

Strengthening the Involvement of Local Government in Indonesia's Just Energy Transition



The Indonesian government has been promoting the use of new and renewable energy (NRE) sources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, these efforts have not been effective as the energy mix from NRE sources remains low, at 14.11% in 2022. To expedite the energy transition, engaging local governments in the process is imperative. SMERU has recently started research that identifies governance strategies to enhance the capacities of local governments in implementing just energy transition that aligns with the national strategy within the framework of inclusive economic development. [Click the image](#) to learn more about this project.

Latest Publications



Review of Public Expenditure for Stunting Prevention at Regional Level: The Factors Influencing Stunting Prevalence Variation in Six Kabupaten/Kota in Indonesia

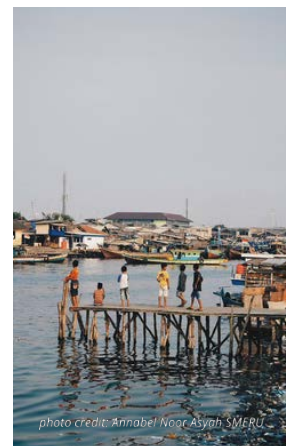
In November–December 2018, SMERU conducted a study analyzing local government expenditures in efforts to address stunting to understand the factors that differentiate stunting conditions at the regional level. The research covered three districts with low stunting rates and three with high stunting rates. [Click the image](#) to read the research report.



European Union Palming Off Deforestation Regulation to Smallholders in Indonesia

Three SMERU researchers, Made Anthony Iswara, Dimitri Swasthika Nurshadrina, and Asep Suryahadi, discuss the impact of the recent implementation of the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) on small-scale palm oil smallholders in Indonesia in an article published in the *East Asia Forum*. The authors argue that this policy tends to be discriminatory because palm oil smallholders cannot meet the requirements outlined in the Regulation. On the other hand, the Regulation will benefit large palm oil companies. [Click the image](#) to read the article.

SMERU Social Media



In understanding child poverty, it is essential to take into account dimensions of life that influence a child's growth. What are the dimensions that affect a child's development in poverty? [Click the image](#) to learn more about multidimensional child poverty.

From the Past



World Food Day 16 October

Eating in a Time of Food Price Volatility: Evidence from Three Villages in Indonesia

Food price volatility can increase poverty. In 2012, SMERU, the Institute of Development Studies, and Oxfam-GB conducted a longitudinal study that examined how vulnerable and poor communities responded to the sharp increase in food prices and basic needs and how these responses triggered changes in their well-being. The research also sought to understand how the existing support systems, both formal and informal, could assist communities in coping with price fluctuations. [Click the image](#) to read the research report.



The Dynamics of Poor Women's Livelihood: A Case Study amidst a Fuel Price Change

This research report, published in 2016, analyzes the impact of the fuel subsidy policy on various aspects of the livelihoods of poor women, a theme addressed by the MAMPU Program. As a nationwide policy shift, the change in the fuel subsidy policy has varying intensities of impact across the study areas, given that in some of these areas, there are other shocks that have a more significant impact on the livelihoods of poor communities. [Click the image](#) to read the research report.

SMERU Learning Centre



Four Bappenas Directorates Attend Introduction to Impact Evaluation Training

Four directorates under the Deputy of Monitoring, Evaluation, and Development Control of the Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas participated in a training on the introduction to impact evaluation organized by SMERU Learning Centre. The first session was held on 18–19 September at the Aston Hotel in Bogor, while the second was on 16–17 October at the Mercure Hotel in Tangerang. This training assists policymakers in better designing, managing, and measuring the success of their future programs.

Training on Introduction to Impact Evaluation (Batch 3)

📅 8–9 November 2023 | 🖥️ Online via Zoom
Register: form.smeru.or.id/ted3-register

Training on How to Write a Policy Brief

📅 15–16 November 2023 | 🖥️ Online via Zoom
Register: form.smeru.or.id/pck2-register

SMERU Activities



Director of SMERU, Widjanti Isdijoso, virtually attended the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for the ASEAN+3 Finance Think-tank Network (AFTN). SMERU is one of the 21 think tanks in the ASEAN region that have joined AFTN, established by the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office. AFTN is a platform for its members to exchange knowledge and collaborate on research to maintain regional macroeconomic and financial stability.



Following the 2023 Regional Development Forum (FPD) in Kupang last September, SMERU engaged in a focused group discussion regarding strategies to expedite the elimination of extreme poverty in East Nusa Tenggara. This discussion was organized by Acting Deputy for Macroeconomic and Financial Coordination and Expert Staff for Regional Development of the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs. SMERU's Director, Widjanti Isdijoso, delivered the results of analyses of extreme poverty in East Nusa Tenggara.



SMERU senior research fellow, Asep Suryahadi, served as a panelist in a policy discussion organized by the Directorate of Trade, Investment, and International Economic Cooperation of the Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas on 9 October 2023. The discussion featured Krisztina Kis-Katos, a professor at the University of Göttingen, Germany, as the guest speaker. The discussion sought to enrich the understanding of establishing a favorable and competitive business climate through harmonizing investment, trade, industry, and labor policies.



SMERU senior researcher, Palmira Permata Bachtiar, was a speaker during in-house training at the Bank Indonesia Institute in Jakarta. The training, attended by employees ranging from managers to deputy directors, revolved around macroeconomic issues in the digital economy. During this session, Palmira delivered a presentation on income inequality amidst the growth of the digital economy.



SMERU's researcher, Annabel Noor Asyah, and Institute Secretary, Heni Kurniasih, were appointed as judges for an essay competition organized by the Economics Study and Discussion Forum of the Faculty of Economics and Business at Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, in September 2023. The competition welcomed undergraduate students and featured three stages: the call for papers, essay presentations (semi-finals), and case study presentations (finals).



Over the past decade, SMERU has been actively engaged in strengthening the research ecosystem in Indonesia, collaborating with other independent research institutions under the Knowledge Sector Initiative (KSI). The collaboration continues to present times and has led to some tangible activities, including crafting funding proposals, organizing research dissemination events with other institutions, engaging policymakers directly and through associations for discussions, and providing policy inputs to the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN). While KSI's support has concluded, SMERU remains proactive in strengthening the research ecosystem in Indonesia.



SMERU attended a workshop scoping the studies related to climate change organized by the Indonesia Climate Modelling and Policy Hub (ICLIMB) on 17 October 2023. The workshop also explored collaboration opportunities among think tanks in Indonesia for climate change research. SMERU is a member of ICLIMB, along with several other research institutions.



SMERU senior researcher fellow, Sudarno Sumarto, attended a workshop that delved into zero-emission food systems, organized by the Aspen Global Change Institute from 20 to 25 October in Aspen, Colorado. Sudarno delivered a presentation on tackling deforestation in Indonesia through smallholders. The workshop convened food system experts from across the globe to develop a foundation and roadmap for further research and emerging mitigation efforts in key regions, including Indonesia.