



Indonesia's Election

Prof. Tim Lindsey AO FAIIA in conversation with Rowan Callick OBE FAIIA

Thursday 7 March 2024: 5:30pm for 6 – 7pm AEDT at Level 13, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Prabowo Subianto, a 72-year-old former general with a chequered past, has claimed victory in Indonesia's presidential election.

Much of his success results from the support of former president Joko Widodo (Jokowi), whose son Gibran was selected as Prabowo's running mate for vice president. The popular former leader was unable to run for a third presidential term.



Remarkably, the military officer's electoral success is also due to social media campaigns that shifted his image from brutal military general to cute grandpa. TikTok depictions of Prabowo as a cuddly old man are very distant from his former image as Special Forces strongman facing accusations of abduction and torture.

The potential risks of Prabowo's election remain significant. His calls to revert to Indonesia's original 1945 Constitution signal a potential return to a more oppressive political system reminiscent of New Order era of his former father-in-law, Soeharto. This shift would unravel Indonesia's post-Soeharto democracy, including Indonesia's charter of human rights and its Constitutional Court.

What are the implications of Prabowo's election for Indonesia? What are the implications for Australia?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Professor Tim Lindsey in conversation with Rowan Callick to explore these issues.



Professor Tim Lindsey AO FAIIA is Malcolm Smith Professor of Asian Law, Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor and Director of the Centre for Indonesian Law, Islam and Society at the Melbourne Law School. He was former Chairman of the Australia-Indonesia Institute and is one of Australia's leading experts on Indonesian law. He has advised governments, business, international organisations, courts and legal practitioners in Indonesia and Australia. He completed his PhD thesis in Indonesian studies and teaches and researches Indonesian law. His publications include *Indonesia: Law and Society*; *Law Reform in Developing Countries*; *The Indonesian Constitution*; *Corruption in Asia*; *Islam, Law and the State in Southeast Asia*; and *Indonesian Law*.

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Rowan Callick OBE FAIIA is an Industry Fellow at Griffith University's Asia Institute and a former board member of the Australia-Indonesia Institute. He was Asia-Pacific Editor for both *The Australian* and *The Australian Financial Review*, and also China Correspondent for both newspapers. He has won a Graham Perkin Award for Australian Journalist of the Year and two Walkley Awards. He has written three books published in both English and Chinese – most recently *Party Time: Who Runs China and How*. Rowan is vice chair of the Australia Taiwan Business Council, and a member of the Advisory Boards of the National Foundation for Australia China Relations, La Trobe University: Asia, and Melbourne University's Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies.