tom?

273

00:51:33.610 --> 00:51:34.650

Ferran Martinez i Coma: the projectors.

274

00:51:35.080 --> 00:51:46.810

Tom Rogers: Thank you, Frank. Can you hear me very clearly when I'm speaking? Thank you. And, when you first said to me, do you mind going last? I thought initially, well, that's great, because, you know, I can then make a whole range of new points and...

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00:51:47.040 --> 00:52:02.179

Tom Rogers: portray myself as very knowledgeable, but of course, I've just come at the end of some fantastic presentations where some very clever people have covered the field, very well. So, with that as a backdrop, I thought that the whole panel

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00:52:02.320 --> 00:52:07.680

Tom Rogers: Including when it worked really well together, rather than revisit that in detail.

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00:52:07.920 --> 00:52:17.769

Tom Rogers: I thought what I might do is to try and draw out what, for me, seems to be the central contribution as the panel as a whole, which is exactly what Weida just did before.

278

00:52:17.990 --> 00:52:20.030

Tom Rogers: And the common message that I take

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00:52:20.210 --> 00:52:35.940

Tom Rogers: from the panel, and indeed from the work that's being done by International Idea, is that climate change and natural hazards are forcing election management bodies to actually rethink the definition of electoral resilience. And this is a critical step for all of us.

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00:52:36.130 --> 00:52:46.779

Tom Rogers: So, you know, I speak as a practitioner. Historically, hazards sat at the very edge of election planning. They've always been important, but they were treated as exceptional.

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00:52:46.920 --> 00:53:01.450

Tom Rogers: And what all the papers suggest is that the assumption is becoming a lot harder to maintain, that these are just not exceptional things. The practical and conceptual shift, I think, is going from asking, hey, what do we do if something goes wrong?

282

00:53:01.680 --> 00:53:04.810

Tom Rogers: To, how do we design our electoral systems?

283

00:53:05.190 --> 00:53:24.349

Tom Rogers: on the assumption that disruption is going to occur. And that's a very demanding question, particularly for election management bodies, particularly with issues of resourcing and legislative breach as well. But I do think it captures the significance of the work that we've heard today from the presenters. So, Fran, if it helps, I thought I might make

284

00:53:24.690 --> 00:53:32.709

Tom Rogers: maybe some observations, maybe 4 observations, and then, you know, drag it together, and I will absolutely stick within the time frame.

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00:53:33.030 --> 00:53:41.810

Tom Rogers: So the first observation is what we've just said. Climate disruption, it's no longer peripheral, it's a systems core level challenge.

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00:53:42.010 --> 00:53:44.950

Tom Rogers: And if I think about my own experience of this, we had a

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00:53:45.110 --> 00:54:04.020

Tom Rogers: a huge drought in Australia around 2019 and 20, and sort of at the end of that, we had huge fires, bushfires through large parts of Australia, a large loss of life, incredible loss of property, and only a few months after that, as Commissioner, we were running a very significant by-election. We had to make

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00:54:04.140 --> 00:54:14.839

Tom Rogers: a number of decisions, not just with the planning of that, but the aftermath, about how we dealt with the grief in those communities. As you know, Australia has compulsory voting, and

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00:54:15.120 --> 00:54:17.130

Tom Rogers: After every election, we follow up.

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00:54:17.140 --> 00:54:36.099

Tom Rogers: and issue non-voter notices. And we made the, I think, very reasonable decision not to follow up any non-voter action in any of those communities that have been affected by that natural hazard, because you're dealing with grief and people that you want to win over with trust in democracy, and not try and punish them for that.

291

00:54:36.140 --> 00:54:53.089

Tom Rogers: So, the example... that example for me mattered, because it showed that hazards don't simply affect polling places or election day logistics, they actually affect communities, which I think is what each of the presenters have been saying today. It also impacts institutional routines and the broader electoral environment.

292

00:54:53.960 --> 00:55:05.360

Tom Rogers: So my second observation, I think, is that resilience, and we've seen from the presented, is as much about trust as it is about operations. When election officials, and I'm one of those.

293

00:55:05.370 --> 00:55:19.779

Tom Rogers: thinks about natural hazards, the first question is about, can polling places open? Can we get staff to work? Can materials be delivered? Can votes be counted? And all of that's absolutely critical. But that operational disruption is only one part of it.

294

00:55:21.240 --> 00:55:33.690

Tom Rogers: natural hazards create uncertainty, and Wiener's example of, areas undergoing other forms of disruption, I thought was great with that. Uncertainty creates rumors, rumours create distrust.

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00:55:34.060 --> 00:55:52.100

Tom Rogers: And in my experience, voters are pretty understanding when things go wrong, but they do not tolerate silence, confusion, or inconsistent messaging, and that has to be wrapped into the operation. And I think it leads to a broader point that sits just below the surface of the papers that were presented.

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00:55:52.240 --> 00:55:57.220

Tom Rogers: you know, what are we dealing with here? Are we talking about emergency logistics?

