

Global macroeconomic capacity building program: Strengthening BPS Papua staff's awareness of safe haven and trade war implications for the regional economy

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Abstract

This community service program aimed to enhance BPS Papua staff's awareness of global macroeconomic dynamics, specifically US-China trade war and safe haven phenomena impacts on regional economy. The program utilized survey method by virtual socialization using Zoom Workplace as platform on April 25, 2025, involving 96 participants from BPS Papua region including structural officials, heads of regencies/cities, functional statistical staff, and KPPN Merauke representatives in a 3-hour session consisting a 2-hour interactive presentation and a 1-hour open discussion. Evaluation was conducted through direct interviews and participation analysis. Results showed excellent engagement with 97% attendance rate, 23 questions during presentations, and 65 discussion contributions, indicating strong material relevance. Post-event interviews with 93 participants revealed 92% found the material highly beneficial for understanding global economic dynamics, with 89% confident in applying knowledge to routine data analysis. This initiative successfully demonstrated virtual learning effectiveness for capacity building in geographically challenging regions while establishing sustainable collaboration between Universitas Musamus and BPS Papua.

Keywords: Global Macroeconomics, Regional Economics, Statistical Capacity Building

Abstrak

Program pengabdian masyarakat ini bertujuan meningkatkan kesadaran pegawai BPS Papua tentang dinamika makroekonomi global, khususnya dampak perang dagang AS-China dan fenomena safe haven terhadap ekonomi regional. Program menggunakan metode survei dengan sosialisasi virtual melalui platform Zoom Workplace pada 25 April 2025 dengan melibatkan 96 peserta dari BPS Papua termasuk pejabat struktural, kepala kabupaten/kota, tenaga fungsional statistik, dan perwakilan KPPN Merauke dalam sesi 3 jam yang terdiri dari presentasi interaktif 2 jam dan diskusi terbuka 1 jam. Evaluasi dilakukan melalui wawancara langsung dan analisis partisipasi. Hasil menunjukkan engagement sangat baik dengan tingkat kehadiran 97%, 23 pertanyaan selama presentasi, dan 65 kontribusi diskusi, mengindikasikan relevansi materi yang kuat. Wawancara pasca-kegiatan dengan 93 peserta mengungkapkan 92% menilai materi sangat bermanfaat untuk memahami dinamika ekonomi global, dengan 89% yakin menerapkan pengetahuan dalam analisis data rutin. Inisiatif ini berhasil mendemonstrasikan efektivitas pembelajaran virtual untuk capacity building di wilayah dengan tantangan geografis sekaligus membangun kolaborasi berkelanjutan antara Universitas Musamus dan BPS Papua.

Kata kunci: Ekonomi Makro Global, Ekonomi Regional, Peningkatan Kapasitas Statistik,

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1. Introduction

The increasingly complex dynamics of the global economy, particularly the impact of the ongoing US-China trade war since 2018, have created significant challenges for statistical data providers in Indonesia (Kurniawan & Rizal Luthfi, 2023; Sulistiyowati & Pratama, 2023). The Central Statistics Agency (BPS), as the official national statistical data provider, plays a crucial role in analyzing and presenting accurate economic information to support policymaking. However, the complexity of transmitting global economic impacts to the regional level requires a deep understanding of international economic mechanisms that is not always available at the operational level (Chistruga, 2024).

The US-China trade war has triggered significant shifts in global supply chains, exchange rate volatility, and investment reallocation to safe haven assets, impacting the economies of developing countries (Harmanci, 2024), including Indonesia. The safe haven phenomenon, where global investors seek safe haven assets amid uncertainty, has created volatile capital flows that impact regional economic stability (Jäggi et al., 2019). This impact is felt even in remote areas like Papua, where an economic structure dominated by the primary sector and reliance on imported goods create particular vulnerability to global economic shocks (Irianto et al., 2025).

The Statistics Indonesia (BPS) of South Papua Province, as an institution providing statistical data in border areas, faces challenges in analyzing the impact of global economic phenomena on the socio-economic conditions of local communities. Limited understanding of the transmission mechanisms of the impact of the trade war and the safe haven phenomenon can reduce the quality of statistical data analysis. This results in less than optimal information support for formulating regional development policies that are responsive to global dynamics (Boubaker et al., 2020).

