

The Existence of Quick Response Code Indonesian Standard (QRIS) as a National Product in International Economic Competition

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis kontribusi strategis Quick Response Code Indonesian Standard (QRIS) dalam mendukung kedaulatan ekonomi Indonesia di tengah dominasi sistem pembayaran asing. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan studi kasus terhadap dinamika tekanan internasional terhadap keberlanjutan QRIS, terutama dari Amerika Serikat. Data diperoleh melalui telaah berita aktual dan dokumen resmi dari Bank Indonesia. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa QRIS tidak hanya mendorong efisiensi transaksi dan perluasan akses keuangan, tetapi juga memperkuat kemandirian sistem keuangan nasional. Kerja sama lintas negara menunjukkan potensi QRIS sebagai hub ekonomi regional. Kesimpulan penelitian ini menegaskan bahwa QRIS merupakan inovasi domestik yang signifikan dalam membangun daya saing dan kedaulatan ekonomi di era digital.

Keywords: QRIS, economic independence, national payment system, financial digitalization

Abstract

This study aims to analyze the strategic contribution of the Quick Response Code Indonesian Standard (QRIS) in supporting Indonesia's economic sovereignty amid the dominance of foreign payment systems. This study uses a qualitative method with a case study approach to the dynamics of international pressure on the sustainability of QRIS, especially from the United States. Data is obtained through a review of actual news and official documents from Bank Indonesia. The findings show that QRIS not only encourages transaction efficiency and expansion of financial access, but also strengthens the independence of the national financial system. Cross-country cooperation shows the potential of QRIS as a regional economic hub. The conclusion of this study confirms that QRIS is a significant domestic innovation in building competitiveness and economic sovereignty in the digital era.

Keywords: QRIS, economic independence, national payment system, financial digitalization

INTRODUCTION

Quick Response Code Indonesia Standard (QRIS) is a QR code-based national payment standard developed by Bank Indonesia to unify various digital payment

systems (Rudolf 2024) . Before QRIS was enacted, merchants had to provide many types of QR codes from various service providers, causing impracticality in transactions. The design of QRIS began in 2018 by referring to the EMVCo international standard and collaborating with the Indonesian Payment System Association (ASPI) (Sholihah and Nurhapsari 2023) . QRIS was officially introduced to the public on August 17, 2019 to coincide with the celebration of Indonesian Independence Day, and its mandatory implementation began on January 1, 2020. Through the UNGGUL principle, QRIS is expected to accelerate digital transformation, expand access to finance, and empower the micro, small and medium enterprise sector.

Since 2021, the development of QRIS continues by introducing additional features such as Cash Withdrawal, Transfer, and Cash Deposit through QR scanning (Andhika, Ariani, and Budiarto 2025) . Bank Indonesia also initiated QRIS integration between countries, such as with Thailand and Malaysia, to support cross-border transactions. At the domestic level, the implementation of QRIS is extended to the transportation, tourism, and education sectors to accelerate the digitization of various services (BI Communication Department 2024) . QRIS implementation and supervision are carried out based on official regulations, including PBI No. 23/6/PBI/2021 and PADG No. 23/19/PADG/2021. With the increasing use of QRIS, Bank Indonesia seeks to strengthen a national payment ecosystem that is more efficient, safe, and inclusive.

A country's sovereignty is substantially influenced by its economic strength, which serves as the main foundation in strengthening its legitimacy and position in the international arena (Muhlashin 2021) . A state's ability to achieve economic independence and effectively manage its resources is an important indicator in gaining recognition from global actors (Permata Sari and Ibrahim 2023) . Economic stability and resilience also contribute to improving the country's bargaining position in the diplomacy process and building strategic partnerships across countries (Harry Mulya Zein and Septiani 2023) . Countries with solid economic structures tend to be perceived as credible, stable, and highly competitive entities at the global level. Domestic innovations such as the development of Quick Response Code Indonesia Standard (QRIS) reflect the national strategy in strengthening the

digital economy, expanding financial inclusion, and increasing the independence of payment systems as an integral part of strengthening economic sovereignty.