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00:55:57.370 --> 00:56:00.519

Tom Rogers: Or with the problem of democratic legitimacy under stress.

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00:56:00.690 --> 00:56:04.889

Tom Rogers: And I think what the presenters showed today is the answer is both.

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00:56:04.900 --> 00:56:23.480

Tom Rogers: it's not simply an election that becomes hard to administer. It's that public confidence erodes if institutions can't adapt to worsening conditions. And it was great to hear, Saket talk about adaption strategies and assured minimum facilities, which I think, is a great way of dealing with that.

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00:56:24.130 --> 00:56:34.699

Tom Rogers: My third observation, just quickly, is that electoral resilience is increasingly a systems issue, rather than just an electoral commission issue, and I...

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00:56:34.890 --> 00:56:52.239

Tom Rogers: really worry about sometimes electoral commissions taking too much on themselves, that it's their responsibility to solve everything when they have limited resources. They do depend on infrastructure that election administrators don't control, electricity, transport networks. I think we were talking before about schools.

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00:56:52.560 --> 00:56:56.469

Tom Rogers: You can have really great plans in place, and capable staff

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00:56:56.650 --> 00:57:02.830

Tom Rogers: And still face really big issues if these dependencies fail. So the resilience needs to be understood, and I think

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00:57:03.140 --> 00:57:22.320

Tom Rogers: at a system level, commissioners, senior executive planners, they need visibility of all of those risks before a crisis. They need to have done that planning beforehand. And I was really struck by the discussion of heat and the planning about heat. That's a real issue for all of us. Notwithstanding.

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00:57:22.330 --> 00:57:32.900

Tom Rogers: you know, what we discussed earlier on about flooding with yogi, and the fact that there's no point... well, not no point, you must have plans in place before those things occur to ensure

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00:57:32.980 --> 00:57:36.690

Tom Rogers: the adequate turnout and democracy.

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00:57:36.970 --> 00:57:41.679

Tom Rogers: For me, as Commissioner, one of the best things I think I did is establish

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00:57:42.000 --> 00:57:45.270

Tom Rogers: for... it's a history-making thing in Australia.

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00:57:45.740 --> 00:57:55.959

Tom Rogers: high-tech command and control center to run every election with access to live data from emergency services around Australia, so we could plot

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00:57:56.070 --> 00:57:57.070

Tom Rogers: Live.

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00:57:57.270 --> 00:58:14.579

Tom Rogers: polling places, the impact of fires, floods, natural hazards, and prepare plans for those well in advance, and monitor what was going on on a place-by-place basis. That was an incredible investment by government, but it did take the Commission to win over government to make that happen.

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00:58:14.950 --> 00:58:16.640

Tom Rogers: My final observation.

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00:58:16.920 --> 00:58:25.750

Tom Rogers: I think the ultimate test of resilience is democratic inclusion, which each of the speakers have spoken about, and Weena, I think, really brought that home as well.

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00:58:26.010 --> 00:58:29.030

Tom Rogers: Generally speaking, hazards don't affect everybody equally.

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00:58:29.450 --> 00:58:32.409

Tom Rogers: The communities that are most affected,

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00:58:32.950 --> 00:58:49.049

Tom Rogers: They already face other barriers in any case. They're remote communities, First Nations communities, older voters, voters with a disability, and communities with weaker infrastructure. And that's why climate resilience isn't simply an environmental issue, it's actually a democratic issue about democratic inclusion.

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00:58:49.200 --> 00:59:01.609

Tom Rogers: So I think the real test isn't whether an election can be conducted under ideal conditions. It's whether participation, accessibility, and public confidence can be maintained when those circumstances are far from ideal.

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00:59:01.670 --> 00:59:09.330

Tom Rogers: And just, if I can also thank International IDEA and ERRN for the work they're doing in this space. I think previously we used to talk about

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00:59:09.340 --> 00:59:25.699

Tom Rogers: climate resilience, democratic resilience, and national security as separate domains. It's very clear they're all merging together, and we need to treat them as one, not separate issues. So, for me, I think all the papers made a very compelling case, and Wena's commentary was also very good.

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00:59:25.700 --> 00:59:33.489

Tom Rogers: that these are real issues that we need to be prepared for before going into the event. And if I might finish with one quote from Yobia, which I thought was excellent.

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00:59:33.650 --> 00:59:41.440

Tom Rogers: It was, you know, don't leave it to local officials to absorb the risk. That is not a recipe for success. Thanks, Brian.

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00:59:44.810 --> 00:59:51.149

Ferran Martinez i Coma: No, thanks. Thanks, Don, that's... Very insightful. I have to say, I...

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00:59:51.990 --> 00:59:59.190

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Well, for me, those are very... extremely useful for points, as well as winners, which I thought her presentation was also brilliant.

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00:59:59.540 --> 01:00:17.560

Ferran Martinez i Coma: delivers a kid. Yogi... Yogi had to leave, sorry, he messaged me privately, he had another... another commitment, another appointment. But I... I agree that, I mean, the four points that you have raised, Tom, also... and some of them were overlapping with... with winners, right? Especially the democratic inclusion point, but also, like.