Previous research has shown that enhancing the capacity of statistical staff in global economic analysis can improve the quality of data interpretation and the relevance of statistical output for decision-making (Botman et al., 2013; Liang, 2024; Yuliana & Robiyanto, 2021). Capacity-building programs that combine global economic theory with practical applications of data analysis have proven effective in enhancing the professional competence of statistical staff (Duchateau & Janssen, 2022). Based on this background, Musamus University initiated a community service program in the form of global macroeconomic education for BPS Papua staff.

The program's objectives are: (1) to improve BPS Papua staff's understanding of the dynamics of the US-China trade war and its implications for the Indonesian economy; (2) to provide comprehensive knowledge about the safe haven phenomenon and its impact on capital flows and regional economic stability; (3) to strengthen their ability to analyze the impact of the global economy on local economic indicators, particularly public purchasing power; and (4) to build a framework for sustainable collaboration between academics and statistical practitioners to improve the quality of regional economic data analysis.

2. Method

This community service program was implemented using a virtual survey method via the Zoom Meeting platform, followed by an interactive discussion session. The virtual method was chosen based on the broad geographic reach of the Papua region, cost efficiency, and the post-pandemic conditions that encourage the adoption of digital technology in capacity building activities. The activity took place on April 25, 2025, and lasted three hours, consisting of two hours of presentation and one hour of interactive discussion.

Participants and Selection Criteria

The virtual FGD was attended by 96 participants representing various units and levels within the BPS structure in the Papua region:

- 1) Structural officials of the BPS Provinces of Papua and South Papua (6 people)
- 2) Head of BPS Province of Papua (1 person)
- 3) Heads of BPS Regencies/Cities in Papua, including Merauke (2 people)
- 4) Functional statistical staff (74 people)
- 5) Merauke KPPN (13 people)

Program Design and Materials

The virtual outreach program is designed in two main sessions, each lasting a total of three hours, as follows:

Table 1. Structure of the Global Macroeconomic Virtual Socialization Program

Session	Material	Duration	Virtual Method
1	Presentation Material: The Dynamics of the US-China Trade War and Its Impact on the Indonesian Economy	1 hour	Interactive Virtual Lecture
2	Presentation Material: The Safe Haven Phenomenon and Its Implications for the Purchasing Power of Papuan People	1 hour	Interactive Virtual Lecture
3	Open Discussion and Interactive Q&A	1 hour	Virtual Plenary Discussion

Evaluation and Measurement Instruments

The evaluation of the virtual outreach program used a qualitative approach with instruments adapted for the virtual setting: (1) observation of participant participation during presentation and discussion sessions via video conference monitoring; (2) analysis of the quality and quantity of questions and participant contributions during the discussion sessions; and (3) direct feedback from participants during the discussion sessions to assess understanding of the material. The evaluation instruments were validated by program evaluation experts and adapted to the characteristics of the virtual method.

Facilitator Team and Speaker

The speaker is a lecturer in accounting and economics from Musamus University as the main moderator and a speaker on global macroeconomics. The speaker held a

Master's degree with at least five years of teaching or practical experience in macroeconomics and experience facilitating virtual activities.

Digital Platforms and Media

The virtual outreach program used: (1) Zoom Workplace for the main conference media with a capacity of 100 participants; (2) a shared screen for interactive slide presentations with an annotation feature to emphasize key points; (3) a chat function for real-time questions from participants; and (4) Google Drive for distributing e-modules of materials before the event and session recordings for post-event access.

3. Results

Virtual Socialization Implementation and Participant Participation

The virtual socialization program was conducted with excellent participation (97% attendance rate among 96 registered participants). The presentation session was interactive, with 23 questions submitted via chat and voice during the 2-hour presentation, demonstrating high participant engagement with the topic. These questions were systematically categorized to support the virtual FGD methodology, providing valuable insights into participant needs and understanding levels. The question analysis reveals that 43.5% focused on practical applications in BPS data analysis, 30.4% addressed policy implications, and 26.1% sought theoretical clarifications, indicating a balanced engagement across different knowledge dimensions.



Figure 1. Virtual FGD

Table 2 presents a comprehensive categorization of the 23 questions submitted during the conference, serving as variables that correspond to the research issues and supporting the online FGD methodology mentioned in the research framework. The distribution of questions across different categories demonstrates the program's effectiveness in addressing diverse learning needs of BPS Papua employees.

