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Australian National University

Newsletter 30

ANU Indonesia Project

July-December 2020



Economic dimensions of Covid-19 in Indonesia: responding to the crisis

The first comprehensive global conference discussing the economic dimensions of Covid-19 in Indonesia was held on 7-10 September online and convened by Blane Lewis and Firman Witoelar, both from ANU. This event had a total of over 3500 participants. The book based on this conference will be published in mid-2021. You can read the [Welcoming Remarks](#) from the Australian Ambassador to Indonesia's, His Excellency Gary Quinlan. Podcasts and presentation materials from this conference are available for [download](#).

ANU Indonesia Project - SMERU Research Institute Research Grants

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

We are pleased to announce we will be running a 2021 Research Grant program. Due to COVID-19 however, we have had to make some changes to the way the Research Grants will be run in 2021. Most notably, (1) the 2021 grants cannot be used to support travel, and (2) the value of the grants has been reduced (now up to AUD8,000).

The Research Grants fund innovative, important and high-quality research projects conducted by Indonesian and Australian researchers. Indonesian researchers at an Indonesian university or research institute conducting research in the following areas are invited to apply:

- (i) trade and industry,
- (ii) politics and governance,
- (iii) agriculture, resources and the environment,
- (iv) social policy and human capital.

To facilitate research related to COVID-19 response and recovery, this year we also strongly encourage proposals from three key areas: (i) health security; (ii) stability; and (iii) economic recovery. **To be considered for the grant, applications must have at least one co-applicant at an Australian university or research institute.**

Further information, including the application form, is available from the [Research Grants](#) website.

ANU Indonesia Project Global Seminar

Indonesia and Covid-19: End-of-year reflection and the way forward

Tuesday 1 December, 3.30-5.30pm AEDT (11.30-1.30pm WIB)

Webinar link : <http://bit.ly/JPEndOfYear> Webinar ID: 812 1562 9318
Passcode : 029070

In conversation with M. Chatib Basri (Universitas Indonesia), Titik Anas (Universitas Padjadjaran), Tikki Pangestu (National University of Singapore), Hal Hill (ANU), Budy Resosudarmo (ANU), and Liza Munira (ANU)



M. Chatib Basri
(Universitas Indonesia)



Titik Anas
(Universitas Padjadjaran)



Tikki Pangestu
(NUS)



Hal Hill
(ANU)



Budy Resosudarmo
(ANU)



Liza Munira
(ANU)

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In this special webinar, six colleagues talked about Indonesia and Covid-19. Professor Budy Resosudarmo talked with Dr Titik Anas on the government's response to the pandemic, Dr Liza Munira discussed public health issues with Professor Tikki

Pangestu, and Professor Hal Hill conversed with Dr Chatib Basri on the economic aspect. This event was attended by over 300 participants online.

Podcast of this webinar is available from our dedicated [Covid-19 in Indonesia](#) website.



Book launch of the 2019 Update Book: *Democracy in Indonesia: from stagnation to regression*

The 2019 Indonesia Update book, *Democracy in Indonesia: from stagnation to regression*, was launched online on 25 September 2020 by Professor Emil Salim from Universitas Indonesia. The well attended launch was held over two days. Professor Allen Hicken from the University of Michigan also delivered the keynote remarks. An excerpt of Professor Emil Salim's speech was published by [The Jakarta Post](#).

Read more about the [event](#). View Podcasts of [Day 1](#) and [Day 2](#).



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PUBLIC LECTURE

in honour of Professor Mohammad Sadli and Professor Mubyarto

Industrial policies to escape the middle-income trap: a new structural economics approach for Indonesia

Friday 13 November 9-11am WIB (1-3pm AEDT)



Indonesia has been trapped in the middle-income status since the 1960s. Professor Justin Lin argues that the middle-income trap is a result of a middle-income country's failure to have a faster labour productivity growth through technological innovation and industrial upgrading than high-income countries. In this lecture, Professor Lin will explain why industrial policy is essential for the government of a middle-income country to prioritise the use of its limited resources to facilitate technological innovation and industrial upgrading by overcoming inherent externality and coordination issues in structural transformation.

Speaker

Professor Justin Yifu Lin
Peking University

Discussants

Dr Muhammad Edhie Purnawan
Universitas Gadjah Mada

Dr Kiki Verico
Universitas Indonesia

Presented by
Indonesia Project
Crawford School of
Public Policy
ANU College of
Asia & the Pacific



Public lecture by Professor Justin Lin on industrial policies in Indonesia

The 2020 Public Lecture by Justin Yifu Lin from Peking University, *Industrial policies to escape the middle-income trap: a new structural economics approach for Indonesia*, was held to honour the late Professor Sadli's and the late Professor Mubyarto's contribution to the economic development of Indonesia. The event was held online on Friday, 13 November. Kiki Verico from Universitas Indonesia and Muhammad Edhie Purnawan from Universitas Gadjah Mada were the discussants in this event. Over 400 people participated and the [recording](#) is now available from our Channel.

