WAPOR
WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH
asia pacific

Lifetime Achievement Award 2026

Prof. Saiful Mujani

Professor Saiful Mujani has been one of the early pioneers of scientific public opinion research in Indonesia. Since the country's transition to democracy in the late 1990s, his work has helped establish rigorous, evidence-based survey research as an indispensable tool for understanding Indonesian politics, society, and public policy. Indonesia's Gatra magazine described him in 2007 as the “architect of public opinion surveys in Indonesia," a title that reflects three decades of pioneering contribution to the field.

Professor Mujani earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from Ohio State University in 2003, following his M.A. from the same institution in 1998 and his undergraduate degree in Islamic Studies from UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta in 1989. He returned to Indonesia to build institutions that would shape the country's research landscape for a generation. In 1995 he co-founded the Center for the Study of Islam and Society (PPIM) at UIN Jakarta, and he went on to co-found the journals Studia Islamika and Jurnal Ulumul Qur'an, strengthening the infrastructure of Indonesian academic publishing. From 2003 to 2008, Professor Mujani served as Academic Director and later Executive Director of Lembaga Survei Indonesia (LSI), helping to professionalize opinion polling during a formative period for Indonesian democracy. In 2011, he founded Saiful Mujani Research and Consulting (SMRC), which has since conducted more than a thousand public opinion surveys, quick counts, and exit polis at the national and local levels, and is widely regarded as a benchmark for methodological rigor and integrity in Indonesian polling.

As Professor of Political Science at UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, Professor Mujani has combined rigorous scholarship with public engagement, publishing in leading international journals such as the American Journal of Political Science, the Journal of Democracy, and Comparative Political Studies. He was the first political scientist outside the United States to receive the Franklin L. Burdette/Pi Sigma Alpha Award from the American Political Science Association, an honor previously given to scholars such as Samuel P. Huntington. In 2017, he received the Achmad Bakrie Award for his contribution to social thought.

Beyond his own scholarship, Professor Mujani has trained and mentored generations of Indonesian survey researchers through PPIM, LSI, and SMRC, building a professional research community that continues to serve Indonesian democracy, public policy, and civil society today. Professor Mujani, your pioneering spirit, institutional leadership, and enduring commitment to rigorous, independent public opinion research have left a profound mark on the field. We are deeply grateful for your contributions and proud to honor you with this Lifetime Achievement Award.

Linda Luz Guerro	***Matthew Gray***	***Jibum Kim***
President	*Vice President*	*Past President*