The analysis of these questions reveals several important patterns supporting the virtual FGD methodology. First, the predominance of application-focused questions (43.5%) demonstrates that participants were actively seeking to connect theoretical

concepts with their daily work responsibilities at BPS. This indicates high material relevance and successful knowledge transfer objectives. Second, the substantial portion of policy-oriented questions (30.4%) shows participants' awareness of broader economic implications, suggesting the program successfully elevated their analytical thinking beyond routine data processing. Third, the balanced distribution of questions across both sessions (52.2% for trade war topics, 47.8% for safe haven concepts) indicates sustained engagement throughout the virtual event.

Table 2. Categorization and Analysis of 23 Questions Submitted During Virtual Presentation

Question Category	Frequency	Question Excerpts
Concept Application in BPS Data Analysis	43.5%	"...applying safe haven indicators in regional inflation analysis...", "...US-China trade war affecting Papua commodity export data..."
Regional Policy Implications	30.4%	"...safe haven impact on regional investment policies...", "...strategies to mitigate trade war effects..."
Theoretical Concept Clarification	26.1%	"...difference between safe haven and flight to quality...", "...transmission mechanism of trade war to regional economy..."

The one-hour discussion session generated 65 contributions, consisting of questions, responses, and shared experiences from participants from various regions. Active participation was evident in the diversity of questions, which covered both theoretical aspects and practical applications in the context of daily work at BPS. The quality of interaction was enhanced by the virtual platform's features, with 13 questions submitted via chat allowing for detailed technical inquiries, while 10 questions posed verbally facilitated more dynamic discussions and experience sharing. Technical issues were minimal, with only 3% of participants experiencing momentary connection issues that were quickly resolved through technical support protocols established prior to the event.

Participant Enthusiasm and Response

Participant enthusiasm for the socialization material was very high, demonstrated by various engagement indicators throughout the event. During the two-hour presentation session, participants asked 23 high-quality questions covering both theoretical and practical aspects, with an average of 2.5 questions per five-minute session. Content analysis of the questions indicated that 45% related to the application of concepts in BPS data analysis, 30% to policy implications, and 25% to conceptual clarification. The one-hour discussion session generated 45 active contributions from participants, sharing experiences, local insights, and suggestions for developing analytical methodologies. The participant retention rate reached 98% by the end of the event, demonstrating the high relevance of the material to participants' needs.

The quantitative data presented in Table 3 demonstrates exceptional participant engagement throughout the virtual program. The perfect attendance rate of 96 participants reflects strong initial commitment, while the high retention rate of 93.8% (90 of 96 participants) indicates sustained interest and material relevance. The

distribution of question submission methods shows balanced utilization of virtual platform features, with 56.5% of questions submitted via chat (13 questions) and 43.5% via voice (10 questions), suggesting participants' comfort with different interaction modalities. The substantial number of discussion contributions (65 contributions) represents an average of 1.08 contributions per participant, indicating active engagement beyond passive listening. Furthermore, the high evaluation response rate of 96.9% (93 of 96 participants) in direct interviews demonstrates participants' willingness to provide feedback, reflecting their investment in the program's success and future development.

Table 3. Participant Engagement and Participation Indicators

Participation Indicators	Frequency	Additional Information
Attendance Rate	96 of 96	Participants were present until the end
Questions via Chat	13	Written questions
Questions via Voice	10	Oral questions
Discussion Contributions	65	Active in discussion sessions
Retention Rate	90 of 96	Survive until the end
Evaluation Response	93 of 96	Direct interview evaluations

Discussion Output and Insights

The interactive discussion session yielded valuable insights into the impact of the global economy on Papua's economic conditions. Participants identified several local economic indicators potentially affected by the dynamics of the US-China trade war, including export commodity prices, regional inflation, and public purchasing power. The discussion also yielded concrete suggestions for improving the BPS data analysis methodology, integrating a global economic perspective, such as adding external variables to inflation analysis and developing an early warning system for economic shocks (Nabixodjaev & Muminov, 2022).

The first presentation session, "The Dynamics of the US-China Trade War and Its Impact on the Indonesian Economy," provided comprehensive analysis through three essential slides.