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01:00:17.560 --> 01:00:30.360

Ferran Martinez i Coma: this is... this is happening. I mean, I love the idea of the interaction of conflict, which also echoes... echoes the top... echoes Tom's point in the end of national offense, if you want to call it like that, to national security, or... or whatnot.

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01:00:30.520 --> 01:00:52.020

Ferran Martinez i Coma: I think, I mean, obviously we could do this about me, and I could just start asking questions to you guys, and we could spend hours. However, unfortunately, this is not only about me, no, just kidding. This is also about the public, and, you know, now on, if you guys would like to participate, I think we have a terrific lineup of speakers.

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01:00:52.020 --> 01:00:56.500

Ferran Martinez i Coma: So if somebody wants to participate, please Raise your hand, or...

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01:00:56.500 --> 01:01:02.170

Ferran Martinez i Coma: put it in the chat, or let me know, I'll... we'll... we'll make it happen.

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01:01:02.320 --> 01:01:11.130

Ferran Martinez i Coma: But, yeah, like, that, that would be, that would be good, because of, of the topics. If not, if you're shy,

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01:01:11.260 --> 01:01:17.670

Ferran Martinez i Coma: very happy to take... to take the lead here. But if... while you... while...

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01:01:18.460 --> 01:01:29.509

Ferran Martinez i Coma: I cannot see at this moment anything. So what... oh, I have a hand, sorry, so then, thank you. Sarah... oh, well, Sarah, I'm allowing you to talk, Sarah, maybe...

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01:01:29.660 --> 01:01:34.190

Ferran Martinez i Coma: So, you may try to put your... hey, excellent. Go ahead, please.

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01:01:37.470 --> 01:01:38.190

Sarah Birch: Me.

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01:01:39.280 --> 01:01:40.330

Ferran Martinez i Coma: We can hear you now.

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01:01:40.610 --> 01:01:56.380

Sarah Birch: Fantastic, great. These were absolutely fascinating presentations, and I learned a lot. I just want to pick up on the point that Yogi made about the governance gap, and he talked about something that was also raised by some of the other speakers, but that

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01:01:56.380 --> 01:02:06.720

Sarah Birch: Coordination problems within the electoral management body, and also coordination problems across electoral... across agencies, between the electoral management body and other agencies.

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01:02:06.810 --> 01:02:14.500

Sarah Birch: And this is in the context of a compound hazard with, you know, a health crisis plus a meteorological crisis.

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01:02:14.550 --> 01:02:27.369

Sarah Birch: But of course, there are other types of compound hazards that we also face. Rena mentioned conflict being combined with, you know, meteorological problems, and as the climate changes, we're going to have more of these compound hazards.

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01:02:27.400 --> 01:02:48.309

Sarah Birch: And so my question for the speakers is, do we need a different model of coordination across agencies and within electoral management bodies, so it's not the local electoral officials that are picking up the problems, as Tom said, that that really is not where it should land on the local electoral officials.

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01:02:48.310 --> 01:02:53.710

Sarah Birch: And if we do need a different model of coordination, what would that look like?

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01:02:54.220 --> 01:02:55.120

Sarah Birch: Thank you.

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01:02:56.770 --> 01:03:06.169

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Perhaps, let's do it... let's reply in Perse, Saket and Telebert if you want, and then Wynne and Tom, because I think he also raised a point, so...

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01:03:06.850 --> 01:03:09.199

Ferran Martinez i Coma: So I get... maybe? Kirsten?

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01:03:09.200 --> 01:03:28.369

Saket Ambarkhane: Yeah, can I... I mean, what it would look like is something I'm not too sure, but I think this is definitely required, because I think from the Indian experience, I can say that the Disaster Management Authority, which looks after all the possible natural hazards that happen in India.

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01:03:28.370 --> 01:03:48.489

Saket Ambarkhane: is increasingly now collaborating with the Election Commission, because they're... the Election Commission is noticing that these are issues that are coming up again and again. However, it remains at the state level. The National Election Commission has put out a standardized electoral risk management manual.

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01:03:48.490 --> 01:04:11.170

Saket Ambarkhane: But because these areas where there are specific issues which could lead to natural disasters are more organized and are more coordinated in developing these systems where they could tie up with the disaster management and develop systems and structures in such a way that it does not fall absolutely on the local person.

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01:04:11.170 --> 01:04:21.399

Saket Ambarkhane: is, it is in the interest of those particular states which are prone to disaster. So I think they are more aware and are more organized in these things.

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01:04:21.400 --> 01:04:29.580

Saket Ambarkhane: Whereas nationally, I think there are still some gaps left, and I agree with you, we need a more organized structure where it... where there's...

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01:04:29.580 --> 01:04:32.469

Saket Ambarkhane: Detailed interagency coordination.