OTHER EVENTS



2020 Indonesian Regional Science Association (IRSA) Book Launch

ANU Indonesia Project co-sponsored the 2020 Book Launch of IRSA Book Series on Regional Development No. 18, titled *Disasters and regional development in Indonesia*. The event was held online on 3 September. Please contact [IRSA](#) for further information about the book.

RESEARCH RELATED

Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies

The December 2020 issue (56.3) featured three articles on Covid-19. The first was a Survey of Recent Developments, 'Indonesia under the New Normal: Challenges and the Way Ahead', by Robert Sparrow, Teguh Dartanto and Renate Hartwig. The second was a political article by Greg Fealy, 'Jokowi in the Covid-19 Era: Repressive Pluralism, Dynasticism and the Overbearing State'. The third was an article assessing the direct and indirect effects of Covid-19 on life expectancy and poverty in Indonesia, by John Gibson and Susan Olivia. The final article—authored by Unggul Heriqbaldi, Wahyu Widodo and Dian Ekowati—focused on real exchange rate misalignment and currency crises in Indonesia. In total, the articles have been viewed online thousands of times since they were published in early December.

The August 2020 issue (56.2) opened with a Survey of Recent Developments, 'Indonesia in the Time of Covid-19', by Susan Olivia, Rus'an Nasrudin and John Gibson. It examined the impact of Covid-19 on the Indonesian economy, as well as the government's responses to the outbreak. Asep Suryahadi, Ridho Al Izzati and Daniel Suryadarma contributed a second article on Covid-19. They estimated the impact of the outbreak on poverty in Indonesia and described the implications for the country's social protection program. 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. Lastly, C. Peter Timmer, Jay K. Rosengard and Chris Manning contributed book reviews, while Peter McCawley authored an obituary on J.B. Sumarlin.

The April 2020 issue (56.1) featured a Survey of Recent Developments by Siwage Dharma Negara and Arief Ramayandi, 'Laying the Foundations for Future Growth Acceleration?' It examined 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. Stephen Marks, Noory Okthariza and Teguh Wicaksono contributed book reviews.

Research Travel Grants

We regret to inform you that due to Covid-19 restrictions, the 2021 Travel Grant program for Honours and Masters students is on hold until further notice. We are currently investigating alternative versions of the program. Please continue to monitor this [webpage](#) or join our mailing list for updates on the grant.

Visiting Fellows Program

We regret to inform you that due to Covid-19 restrictions, the 2021 Visiting Fellows program is on hold until further notice. We will continue to monitor the situation and advise you when we are able to recommence the program.

OTHER NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

We farewelled Bhaskara Adiwena, ANU Indonesia Project Research Assistant, as he has concluded his study at ANU and has now returned back to Indonesia. We are excited to have Ruth Nikijuluw rejoin us soon and to welcome Gema Sedyadi in the team.

Congratulation to Firman Witoelar for receiving a new research grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through the J-PAL SEA-LPEM Inclusive Financial Innovation Initiative (IFII), for exploratory study on 'Branchless Banking Agents' profile, limitations, and potential for agent network expansion and improvement (with Gianmarco Leon Cilliota and Erika Deserrano).

Budy Resosudarmo receives the Australia ASEAN Council Grant on supporting research by young Cambodian and Laos academic (with Kimlong Chheng).

PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENTS

Blane Lewis has made presentations to the Indonesian Ministry of Finance high level officials regarding the revision of decentralisation laws.

Budy Resosudarmo led the Asian Development Bank team in preparing the first quarter Monitoring Report on the Implementation of Indonesia's public health and national recovery program in response to the Covid-19 for the Indonesian Ministry of Finance. He was also the resource person on the topic of implementation of clear river program in West Java and the topic of possible near future policy on climate change in Indonesia.

Arianto Patunru provided policy briefings on Covid-related issues of trade and investment to the Indonesian Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Agricultural Affairs, Bappenas, and Ministry of Trade. He was invited to review research papers at the Bank Indonesia Institute.

Firman Witoelar provided advice to the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture on the topic of alignment index between vocational graduates and industry/business world. He also provided briefing to the Bappenas on development of integrated database and information system for old age support.