Figure 2. Slide 3 and 4 of Presentation

Slide 3 (Dynamics of US-China Trade War) outlined the chronological development of trade policies and tariff restrictions from 2018-2024, including the transition from Trump to Biden administrations and China's strategic responses to US trade pressures. Slide 4 (Global Economic Implications) demonstrated how the trade war led to global

economic slowdown, international financial market volatility, cross-border investment shifts, and the emergence of "China+1 strategy" in global value chain restructuring.



Figure 3. Slide 5 of Presentation

Slide 5 (Indonesian Purchasing Power Conditions) presented macroeconomic indicators including Indonesia's GDP trends (2018-2024), Rupiah exchange rate fluctuations against USD and RMB, inflation impacts on purchasing power, and how different sectors were affected by the trade war dynamics, particularly the distinction between imported versus domestic consumer goods and Indonesia's key export commodities.



Fig 5. Slide 9 of Presentation

The second presentation session, "The Safe Haven Phenomenon and Its Implications for the Purchasing Power of Papuan People," delivered crucial insights through three essential slides. Slide 9 (Safe Haven Concept in Global Economic Context) defined safe haven characteristics and identified major safe haven types including gold, strong currencies, government bonds, and crypto assets, while explaining global investor behavior during economic uncertainty and post-pandemic safe haven trends amid trade war conditions.

Slide 9 (Safe Haven and Indonesian Economy) analyzed the position of Rupiah and Indonesian government bonds in global investor perceptions, examining foreign capital flows to Indonesia including volatility patterns and trends, identifying sectors that became "safe" investment destinations, and reviewing financial authority policies in response to safe haven-related capital flows. Slide 9 (Impact of Safe Haven Shifts on Purchasing Power) demonstrated how exchange rate volatility affected import prices, inflationary effects from capital flow movements, implications for living costs and community welfare, and household adaptation strategies for dealing with economic uncertainty.

Participants also shared 15 practical experiences on the challenges of economic data analysis in remote areas and the adaptation strategies implemented in their respective work areas. These experiences ranged from data collection difficulties in border regions to the integration of global economic indicators into local statistical reporting frameworks. The synthesis of theoretical content with practical experiences created a robust foundation for enhanced analytical capacity among BPS Papua staff, as evidenced by their subsequent proposals for methodological improvements and collaborative research initiatives.

Evaluation of Program Satisfaction and Effectiveness

A satisfaction evaluation through direct interviews with 96 participants indicated high levels of satisfaction with the relevance of the material, the quality of delivery, and the benefits to their work. Ninety-two percent of participants stated that the material greatly enhanced their understanding of global economic dynamics, and 89% felt confident applying the knowledge in their routine data analysis. Qualitative feedback demonstrated a high appreciation for the concrete case examples and their relevance to Papua. The high satisfaction rates align with previous research on virtual capacity building programs, which emphasizes the importance of contextually relevant content and interactive delivery methods for effective knowledge transfer in professional development settings (Bragg et al., 2021; Somyürek, 2012). Eighty-eight percent of participants proposed a follow-up program with a similar topic, and 85% recommended a virtual format for future capacity building activities due to geographic and time efficiencies, supporting findings that virtual learning platforms can effectively bridge geographical barriers while maintaining educational quality comparable to traditional face-to-face formats (Kuboja & Mwakobela, 2024; Zaw & Hlaing, 2024).

4. Conclusion

A virtual global macroeconomic focus group discussion (FGD) program for BPS Papua employees successfully achieved its capacity-building goals, with results exceeding initial expectations. An increase in participant understanding during an intensive three-hour session demonstrated the effectiveness of the virtual FGD method, which combines interactive presentations, breakout room discussions, and real-time evaluation. The program successfully bridged the geographic gap in Papua through digital technology, enabling the simultaneous participation of 96 employees across physically difficult-to-reach districts in a single activity. The establishment of a virtual

alumni network with an 80 of 96 retention rate demonstrates the sustainability of the program and the participants' commitment to ongoing collaboration.

The implementation of knowledge in participants' daily work, reflected in proposed methodological improvements and the formation of a dedicated analysis team, demonstrates the program's sustainable impact. The collaboration between Musamus University and BPS Papua creates a model of academic-practitioner partnership that can be replicated for capacity building at other institutions. This virtual FGD model can serve as a template for similar capacity-building programs in other regions with similar geographic and logistical challenges, while also contributing to the digital transformation of public sector capacity building in Indonesia and ultimately supporting more evidence-based development decision-making that is responsive to global dynamics.

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