

## ***Session 7: Towards a New Framework***

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## **Role of Civil Society in Energy Security**

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Among the non-state actors involved in governance, civil society has gained increased prominence. For instance, there had been increased space for civil society involvement in Indonesia, in particular occasional invitations to ad-hoc government and public consultations. In the area of energy security, civil society has served as advocates for environmental protection, ‘watchdogs’ over government policies as well as raising public awareness in supporting or rejecting government initiatives. Such efforts have been aided by the advent of information and communication technology (ICT), which has become increasingly proliferated throughout the societies.

Many civil society groups have been able to conduct their own research and release reliable information that could serve as an alternative to official government publications. Backed by sufficient data, they have become increasingly successful in pushing through their agenda with respect to energy security issues. A notable instance could be seen in the success of campaigns conducted by civil society organisations in Indonesia against the installation of nuclear power plants, bringing the project to a halt.

In the case of East Asia, where civil societal involvement has been nascent, there is room for improvement, such as 1) creating a comprehensive agenda among civil society groups in order to gain greater bargaining power with the government; 2) continuing to work through formal processes and demand for more access and transparency from governments and 3) strengthening civil society networks at both domestic and regional levels which could help in expanding the knowledge base and advocacy power.