

Policy Recommendations for Improving Indonesia's Manufacturing Competitiveness and Productivity



The manufacturing sector plays a strategic role in Indonesia's journey toward achieving high-income country status. To reach this goal, improving productivity, global competitiveness, and job creation capacity in this sector will be essential over the next two decades. SMERU conducted a comprehensive analysis of the competitiveness and productivity of Indonesia's manufacturing sector, comparing its performance and industrial policies with those of three neighboring countries—Vietnam, Thailand, and Malaysia. The findings have been translated into clear, evidence-based policy recommendations to help guide national strategies that enhance productivity, create employment opportunities, and strengthen Indonesia's competitive advantage in the post-pandemic global economy. [Click the image](#) to learn more about the study.

Latest Publications



Low-Cost Low-Touch Information Provision, Parental Involvement, and Student Learning Outcomes: Evidence from a Government-Implemented Intervention in Indonesia

Simple interventions do not always mean small impacts. A study from the RISE Programme in Indonesia shows that a low-cost intervention, such as regular communication between teachers and parents, can increase family engagement and support student learning. How was this study conducted, and what key lessons can be drawn from its findings? [Click the image](#) to read the article published in *The Journal of Development Studies*.

SOCIAL MEDIA



At SMERU, GEDSI goes beyond being a research topic—it is a principle embedded across all areas of operation. This commitment is reflected in all aspects from research planning to everyday organizational practices. [Click the image](#) to see how these principles are applied throughout SMERU's work processes.

Training Schedule MAY 2026



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WRITING ARTICLES FOR SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS

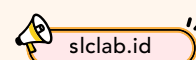
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FUNDAMENTALS OF ENUMERATOR WORK IN FIELD SURVEYS

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THE ROLE OF QUALITATIVE DATA COLLECTORS

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Activities



Foto: SMERU

SMERU 2026 Annual Strategic Meeting: Sharpening Strategy, Fostering Team Cohesion

SMERU staff from across different cities gathered in Jakarta from 8–10 April for the annual strategic meeting—a shared space to reflect on achievements and chart the institution’s path forward. The meeting focused on discussing the Mid Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2025–2029, developed as a living document shaped and owned collectively. SMERU Director Widjajanti Isdijoso presented the institution’s performance highlights, while Chairperson of the SMERU Foundation Board of Trustees Sudarno Sumarto emphasized the importance of maintaining independence, integrity, and a strong commitment to communicating research findings honestly amid changes in the research ecosystem and political landscape.

Beyond strategic discussions, the meeting also prioritized strengthening SMERU staff capacity through thematic sessions on leadership, effective communication, research proposal development, and GEDSI. Bringing together staff from across cities, the gathering was not only substantively productive but also strengthened team collaboration in a warm and positive atmosphere.



Photo: SMERU



Photo: Investing in Women

On 16 April, SMERU welcomed a visit from the Hajj Financial Management Agency (BPKH) as part of a benchmarking initiative on institutional research management. BPKH is currently developing a Research Management System (RMS) as an integrated platform to support end-to-end research management. Discussions during the meeting covered research governance practices as well as the systems and infrastructure supporting research management. The benchmarking outcomes are expected to strengthen the design of BPKH’s RMS and support more evidence-based and sustainable policymaking.

SMERU senior research fellow Asep Suryahadi was one of the speakers at a discussion organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs’ Agency for Domestic Policy Strategy (BSKDN) on 13 April. The discussion focused on strengthening the Ministry’s role in poverty reduction and the eradication of extreme poverty. During the session, Asep presented recent developments in the poverty landscape, key enabling and constraining factors in poverty reduction efforts, and the policy implications of rising urban poverty for future strategies.

SMERU Senior Researcher Valentina Dyah Utari spoke at the Investing in Women panel discussion at the Australian Embassy in Jakarta on 28 April. The discussion explored care demands and women’s economic participation in Indonesia. Utari emphasized that care work is not merely a domestic matter, but an economic, public, and political issue that contributes to inequality. She also highlighted the importance of viewing the care economy as an ecosystem and encouraged collaboration between companies and small-scale daycare providers to meet the growing demand for care services.