

2018 ISLAMICITY INDICES –INDONESIA

Summary

Despite being the world's most populous Muslim country, Indonesia's rank in the overall Islamicity Index is 64 out of 153 countries. It shows that Indonesia's Islamicity performance is slightly above the average, yet –considering its potential- Indonesia should do better. The rank reveals an important message that, although Islamic values are enshrined in the foundational philosophical theory of Indonesia, Islamic institutions are not yet internalized into government policies.

SCORES AND RANKS –COMPARISON TO YEAR 2017

In 2018, Indonesia's rank of 64 is higher than its last year's position of 74. Such leap indicates a noteworthy improvement in the four aspects of Islamicity Index (Economics, Legal and Governance, Human and Political Rights, and International Relations). It is a positive indication that the government is rightly moving its policies' tools towards Islamic institutions.

ECONOMIC ISLAMICITY

The economic prospects of the country has improved significantly in comparison to last year's index. Its index score has improved by 0.50, from 5.07 in 2017 to 5.57 in 2018. The immense challenges from the election year 2018 did not stop the government from increasing spending to stimulate the economy. The government is putting a strong effort to improve fiscal positions through *sukuk* issuance and a reform in the tax structure.

LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE

In LGI, Indonesia saw a slight improvement in score of 0.18, from 4.81 in 2017 to 4.99 in 2018. It moved its from rank up from 75 to 71, or at the average (median rank) score. This position infers that Islamic institutions are still partially instrumentalized in the practices of legal and governance structure.

HUMAN AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Democracy is celebrated in Indonesia, and apart from the celebration, the year of 2018 is a witness of the gloomy general election that –admitted or not- had divided the nation into parts. It is reflected in the rank and score that have not improved since 2017, with a rank that is 92.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Indonesia saw the highest increase in its IRI, as the score moved from 5.36 in 2017 to 6.44 in 2018. Government has been taking a more active role to the world as Indonesia implements an open and active communication foreign policy. However, government's foreign affairs policies have been much focused on addressing domestic needs.

CONCLUSION

Islamicity Indices provide a compass to measure how strong Islamic institutions are reflected in government policies and outcomes. The premise is that Islamic institutions are the moral and best way to address socio-economic problems. Countries such as New Zealand, Sweden and Netherlands, countries that are generally regarded as successful, are the top three performers in the 2018 Overall Islamicity Index. In the case for Indonesia, the result of Islamic Indices show that Islamic teachings, instruments and institutions are yet to be fully adopted to the policies of Indonesia government. Indonesia, unfortunately, still suffers from a latent problem, which segregates the belief-system and action. Being the world's most populous Muslim country, thus, Indonesia has the moral obligation to embrace Islam and instrumentalize Islamic institutions into policies to address its socio-economic problems.