Evidence-to-Policy Conference: Optimizing tax administration through evidence and policy innovation

16 November 2026 | Location: Main Office of DJP, Jakarta

Indonesia has made notable progress in reducing poverty, yet millions of Indonesians continue to face persistent barriers to improving their livelihoods. In 2026, 22.93 million Indonesians were living below the national poverty line, while an estimated 2.2 million remained in extreme poverty (BPS 2026; Humas Kemensetneg RI 2026). For many families, access to clean water, basic health services, quality education, and stable employment remains out of reach.

Governments face growing demands for public services alongside increasingly constrained fiscal resources. Strengthening domestic revenue mobilization is therefore critical to creating the fiscal space needed to finance essential public services and sustain effective programmes.

Amid growing demand for public services and limited fiscal space, managing fiscal resources and setting financing priorities can be a challenge. For local governments, tax administration is one of the key areas that can support the financing of public services and development priorities. Evidence can help governments understand the challenges of tax administration, identify opportunities to improve policies and their implementation, and assess the effectiveness, costs, and benefits of different approaches while taking into account principles of equity and local contexts.

Generating and bringing rigorous evidence on what works in development to the forefront of policy debates has been central to J-PAL's mission. Through our global research network, J-PAL has evaluated innovative approaches to addressing development challenges, including improving the effectiveness of tax administration.These findings offer valuable lessons for Indonesian policymakers as they evaluate tax policies and identify opportunities to improve tax administration and fiscal management.

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ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL POVERTY ACTION LAB
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Optimizing tax administration through evidence and policy innovation

On **16 November**, J-PAL Southeast Asia will host an **Evidence-to-Policy Conference** with the theme "*Optimizing tax administration through evidence and policy innovation*" in Jakarta. The event will bring together mainly government leaders at the national and subnational levels, as well as researchers, development partners, and other stakeholders to discuss how **rigorous research and evidence can support government efforts to formulate, implement, and evaluate tax policies that are more effective, equitable, and responsive to the Indonesian context.**

The event will highlight practical examples of how scientific evidence and innovation can inform tax policymaking and improve the effectiveness of tax administration and compliance.

Susunan Acara

Time	Activity	Speaker
12:30 - 13:00	**Registration**	
13:00 - 13:05	**Opening by MC**	**J-PAL Southeast Asia**
13:05 - 13:15	**Keynote speech by the Ministry of Finance**	**Bimo Wijayanto**, Director General of Taxes, Ministry of Finance
13:15 - 13:30	**Opening remarks by LPEM FEB UI**	**Jahen Fachrul Rezki**, Vice Director of Research, LPEM FEB UI
13:30 - 13:45	**Keynote Speech by the Embassy of Switzerland in Indonesia**	**Mathias Domenig,** Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Switzerland in Indonesia
13:45 - 14:15	**Session 1: Public Seminar on Leveraging Evidence to Improve Tax Administration – Insights from a Study on Property Tax Assessments in India** This session will discuss findings from a study	**Ben Olken,** Scientific Director, J-PAL Southeast Asia, and Professor of Microeconomics at MIT

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	conducted in India entitled "*Improving Public Revenue through Better Delivery: Evidence from Property Tax Assessments,*" which examines improvements in tax administration and their implications for public policy. In addition to presenting the key findings, the session will explore the research background, including how the research questions were formulated in response to government policy needs and how researchers and policymakers collaborated to address those needs.	
14:15 - 14:45	Q&A	• **Yulianti Abbas**, Dean, Faculty of Economics and Business and Tax Education and Research Center LPEM FEB UI • **Ben Olken,** Scientific Director, J-PAL Southeast Asia, and Professor of Microeconomics at MIT • **MC:** J-PAL Southeast Asia
14:45 - 15:00	**COFFEE BREAK**	