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01:04:32.470 --> 01:04:56.569

Saket Ambarkhane: Those coordination exists on other areas during elections, especially in India, when it comes to law and order or others, so multiple agencies. For example, if there is bribery or other things, the tax officials get involved. So this... there is a structured system in trying to coordinate with different agencies, but when it comes to disaster management, electoral risk related to natural disasters, this is

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01:04:56.570 --> 01:04:58.220

Saket Ambarkhane: It's far lower than one would

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01:04:58.220 --> 01:05:15.299

Saket Ambarkhane: ideally want in a situation like this. So, I mean, what it would look like is something that I'm not too sure about, but definitely, this is already there. I mean, this is coming up, and it would be... I feel that it would go... go much beyond the states going forward, as the heat waves

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01:05:15.300 --> 01:05:18.239

Saket Ambarkhane: are continuous in India, and go and increase.

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01:05:20.690 --> 01:05:21.400

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Deliver.

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01:05:21.590 --> 01:05:22.270

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Thanks, okay.

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01:05:22.930 --> 01:05:35.030

Telibert Laoc: Certainly, it calls for a different model of coordination. I will use the word subsidiarity. We cannot... it's too much to demand for our electoral management body to be weather predictors, too.

357

01:05:35.180 --> 01:05:47.450

Telibert Laoc: So, what place here, locally, it's really the local micro... it's really the local... the microclimate I'm looking at. In an archipelago like ours, you see, really, same province, different conditions.

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01:05:47.670 --> 01:06:04.270

Telibert Laoc: Right? So, the coordination, in my... in my view, should... while COMELEC has the overarching authority, should... it should be good at making sure that the different agencies that they are getting to support elections are able to do their work.

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01:06:04.550 --> 01:06:10.200

Telibert Laoc: So, the National Meteorological Agency is not nationwide.

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01:06:10.550 --> 01:06:12.490

Telibert Laoc: There should be some level of...

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01:06:12.750 --> 01:06:23.519

Telibert Laoc: being able to define what kind of conditions are we going to face, and allow, like, in the case of Bulacan, where we had an interview, the fire, department.

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01:06:23.710 --> 01:06:34.889

Telibert Laoc: the Philippine Coast Guard, because they were expecting flooding, and some areas are actually flooded throughout the year, did get them to be involved. So this is very local now.

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01:06:35.210 --> 01:06:40.539

Telibert Laoc: It's really how Comelec can be efficient in its access to government expertise.

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01:06:40.910 --> 01:06:52.859

Telibert Laoc: The other tricky thing that I'm seeing is these are all local, and you essentially get the local government to get to be in the picture, either to help in the preparation.

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01:06:53.300 --> 01:07:05.930

Telibert Laoc: and also provide local... locally available resources. So, it's a bit tricky because they are going to be elected, their positions are up for grabs, but then you get them to be involved in the election administration somehow.

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01:07:08.030 --> 01:07:10.080

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Thank you, Deliver.

367

01:07:10.260 --> 01:07:11.670

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Win and then don't.

368

01:07:12.030 --> 01:07:21.779

Weena Gera: Maybe just adding briefly to what Deliberte said, I completely resonate with the dilemma that he mentions, you know, like, how do we actually insulate the electoral process

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01:07:21.910 --> 01:07:30.259

Weena Gera: from the local structures which are highly politicized. But indeed, as Tom has raised, it is a systemic whole-of-government.

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01:07:30.650 --> 01:07:43.520

Weena Gera: right, of issue, right? And since I've raised the context of the Indigenous communities, the, you know, like, the representation of women, and all these disproportionate impacts by disaster.

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01:07:43.520 --> 01:07:59.240

Weena Gera: I think there is really this involvement, even, for example, the Philippine Commission on Women, and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, in terms of ensuring those more affirmative policies. So, indeed, I would say that,

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01:07:59.340 --> 01:08:05.779

Weena Gera: We need to redesign the intergovernmental coordination for electoral management processes.

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01:08:05.980 --> 01:08:10.040

Weena Gera: However, I say that with a caveat that we can't even

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01:08:10.270 --> 01:08:29.040

Weena Gera: really get the basics right yet. So there's... I'd like to raise the caveat of, you know, adding, in fact, more agencies might even further complicate those issues, you know, in addressing this fragmentation. So that is probably just something that we have to really be careful about.

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01:08:29.410 --> 01:08:30.200

Weena Gera: Thank you.

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01:08:34.029 --> 01:08:37.760

Tom Rogers: Friend, I might just... jump in.

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01:08:38.550 --> 01:08:41.060

Tom Rogers: I agree with everything that's been said. I think,

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01:08:41.260 --> 01:08:59.550

Tom Rogers: I'll just contextualized my comment about electoral commissions and their responsibility, because when I was a kid, I used to live across from a railway track, and they had a big switching yard, you know, where trains, the tracks move, and to control those, they used to have this big switching room with all these manual levers, and there might have been 100 of those levers.

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01:08:59.640 --> 01:09:08.689

Tom Rogers: And I used to think at election time that everybody thought the Electoral Commission controlled all 100 of the levers that were responsible for an election, and maybe

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01:09:08.700 --> 01:09:21.099

Tom Rogers: they only had their hands on 20, but there was this assumption that they did everything, and so it's important for us to work out where these responsibilities actually lie. And, I think that Sakhet said.