In the configuration of the contemporary international system, countries with a developed economic base gain faster access to global decision-making forums and play a dominant role in shaping international norms and policies. Strong economic capabilities not only demonstrate a state's ability to meet domestic needs, but also to contribute to global stability (Dedi Atmi Suganda 2024) . Conversely, weak economic structures often hamper a state's capacity to gain full legitimacy and access to strategic positions on various international platforms. Trust in international trade, cross-border investment and geopolitical cooperation is significantly dependent on perceptions of a country's economic resilience (Murtinu, Scalera and Strange 2023) . Therefore, economic development strategies, including the acceleration of digital transformation through initiatives such as QRIS, are vital instruments in strengthening a country's presence and influence in the global system.

A review of a number of previous studies indicates that the main focus of economic research in Indonesia is still centered on the issue of Islamic value-based entrepreneurship, the impact of geopolitical dynamics on domestic economic stability, and the analysis of the competitiveness of the traditional industrial sector. The study conducted by Rudhy Dwi Chrysnaputra, Wahyoe Pangestoeti, and Mochammad Yusuf Wijaya focuses on the contribution of Islamic entrepreneurship to national economic development (Chrysnaputra, Pangestoeti, and Wijaya 2021) . Meanwhile, research by Oktavia Oktavia, Muhammad Riziq Noval, and Rizka Hanipah highlights the effect of the boycott of American products on the Indonesian economy (Oktavia et al. 2023) , while Nur Laili's research emphasizes the analysis of the factors of footwear exports to the United States within the framework of Islamic economics (Laili 2021) . However, there is no research that explicitly discusses the position of the Quick Response Code Indonesian Standard (QRIS) as a domestic innovation in strengthening Indonesia's competitiveness in the global economy.

By identifying the research gap, this article seeks to present a new scientific contribution through an analysis of the existence of QRIS as a strategic instrument

in strengthening the transformation of the national digital economy. This research offers novelty by positioning QRIS not only as a financial technology innovation, but also as a real effort to expand Indonesia's economic independence and competitiveness amid global economic dynamics. Thus, this article not only fills a void in the existing literature, but also enriches the academic discourse on the role of national innovation in increasing the resilience and economic sovereignty of developing countries.

This research aims to highlight the existence of the Quick Response Code Indonesian Standard (QRIS) as a national product that strategically contributes to strengthening Indonesia's economic sovereignty in the international arena. The development of QRIS not only accelerates the transformation of the domestic digital economy, but also opens up new alternatives in economic relations between countries through a payment system that is simpler, more efficient, and subject to a relatively low tax burden. This innovation shows that Indonesia is capable of offering self-sustaining financial solutions that support national economic growth while expanding its influence in global competition. QRIS represents the strength of Indonesia's creative economy that should be recognized by the international community as a form of actualization of national independence. Thus, this research emphasizes the importance of safeguarding Indonesia's economic authority from external intervention, along with strengthening Indonesia's position as a sovereign, innovative, and competitive country in the world economic system.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research applies a qualitative approach with a case study method to examine in depth the dynamics of economic interventions faced by Indonesia in the development of the Quick Response Code Indonesian Standard (QRIS). Case studies were chosen because they are able to reveal the complexity of phenomena that occur between real events and contexts that are difficult to separate (Dewi 2019) . The main focus of this research is news related to the United States' pressure on Indonesia to abandon the use of QRIS and switch to international payment networks such as Mastercard. Through case studies, researchers can comprehensively analyze the interconnectedness of political, economic, and sovereignty aspects inherent in

this phenomenon. Thus, this approach is considered relevant to deeply explore Indonesia's strategy in defending its national products in the midst of global competition.

In addition, the use of case studies based on actual news reports aims to understand Indonesia's strategic response in maintaining economic sovereignty through the development of QRIS amid external pressures. This approach allows analysis of the narratives, interests of various actors, and geopolitical impact of the confrontation between domestic innovation and global payment system dominance. By exploring how QRIS becomes a symbol of defense against foreign pressure, this research is expected to make a scientific contribution to the study of digital economy, international relations, and economic sovereignty studies. Through this qualitative approach, the research not only collects facts, but also interprets deeper meanings related to Indonesia's efforts to maintain its economic autonomy amid the challenges of globalization (Rusadi 2015) .

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Existence of QRIS in Strengthening Indonesia's Economic Sovereignty in the International Scene

Economic sovereignty refers to the capacity of a country to govern its economic resources, financial system, and economic policy direction independently without foreign domination (Zoidze and Veshapidze 2022) . In the digital age, this concept extends not only to the management of physical assets, but also to control over digital infrastructure, including payment systems and financial data. Countries that successfully defend their economic sovereignty are able to make strategic economic decisions based on national interests (Kumajas et al. 2022) . Along with the rapid global digital transformation, the urgency of maintaining economic sovereignty is increasing given the dominance of global financial technology companies. Therefore, strengthening national financial instruments is a key requirement to ensure the sustainability and economic independence of a country.

