



The Rise of Disinformation: A Threat to Democracy in Southeast Asia

14th CALD General Assembly

"Building a Democratic Coalition Against Disinformation"

Plenary Session 2 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM

12 November 2022

Dr. James Gomez
Regional Director
Asia Centre



**ACCREDITED WITH
UN ECOSOC CONSULTATIVE STATUS**

CIVIL SOCIETY RESEARCH INSTITUTE



EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS



**MEDIA AND
SOCIAL MEDIA ADVOCACY**

Defending Freedom of Expression: Fake News Laws in East and Southeast Asia



To read the full report,
Scan here!

Background: Shift to the Digital Age & Rise of Disinformation

Globally, 82% access to the news online



Trust in the news has **stagnated or fallen** in nearly all countries – only 42% trust in the news



SEA internet users are relatively new and unfamiliar in navigating the online information space



Types of Disinformation

Click-Bait



Hate Speech



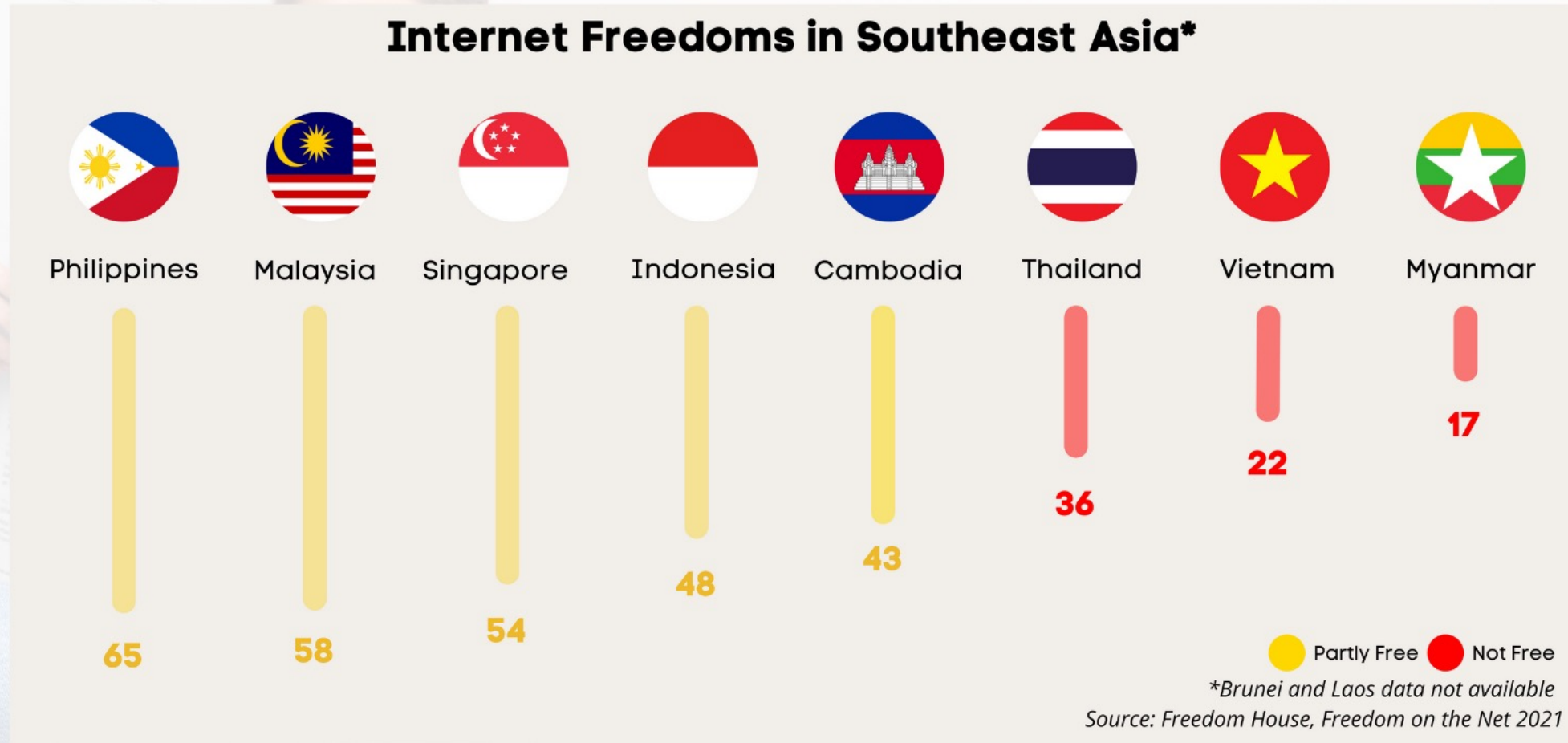
Political



**Foreign
Inteference**



Rise of Digital Authoritarianism



Rise of Internet Censorship

(Comparitech, 2022)



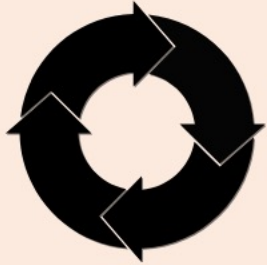
Electoral Integrity

Definition

election that is ...



