

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

Day, date: Monday, 16 November 2026

Time: 12:30 - 16:45 WIB

Location: Auditorium Cakti Budhi Bhakti, Gedung Mar'ie Muhammad, Kantor Pusat
Direktorat Jenderal Pajak (DJP), Jakarta ([Map](#))

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.

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.**

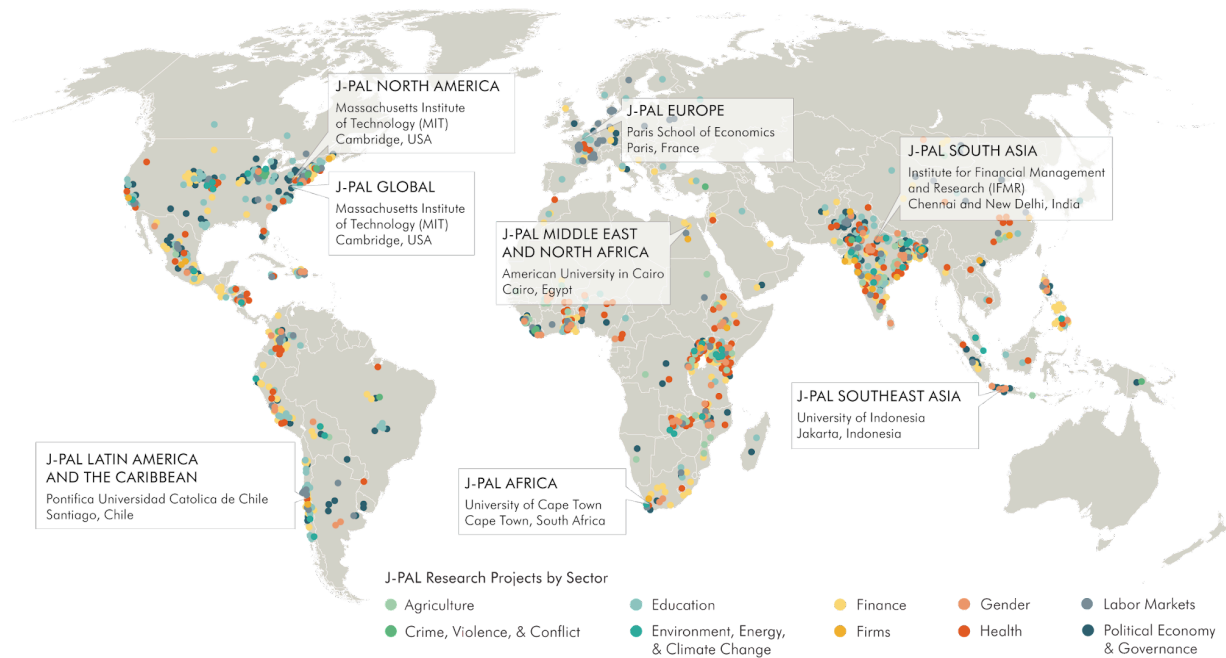
The event will highlight practical examples of how scientific evidence and innovation can inform tax policymaking and improve the effectiveness of tax administration and compliance.

Agenda

Time	Activity	Speaker
12:30 - 13:00	Registration	
13:00 - 13:05	Opening by MC	J-PAL Southeast Asia
13:05 - 13:15	Opening remarks by LPEM FEB UI	Chaikal Nuryakin, Director, LPEM FEB UI
13:15 - 13:30	Keynote Speech by the Embassy of Switzerland in Indonesia	Mathias Domenig, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Switzerland in Indonesia
13:30 - 13:45	Keynote Speech by the Ministry of Finance	Directorate General of Taxes (TBC)
13:45 - 14:15	Session 1: Public Seminar on Strengthening Indonesia's Fiscal Space	Tax Education and Research Center LPEM FEB UI (TBC)
14:15 - 14:45	Session 2: Public Seminar on Leveraging Evidence to Improve Tax Administration – Insights from a Study on Property Tax Assessments in India	Ben Olken, Scientific Director, J-PAL Southeast Asia, and Professor of Microeconomics at MIT

Time	Activity	Speaker
14:25-14:45	Q&A	• <i>Tax Education and Research Center LPEM FEB University of Indonesia (TBC)</i> • Ben Olken, Scientific Director, J-PAL Southeast Asia, and Professor of Microeconomics at MIT • MC: J-PAL Southeast Asia
14:55 - 15:10	COFFEE BREAK	
15:10 - 16:10	Session 3: Panel Discussion – Leveraging Third-Party Data to Improve Tax Administration	• <i>Directorate General of Taxes</i> • <i>World Bank</i> • <i>Regional Financial and Asset Management Agency</i>
16:10 - 16:40	Q&A Session	All panelists
16:40 - 16:45	Closing by MC	J-PAL Southeast Asia

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/>