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01:09:21.229 --> 01:09:26.380

Tom Rogers: Some of these arrangements already exist in law enforcement, where there are multiple agencies that come together

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01:09:26.620 --> 01:09:44.189

Tom Rogers: In Australia, we solved the issue. I think we solved the issue of communications and mis- and disinformation through a thing called the Electoral Integrity Assurance Task Force, where every agency that even had a vague responsibility for this came together to support the Electoral Commission.

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01:09:44.380 --> 01:09:54.419

Tom Rogers: The Electoral Commission has started driving that process for climate as well, with emergency response, but more needs to be done. And I understand that if we create more bodies.

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01:09:54.420 --> 01:10:05.530

Tom Rogers: that could create more issues, but I do think there is scope for more involvement of other agencies in that issue, like we do in those law enforcement problems. It's a great question, Sarah. Thank you.

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01:10:06.170 --> 01:10:14.220

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Can I... since there's nobody answering or raising their hand, can I push you a little bit? Because it...

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01:10:14.220 --> 01:10:31.249

Ferran Martinez i Coma: It links with that. Tom, you mentioned before that there was a little bit of... when you put in place this emergency, and in the last inter... in the last of the four points in the democratic inclusion, you also mentioned that you had to work your personal relation, like, convincing the government in order to invest.

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01:10:31.250 --> 01:10:45.300

Ferran Martinez i Coma: In order to... to get that, right? And so here, and in a sense, I also hear WINA saying, well, if you put more... more organizations, it can create a problem of... by default, right? And we all agree, just even arithmetically, that it's more likely that

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01:10:45.540 --> 01:10:47.160

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Problems searched, right?

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01:10:47.540 --> 01:10:51.980

Ferran Martinez i Coma: So, the question, in a sense, for me is, how much or how important is

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01:10:52.640 --> 01:10:56.500

Ferran Martinez i Coma: and I know the question may sound a little bit banner, but, like.

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01:10:57.140 --> 01:11:05.029

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Relevant or individual relationships, up to which point, are so fundamental in order to convince the other side that

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01:11:05.030 --> 01:11:20.829

Ferran Martinez i Coma: that what you're doing is important, or, you know, that this is relevant. And what was before, right, this doesn't only fall into the electoral commission on the one hand, or as was mentioned before, or just to the local officials. So...

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01:11:20.890 --> 01:11:27.000

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Yeah, I think we find it is... it is hard to find the balance sometimes, right? I mean, it's...

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01:11:28.330 --> 01:11:35.800

Ferran Martinez i Coma: because, you know, and sorry, and assuming also, like, apologies for that, assuming that the Electoral Commission

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01:11:35.910 --> 01:11:39.789

Ferran Martinez i Coma: is an independent body truly independent, as... Yes.

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01:11:39.790 --> 01:11:40.410

Tom Rogers: Yes.

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01:11:40.880 --> 01:11:41.510

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Right.

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01:11:41.690 --> 01:11:53.479

Ferran Martinez i Coma: So how to take it for them when... on those places where, you know, I'm the government, and I may call... let's assume Wina is the commissioner, and I call her and say, hello, Wina, let's have a chat. So how... how do we do that? I mean.

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01:11:53.590 --> 01:11:56.490

Ferran Martinez i Coma: That could be this, yeah, push forward.

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01:11:57.300 --> 01:12:03.340

Tom Rogers: If I might answer first, I know the others will have very sophisticated answers, but, for me, part of that...

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01:12:03.480 --> 01:12:07.429

Tom Rogers: Was actually quantifying the risk for government.

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01:12:07.640 --> 01:12:11.669

Tom Rogers: So, so, governments don't want problems. They just...

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01:12:11.910 --> 01:12:16.820

Tom Rogers: They've had enough problems, they don't want you to create problems. And quite often, they make assumptions.

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01:12:16.920 --> 01:12:19.850

Tom Rogers: And just out of interest, that bit about the command center.

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01:12:20.120 --> 01:12:26.550

Tom Rogers: We had a visit, in 2016 by... by the head of state for Australia, the Governor-General.

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01:12:26.790 --> 01:12:42.219

Tom Rogers: And he came into my office and he said, I'm really excited to be here, Tom, because I've heard you give these speeches about elections being the most complex peacetime logistic event in the life of the nation, and he said, I can't wait to see your command center. Now, just...

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01:12:42.910 --> 01:12:46.979

Tom Rogers: why that was important. He's ex-military, he was the ex-head of the defense Force.

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01:12:47.090 --> 01:12:49.189

Tom Rogers: And he said, I'm really excited by this.

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01:12:49.290 --> 01:13:04.629

Tom Rogers: And I said, well, it's fantastic, Your Excellency, you're in it. He said, no, no, no, I mean, you know, like, the big room with the machines that go bing, and people, and maps and stuff going on. I said, no, it's that phone, my staff officer outside, a few other people.