Globalization in payment systems brings serious challenges to economic sovereignty, given the dominance of global actors such as Visa and Mastercard in controlling international transaction infrastructure (Toti 2024) . Dependence on these global networks has the potential to narrow the space for national economic

policy and increase the risk of external pressure. Under these conditions, strengthening domestic control over digital payment systems is crucial to ensure national economic security, data protection, and financial system stability. Initiatives to develop national payment systems such as QRIS are important strategies to maintain control over transaction flows and economic value. Thus, maintaining economic sovereignty in the digital era must be accompanied by independence in building and managing technology-based financial infrastructure.

The development of Quick Response Code Indonesian Standard (QRIS) by Bank Indonesia is driven by the need to unify various QR code payment systems that previously ran separately. Before QRIS was implemented, businesses in Indonesia had to provide various types of QR codes from each payment service provider, creating inefficiencies in transactions. Bank Indonesia, by referring to the EMVCo international standard and working with the Indonesian Payment System Association (ASPI), began designing QRIS in 2018 and officially launched it on August 17, 2019. The purpose of this development is not only to improve payment efficiency, but also to accelerate the digitalization process of the national economy. Since January 1, 2020, the use of QRIS has become mandatory for all payment system operators as a form of national harmonization.

QRIS is designed based on the UNGGUL principle, namely Universal, Easy, Profitable, and Direct, which reflects the aspiration to build a payment system that is inclusive, accessible, profitable, and can be processed quickly (Pratiwi, Mata, and Anwar 2022) . This principle aims to make QRIS applicable to all payment applications and support businesses of various scales. Furthermore, QRIS is positioned as a symbol of Indonesia's independence in creating national-based financial technology without dependence on foreign systems. This innovation also strengthens Indonesia's efforts to maintain digital economic sovereignty and expand community involvement in the formal economic sector. Thus, QRIS is not only a technical innovation, but also a strategic instrument to build national economic resilience in the midst of global competition.

QRIS plays a strategic role in expanding national financial inclusion, especially for the micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) sector and the wider community (Muditomo and Setyawati 2022) . Through the implementation of QRIS,

businesses of various scales can access digital payment services without the need for expensive physical payment devices. The implementation of QRIS encourages simpler, faster, and more efficient transactions, thereby increasing the involvement of small businesses in the digital economy ecosystem. In addition, the use of QRIS also opens access to formal financial services for people in areas that were previously difficult to reach. Thus, QRIS contributes significantly to expanding financial inclusion and strengthening equitable economic access throughout Indonesia.

In addition to expanding access, QRIS adoption also has a significant impact on accelerating national digital economic growth. A standardized QRIS-based payment system encourages an increase in the volume of digital transactions, which in turn accelerates economic activity across sectors. By simplifying the payment process, QRIS reduces dependence on cash and increases transaction efficiency on both the consumer and merchant sides. This increased efficiency contributes to the acceleration of money circulation and strengthens stability and transparency in the national financial system. Therefore, QRIS not only functions as a transaction instrument, but also becomes the main driving force in the transformation of the digital economy in Indonesia.

In the current global context, external pressure on the use of foreign payment systems is a real threat to a country's economic sovereignty. The pressure exerted by the United States for Indonesia to replace the use of QRIS with the Mastercard system reflects an attempt to intervene in the national payment infrastructure. Dependence on global payment systems risks reducing state control over domestic financial transactions and increasing foreign influence in the national economy. Therefore, the development of QRIS is a strategic step to maintain the autonomy of Indonesia's financial system. QRIS serves as a shield to maintain national economic stability and sovereignty from potentially harmful global penetration.

Furthermore, the presence of QRIS reflects an active form of resistance to global economic dominance that has been controlled by foreign financial powers. Through this domestic innovation, Indonesia demonstrates its capacity to create an independent and competitive digital payment system. This effort also strengthens Indonesia's position in international negotiations by presenting a real alternative to

dependence on global financial networks. QRIS is not only a means of transaction, but also a strategic instrument in fighting for sovereignty and strengthening the bargaining position of the national economy. Thus, the expansion of QRIS is an important element in maintaining Indonesia's economic independence amid the dynamics of globalization.

