

Rusli Abdulah

Graduate School of International Development (GSID), Nagoya University, Japan

Furo-cho, Chikusa-ku, Nagoya 464-8601, Japan

✉ abdulah.rusli.s6@s.mail.nagoya-u.ac.jp |  Google Scholar

EDUCATION

-
- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 2023- 27* | Ph.D. , International Development (Economic Development Policy and Management), Graduate School of International Development GSID), Nagoya University, Japan |
| 2011-13 | M.Sc. , Economics and Development Studies, Diponegoro University, Semarang, Indonesia |
| 2003-08 | B.Sc. Economics and Development Studies, Diponegoro University, Semarang, Indonesia |

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

-
- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 2014– | Researcher, Institute for Development of Economics and Finance (INDEF, Jakarta-Indonesia) |
| 2021–2022 | Expert Staff, Regional House of Representatives (DPD RI), Committee IV, Republic of Indonesia
Committee IV covers the state budget and expenditure, taxation, fiscal balance between the central and regional governments, financial institutions, and cooperatives and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
Assisted the secretariat in conducting research for academic papers related to draft bills and supported the Head of Committee IV. |
| 2017–2019 | Expert Staff, Regional House of Representatives (DPD RI), Committee II, Republic of Indonesia
Committee II covers agriculture, transportation, marine and fisheries, energy and mineral resources, forestry and the environment, industry and trade, investment, and public works.
Assisted the secretariat in conducting research for academic papers related to draft bills and supported the Head of Committee II. |

PHD PROJECT

My current doctoral dissertation project aims to answer the question of how rural development affects the rural economy, agricultural output, and food security in Indonesia. I utilise granular data from satellite imagery and official statistics, combining causal inference methods and a spatial econometrics approach.

*Expected.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

1. Annef, A. B., Abdulah, R., & Wiryawan, B. A. A. (2026). Too crowded to grow? Luminosity-based evidence on village cooperative finance in Indonesia. *International Journal of Social Economics*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJSE-11-2025-1107>
2. Abdulah, R. (2026). Measuring rural economic development from outer space: Evidence from the Village Fund policy in Indonesia. *Regional Statistics*, 16(3), 423–445. <https://doi.org/10.15196/RS160301>
3. Abdulah, R. (2025). Mapping food security in Indonesia: Geographic clusters and regional disparities. *Indonesian Journal of Geography*, 57(3). <https://doi.org/10.22146/ijg.99419>

Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceedings

1. Abdulah, R., D. Rahmayani, and R. Sugiharti. (2024) “Exploratory Spatial Data Analysis for Poverty, Food Security, and Prevalence of Undernourishment Monitoring in Central Java: Python Application.” *Proceedings of the Regional Economic Seminar*, PUSAKA Central Java, Bank Indonesia Office of Central Java.

Working Papers

1. Amrullah, E.R., Ishida, Akira and Abdulah.R, "Understanding Energy Poverty in Indonesia: Socioeconomic and Regional Disparities." *under review*
2. Abdulah, R. “From Satellite Data to Microdata: Identifying the Connection between Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Output in Indonesia.”
3. Abdulah, R., and Y. Chen. “How Does Inter-Village Road Infrastructure Lead to Landslides? Evidence from Indonesia.”
4. Abdulah, R. “Farm Roads and Agricultural Productivity: Satellite-Based Evidence from Indonesian Villages.”
5. Abdulah, R. “A Spatial Engle Curve: The Role of Infrastructure on Food Security in Indonesia.”

SELECTED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2022	Research Team Member, "Downstreaming Investment Strategic Roadmap 2023-2045" (Funded by Ministry of Investment/Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM), Republic of Indonesia)
2022	Research Team Member, "The Acceleration on Southern Sumatra Agglomeration Area (Sumbagsel) Development 2022-2034", (Funded by Sumbagsel Professional Society)
2021	Research Team Member, "Indonesia Fertiliser Outlook 2022", (Funded by Indonesia Fertiliser Research Institute (IFRI))
2019	Research Team Member, "Policy Paper on Shipping Bill", Committee II, House of Regional Representatives, Republic of Indonesia
2018	Research Team Member, "Policy Paper on Food Security Bill", Committee II, House of Regional Representatives, Republic of Indonesia

