

# A-WEB NEWSLETTER

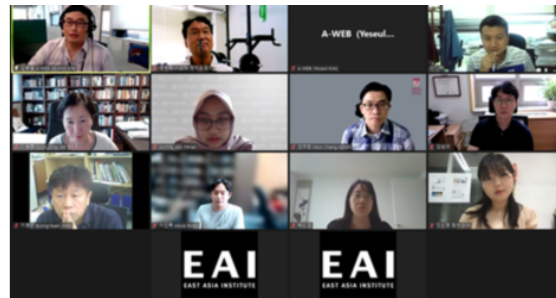


A VALUABLE NETWORK FOR EMBS

SEPTEMBER 2021

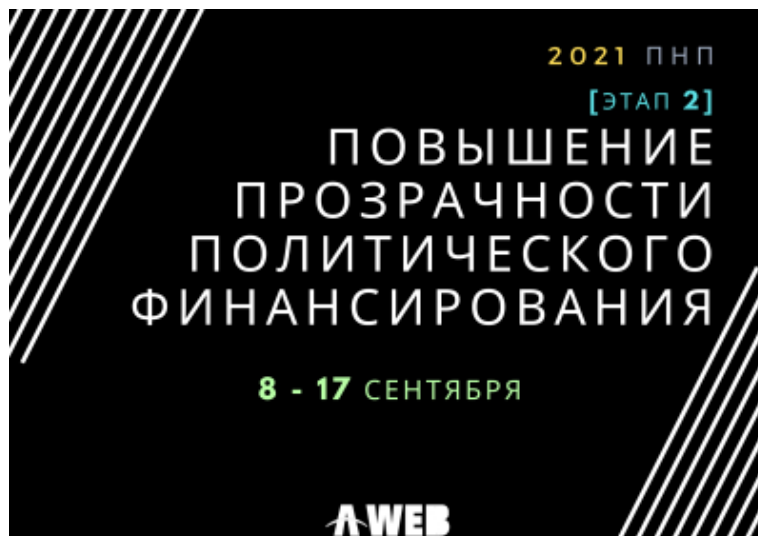
## News from the A-WEB Secretariat

### A-WEB Secretariat's participation in roundtable discussion titled "Storytelling Debate on South Korean Democracy"



On August 30, Mr. Seung Kim, Advisor to Secretary General of A-WEB, participated in a roundtable discussion titled "South Korean Democracy Storytelling Debate" hosted by the East Asia Institute. The event aimed to facilitate knowledge and information exchange among election management bodies (EMBs) around the world. Mr. Kim introduced A-WEB, its roles and activities. Moreover, he emphasized the greater effectiveness of multilateral cooperation compared to bilateral efforts in building the capacity of EMBs.

### 2021 Election Management Capacity Building Program [Phase 2]: Fostering Transparency in Political Finance



Phase 2 of the Fostering Transparency in Political Finance course was held from September

7 to 17, 2021 in a virtual setting. Seventeen election officials from Belarus, the Kyrgyz Republic, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan participated in the program. The 10-day course was a continuation of the first phase, which was held from May 12 to 21.

During the program, the participants learned the political finance regulations of Moldova and the Republic of Korea. Also, they discussed the responsibilities of political finance enforcement bodies and ways to promote gender equality by electoral funding. At the end of the program, participants developed and presented their action plans on enhancing transparency in political finance in their countries. The Secretariat continues exploring ways to improve election management by sharing information, experience and building valuable networks among EMBs.

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### **A New Colleague to the A-WEB Secretariat**



The A-WEB Secretariat is delighted to welcome a new colleague, Mr. Yi-Cheng Lai from the Central Election Commission of Taiwan.

Mr. Lai graduated from National Cheng Kung University in Tainan, Taiwan majoring in history. He started working with the Secretariat from September 2021.

The Secretariat hopes he will have ample opportunity to interact with member EMBs through the upcoming events and programs.

### **Election Management in the midst of COVID-19**

The A-WEB Secretariat conducted special brief interviews with member organizations to listen to stories of their elections and modifications made in election management due to COVID-19. The September issue of the A-WEB Newsletter features the stories from the National Electoral Tribunal of Peru and the National Electoral Institute of Mexico. Click on the logos below to find out more.



