

## Indonesian Human Rights Cities Session

# Enabling Economic and Environmental Justice in Indonesia

Oct 6, 2023 (Fri) 10:30-12:00 (KST), 08:30-10:00 (WIB)

Organizers: International NGOs Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID),  
Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM)

### Background

The whole world is facing crises such as violence, climate and economic crisis, democratic problem, Ukrainian-Russian war, energy and food problems, and the COVID-19 epidemic, which has worsened poverty and inequality. Countries all throughout the world, including local governments, are working hard to address the crisis, including Indonesia.

Indonesia has 520 regencies/cities, each with its own particular characteristics. Given the power and authority that local governments (regencies/cities) hold, they have real opportunities to apply the human rights city concept that has increasingly gained traction.

The human rights city movement in Indonesia gathered momentum around 2014 when Human Rights Cities Conference was initiated by the International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID). Then, INFID had collaboration with Komnas HAM and others stakeholders. The conference created a much-needed space for stakeholders to discuss and share best practices and innovations in promoting and realizing human rights at the local level. It went on to become an annual event in which local governments also co-organized.

Since 2018, at the suggestion of Wonosobo District as host at the time, the Human Rights Cities Conference was then replaced with a festival format that entails both a conference and a cultural event. From then on, it was renamed Human Rights Festival and was consecutively held in Jember in 2019, Banjarmasin in 2020, Semarang in 2021, Jakarta in 2022, and this year's festival will be hosted by Singkawang City, West Kalimantan.



In addition to dissemination of human rights cities concept, INFID and Komnas HAM provide human rights cities training for local government. This training has been provided to over 50 regencies/cities. This year's training will be place in the region of Papua. Papua is remains Indonesia's poorest province, with a poverty rate of 26.80 percent or 936,000 people.

The drivers of inequality in Indonesia are complex and multi-layered, ranging from structural causes to more specific policy choices. Following a period of relatively equitable growth, market fundamentalism introduced following the financial crisis of 1997 has produced an economy that enables those at the top to capture by far the greatest share of the benefits of growth. This has resulted in an increase in political capture, as those at the top have been able to use the influence that wealth bestows to rig the rules in their favor at the expense of the many. Gender inequality, one of the oldest forms of inequality, is pervasive in Indonesia and acts as both a driver and a consequence of economic inequality. (OXFAM Briefing, "Toward a More Equal Indonesia", 2017).

Poverty and inequality are threatening the sustainability of cities and endangering civil rights and solidarity. In this regard, the top priority of human rights cities is to identify human rights issues caused by poverty and inequalities and find measures in various areas such as politics, economy, society, culture, and education.

Each regency/city in Indonesia has initiatives, best practices, and lessons learned to remedy the poverty and inequality in order to create more just and equal society. It is critical to discuss best practices and lessons learnt in dealing with inequality and poverty in Indonesia at the WHRCF 2023.



## Objectives

1. To showcase the experiences of local government in Indonesia in creating just and equal economic and environment
2. To create space for sharing experiences, best practices, and initiatives in dealing with poverty and inequality by national government, local governments, academician, and other stakeholders
3. To learn best practices and lessons learned from other cities in the world for dealing with poverty and inequality
4. To demonstrate Indonesia's support towards WHRCF in emphasizing the importance of respecting, protecting, and realizing human rights at the local level.

## Main Agenda

1. Local and national initiatives in creating just and equal economic and environment
2. Recommendations from local, national, and international in building creating just and equal economic and environment