2019	Research Team Member, "Study on Revitalisation of Rural Development", (Funded by Ministry of Rural, Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration, Republic of Indonesia)
2019	Research Team Member, "Indonesia's Labour Outlook 2019-2020", Funded by (Ministry of Manpower, Republic of Indonesia)
2019	Research Team Member, "Strategic Planning of Ministry of Manpower 2020-2024", (Funded by Ministry of Manpower, Republic of Indonesia)
2017	Research Team Member, "A Decade of EU Indonesia Economic-Relations" (Funded by EUROCHAM)
2016	Research Team Member, "Decentralisation and Inequality in Indonesia", (Funded by Ford Foundation)
2014	Research Team Member, "Policy Research on Planning on The Supporting of Energy Demand for Industry Development in Indonesia", (Funded by Ministry of Industry, Republic of Indonesia)
2014	Research Team Member, "Industrial Cluster Development Competitiveness", (Funded by Ministry of Industry, Republic of Indonesia)
2014	Research Team Member, "Market Survey of A New Non-Tradable Government Retail Savings Sukuk in Indonesia", (Funded by Nomura Research Institute (NRI), Japan)
2014	Research Team Member, "Policy Research on Mapping of Program Development on Financial Access and SME's", (Funded by Central Small and Medium Enterprise Division, Central Bank of Indonesia)
2013	Research Team Member, "Regional Investment Plan (RUPM) Purbalingga Regency, Central Java Province 2013-2025', (Funded by Investment Office and the Integrated Licensing, Purbalingga District Government, Central Java, Indonesia)
2013	Research Team Member, "Regional Investment Plan (RUPM) Kendal Regency, Central Java Province 2013-2025". (Funded by Investment Office and the Integrated Licensing, Kendal District Government, Central Java, Indonesia)
2011	Research Assistant, "Regional Investment Plan (RUPM) Central Java Province 2010-2025", (Funded by Regional Investment Agency (BPMD) Central Java Province)

AWARDS & HONORS

2023-present	Indonesia Endowment Fund Scholarship (LPDP), Ministry of Finance, Republic Indonesia
2011-2013	Unggulan Scholarship, Ministry of Higher Education, Republic Indonesia
2008	Grant for Student Creativity Program, Ministry of Higher Education, Republic Indonesia (IDR 5,000,000)
2007	Grant for Student Creativity Program, Ministry of Higher Education, Republic Indonesia (IDR 5,000,000)

TOOLS & SOFTWARE

STATA

Python, especially for spatial and regional analysis

Google Earth Engine

GeoDa

[Github](#)

[Personal website](#)

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

1. Op-ed : Prioritizing agriculture in the Indonesia-Japan partnership, [The Jakarta Post](#), July 16, 2025. In collaboration with Al Bahits Annef
2. Op-ed (in Bahasa) :The Final Destination of Village Fund Policy, [KONTAN](#), July 10, 2025.
3. Op-ed (in Bahasa) : Conflict Mitigation between Village Cooperative and Village Own Enterprise , [Bisnis Indonesia](#), July 1, 2025.
4. Op-ed : Getting rich without getting fat: The challenge of developing countries, [The Jakarta Post](#), January 15, 2025. In collaboration with Katerine Restrepo Gómez
5. Op-ed : Getting rich without fat: The challenge of developing countries such as Indonesia and Mexico, [The Conversation](#), January 8, 2025. In collaboration with Katerine Restrepo Gómez
6. Op-ed (in Bahasa) : Food Security in the Context of Free Lunch Program, [Bisnis Indonesia](#), March 24, 2024.
7. Op-ed : INDONESIA ECONOMIC OUTLOOK 2022, A Ray of Recovery amid Clouds of Uncertainty, [Independent Observer](#), January 10, 2022.
8. Op-ed (in Bahasa) : Inequality Gaps in the Gotong Royong Vaccination Program Royong [Harian Kompas](#), May 31, 2021.
9. Op-ed : No way to ‘stay home’ without decent home food and cash [The Jakarta Post](#), May 18, 2020. In collaboration with Sandy July Maulana.
10. Op-ed : China’s economic recovery depends on the rest of the world [The Conversation](#), April 3, 2020. In collaboration with Zulfikar Rakhmat.
11. Op-ed : Innovation should be increased to generate high economic growth [The Jakarta Post](#), January 2, 2015.

Last updated: July 18, 2026