

## Preparing the Youth for the Future of Agriculture



Photo: Rifka Hayati/istock

A skilled agricultural workforce is essential for Indonesia to achieve food self-sufficiency. Human capital investment in agriculture has not kept pace with the sector's needs. Vocational high schools and agricultural universities have the potential to modernize the agricultural workforce. By implementing curricula that align with emerging technologies and industry demands, these institutions can equip students with the skills necessary to drive innovation in the agricultural sector. SMERU, with support from the Netherlands, is researching the most effective ways to train young people for careers in agriculture and to position them as key drivers of sustainable agriculture. [Click the image](#) to learn more about the study.

### Latest Publications



Photo: Lamongankab.go.id

### Political Economy Analysis of Health Financing Reforms in Times of Crisis: Identifying Windows of Opportunity for Countries in the SEA Region—Indonesia Case Study Report

Economic crises in Indonesia have spurred health financing reforms. This research report presents the results of the identification and analysis of the crucial roles played by key actors in Indonesia's health financing reform. An in-depth analysis of the political economy dynamics in the formation of the National Health Insurance (JKN) program can serve as a valuable lesson for designing future health system transformations. [Click the image](#) to read the full analysis.

### SMERU MANAGERS 2024–2029



**Widjajanti Isdijoso**  
(Director)

The leadership of The SMERU Research Institute has been renewed for the second term (2024–2029). This continuity will maintain SMERU's independence, its commitment to impactful research, and its positive influence on society.

**Director:** Widjajanti Isdijoso

**Deputy Director of Research and Outreach:** Athia Yumna

**Deputy Director of Administration and Finance:** Hesti Marsono

**Institute Secretary:** Heni Kurniasih

## Catching Up Indonesian Students' Mathematics Skills

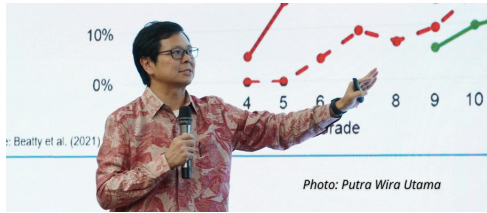


Photo: Putra Wira Utama



Photo: Annabel N. A.



Photo: Putra Wira Utama

On 7 August, SMERU hosted a dissemination event at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology's office to present the findings of the MENGEJAR program. Prof. Nunuk Suryani, Director General of Teacher and Educational Personnel, and Dr. Iwan Syahril, Director General of Early Childhood Education, Basic Education, and Secondary Education, both from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology, attended the event.

The MENGEJAR program was designed to improve mathematics teachers' competencies by providing training in educational technology and promoting higher-order thinking skills approach to learning. The Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) led this program in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Tanoto Foundation, SMERU, SURALA Suluh Karsa, J-PAL Southeast Asia, and Mentari Teachers Academy.

## Activities



Photo: SMERU

Palmira Permata Bachtiar, a senior researcher at SMERU, attended the kick-off of a multi-stakeholder collaboration study to mainstream gender, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI) in Indonesia on 1 August. The event, supported by the SKALA Program, was hosted by the Directorate of Family, Women, Children, Youth, and Sports of Bappenas. Among the attendees were Astrid Kartika from DFAT and representatives from the Australia-Indonesia Partnership Towards an Inclusive Society (INKLUSI).



Photo: SMERU

SMERU welcomed Matt Ralston, the Chief Operating Officer of the Nossal Institute for Global Health on 7 August. The visit provided an opportunity to discuss environmental and health research and explore potential collaborations between the two institutions. The Nossal Institute is a center of global health expertise housed within the University of Melbourne that focuses on strengthening health systems in the Asia Pacific region.



Photo: SMERU

SMERU's external seminar on 19 August featured Esther Gehrke, an assistant professor of economics at Wageningen University. Esther presented her research in Cambodia, which evaluated the impact of career guidance workshops on junior high school students from low-income families on their future career choices. The seminar was held in a hybrid format, at SMERU's office and via Zoom.



Photo: SMERU

On 22 August, a group of doctoral students and senior academics from Peking University visited SMERU to gain insights into the current state of Indonesia, particularly regarding digital economy, vocational education, and culture. SMERU researchers provided insights into these topics, facilitating a comparative analysis with China. Both institutions also discussed potential collaborative opportunities to contribute to Indonesia-China relations, especially under the new Indonesian administration.



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