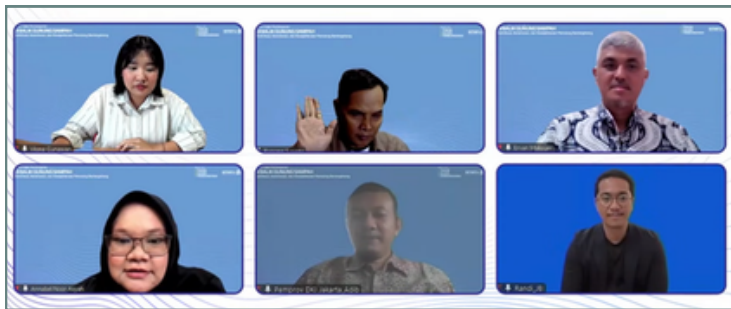


Forum Kajian Pembangunan

Responding to the Environmental Crisis and Secondhand Clothing Import Controversy with Better Policies

In June 2026, SMERU hosted the Forum Kajian Pembangunan seminar and webinar addressing various policy challenges in environmental and trade sectors. The two discussions explored the welfare of waste pickers within Indonesia's waste management system and the effectiveness of the secondhand clothing import ban policy. We would like to thank the speakers and participants for enriching these discussions. We hope the findings and recommendations shared will contribute to the development of more effective, inclusive, and sustainable policies.



Behind the Mountain of Waste: The Contributions, Vulnerabilities, and Welfare of Bantargebang Waste Pickers

Thursday, 18 June 2026

Every day, thousands of waste pickers in Bantargebang manage at least 636 tons of waste. A study by SMERU and Greenpeace Indonesia shows that waste pickers face various vulnerabilities rooted in broader social and economic issues. They lack social protection as well as access to basic services and economic opportunities. Through this webinar, researchers and stakeholders discussed the importance of building a more inclusive waste management system. The discussion emphasized that social protection, community empowerment, and cross-stakeholder collaboration are essential components of efforts to achieve sustainable waste management. Missed the webinar? [Click the image](#) to watch the recording.



Estimating Misinvoicing in the Case of the Secondhand Clothing Import Ban

Wednesday, 24 June 2026

Despite being in place for years, the ban on secondhand clothing imports has not been able to stop illegal goods from entering Indonesia. A SMERU study found that the gap in secondhand clothing trade data continues to widen, indicating that misinvoicing or discrepancies in reported trade values remains widespread. This seminar discussed the importance of ending this policy "gray area" through firmer, evidence-based policy choices. The discussion, attended by stakeholders from the trade and import-export sectors, also highlighted the need to empirically test the assumptions that have long underpinned the secondhand clothing import ban. Want to revisit the discussion? [Click the image](#) to watch the recording.

Latest Research



Regional Green Development in East Kalimantan - Towards an Inclusive Energy Transition

Conversations about the energy transition tend to focus on environmental and economic outcomes. However, it also has significant implications for communities, especially in coal-producing regions such as East Kalimantan. Without inclusive policies, the transition risks disrupting livelihoods and widening existing inequalities. Through this study, SMERU examines how gender perspectives have been integrated into East Kalimantan's energy transition policies. The findings aim to support the development of more inclusive and just policies. [Click the image](#) to read more about the study.

Latest Publication



Photo: Yazid N. (Pexels)

Financial literacy and business performance: evidence from Indonesia's ultra-micro, micro, small, and medium enterprises

What makes some ultra-micro, micro, small, and medium enterprises (UMSMEs) grow faster than others? SMERU research finds that financial literacy plays a key role in boosting sales, profitability, and business productivity. Based on an analysis of nearly 10,000 UMSMEs across 34 provinces in Indonesia, the study also reveals how innovation, technology adoption, and access to financing serve as drivers of business performance. Who benefits the most, and what are the implications for policy? [Click the image](#) to read the full findings.

SMERU in the Media



Behind Indonesia's declining poverty rate, many families are still struggling to escape poverty. This *Kompas* Daily article presents their stories while citing SMERU research showing that

extreme poverty is rooted in interlinked, multidimensional problems. Social assistance programs, it turns out, have also not been able to resolve these structural issues. Cross-ministerial synergy is needed to strengthen empowerment efforts so that beneficiary families can achieve economic independence. [Click the image](#) to read the full article.

Activities



Photos: Harits Kamaaluddin

The energy transition will not succeed without the active role of local governments. At a research dissemination event themed "Realizing an Emission-Free Future through Strengthening Regional Participation in the Energy Transition" on 23 June, SMERU revealed that the challenges of the energy transition at the regional level are not due to a lack of commitment, but rather limitations in authority, capacity, data, financing, and coordination. In response, SMERU launched two practical guides to help local governments build multi-stakeholder collaboration and unlock funding opportunities beyond regional budgets (APBD). [Click the image](#) to watch the event recording.

Inside SMERU



Ruhmaniyati
(Researcher)

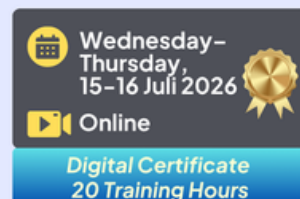
What is your most memorable experience working with the private sector, and how did it influence the research process?



What stands out most to me is the openness of private sector partners in accepting feedback and discussing research findings in depth. They also showed genuine interest in understanding the research methodology—from the scope of the study and analytical approach to how conclusions were drawn. This created space for more constructive discussions while also improving their research literacy. Once that understanding was established, conversations about budget needs, scope, and study duration became much easier. Most importantly, they were committed to ensuring that their CSR programs deliver real impact while remaining grounded in scientific evidence.



Introduction to Policy Advocacy



Registration Deadline **Saturday, 11 Juli 2026**



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