LECTURES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

In September-October, Budy Resosudarmo participated in teaching (online) Development Economics course at Universitas Gadjah Mada on the topic of human wellbeing, development and environment, and sustainable development. In November-December, Budy also taught empirical method in environmental economics in the Environmental Economics course at Universitas Indonesia. Budy provided a short training on empirical method in public health at the Faculty of Public Health, Universitas Indonesia, in December.

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 online lectures on microeconomics, macroeconomics and international economics from July to October 2020 at the Center for Indonesian Policy Studies (CIPS).

SELECTED MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

Blane Lewis, Hal Hill, Chatib Basri were quoted in *The Interpreter*, [Economic diplomacy: borders, barriers and obstacles](#), for their presentations during the Economic dimensions of Covid-19 in Indonesia Conference.

Hal Hill during his presentation at the Economic dimensions of Covid-19 in Indonesia Conference was quoted by [katadata.co.id](#), [Indonesia belum memandang riset sebagai investasi](#). (in Indonesian language).

Hal Hill and Arianto Patunru were interviewed by *The Australian* on Indonesia's recent Omnibus Law, [Indonesian President Joko Widodo defies protests to push forward with labour reform](#). Hal Hill was also interviewed on the pandemic in the Southeast Asia, [Pandemic exposes cracks in the Asian Century](#). (links accessible by subscription only).

Arianto Patunru and Ira Aprilianti wrote an article for the *East Asia Forum*, [Indonesia signed RCEP, what next?](#), 3 December 2020.

Peter McCawley and Arianto Patunru were interviewed by *ABC News*, [Australia offers Indonesia \\$1.5billion loan as the country falls into first recession in 22 years](#).

Anne Booth and Hal Hill were quoted in *Tirto.id*, [Sejarah modal asing di Indonesia, 150 tahun warisan zaman kolonial](#). (in Indonesian language).

Arianto Patunru was quoted and interviewed by *Kompas*, [Selain resesi, pemerintah perlu waspadai kemungkinan depresi ekonomi](#), by *JawaPos*, [RUU Omnibus Law Cipta Kerja belum cakup kepentingan pencari kerja](#), by *Berita Satu*, [Ketahanan pangan minimalkan dampak pandemi Covid-19](#), by *Tempo*, [Indonesia memiliki peluang besar saat Australia perang dagang dengan China](#), by *Warta Ekonomi*, [Masuk resesi atau tidak, semua tergantung penanganan Covid-19](#), by *Antara News*, [Intervensi negara bakal semakin besar dalam rantai nilai global](#). (all in Indonesian language).

GLOBAL SEMINAR SERIES

There were fourteen Global Seminars with a focus on Covid-19 in Indonesia held in the second semester of 2020. This well attended seminar series discussed a wide range of issues with topics on public health, gender, economic recovery and resilience featured prominently. There were two special seminars, one with Professor Bambang Brodjonegoro and Professor Hal Hill on research on Covid19 in Indonesia, and the End-of-year reflection and the way forward. We invited prominent speakers and

academics such as Suharti Sutar, Deputy Governor of DKI Jakarta, Moekti Soejachmoen from Danareksa Research Institute, Eva Nisa from ANU and Yunita Winarto from Universitas Indonesia. We also invited leading experts from Prospera, the World Bank, private sector and the media.

All recordings of the webinars and other related commentaries and presentations related to Covid-19 in Indonesia are available from www.covid19Indonesia.net.

[Read more >](#)

FORUM KAJIAN PEMBANGUNAN

There were 30 Forum Kajian Pembangunan (FKP) seminars held online in the second half of 2020, featuring 71 speakers and hosted by 13 organisation. COVID-19-related topics were the feature of about a third of the presentations, indicating that Indonesian researchers were relatively quick to pivot their research to focus on the pandemic. Another third of the presentations focused on gender and social inclusion topics such as the role of childcare services in supporting female labour force participation; analysis of neo-natus born to mothers infected with COVID-19; the economic cost of not breastfeeding; and child labor. The passing of Undang-undang Cipta Kerja was one of the key events of 2020, and the possible impacts of this new law featured prominently in the Q&A sessions of FKP webinars.

[Read more >](#)

FUTURE DATES

31 March Deadline for the 2021/2022 Research Grants application submission

15 April Mubyarto Public Policy Forum (online) with Chris Manning, Catur Sugiyanto, Tezza Napitupulu

May Sadli Lecture (online)

June Book launch: Economic dimensions of Covid-19 in Indonesia: responding to the crisis. The book is based from the 2020 Conference with the same theme.

September Indonesia Update on Health and Population, convened by Ariane Utomo and Firman Witoelar