

01 Edition
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KSI NEWSLETTER

2018: The Year in Review

This year has seen several important developments in Indonesia's knowledge sector. A number of these developments are the result of the on-going work and leadership of Knowledge Sector Initiative (KSI) partners as Indonesian knowledge sector actors.

The passage of a new Presidential Decree on the Procurement of Goods and Services (*Perpres* 16/2018) issued in March has had significant implications for the knowledge sector. Changes to this regulation now make it much easier for the Indonesian government to engage non-profit organisations to conduct policy research. This provides policymakers with more options for sourcing evidence, and provides potential new sources of domestic funding for research organisations. Akatiga, the Indonesian Centre of Law and Policy Studies (PSHK), Article 33 and the Regional Autonomy Watch Committee (KPPOD) played a key role in changes to the regulations and will continue to support their implementation in 2019. This will ensure they are being used effectively.

This year has also seen increased attention on the effectiveness of government spending on research, particularly research funds allocated to ministries and agencies. Key actors, including the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), the Ministry of Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform (Kemenpan RB), the National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas), the National Institute of Public Administration (LAN) and the Indonesian Academy of Sciences (AIPI) are jointly discussing approaches to reform research units within government (*balitbang*). This is part of a review of the structures and functions of key government agencies. The findings of the review have the potential to improve how Indonesia spends its research funds and clarify the roles of key agencies involved in research.

In the science and technology sector, the development of a new law on a national system for science and technology (RUU *Sisnas Iptek*) has highlighted the need for a strong ecosystem to support Indonesia's research environment. The law provides an opportunity to promote the importance of research for policy, including adequate funding. Partners of KSI such as AIPI and the Centre for Innovation Policy and Governance (CIPG) will continue to work with government to provide input into the new law and monitor its progress.

In April, Indonesia formally passed a new National Research Master Plan. This plan sets out a vision for research to 2045, outlining 10 priority research areas that support national development objectives. This helps put in place solid foundations for clearer and more coordinated agendas for policy research, aligned with national development priorities.

Indonesia has also continued to make progress on its e-government agenda, with the passing of a new regulation on e-government in October (*Perpres* 95/2018). There has been increasing interest in the Bappenas e-planning system, KRISNA, supported by KSI, as the national platform for integrating national and local planning and budgeting data. With a long-awaited new regulation on a single data portal (*Satu Data*) expected to be passed by the end of the year, this is likely to remain a key focus for Indonesia.



New knowledge has been produced

KSI's research partners have produced a range of books and reports on important policy issues, including:

- Identity politics and conflict in local elections (CSIS)
- Women's political participation and representation (CWI)
- Implementation of Indonesia's Human Rights National Action Plan (ELSAM)
- Local democracy and the village economy (IRE)
- Implementation of regional tax and retribution laws (KPPOD)
- Implementation of the National Health Insurance scheme (PKMK)
- Guidelines for peer review (PPH Atma Jaya)
- Dissemination of Exclusive Understanding in Islamic Education: Policy Review and Politics in Production of Education Materials (PPIM UIN)
- Regulations on inter-religious harmony (PUSAD)
- Tax incentives for philanthropy (PSHK)
- Agrarian transformation (Sajogyo Institute)



IDF 2018 helped shape Bappenas' approach to addressing regional disparity

The second annual Indonesia Development Forum (IDF) showcased new approaches to tackling the uneven pace of human and economic development across Indonesia. It also generated recommendations for the 2020-2024 National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN). KSI's international partners provided strong support, with Veronica Taylor from the Australian National University (ANU) delivering a keynote speech, and Arnaldo Pellini and Dan Harris from the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) publishing blogs reflecting on IDF.



KSI's new media partnerships are helping promote more evidence-informed public debate

KSI is working with media in Indonesia and Australia to better communicate research to policymakers and help bring 'the facts' into policy debates. Indonesia at Melbourne has published a series of articles and a podcast with Minister Bambang Brodjonegoro as part of its new 'Policy in Focus' series. ANU's New Mandala is providing mentoring for six young Indonesian researchers to publish articles on a range of policy issues. Monash University is working with Tempo Institute and Dewan Pers to better understand the current state of evidence-informed journalism in Indonesia.



Kemenristekdikti is taking steps to improve gender equality and social inclusion in research and higher education

The launch of new research grant guidelines by the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education (Kemenristekdikti) is an important step in Indonesia's efforts to mainstream gender and social inclusion (GESI) in research produced by Indonesian academics. The guidelines include priority research topics related to GESI for eight of the 10 research fields, including food and agriculture, transportation, marine and coastal affairs, and social sciences. Together with Cakra Wikara Indonesia (CWI), KSI is assessing the impact of these new guidelines and providing training for researchers to improve their research proposals.



ANU has commenced initial discussions with the Kemenristekdikti and potential universities on a pilot to adapt the Athena SWAN scheme to promote greater gender equity in universities.