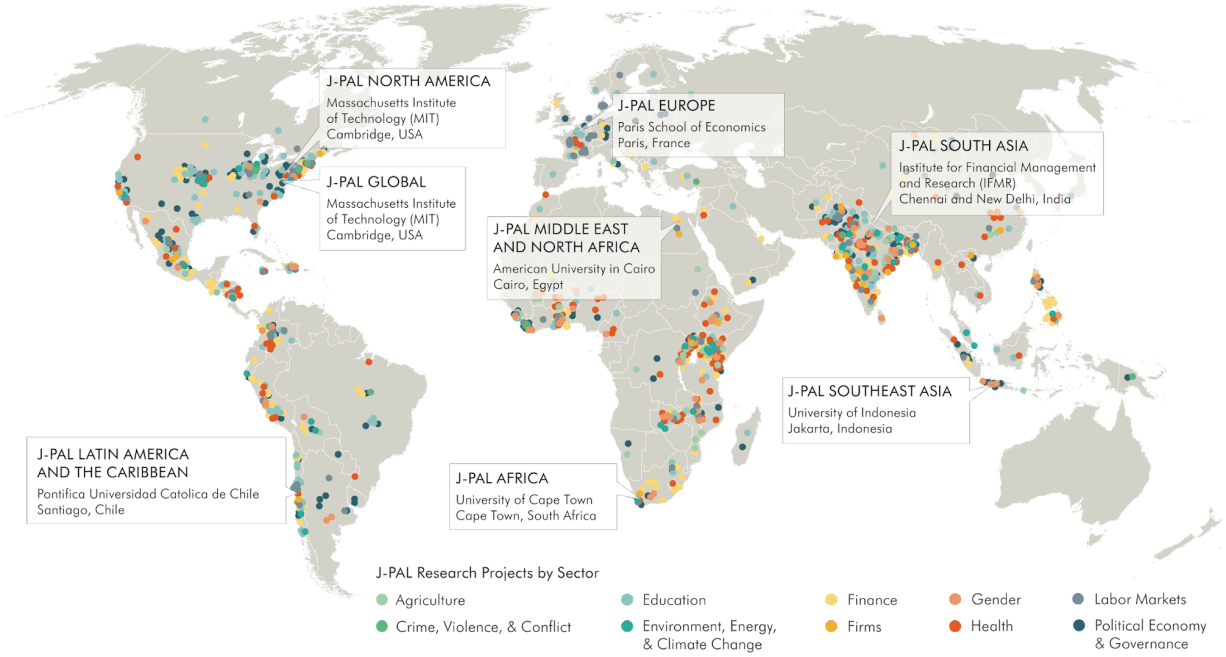
Time	Activity	Speaker
15:00 - 16:00	**Session 2: Panel Discussion – Leveraging Third-Party Data to Improve Tax Administration** Effective fiscal management requires policies to be designed based on data and evidence, while taking into account implementation effectiveness, fairness, and public trust. Amid the various challenges in managing national and subnational revenues, the use of data can be an approach to understanding existing conditions, identifying areas for improvement, and supporting the formulation of better-targeted policies. This session will discuss the use of third-party data in the design and implementation of tax policies, including its potential to improve tax administration, understand compliance patterns, and identify opportunities for policy improvement. Speakers will share their experiences, explore the opportunities and challenges of implementing data-driven approaches, and discuss how existing research findings and future studies can support policy evaluation and more effective, equitable, and context-appropriate decision-making.	• **Eureka Putra,** Director of Potential, Compliance, and Revenue, Directorate General of Taxes (DJP) • **Matthias Kasper,** Senior Public Sector Specialist, World Bank • **Raden Roro Andarini,** Head of the Financial and Asset Management Agency (BPKAD), Yogyakarta • **Moderator: Martoni Ariadirja,** Deputy Head of Swiss Economic Cooperation and Development (SECO)
16:00 - 16:30	**Q&A Session**	**All panelists**
16:30 - 16:45	**Closing by MC**	**J-PAL Southeast Asia**

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ABOUT J-PAL AND J-PAL SEA



The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) was established in 2003 as a research institute within the Economics Department of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge. J-PAL believes that development can be more effective if policymakers and implementers have access to rigorous evidence of what programs and policies work or not, and why. Currently, J-PAL has over 1,000 affiliated researchers who have more than 1,250 completed and ongoing evaluations in more than 120 countries. These projects rigorously test the effectiveness of programs in areas including health, education, finance, labor markets, environment, governance, and agriculture.

In 2013, then-Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono launched the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab Southeast Asia Regional Office (J-PAL SEA) in Jakarta under the Faculty of Economic and Business, Universitas Indonesia. J-PAL SEA's mission is to equip policymakers with rigorous evidence to inform the design of social programs that will make a lasting contribution to poverty reduction in Indonesia and the Southeast Asia region.

For more information: https://www.povertyactionlab.org/