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01:13:04.860 --> 01:13:06.319

Tom Rogers: Anyway, he was horrified.

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01:13:06.630 --> 01:13:13.420

Tom Rogers: And we had already been speaking to government about this issue, that running these things is a risky business already, even without climate change.

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01:13:13.570 --> 01:13:30.650

Tom Rogers: And so it was about continually reminding people of the risk, and eventually saying to government, look, at the next event, if there's a failure, I have told you that I think this is a problem. You have not helped us. And so when it fails, you know, here is what we're doing. I know that's not...

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01:13:30.870 --> 01:13:32.930

Tom Rogers: You don't make many friends doing that.

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01:13:33.040 --> 01:13:39.360

Tom Rogers: But I think it's important to put the risk where it needs to be, because it really makes people alive, and once we did that, then all of a sudden.

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01:13:39.480 --> 01:13:41.540

Tom Rogers: We had a command center and support.

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01:13:41.660 --> 01:13:57.799

Tom Rogers: And... and so, you know, I know you don't get to do that all the time, you only get to do that once or twice, before someone thinks you're a very problematic person, but that was such a big issue for us, and really helped us. So there's that balance. But maintaining independence is the critical bit with that.

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01:13:57.930 --> 01:14:04.909

Tom Rogers: you know, you can never have the bit about, we'll do that for you if you do this for us, and all the rest of the stuff. It's just, here's a problem that we need to solve.

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01:14:06.080 --> 01:14:06.740

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Thanks.

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01:14:09.730 --> 01:14:10.300

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Any...

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01:14:10.300 --> 01:14:10.830

Telibert Laoc: RN?

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01:14:10.830 --> 01:14:11.490

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Other one?

422

01:14:12.110 --> 01:14:13.260

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Yes, please.

423

01:14:13.260 --> 01:14:19.590

Telibert Laoc: Tom, I'd like... thanks... thanks for that. I'd like to pick up on the... on the... on the pontification of the...

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01:14:19.750 --> 01:14:26.090

Telibert Laoc: of the risk. So, looking at it from the perspective of an election management body, when do they flex?

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01:14:26.310 --> 01:14:29.920

Telibert Laoc: In the case of the Philippines, they flex when turnout is low.

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01:14:31.340 --> 01:14:39.149

Telibert Laoc: Complaints, right? Machine-related complaints, relating to possibly questionable results.

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01:14:39.570 --> 01:14:41.970

Telibert Laoc: And then failure of elections.

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01:14:42.330 --> 01:14:49.129

Telibert Laoc: So, failure of elections in our law is essentially a polling station-level decision.

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01:14:49.540 --> 01:14:53.590

Telibert Laoc: But it could be security, it could be weather, so they... they flex.

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01:14:53.940 --> 01:15:10.360

Telibert Laoc: So, I'd like to put that forward by way of, and I know that idea has a great election risk management, model, right? So, put that so that, the election... the commission itself, Philippines.

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01:15:10.970 --> 01:15:21.960

Telibert Laoc: really protects those parameters, integrity, so that they really campaign on those bases. I want to see turnout good, I want to make sure that people are able to vote and all that.

432

01:15:23.640 --> 01:15:25.079

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Thanks for that.

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01:15:26.100 --> 01:15:28.630

Saket Ambarkhane: Yeah, G'day?

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01:15:28.630 --> 01:15:30.019

Ferran Martinez i Coma: I have a question for you, Saqued.

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01:15:30.020 --> 01:15:46.100

Saket Ambarkhane: Yeah, yeah, I just read the question. Yeah, so your question is, India's developed numerous adaptation measures, but do we have evidence that these interventions actually improve electoral outcomes, such as turnout, voter access, or public trust? How would you evaluate their effectiveness?

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01:15:46.110 --> 01:15:54.739

Saket Ambarkhane: So, yeah, I mean, including in my... in the case study that I wrote, there is definitely evidence of these interventions improving electoral... I mean.

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01:15:56.780 --> 01:16:08.740

Saket Ambarkhane: outcomes. Like, if you talk about turnout in Bihar, as we... as I've written in the case study, so in Bihar in 2020, the elections was held in November 2020, and this was the first elections

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01:16:08.740 --> 01:16:15.170

Saket Ambarkhane: During COVID, there was flood in September, followed by, because it was going on during COVID, it was the first election.

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01:16:15.170 --> 01:16:36.999

Saket Ambarkhane: And a very large, electorate. I mean, it was very difficult for the... for the election commission to organize this election, despite the... and due to COVID, Bihar is one of the poorer states of India, and a lot of people working as labor in different parts of the country. They all came back to Bihar during... due to lack of jobs during COVID.

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01:16:37.070 --> 01:16:39.780

Saket Ambarkhane: So, re-registration for them.

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01:16:39.890 --> 01:16:59.629

Saket Ambarkhane: Bringing them to the polling stations, identifying new polling stations because of floods, creating new areas for polling stations, all of these, and then flood relief and other measures that were already going on just before the elections. All of this complicated the electoral process quite a bit for the election commission. Despite this.