[National Electoral Tribunal of Peru](#)

**New Changes Implemented During 2021 General Elections (National Electoral Tribunal of Peru)**

For the 2021 general elections of Peru, the National Electoral Tribunal of Peru (Jurado Nacional de Elecciones, JNE) made a few changes developed by the Fact-Checking Technical Committee (Comite Tecnico de Fact-Checking, CTFC) using new technologies. Here the Secretariat shares an interview with JNE discussing its election management in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and its determination that it will continue to strengthen democracy and governance in Peru, thus contributing to building a prosperous and sustainable country.

► **Question: Which election(s) were held in 2021 in Peru?**

► Answer: Peru's 2021 general elections were held on April 11. The first round of the presidential election was held on April 11 and the second round on June 6.

The JNE of Peru announced the final results of the election of 130 Congressmen, 5 Representatives to the Andean Parliament, and the President and Vice President on June 9, June 16, and July 19 respectively.

In the 2021 elections, 25,287,954 were eligible to vote, and the country recorded voter turnout rates of 70% in the first round and 75% in the second one.

Besides COVID-19, despite difficulties and challenges such as the spread of misinformation and mistrust in the electoral process, the 2021 general elections were successfully held coinciding with the bicentennial of Peru's Independence.

► **Question: How did COVID-19 change the election process and election management?**

► Answer: Elections during the pandemic brought many positive changes. Seven main changes are following.

1. Parties and candidates for the 2021 general elections registered on the Digital Electoral Portal. Updated regularly, the Portal showed the following information: new political organization registrations, exclusions and renunciations of membership registration, party affiliation, statutes amendments.

2. Electoral participation is compulsory for all citizens between 18 and 70 in Peru. For the 2021 elections, the voting exemption procedure was publicized as well. The procedure is set in accordance with the Rule of Voting Exoneration and complementary rules, applicable to the following cases:

- Individuals older than 65 years
- Individuals diagnosed with diseases including COVID-19
- Individuals who experienced a death of a close family member in a period of 5 days before the day of the election
- Individuals traveling abroad for academic or medical reasons
- Natural disasters or force majeure
- Individuals with physical or mental illness or sensory or intellectual disabilities
- Individuals in lactation

- Individuals whose ID was stolen or lost in a period of 10 days before the day of the election
- Cases where issue(s) occur during the election day caused by the electoral organizations, wrong information in the electoral register, or any election incident

3. The electoral justice administration was digitalized. It presented the jurisdictional documents related to the 2021 electoral process through a platform called the "Integrated Jurisdictional Electronic Dossier System" (SIJE-E). For the first time, electoral hearings were held virtually, and broadcasted on television. Alongside the debates, the resolution of appeals requests was also broadcasted. Despite the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the system made it possible to promptly manage the requests submitted and the enormous quantity of annulled election results.

4. In compliance with safety measures, five face-to-face electoral debates were broadcasted. Measures were taken to protect the health of people present in the debates while ensuring the right of voters to be well-informed.

5. More than 16,000 polling officers went through online training and received Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and sanitary kits for the election day.

6. CTFC was formed to deal with the unprecedented volume of misinformation and fake news on social media. The Committee posted its work and results on social media channels including [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#) during the elections: more than 11 million citizens read the posts. It monitored a total of 70 postings containing misinformation and/or disinformation regarding the election and the electoral process.

|  | Facebook  | Twitter   |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Posts disseminating misinformation or disinformation on social media | 34        | 36        |
| Posts by Fact-Checkers Technical Committee (CTFC) of JNE             | 23        | 24        |
| Views and shares of CTFC posts                                       | 4,097,434 | 7,953,688 |

7. Precautionary plans and safety measures were implemented to protect voters, poll workers, and election stakeholders.

**► Question: Do you have any upcoming election(s), plan of actions or changes to future election management practices that you wish to share with A-WEB and Member EMBs?**

**► Answer:** October 10 is the scheduled date for a popular consultation in 13 districts to revoke the mandate of popularly elected municipal authorities. Voters will decide to dismiss them from their positions.

Also, complementary municipal elections in the District of Chipao were postponed after the COVID-19 outbreak. The elections had been scheduled to be held in March 2020; however, it was postponed due to the emergency declaration to stop the spread of COVID-19. Coordination will be carried out in due course between the bodies of the electoral system and the Executive Branch to determine a new date for the electoral process.

