



ANU Indonesia Project News No 35

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Greetings from ANU Indonesia Project.

In late June, Prof. Blane Lewis stepped down as head of the Indonesia Project. Blane led the Indonesia Project for six years, through two contract renewals and a global pandemic, successfully pivoting operations to address both new research priorities as well as a changed policy environment.

Blane strengthened relationships with key contacts in universities, civil society and government, fostering evidence-based policy debate. This included leading delegations to meet Indonesian officials, delivering frank advice on difficult policy areas.

During his leadership, Blane oversaw significant organisational change. Along with creating a new academic position, he also brought in a program for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and implemented strategies for communications and monitoring and evaluation. After stepping down from the Project leadership, Blane will continue in his roles of Professor within the Indonesia Project and Editor-in-Chief of BIES.

We extend our gratitude to Blane for the integrity, rigour and vision he brought to the leadership.

The Indonesia Project welcomes back Professor Budy Resosudarmo as the Head of the Indonesia Project. As regular readers will know, Pak Budy is no stranger to the position. A much loved colleague, he headed the Project from 2010 to 2017.

A graduate of ITB and Cornell University, Budy has had an illustrious career in Australia, Indonesia and the US. He joined the ANU faculty in 2001 and was appointed a full professor in 2017. Over this period he has been a highly productive researcher and the supervisor/mentor of a large number of graduate students.

In addition to his ANU position he has been active in many other fields. He was a co-founder of the Indonesian Regional Science Association (IRSA), a dynamic social science grouping that holds a major annual international conference, and the Forum Kajian Pembangunan, now Indonesia's premier development studies forum. He is also a past president of the Regional Science Association International and the Asian Association of Environmental and Resource Economics.

We look forward to Pak Budy's creative leadership as the Project consolidates its many past achievements and contemplates exciting new initiatives.

Highlights

17th Sadli Lecture

The Project and partners Fakultas Ekonomi dan Bisnis, Universitas Indonesia, held the 17th Sadli Lecture in Jakarta in May. One of the longest running academic events in Indonesia, the Sadli lecture examines policy issues in an international context. This year, the scope of the lecture was expanded to cover gender equality. Watch the lecture [here](#).



Professor Lisa Cameron delivered the Sadli Lecture

High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD)

The High Level Policy Dialogue resumed this May following a hiatus during the pandemic. A delegation from the Indonesia Project travelled to Jakarta to meet representatives from a number of Indonesian ministries and government agencies. Discussions focused on fiscal and monetary policy coordination; central and local government coordination; industrialisation strategy; and energy transition.



Indonesia Project delegates report the dialogue results to H.E. Sri Mulyani Indrawati, Indonesia's Minister of Finance.

Selection of recent seminars and events



Indonesia Policy Dialogue
Can the National Food Agency achieve food security in Indonesia?



Indonesia Study Group
Transforming Borneo: From land exploitation to sustainable development



Forum Kajian Pembangunan
Ending fossil fuel subsidies: The politics of saving the planet



Global Seminar Series
Linking economic nationalism with global supply chain: The case of Indonesia's nickel sector industrial policies

Grants 2023



Grant winners Rani Putri (left) and Jane Fendyk (right) with their supervisor, Dr Eva Nisa

This semester, Sam Randle, Jane Fendyk, Chris Morris and Rani Putri were successful in their applications for the Indonesia Project's Student Research Grant and Ruth Daroesman Grant. The funds will facilitate their in-country research, developing the next generation of Indonesianists.

Featured research



The role of imported inputs in firms' productivity and exports: evidence from Indonesia

Protectionism is on the rise around the globe. In recent years, Indonesian politicians have increasingly viewed imports as a threat to the economy. Arianto Patunru and Deasy Pane examine this narrative, using detailed customs data from Indonesia's Central Bureau of Statistics to show that access to varied and value-added imported inputs in fact enhances productivity and export values.

This study is first to provide causal evidence of the positive effects that imported inputs have on the export values and productivity of a relatively small, open and developing economy. The authors equip policy makers with robust, data driven evidence to deal with calls for protectionist and mercantilist policies

When Transparency Fails: Financial Incentives for Local Banking Agents in Indonesia

Indonesia has low levels of banking penetration, slowing development by limiting access to saving, credit and insurance. A 2014 government initiative promotes branchless banking, overcoming barriers such as distance, using technology like mobile banking. The program relies on local agents to sign up participants.

Firman Witoelar et al conducted a study in rural East Java exploring how agent incentives affected sign-up rates. They found that higher incentives increased sign-ups through higher agent effort. However, when the higher incentives were known to participants, there was no increase in sign-ups, due to reduced perceived trustworthiness. This is the first study to examine both incentive size and transparency

together, and has implications for the future of financial inclusion.

Publications

Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies (BIES)

The *Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies* has achieved a Journal Impact Factor (JIF) of 4.1 for 2022 — the journal's highest since records began in 1997. The journal is now ranked number 3 (in the 97th percentile, or Q1) in the category of area studies. It is also now in the 78th percentile (Q1) of the economics category. See the latest issue [here](#), including Prof. Blane Lewis' Survey of Recent Developments, offering a critical assessment of Indonesia's new Fiscal Decentralisation Law.

More research and publications

Trade and development

[Current research projects](#)

[Publications](#)

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Politics, media and governance

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Upcoming events

- **15-16 September.** Indonesia Update: Governing urban Indonesia

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ANU Indonesia Project acknowledges, celebrates and pays our respects to the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people of the Canberra region and to all First Nations Australians on whose traditional lands we meet and work, and whose cultures are among the oldest continuing cultures in human history.