AIDRAN expanded its network among disability researchers and advocates in Indonesia and Australia

The Australia-Indonesia Disability Research and Advocacy Network (AIDRAN) has formalised a partnership between La Trobe University and Brawijaya University's Centre for Disability Studies and Services. The network continued to grow this year, launching a website and social media, hosting a launch event in Melbourne, and holding a series of seminars and workshops in Indonesia.



KSI and its partners continued to help put in place systems for the skills development of policy analysts

A new Ministerial Decree on national competency standards for policy analysts has been passed. To support the implementation of this decree, KSI has supported the LAN to develop its online platform, including e-learning modules, and to develop a new Policy Quality Index, which has been used in 83 agencies and local governments this year.



KSI partner KPPOD worked with LAN to develop the National Qualification Framework for policy analysts, and SMERU is developing a poverty analysis training module for policy analysts.

As a new association, the Indonesian Association of Policy Analysts (AAKI) continued to build its capacity to support policy analysts, including building their profile, networks and capacity. Several policy research institutes (PRIs) have made new connections with AAKI.

The University of Melbourne conducted a study on the experiences of the first cohort of policy analysts. The findings will help LAN to improve the support they provide to ministries and agencies that employ policy analysts.

KRISNA continued to promote better planning of development programmes

With support from UI's e-Gov Lab and the Centre for the Study of Governance and Administrative Reform (UI-CSGAR), Bappenas has continued to refine the online planning system. The system now enables annual work planning, plans for national ministries and agencies, and some sub-national planning to be done online, saving time and paperwork.



To support better coordination of monitoring and evaluation of development programmes, Seknas FITRA conducted a study to map existing regulations. Findings from the study are helping Bappenas to identify where there is a need for greater clarity in roles, responsibilities and procedures to improve monitoring and evaluation practices.

KSI's research partners have provided evidence to inform three significant policy changes

Through its research and advocacy efforts, SurveyMeter has informed a new policy supporting senior citizens in Bali, while Article 33's research has contributed to influencing the moratorium policy on the hiring of teachers for public schools and the issuing of a joint ministerial decree on a labour-intensive public works cash-for-work programme.



A new Inclusive Development Index is helping improve measurement of inclusive growth

Launched this year by Bappenas with support from SMERU, the Inclusive Development Index provides a comprehensive tool to measure the inclusiveness of the Indonesian economy, with national indicators and disaggregation to the sub-national level.



Indonesia's knowledge sector actors strengthened their networks

Launched in Jakarta, the Indonesian Bureau of Economic Research (IBER) is a new network of universities and think tanks that aims to improve the quality of the economics profession and of economic advice to policymakers in Indonesia. Founding members of the network include SMERU, the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), SurveyMeter and LIPI. Networks with private sectors also continued to be built in 2018 through a number of Research and Business Forums facilitated by CCPHI



Implementation of the new procurement regulation

To support policymakers to commission research, in 2019 KSI will work with government and research partners to pilot the implementation of the new procurement regulation.

Reform of policy research units in government

KSI will continue to support efforts to improve the effectiveness of policy research units within national and sub-national government agencies and encourage these units to collaborate with universities to undertake policy research.

Sub-national

KSI will continue to support links and collaboration between PRIs and DFAT programmes to address social issues at sub-national level. KSI will ensure efforts to influence policy at the national level include sub-national perspectives

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

KSI will continue to support AIDRAN to expand its network in Australia and Indonesia, improve its communications and outreach, and conduct seminars, workshops and a conference in Indonesia.

IDF 2019

IDF 2019 will focus on employment and the labour market in Indonesia. Planning has already begun, with a call for submissions expected to be issued in early 2019.

2019: What's Next?

Media partnerships

KSI's partnerships with Indonesia at Melbourne and ANU's New Mandala will continue in 2019. KSI is also planning several new partnerships with Indonesian media, including The Conversation Indonesia.

Using KRISNA data for analysis

In 2019, KSI will continue to work with UI's e-Gov Lab to consolidate the KRISNA planning and budgeting system. With core components already in place, KSI's support will focus on ensuring that the right governance arrangements are in place, and on developing dashboards and other data analysis tools to make it easier for policymakers in Bappenas to use data from KRISNA in planning.

Research partners

New mechanisms for supporting KSI's research partners will come into effect in 2019. These aim to support PRIs to improve their financial sustainability and to develop networks which support them to engage effectively in policymaking processes at national and sub-national levels.



Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
 Over the last three years, Fleur Davies has provided strong support for KSI. As she finishes her posting in Jakarta, we would like to wish her all the best for her return to Canberra and for success in her next role. We would also like to congratulate Kirsten Bishop on her new role as Minister Counsellor, Governance and Human Development Branch. We are thrilled to be able to continue working with Kirsten in her new capacity.

KSI team members
 This year we bid farewell to several of our colleagues. We would like to express our deep appreciation for the hard work and professionalism of Janes Ginting as Deputy Team Leader and other team members Antya Widita, Iskhak Fatonie, Julie Abella and Ernest Simatupang. Their efforts and positive energy have contributed to KSI's achievements in 2018. We wish them all the very best for their future endeavours.