Video 1 : [2021 General Elections Live \(11th April; First Round\)](#)

Video 2 : [2021 General Election Live \(6th June; Second Round\)](#)

Video 3 : [IDEA International interview with the National Electoral Tribunal of Peru](#)



### [National Electoral Institute of Mexico](#)

#### **Sanitary Measures Adopted in Preparation for Mexico's Largest Elections (National Electoral Institute of Mexico)**

The elections on June 6 were the largest one yet in the history of Mexico: Voters elected over 20,000 posts. The elections had been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To prevent the spread of the virus, the National Electoral Institute of Mexico (Instituto Nacional Electoral, INE) adopted new approaches, such as online voting for overseas Mexican voters, sanitary measures, and more. Here, the Secretariat shares an interview with INE discussing changes in election management for the recent elections.

#### **► Question: Which election(s) were held in 2021 in Mexico?**

► Answer: On June 6, 2021, historical elections were held in Mexico, electing 21, 368 officers, including 500 members of the Chamber of Deputies, 15 governors, and 30 state legislatures. This was the largest elections Mexico has ever held.

For these elections, INE newly implemented online voting, alongside regular postal voting, allowing citizens residing abroad to cast their ballots.

The elections had a voter turnout of 52%, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Voter turnout in past elections was 47.7% in the 2015 legislative election and 44.6% in the 2009 legislative election.

► **Question: How did COVID-19 change the election process and election management?**

► Answer: INE implemented sanitary measures in the 2020 local elections, which did not cause of a spike in COVID-19 cases in the relevant states.

Preparing for the 2021 elections, INE decided to create a specialized group called C-19, responsible for analyzing and proposing sanitary measures for all activities during the election period. Measures such as social distancing and mandatory use of face masks were implemented at all polling stations as well as during campaign rallies. Additionally, INE reduced the maximum number of people at any polling stations, and the same applied to the rallies as well.

INE has authorized a limited number of personnel on-site and asked them to abide by the sanitary measures. Anyone who visits the headquarters or offices must comply with mandatory temperature checks, use of face masks and social distancing.

► **Question: Do you have any upcoming election(s), plan of actions or changes to future election management you wish to share with A-WEB Member EMBs?**

► Answer: The next elections in Mexico will be held in June 2022. In the 2022 elections, 6 states will elect state and local authorities. INE has already set its plan to properly manage them.

Additionally, political parties' representatives and a few federal legislators are preparing a request for the public consultation on revoking the presidential mandate. If the Supreme Court approves it, INE will also prepare for the referendum which could be held in March 2022.







The A-WEB Secretariat appreciates the National Electoral Tribunal of Peru and the National Electoral Institute of Mexico for sharing their special measures they adopted to manage elections under the pandemic conditions. The Secretariat will continue to conduct these interviews so that A-WEB members may share their hands-on experience they have gone through to conduct elections in challenging circumstances.

### Annual Membership Fee for the Year 2021

The Secretariat requests that members of A-WEB pay the annual membership fee of USD 10,000 for the year 2021. Each member has its own account and the annual membership fee paid by a member is managed individually.

To inform the Secretariat of the completion of the transfer, all members who have finalized the transaction are requested to send a copy of the remittance receipt issued by the bank to the Secretariat via [aweb131014@gmail.com](mailto:aweb131014@gmail.com): the document should include information such as sender name, amount sent and date of transfer.

For any questions regarding the membership fee, please feel free to contact the Secretariat via [aweb131014@gmail.com](mailto:aweb131014@gmail.com) as well.

#### Transaction Information for the Annual Membership Fee Payment

- Transaction Bank: NongHyup Bank (SWIFT Code: NACFKRSE)
- Transaction Account Number: 452-0007-6885-91
- Bank Address: NongHyup Bank, 1st floor, G-Tower, 175, Art center-daero, Yeonsu-gu, Incheon, Korea (22004)
- Bank Phone Number: +82-32-859-6010
- Payee Name: A-WEB
- Payee Address: A-WEB Secretariat, 24th floor, G-Tower, 175, Art center-daero, Yeonsu-gu, Incheon, Korea (22004)
- Payee Phone Number: +82-32-455-7200



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