QRIS development is not only focused on strengthening domestic transactions, but also directed to support cross-border economic integration. Indonesia's cooperation with Thailand and Malaysia in connecting QR-based payment systems is a clear example of efforts to expand regional financial connectivity. This initiative enables cross-border transactions to be more practical, faster, and supports the growth of regional tourism, trade, and investment sectors. The collaboration confirms the potential of QRIS to develop as an integrated payment platform at the ASEAN level. Thus, QRIS becomes one of the strategic instruments that strengthen Indonesia's position in expanding its economic influence in the Southeast Asian region.

Furthermore, QRIS has the opportunity to be expanded to become a payment standard at the regional and even global level, in line with the increasing need for a more adaptive and efficient cross-border transaction system (Gede Hendrayana et al. 2024) . The successful adoption of QRIS in domestic and regional markets proves that developing countries can present competitive financial technology alternatives without having to submit to the dominance of global payment systems (Usmiati, Huda, and Claudia 2024) . QRIS is not just a means of payment, but also serves as an instrument of economic diplomacy to strengthen national sovereignty. Through this innovation, Indonesia is able to strengthen its economic autonomy and reduce dependence on foreign financial systems. With a structured expansion, QRIS has the potential to become a symbol of Indonesia's economic independence and strength in the face of global economic dynamics.

The Role of QRIS as an Alternative Solution for Independent Economic Relations between Countries

A global payment system dominated by networks such as Visa and Mastercard has led to heavy dependency in many developing countries (Suriyani and Effendy

2023) . In this setting, these countries do not have full sovereignty over the financial transaction infrastructure used by their people. This dependency not only increases transaction costs, but also opens up the possibility of economic intervention by foreign powers. Thus, the global payment system functions not only as a means of transaction, but also as an instrument of political influence in international relations. This condition puts developing countries in a vulnerable position in maintaining control over their domestic financial systems.

The dominance of global actors in the payments sector carries complex political and economic consequences for developing countries (Rajković et al. 2020) . Politically, such dependence increases the potential for diplomatic pressure through financial sector manipulation (Rijanto 2022) . From an economic perspective, relying on foreign payment systems can slow the growth of domestic financial infrastructure and weaken national monetary stability (Basorudin et al. 2021) . The main risk is the disruption of economic sovereignty, as control over transaction data and financial flows is in the hands of outsiders. Therefore, the development of an independent domestic payment system is an important step to strengthen national economic sovereignty and security.

The initiation of Quick Response Code Indonesian Standard (QRIS) development by Bank Indonesia was motivated by the need to build a standardized, efficient, and inclusive national payment system (Jusman and Fauziah 2024a) . Since 2018, QRIS is designed to unify various types of payment QR codes that were previously scattered across various financial service platforms. Adopting the principles of the EMVCo international standard adapted for the Indonesian context, QRIS was officially introduced on August 17, 2019 as part of accelerating the transformation of the national digital economy. The main focus of QRIS development is to expand the reach of financial services to all levels of society, especially the micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) sector (Muzhafar et al. 2025) . With the implementation of a simpler payment system, QRIS is expected to encourage more equitable digital economic growth throughout Indonesia.

QRIS is not only designed as a means of payment, but also represents Indonesia's efforts to build independence in the field of financial technology. Unlike global payment systems that are generally under the control of multinational

companies, QRIS was developed nationally to strengthen domestic control over financial infrastructure. The main advantage of QRIS lies in its ability to unify various payment applications in one uniform platform, while reducing market fragmentation (Tohir Pohan n.d.) . In addition, lower transaction costs and ease of use give QRIS a competitive advantage over foreign payment systems. With this approach, QRIS strengthens the national financial ecosystem and becomes an important instrument in strengthening Indonesia's economic sovereignty in the digitalization era.

One important step in the development of QRIS is the cross-border payment integration initiative, as seen in the cooperation between Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia (BI Communication Department 2024) . Through this integration, consumers from all three countries can transact by simply scanning local QR codes without the need to rely on global payment networks such as Visa or Mastercard. This collaboration not only improves the efficiency of cross-border transactions, but also strengthens financial ties in the Southeast Asian region. Sectors such as tourism, trade, and MSMEs directly benefit from faster, cheaper, and simpler transactions. This partnership shows that national innovations such as QRIS can act as a strategic solution in accelerating regional economic integration.