- based on the democratic principles of universal suffrage and political equality as reflected in international standards and agreements

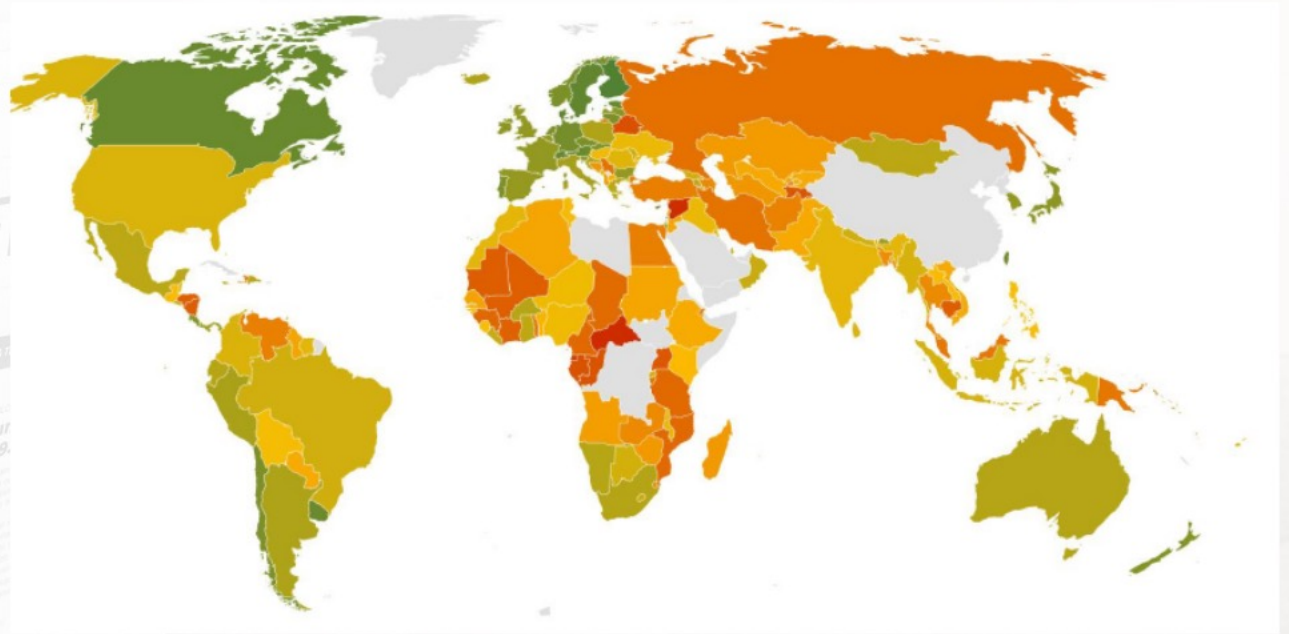


- professional, impartial, and transparent in its preparation and administration throughout the electoral cycle

Electoral Integrity in Southeast Asia

Electoral Integrity Global Report 2019-2021

Timor-Leste	67	
Singapore	59	
Indonesia	58	
Myanmar	57	
Philippines	48	
Laos	48	
Thailand	38	88-71 Vey High
Malaysia	34	70-61 High
Vietnam	34	60-51 Moderate
Cambodia	29	50-41 Low
		40-9 Very low



