

A Call for the Revision of the Disaster Mitigation Act to Develop Adaptive Disaster Mitigation Management: Lessons Learned from the Management of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Indonesia



Indonesia is facing various disasters that are testing the government's readiness to protect communities and respond to emergencies quickly and effectively. The experience of managing the COVID-19 pandemic showed that Indonesia's disaster management system still faces several challenges, from coordination and policy implementation to its ability to adapt to complex and rapidly changing situations. The disasters Indonesia is facing today underscore the importance of strengthening disaster management governance. The recommendations in this policy brief, developed based on lessons from the COVID-19 response, remain relevant to these efforts. The brief proposes three strategies to build a more adaptive and responsive disaster management system. [Click the image](#) to read the policy note and learn about the three recommendations.

Latest Publication



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

Energy transition is about more than moving from fossil fuels to cleaner energy. For regions like East Kalimantan, where the economy has long depended on coal, it also

means ensuring that economic development remains inclusive. This study finds that the shift toward a green economy could create new opportunities, but may also deepen inequalities if women are not meaningfully included. So, how can East Kalimantan ensure that its post-coal economic transformation leaves no one behind? [Click the image](#) to read the full report.

National Literacy Day (8 September)



Comprehensive Reading and Mathematics Assessment Tool (CERMAT)

The 2025 PISA results show that Indonesian students' reading scores increased from 359 in 2022 to 365, while their mathematics scores decreased slightly from 366 to 364. These results remind us of

the importance of monitoring children's learning abilities from an early age. In 2020, the RISE Programme in Indonesia developed CERMAT (Comprehensive Reading and Mathematics Assessment Tool), an assessment tool for students in Grades 1–9 to measure reading and mathematics skills and track their learning progress. [Click the image](#) to learn more about CERMAT.

Can AI make dysfunctional governments more effective?

Asia demonstrates the promise and perils of AI in the public sector

Amid bureaucratic challenges and growing demands for faster public services, artificial intelligence (AI) offers opportunities to streamline processes and strengthen government capacity. But to what extent can AI address ineffective bureaucracy? An article by *The Economist* explores the opportunities and challenges of using AI. The article also cites a SMERU researcher's article on social assistance delivery in Indonesia.

[Click the image](#) to read the full article.



Why do young people struggle to find jobs while companies struggle to find workers with the right skills? This *Kompas* article explores this issue and quotes a SMERU researcher on the limited involvement of industry in the link and match policy. Partnerships between industry and educational institutions remain largely limited to providing short-term internships and have yet to extend to more strategic collaboration, such as co-developing curricula, investing in equipment, and ensuring graduate employment. [Click the image](#) to read the full article.

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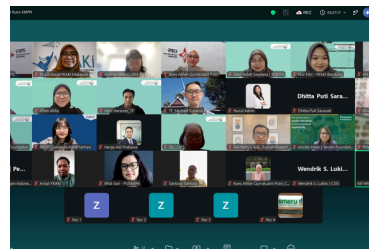
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Activities



The Consortium of Community for Education Advocacy in Indonesia (KMPPI) held a discussion and consolidation meeting on the advocacy agenda for the revision of the

National Education Law (UU Sisdiknas) on Thursday, 10 September 2026, online. The meeting brought together KMPPI members, including SMERU, to review advocacy strategies, identify priority issues, and agree on a strategic direction for education advocacy. Facilitated by Center for Indonesian Policy Studies (CIPS), the group discussions explored cross-cutting issues across education levels, from early childhood education to higher education, while identifying potential advocacy entry points and policy influence targets. The outcomes will inform a joint KMPPI recommendation document to support advocacy for the revision of the National Education Law.



On September 16, SMERU welcomed 24 students from the University of Chicago, United States. The students came from diverse fields of study, including public policy,

economics, biological sciences, and global health. They asked about SMERU's approaches for collecting and analysing data, as well as the indicators used to measure its impact. SMERU Deputy Director of Research and Outreach, Athia Yumna, shared insights into SMERU's research and its contributions to policymaking. Several SMERU researchers also shared their experiences and lessons learned from working as researchers.

National Farmers' Day (24 September)



How can we ensure that the most vulnerable farmers are better protected from the impacts of climate change? A SMERU study highlights the importance of linking social assistance with support for livelihoods, adaptive technologies, skills development, and market access. [Click the image](#) to explore the study's recommendations.



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