

Youth, Entrepreneurship, and Digitalization



In this digital era, most youth in Asia work in off-farm activities. Technology-based entrepreneurship can be one way to attract young people to the food and agriculture sector, while also reviving the agrifood and rural economy. SMERU, with the support of FAO's Multidisciplinary Fund, analyzes the agritech startup ecosystem in Indonesia and identifies gaps, challenges, and opportunities in its development. The results of this research can serve as valuable input in formulating policies for developing the agritech startup ecosystem among young people. [Click the image](#) to know more about this study.

Latest Research



Revisiting Youth Development Index

The Indonesian Government used the Youth Development Index (YDI) in the 2020–2024 National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) to assess the success of youth development. The YDI is expected to be utilized as a tool for policymakers, specifically for youth development policies in the upcoming 2025–2029 RPJMN. SMERU, supported by UNFPA and Bappenas, revisits and updates the YDI to strengthen the Index's role in underlying policy, programs, and directions for youth-related issues in Indonesia over the next five years, including in crafting and implementing effective youth-centric initiatives. [Click the image](#) for more information on this research.

SMERU Social Media



SMERU celebrated its 23rd anniversary on 1 January 2024, marking years of influential research and knowledge production. May the coming years bring forth fruitful collaborations with policymakers and stakeholders, leading to the implementation of evidence-based strategies that combat poverty and inequality. [Click the image](#) to hear what the SMERU team wishes for the Institute's future.

SMERU Policy



SMERU has implemented the Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment policy, applicable to all SMERU personnel and partners. This policy reaffirms SMERU's commitment and collective responsibility to enforce a zero-tolerance approach towards all forms of exploitation, abuse, and harassment. [Click the image](#) to download and read the full policy.



SMERU's researcher, Aisyah Putri Mayangsari, was a speaker in a webinar titled "Advancing Inclusion: Analysis of the Landscape of Children with Disabilities in Indonesia" on 21 December 2023. The webinar presented the analysis of the landscape of children with disabilities by UNICEF and Bappenas to journalists and the general public. The hope is that this analysis will contribute to promoting the implementation of policies that uphold the rights of children with disabilities in Indonesia. The webinar also emphasized the significance of collecting and analyzing data in advocating for the rights of children with disabilities.



On 11 January, SMERU met with the SMI Institute, an entity focused on providing solutions to address regional economic challenges through research and fellowship capacity building and training, and knowledge-sharing with local governments in Indonesia. The hope is that the SMI Institute will increase the capacity of local governments in providing the necessary access according to the characteristics of each region. The Head of SMI Institute, I Kadek Dian Sutrisna Artha, said that collaboration with diverse stakeholders is required to gain a comprehensive understanding of the social, economic, and political conditions in different regions. SMERU and SMI Institute formalized their collaboration through the signing of a memorandum of understanding, with a particular emphasis on joint efforts to advance inclusive development of infrastructure and local government capacity.



SMERU welcomed a visit from Indonesian Education Watch (IEW), a non-profit organization in the field of education initiated by young teachers who graduated from Jakarta State University, on 11 January. During the visit, the IEW team discussed SMERU's research on education, acknowledging their relevance to real-world issues. The IEW team also expressed a desire to collaborate with SMERU in the future for conducting studies and hosting discussions on educational matters.



Athia Yumna, the deputy director of research and outreach at SMERU, was invited to attend the Global Conclave on 'Advancing Human Development in the Global South' on 11-13 January in New Delhi, India. This international conference was organized by the Research and Information System for Developing Countries and the Institute for Human Development, in collaboration with NITI Aayog, a think tank of the Government of India. During the conference, Athia served as one of the panelists presenting a session titled "Climate Change, Livelihoods, and Social Protection: Policy Lessons and Gaps".



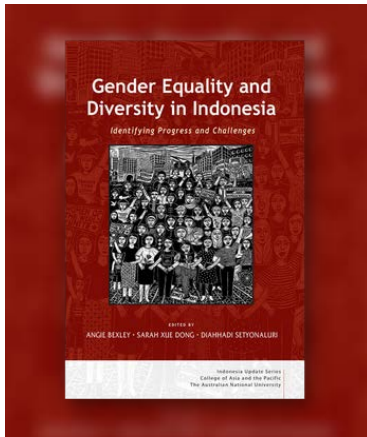
Representatives from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) met with SMERU's researchers on 11 January to gain insights into Indonesia's economic development journey towards achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID). UNIDO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that assists countries in economic and industrial development. During the meeting, SMERU presented its work and research relevant to inclusive and sustainable economic development.

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Latest Publications



Women and Digitisation: Promises and Challenges of Internet Use in the Indonesian Labour Market

This article by a senior researcher at SMERU, Niken Kusumawardhani, was selected as one of the chapters in the book titled *Gender Equality and Diversity in Indonesia: Identifying Progress and Challenges* published by the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute. The article analyzes the opportunities and challenges faced by women in the labor market amid the major transformation of the Indonesian economy towards digitalization. Does the growing use of the internet contribute to increased female participation in the labor market in Indonesia? [Click the image](#) to access the full chapter in this book.



SMERU Annual Report 2022

This annual report summarizes SMERU's activities in 2022, which were supported by a range of stakeholders, including donor agencies, nonprofit organizations, universities, governments, and the private sector. In 2022, SMERU successfully completed 41 research projects, produced 54 publications (both self-published and published by other institutions), and organized 11 research dissemination events and 5 policy discussion forums with national and international institutions. Download the full annual report by [clicking the image](#).

SMERU in the Media



This article reports on the Ministry of Social Affairs' plan to distribute social assistance in 2024 through various programs. The budget allocated for social assistance this year is Rp75.6 trillion, targeting 28.8 million beneficiary families and approximately 667 thousand individuals (children, adults, and older people). A senior research fellow at SMERU, Asep Suryahadi, emphasizes the importance of establishing an income database instead of relying on household characteristics to determine the targets for social assistance recipients. According to Asep, an income database can assist the government in minimizing inaccuracies in the selection of beneficiaries for social assistance programs. [Click the image](#) to read the full article.



This *Detikcom* article features an interview with SMERU's senior researcher, Asri Yusrina, during the Forum Diskusi Peningkatan Kualitas Pendidikan Dasar (FOKUS) 2023 event. Asri presented one finding from the RISE Programme in Indonesia research, which highlights that teachers with excellent competence have an impact on transforming children with low learning abilities through differentiated teaching. She also said that the competency level of Indonesian teachers varies, emphasizing the need for differentiated capacity-building for teachers, especially those in service, based on each teacher's specific needs. [Click on the image](#) to read the full news.



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