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Newsletter 29

ANU Indonesia Project

January-June 2020



Since December 2019, the coronavirus has swept through all regions of the world. COVID-19 has wreaked havoc everywhere and shows no signs of entirely abating. The Indonesia Project has adjusted its program to focus on COVID-19 related issues. As part of that reorientation, the Project convened a conference in September on the economic dimensions of COVID-19 in Indonesia. This conference replaces the usual Indonesia Update, which has been postponed for one year.



Hal Hill is awarded the Officer of the Order of Australia >>

We are deeply honoured and humbled to learn that our own Professor Hal Hill receives the Officer of the Order of Australia during the Australia Day celebration 2020. Professor Hal Christopher Hill receives the Order of Australia for distinguished service to education in the field of economic policy development and to Australia-Indonesia relations.



ANU Indonesia Project Global Seminar series with distinguished speakers

A new initiative during the pandemics is the launch of the ANU Indonesia Project Global Seminar series as an urgent response to Covid-19 in Indonesia. The series explores policy challenges, public health measures, and the impact on the economy. We have been honoured to have hosted many distinguished speakers and international experts in these seminars.

The Indonesian Vice-Minister of Finance, Professor Suahasil Nazara, together with Dr Febrio Kacaribu, Head of Badan Kebijakan Fiskal, and Dr Masyita Crystallin, Special Advisor to the Minister of Finance, delivered a seminar on the topic of financing the responses to the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia.

Professor Iwan Jaya Azis of Cornell University talked about how this health crisis has transformed into an economic crisis in June. In a conversation with Hal Hill, Professor Azis discussed the unfolding crisis from a global perspective and the impacts in emerging market economies.

The first seminar in this series was delivered by Dr M Chatib Basri from Universitas Indonesia and Indonesia's former Minister of Finance, together with Rizki Siregar from the University of California, Davis. They discussed the health and economic challenges that Indonesian policymakers face in dealing with the pandemic outbreak.

We have also hosted expert panels on gender together with Prospera, rural-livelihoods, jobs and pandemic, regional comparisons, and many other topics.

New Covid-19 in Indonesia website

The website aims to provide the latest news and information on Covid-19 in Indonesia. It brings together the research, seminars, policy briefs, and commentaries of some of the world's top Indonesianists, including partners and members of the Indonesia Project, to help inform and develop responses to the outbreak.

Visit www.covid19Indonesia.net website.

ACTIVITIES



Research Network Workshop »

A two-day research network workshop was held in Bogor in February to showcase leading research funded by the ANU Indonesia Project-SMERU Research Institute Research Grants. HE Minister Bambang Brodjonegoro delivered the Keynote Remarks during the workshop.



Forum Kajian Pembangunan (FKP)

Roadshow »

An FKP Roadshow in four cities in Kalimantan was held in February. The topic was on education in Indonesia with Budy Resosudarmo from ANU, Daniel Suryadarma from the SMERU Research Institute and Tri Mulyaningih from Universitas Sebelas Maret as panelists.

RESEARCH RELATED

Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies

The [August 2020 issue \(56.2\)](#) opened with the Survey of Recent Developments, 'Indonesia in the Time of Covid-19', by Susan Olivia, Rus'an Nasrudin and John Gibson. It examines the impact of Covid-19 on the Indonesian economy, as well as the government's responses to the outbreak. Another Covid-19 article was written by Asep Suryahadi, Ridho Al Izzati and Daniel Suryadarma. It estimates the impact of the outbreak on poverty in Indonesia and describes the implications for the country's social protection programs.

Other articles included an analysis of intragenerational economic mobility, by Teguh Dartanto, Faizal Rahmanto Moeis and Shigeru Otsubo; and a study on the impact of the Batam special economic zone on firm productivity, by Adiwan F. Aritenang and Aryani N. Chandramidi. Book reviews were written by C. Peter Timmer, Jay K. Rosengard and Chris Manning. An obituary on J.B. Sumarlin was contributed by Peter McCawley.

The [April 2020 issue \(56.1\)](#) featured the Survey of Recent Developments by Siwage Dharma Negara and Arief Ramayandi, 'Laying the Foundations for Future Growth Acceleration?' It examines some of the challenges that were facing Jokowi following his inauguration. Other articles included an analysis of religious legislation and discrimination in Indonesia, by Nathanael Sumaktoyo; an investigation of urbanisation and food demand, by Peter Warr; and a study on how to revitalise Batam's economy, by Siwage Dharma Negara and Francis Hutchinson. Book reviews were written by Stephen Marks, Noory Okthariza and Teguh Wicaksono.