The ease of QRIS-based transactions at the international level opens up great potential for Indonesia to expand regional payment networks based on local innovation (Nia Monica Putri, Idham Lakoni, and Sintia Safrianti 2023) . By reducing dependence on global payment systems, QRIS strengthens Indonesia's independence and strategic position in the global economic order. In addition to providing transaction efficiency, QRIS-based integration is also an instrument to strengthen the financial sovereignty of partner countries. The opportunity to expand the adoption of QRIS to other ASEAN countries shows the potential of creating a more resilient and independent payment ecosystem. Therefore, QRIS is not only a domestic payment tool, but also an important foundation for the development of an innovation-based regional payment system in the Southeast Asian region.

In the midst of accelerating economic digitalization, maintaining the sovereignty of the national financial system is becoming increasingly important, and

QRIS comes as one of the means to strengthen this autonomy. By offering a uniform domestic payment platform, QRIS allows the transaction process to run without relying on the global financial infrastructure. This reduces the risk of external domination in the management of national transactions and increases state control over domestic financial data. Through the development of QRIS, Indonesia ensures that the payment system remains within the national legal and regulatory framework (Purwaningsih et al. 2024) . Therefore, QRIS becomes a key element in building the resilience of the national financial system in the era of globalization.

In addition to strengthening the domestic structure, QRIS also plays a role in reducing dependence on multinational corporations in international transactions (Lu'ay Natswa and Subagyo 2024) . By presenting a national system-based cross-border payment mechanism, QRIS expands Indonesia's ability to manage transactions more independently. This success places Indonesia in a strategic position as a country capable of developing regional payment technology based on local innovation. Through the existence of QRIS, Indonesia increases its influence in international economic forums and offers alternative digital sovereignty models to developing countries (Hutabarat 2023) . Thus, QRIS functions not only as a means of payment, but also as a strategic instrument in strengthening Indonesia's sovereignty and economic position at the global level.

QRIS expansion efforts to the regional and global levels face various challenges, especially related to differences in regulations between countries, the readiness of technological infrastructure, and the complexity of political-economic relations (Jusman and Fauziah 2024b) . The non-uniformity of security standards, data protection, and national interests of each country are the main obstacles in building cross-border payment integration. In addition, the limited digital infrastructure in some countries also slows down the interoperability process of QR-based payment systems. Political challenges cannot be ignored either, as coordination between countries in the financial sector is often influenced by national strategic interests. Therefore, QRIS expansion requires a comprehensive approach through regulatory harmonization, digital infrastructure development, and strengthening international cooperation.

To accelerate the adoption of QRIS globally, active strategies such as expanding bilateral partnerships, drafting joint technical standards, and increasing understanding of the benefits of domestic payment systems need to be implemented. The introduction of QRIS as a tool to drive transaction efficiency, expand financial inclusion, and strengthen economic sovereignty will increase international acceptance. If successfully adopted widely, QRIS has the potential to be a key factor in changing the dominance of the global payment architecture that has been controlled by multinational corporations. This change can result in a global financial system that is more equitable, competitive, and supports local-based innovation. Thus, the development and expansion of QRIS not only expands the payment ecosystem, but also supports the transformation of the global economic landscape towards a more inclusive direction.

CONCLUSION

Quick Response Code Indonesian Standard (QRIS) has shown its strategic role as an important instrument in strengthening Indonesia's economic sovereignty in the era of global digitalization. By developing an inclusive, efficient, and standardized national payment system, Indonesia is able to reduce dependence on global payment infrastructure that has been dominated by multinational corporations such as Visa and Mastercard. QRIS not only functions as a domestic transaction tool, but also as a symbol of national financial technology independence that expands financial inclusion, accelerates digital economic transformation, and maintains control over domestic financial transaction flows. QRIS integration initiatives with countries such as Thailand and Malaysia prove that local innovation can strengthen regional economic connectivity and open up opportunities for global expansion. Despite challenges in regulatory harmonization, infrastructure readiness, and international political dynamics, the development and expansion of QRIS is making a real contribution to building a more equitable, independent, and competitive global payments ecosystem, while strengthening Indonesia's position in the world economic order. I would like to thank Universitas Airlangga for the academic support and facilities provided in this research process. My appreciation also goes to Chiba University, Japan, for the learning opportunities and international

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