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01:16:59.650 --> 01:17:05.750

Saket Ambarkhane: The voter turnout in Bihar elections improved over the past election by almost 3%.

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01:17:05.800 --> 01:17:20.099

Saket Ambarkhane: So there's definitely evidence of improvement of voter turnout. The other thing about voter access is the, as, you know, I talked about, assured minimum facilities. The assured minimum facilities have def...

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01:17:20.300 --> 01:17:31.480

Saket Ambarkhane: definitely improved voter, I mean, with voter access due to voter turnout as well, because most of the national elections are held during summers in India.

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01:17:31.480 --> 01:17:41.300

Saket Ambarkhane: And because of extreme heat, the assured minimum facilities provide... elections are usually held in polling stations, which are generally schools.

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01:17:41.300 --> 01:17:55.949

Saket Ambarkhane: So it's easier for the election commission to work with the school, the Department of School and Health Educu- Department of School and Education, and work with them, and usually schools have access to most of their facilities, including

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01:17:55.950 --> 01:18:10.639

Saket Ambarkhane: water, toilettes, other... I mean, they also... the election commission also provides shade, other facilities, coolers, air, mist fans, etc. So, over a period of time, the people have started expecting these, these.

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01:18:10.640 --> 01:18:14.720

Saket Ambarkhane: Facilities, because this is going on for almost 10 years now.

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01:18:14.720 --> 01:18:36.430

Saket Ambarkhane: So they've started expecting this. However, when it comes to public trust, there are other issues with the Election Commission, which are not related to adaptation measures, which... But when it comes to these issues, for sure, I mean, the Election Commission is definitely working hard on improving these. In fact, during... in 2019, the state election.

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01:18:36.430 --> 01:18:40.349

Saket Ambarkhane: They postponed the election in Odisha because of an oncoming cyclone.

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01:18:40.440 --> 01:18:48.919

Saket Ambarkhane: So, they are... they are more life to the issues than they were previously, for sure, but then there are other issues which... which are not related to this.

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01:18:50.100 --> 01:18:53.540

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Thanks. Thanks for that. Thanks for that, Saget.

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01:18:54.020 --> 01:19:04.470

Ferran Martinez i Coma: It was somebody with my name asking the question, so that's clear. Thanks for that. Alright, it's... I don't have any hand here, I need some...

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01:19:04.770 --> 01:19:19.379

Ferran Martinez i Coma: mindful about the time, so if that's alright, I'll give you, like, a last round for Wina, Telever, Saget, and Tom, last minute each, and then we... we say our goodbyes. So, Wina, perhaps you want to go first?

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01:19:21.720 --> 01:19:22.820

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Concluding remarks.

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01:19:23.270 --> 01:19:23.920

Ferran Martinez i Coma: physically.

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01:19:24.120 --> 01:19:32.219

Weena Gera: Actually, I'm learning a lot from this discourse, and I'm just listening to the presentations, but yes, certainly, like,

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01:19:32.360 --> 01:19:50.039

Weena Gera: what always keeps coming to my mind is really about the accountability of the electoral commission and management bodies themselves. I mean, Telebert is here, and we are no stranger to the kind of public cynicism that our people have with regards to our electoral processes.

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01:19:50.040 --> 01:19:56.159

Weena Gera: You know, we have the hello, Garcia, the one that you demonstrated, Ferran. It actually happened.

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01:19:56.160 --> 01:20:11.420

Weena Gera: Right, and so it was... and it was, like, out in public for the country to witness. And so the kind of distrust and public cynicism is there, and the thing is, we are the most disaster-prone country in the world. Problem with that is...

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01:20:11.730 --> 01:20:28.290

Weena Gera: it's almost become a norm that people don't even, you know, like, sort of see it as a problem... not see it as a problem, but people move on, right? And this kind of normalization of this disaster, and we are known to be resilient in the way we

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01:20:28.500 --> 01:20:45.870

Weena Gera: you know, not build better, but in terms of forgiving and tolerating the kind of corruption that is right before our eyes. And so there are certainly a lot of questions that are raised from this discourse, especially for the Philippines, and thank you for this opportunity.

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01:20:46.400 --> 01:20:47.340

Weena Gera: To take part.

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01:20:50.440 --> 01:20:51.280

Ferran Martinez i Coma: delivered.

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01:20:54.310 --> 01:20:55.760

Ferran Martinez i Coma: The mic, delivered.

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01:20:58.560 --> 01:21:08.200

Telibert Laoc: Thanks, Farrah, and thanks very much, Weena, Tom, Saket, and Yogi. My quick takeaway here is that, climate certainly

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01:21:08.470 --> 01:21:15.150

Telibert Laoc: Stresses or gets us to think differently about democratic representation.

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01:21:15.550 --> 01:21:19.239

Telibert Laoc: Electoral resilience, efficiency in...