PEI Index - Most Recent Election

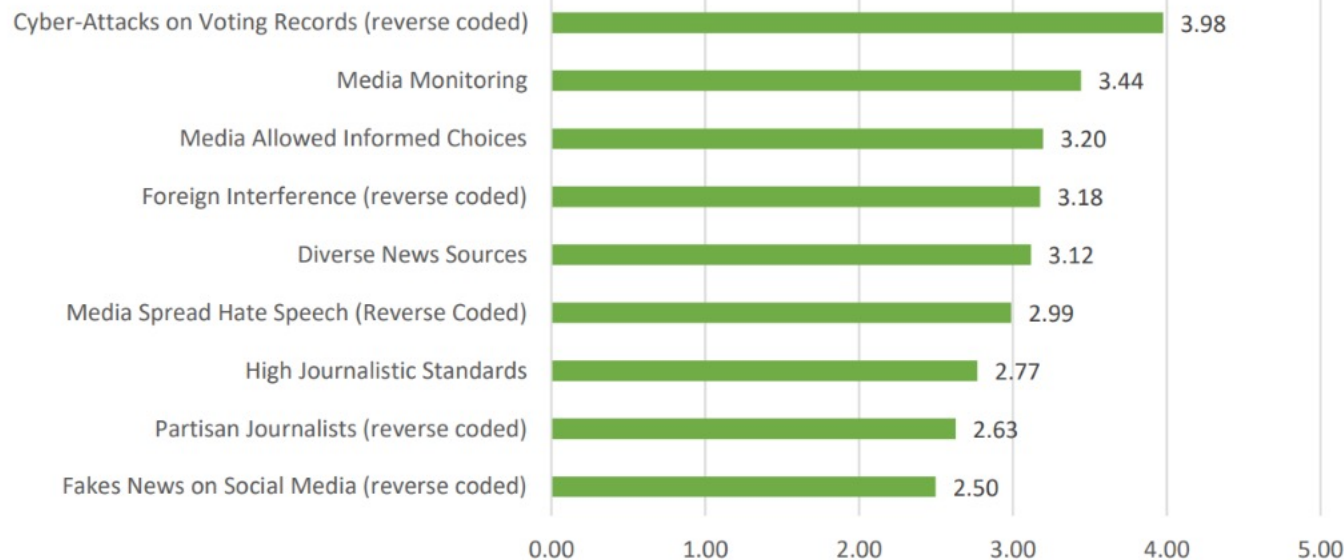


Source: The Perceptions of Electoral Integrity expert survey, election-level (PEI 8.0), most recent election reported.

Disinformation and Electoral Integrity

Electoral Integrity Global Report 2019-2021

Experts' opinion on elements that challenge electoral integrity.



Note: Negative questions reverse coded so higher scores consistently denote higher electoral integrity for all questions.

Source: The Perceptions of Electoral Integrity expert survey, election-level (PEI 8.0), means of 2018-2019 rotating battery questions.

1. Strongly Disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Agree
5. Strongly Agree

Drivers of Disinformation: Case of Malaysia

Government Agencies, Political Parties, Campaign Managers

**Foreign-based or local PR Firms, Content Companies,
Government-Owned/Friendly Media, CSOs, Individuals**

Hardliners, Bots and Paid/ Voluntary Cyber Troopers

Recurring Pattern of Political Disinformation: Case of Malaysia

**Sexual Orientation
and Promiscuity**



Corruption Allegations



**Undermining Electoral
Integrity**



**Harassment of
Women Politicians**



Foreign Interference



Youth and Disinformation in Malaysia: Strengthening Electoral Integrity



**To read the full report,
Scan here!**

Laws Enacted Against Disinformation

Blasphemy Law



National Security Law



**Harmony Law and
Hate Speech Law**



Fake News Law



Anti-Discrimination Law



Internet-specific Laws

Penal Code



Telecommunications Law



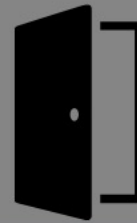
Cyber Security Law



Fake News Law



National Internet Gateway



Privacy and Data Protection



Impact on Media Freedoms and FoE

**Persecution
of Critics**



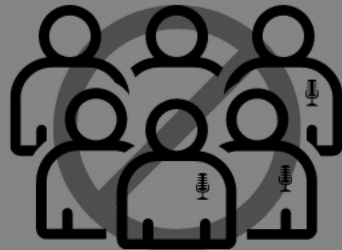
**Attacks Against
Female
Journalists**



**Shutdown of
Media/Social Media
Outlets**



**Attack on Journalist
Associations**



**Self-Censorship
among the Population
/ Journalists**



**Decline of Quality
Journalism**



Recommendations

**International
Organisations**



Governments



**Technology
Companies**



**Journalist
Associations**



**Journalists, Content
Curators and Media
Organisations**





ASIACENTRE

THANK YOU

Stay safe and keep in touch!



Asia Centre



Asia Centre



Asia Centre



asiacentre_org



asiacentre_org

Website: asiacentre.org

Email: contact@asiacentre.org