

Protecting Households from Air Pollution: Experimental Evidence from Jakarta



Foto: ANTARA FOTO/Akbar Nugroho Gumay/hym

Surveys indicate that Jakarta residents have not prioritized air pollution protection. SMERU continues its collaborative research with experts from the Asian Development Bank Institute, Australian National University, and the University of Chicago to test the impact of air quality management technology on protecting Jakarta residents. This research will, among other things, document the barriers faced by Jakarta residents in protecting their families from air pollution and measure the impact of reducing air pollution levels on the health and human capital outcomes for parents and children. In addition to informing policy, this research contributes to the body of knowledge in environmental economics. [Click the image](#) to learn more about the research.

Latest Publications



Minimum Wage Policy and Poverty in Indonesia

This paper examines the significant impact of minimum wage policies on poverty reduction in Java Island between 2002 and 2014. The findings of this study indicate that the minimum wage policy has effectively increased earnings for low to middle-income workers, although it has failed to produce substantial gains in overall household income. This suggests that the minimum wage increase has a limited effect on changes in poverty status. [Click the image](#) to read the complete analysis.

SMERU Learning Centre



Foto: Mukti Mulyana (SMERU)

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Sudahkah Kita Mendengarkan Suara Anak dalam Perumusan Kebijakan?

In 2022–2023, SMERU, UNICEF, and the Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas conducted eight studies on child well-being, adopting a child-centered perspective. The results of these eight studies were published in eight digital posters. Have children's views and aspirations been adequately accommodated in policies, especially those aimed at improving child well-being? [Click the image](#) to explore the findings of the eight studies.



SMERU welcomes a Luce Scholars Program participant for an internship from September 2024 to June 2025. The student will be involved in a study on unpaid care work. The Luce Scholars Program is a prestigious fellowship that aims to forge stronger, more informed relationships across geographic borders by creating opportunities for young Americans to deepen their ties and understanding of the countries, cultures, and people of Asia.

Activities



SMERU Director Widjajanti Isdijoso joined a panel of experts discussing strategies to meet performance targets and manage risks for six major projects, with a spotlight on institutional aspects and incentives in the food security sector for the 2025–2029 Medium-Term National Development Plan (RPJMN). The discussion was hosted by the Directorate of Monitoring, Evaluation, and Sectoral Development Control, Bappenas, and the Center for Study of Governance and Administrative Reform, Universitas Indonesia, from 15–17 July 2024. Widjajanti shared SMERU's research findings on food security, highlighting institutional aspects and inter-institutional relations in the past and recent developments.



Asri Yusrina, a senior researcher at SMERU, was among the participants at the 19th Indonesia Regional Science Association (IRSA) conference held in Ambon on 15–16 July 2024. The conference, which brought together academics, researchers, policymakers, development partners, and civil society, explored the theme of "Gender Inequality and Climate Change Impacts in Archipelagic Regions". Asri presented SMERU's research on the challenges of achieving inclusive development, especially for people with disabilities in Indonesia.



SMERU's head of research department, Ulfah Alifia, and a research associate, Sirojuddin Arif, attended a focus group discussion (FGD) on "Reorienting the Strategy for Teacher Provision and Distribution" hosted by the Directorate of Religion, Education, and Culture, Bappenas, on 16 July 2024. This FGD was held to help develop the Indonesia Education Roadmap 2025–2045, a blueprint for future education development policies.



SMERU senior research fellow, Asep Suryahadi, was one of the speakers at the Dissemination of Research Findings and Public Discussion on "Towards Inclusive Energy Transition in Indonesia" on 18 July 2024. SMERU is one of the institutions involved in a research project that examined the impacts of energy transition from an inclusivity perspective. Asep emphasized the importance of identifying groups affected by the energy transition. This research project is supported by KONEKSI.



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