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01:21:19.360 --> 01:21:27.240

Telibert Laoc: election administration. And I'd like to look at it as a foundational, if not a driver, for introducing

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01:21:27.270 --> 01:21:42.190

Telibert Laoc: other changes in the elections. We, as election, you know, advocates for improvements in the electoral process. Certainly, climate will push the Electoral Commission and even the other stakeholders to think differently.

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01:21:42.220 --> 01:21:47.550

Telibert Laoc: The key point here, and then learning from the others as well, is that the focus

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01:21:47.710 --> 01:21:53.790

Telibert Laoc: becomes more on the voter, if you look at climate. So, we hope we can shift that attention.

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01:21:54.190 --> 01:22:12.809

Telibert Laoc: to voter focus, more voter focus, so that, of course, democratic resilience will follow. Of course, the... I'm looking at how voters can really change the quality of the campaign, and also, I hope to ride on climate as a driver, a foundation for changes that we want to see.

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01:22:14.680 --> 01:22:15.920

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Thanks, Deliver.

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01:22:16.090 --> 01:22:18.650

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Saget, and then we talk... we close with Tom.

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01:22:19.060 --> 01:22:31.949

Saket Ambarkhane: Yeah, thank you so much, Faran, for this opportunity, as well as thanks to the panel, such an august panel. It was... hearing Tom Rogers is an absolute delight, so much to learn from what he has pointed out, I mean.

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01:22:31.950 --> 01:22:47.099

Saket Ambarkhane: And, you know, I think in terms of elections, you know, conducive elections going forward, I mean, India is very prone to disasters, and heat waves in particular, and a lot needs to... a lot more needs to be done, and I think

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01:22:47.100 --> 01:22:54.120

Saket Ambarkhane: the more one, you know, the more of these interactions are held, and the more one sort of interacts with the election commission.

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01:22:54.160 --> 01:23:06.569

Saket Ambarkhane: We will try... I mean, we are working very hard on trying to push them to sort of look at this as a national issue, and try and work on these issues so that we can deliver better elections to people.

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01:23:06.590 --> 01:23:24.259

Saket Ambarkhane: In general, so I think, thank you so much for all of this opportunity, and hope this conversation leads to more and more work on elections across the world. Great to hear from both Weena and Talbert on elections in Philippines, and thank you so much. Thank you, Sarah, as well.

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01:23:24.600 --> 01:23:25.300

Saket Ambarkhane: Thank you.

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01:23:27.140 --> 01:23:27.640

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Nope.

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01:23:27.640 --> 01:23:28.910

Tom Rogers: Fred, just...

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01:23:29.410 --> 01:23:33.790

Tom Rogers: maybe just to finish, one of my... I finished as Commissioner at the end of 24, and

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01:23:33.900 --> 01:23:41.250

Tom Rogers: One of my favourite letters that I kept, was a historic letter, a copy of a historic letter from 1927.

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01:23:41.740 --> 01:23:45.699

Tom Rogers: from a polling official who wrote to the Attorney General complaining

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01:23:45.830 --> 01:23:51.330

Tom Rogers: That the election had been, scheduled when there wasn't a full moon.

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01:23:51.560 --> 01:24:11.370

Tom Rogers: And he was in a country area, and had to ride his horse over a mountain with the polling material. Anyway, when you think about that, you think, that's really interesting, because elections were designed for cities and for a few people, not for the whole. And I think there's a lesson there, also about climate as well. We have to think about all the electors.

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01:24:11.460 --> 01:24:27.040

Tom Rogers: everyone and how they access that, very important vote, and I think that's what we've heard from the panellists today, so it just reminded me of that... that reminder of from 1927, we have to think about everybody. So thank you very much, and thank you, Fran, since I'm the last one speaking, for the way that you've conducted this as well.

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01:24:27.860 --> 01:24:46.250

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Well, thank you, guys. I mean, I appreciate it. I appreciate all your time. I know the attendees, thank you so much. I know we're a little bit over, at least for Australian time. People are even hungry, and, you know, I'm not... I'm still Spanish, so I eat late, but anyways, not the rest of those is jam.

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01:24:46.250 --> 01:25:00.680

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Anyways, Saiket, Teliver, yogi that is not here, thanks, thank you so much, thank you so much. Tom and Wina, it's been... it's been fantastic, so we appreciate very much. I'm positive that the... so do the attendees.

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01:25:00.680 --> 01:25:20.330

Ferran Martinez i Coma: A lot of you of the attendees, I recognize some names, so hello, and to those that we have not recognized, please, don't be strangers, we can... we will organize other events at ERN. And on behalf of Sarah, and... and Eric, which Eric, I think he's in Armenia right now, so it was hard for him to be with us.

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01:25:20.330 --> 01:25:28.890

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Today, well, thanks, thanks so much, and yeah, we'll... we'll meet you, hopefully, soon, in person, or in another event, if things go by.

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01:25:29.580 --> 01:25:30.150

Saket Ambarkhane: Ain't...

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01:25:30.390 --> 01:25:35.130

Ferran Martinez i Coma: Enjoy your afternoon, or the rest of the day, depending on which area you are, guys. Have a nice day.