

INTERNET REGULATIONS AND INDEPENDENT NEWS ORGANIZATIONS
IN INDONESIA, THE PHILIPPINES AND SOUTH KOREA

Karol Ilagan

Prof. Amy McCombs, Project Chair

ABSTRACT

Independent media in three democracies in the Asia-Pacific – Indonesia, the Philippines and South Korea – are experiencing both direct and indirect challenges on the Internet. Before the rise of social media, regulations mainly covered content published on print and broadcast media. This gap made it possible for alternative news sources to thrive online, filling the void left by traditional or state-owned news outlets. But the massive migration online in the last decade saw governments moving to include Internet activity in their regulatory structures. As a result, what used to be a niche for independent media has now become the “new battleground” for freedom of expression. In this article, reporters from Tempo and Portal KBR in Indonesia, Bulatlat and the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism in the Philippines and Slow News and Newstapa of the Korea Center for Investigative Journalism in South Korea talk about their experience on ground and nuances in their respective countries. The article also features media experts from the Indonesian Press Council, the Southeast Asian Press Alliance and Freedom House as they analyze the trend from a national and regional perspective.