To read, submit or subscribe to *BIES*, visit [Taylor & Francis Online](#). You can also follow the journal on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Research Travel Grants

Taylah Bell from Murdoch University, Elias Hordern from The University of Sydney, Samira Lindsey from Monash University, and Archana Ramesh from The University of Melbourne are awarded the 2020 Research Travel Grants in principle. Grant disbursements will resume when the travel ban has been lifted and it is safe to travel to Indonesia. Their research topics are on mining development project land rights law, tourism in Bali, bilateral cooperation and Indonesian rule of laws, and spatial urban flow.

Research Grants

Due to the fast-evolving COVID-19 situation, the Indonesia Project has decided to postpone this year's research grant process. For those who have already submitted their application, the application will be considered as soon as the grant process resumes in the future. We will make an announcement when the grant process is resumed on our website.

OTHER NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Donny Pasaribu has graduated in July. Donny's PhD thesis is titled *The Dutch disease, natural resource booms and policy adjustments: the case of Indonesia*, and he was supervised by Hal Hill. Donny was interviewed by SBS Radio Indonesia on [the Indonesian economy during the pandemic](#) and on [IA-CEPA](#) recently.

Sarah Dong is currently taking a maternity leave from the Project. Sarah gave birth to a baby boy, Ethan, in May.

Congratulations to Donny and Sarah!

GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENTS

Arianto Patunru provided policy briefings to the Indonesian Minister of Trade on the decrease in Indonesia's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), and to the Indonesian Minister of Agriculture in May on food security during the pandemics. He also provided policy briefs on mitigating food supply chain disruption and on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), published by the Center for Indonesian Policy Studies (CIPS). The briefings are available [here](#). Arianto presented at DPR (National Democrat Fraction) on

food security at the start of the pandemics. In June, Arianto presented at the Focus Discussion Groups in BAPPENAS and at the Indonesian Ministry of Finance.

In January, Budy Resosudarmo presented at a DFAT roundtable. He spoke about the political economy of autonomy fund disbursement in Papua. In March, Hal Hill, Blane Lewis, and Kate McLinton participated in an SES briefing. They discussed recent developments in Indonesia. In June, The Project arranged for Susan Olivia, Rus'an Nasrudin, and John Gibson to participate in a DFAT roundtable. They spoke about the Survey of Recent Developments for the August edition of the *BIES*.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

Firman Witoelar presented at Forum Kajian Pembangunan in Jakarta in January and at the Arndt-Corden Department of Economics (ACDE) seminar in May on the topic of employing female migrant workers to access quality overseas placement in Indonesia.

Arianto Patunru presented webinars on food security, and on a separate occasion on industry at CIPS. He also spoke at Universitas Hasanuddin on the economic perspective of Covid-19 in Indonesia in May.

Budy Resosudarmo presented at a webinar on strengthening economic and business research in Indonesia's regional universities in June, organised by Universitas Sam Ratulangi.

SELECTED MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

Peter McCawley gave an interview to ABC TV on Monday 10 February following President Joko Widodo's address to the Australian Parliament.

Hal Hill and Arianto Patunru wrote an editorial piece, [Jokowi wants Indonesia to be rich by 2045](#), in the *Australian Financial Review*.

Arianto Patunru and Andree Surianta wrote an article in the *East Asia Forum*, [Covid-19 unmask's Indonesia's investment conditions](#).

Peter McCawley and Haider A Khan wrote at *The Interpreter*, [Covid-19: the need to aid Asia to open up](#).

INDONESIA STUDY GROUP

There were six Indonesia Study Group (ISG) seminars held in the first semester of 2020 before it was disrupted by Covid-19. The seminars continued to serve wide-ranging topics of Indonesian society, such as tourism boom, census, and care for the homeless with mental illness. We had international and interstate speakers from the Asian Development Bank, University of Bremen, UNFPA, Universitas Udayana, Monash University, and ANU. [Read more >](#)

FORUM KAJIAN PEMBANGUNAN

Now in its 10th year, there were 27 FKP seminars held in the first semester of 2020, hosted by 11 organisations. Due to the pandemic, the seminars are held online since March. More than 2,000 people participated in the seminars between January-June 2020, the highest record for the FKP. A record of 420 people participated in the webinar hosted by LPEM FEB UI in May on the taxation policy during the Covid-19 pandemic, and more than 250 people listened to the presentation by Asep Suryahadi (The SMERU Research Institute) on the poverty impact of Covid-19. [Read more >](#)

VISITING FELLOWSHIP

Arya Gaduh from the University of Arkansas and Susan Olivia from the University of Waikato have been awarded Visiting Fellows positions in principle due to Covid-19 travel restrictions, with visiting subject to the Covid-19 travel restrictions.

FUTURE EVENT

11 November

The Sadli Lecture and the Mubyarto Public Policy Forum with **Justin Lin**, former World Bank Chief Economist, currently Dean of Institute of New Structural Economics, Dean of Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development, Honorary Dean of National School of Development, Peking University. Justin's topic is *Avoid the middle-income trap in Indonesia: a new structural economic approach*. This is a joint event with Universitas Indonesia and Universitas Gadjah Mada.