

**THE EVOLUTION OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS:
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE MALAYSIAN NATIONAL STATISTICS SYSTEM**

By Prof. Paul Cheung, Director, United Nations Statistics Division.

Official statistics has evolved substantially in the past decades. A global statistical system has evolved through shared values, comparable methodology, similar institutional arrangements and common indicator sets. The paper explores the major challenges that confront the national statistical systems in the compilation of official statistics, as they try to meet global methodological standards on one hand and increasing demands from users on the other. In particular, the development of professionalism in official statistics, the emergence of a national data management system and the increased emphasis on the independence of national statistical offices have become critical concerns. The paper also discusses their implications for the development of the Malaysian National Statistics System.

**KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS
FOR OUTCOME - BASED REPORTING FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR**

By Tan Sri Abdul Rahman Mamat, Secretary General,
Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

The use of key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure the performance of public sector organisations has been emphasised by the Government. KPI is a performance management tool, containing basic elements of measures and targets. The application of KPIs will assist an organisation to be focused on key areas where performance is critical for achieving the vision, mission and objectives of the organisation.

Apart from organisation-based assessment, KPIs are also applicable for the assessment of sectoral performance. This paper highlights the importance of KPIs for outcome-based reporting and impact analysis in the manufacturing sector, with special reference to the implementation of the Third Industrial Master Plan and key areas of performance in the manufacturing sector. A shift from the traditional output-based performance measurement requires the adoption of a new method of statistical compilation, designing and presentation of database. This paper identifies likely areas of concern and proposes measures to address issues related to statistical collection and compilation.

THE CHANGING ROLE AND REQUIREMENTS OF STATISTICS AND INFORMATION PROVIDERS IN MALAYSIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFORMATION

By Dr Yeah Kim Leng, Group Chief Economist, RAM Holdings Berhad.

This paper explores the changing role and requirements of information in Malaysia's economic development planning and transformation. It draws on the insights and policy implications of the economic theory of information that re-affirms the importance of public sector information as one of the country's asset and competitive advantage that should be fully exploited. As the country transforms from a 'bricks-and-mortar' economy to digital economy driven by knowledge and information, the market failures arising from information problems become even more acute, giving rise to the need for the country to have a comprehensive information policy to deal with the new and emerging issues. In the economy, the traditional trade-off between 'richness' and 'reach' in information collection and dissemination is being deconstructed by the spread of internet technology and advent of e-business models. Information requirements for national planning and business development have become more complex, varied and time-sensitive due to intensifying society's demand for economic progress and industry and market competitive pressures from within and outside the country. A suggested framework is presented to analyze these changing requirements and demands from both perspectives of public and private information providers.

MACROECONOMIC SURVEILLANCE AND POLICY FORMULATION – THE CENTRAL BANK'S PERSPECTIVE

By Mr. Marzunisham bin Omar, Director, Economics Department, Bank Negara Malaysia.

The severity of the current global financial and economic crisis and its impact on the domestic economy highlights the high degree of global integration of the Malaysian economy, and the corresponding policy challenges it presents. The core mandates of Bank Negara Malaysia are to promote monetary stability and ensure financial system soundness. In effectively fulfilling these mandates, it is crucial for the central bank to have a comprehensive macroeconomic surveillance framework that is continuously enhanced given changing environment, including rigorous assessment of economic and financial data, robust forecasts of major economic variables, early identification of emerging risks and vulnerabilities, and effective scenario evaluation for possible states of event. This comprehensive macroeconomic surveillance process forms a fundamental part of the overall policy-formulation of the central bank pertaining to monetary and financial stability. This paper provides insights on the macroeconomic surveillance and policy formulation process of Bank Negara Malaysia. It highlights the challenges of continuously enhancing the process given the rapidly changing economic and financial landscape of Malaysia and its integration with the global economy, as well as the importance of having timely statistics that accurately reflect the economic and financial conditions.

GEOGRAPHICAL GERONTOLOGY: APPLIED DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT

By Dr Tengku Aizan bt Tengku Abd. Hamid, Mr Mohd. Hafis A.S. and Mr Chai S.T.,
Institute of Gerontology, Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Malaysia is experiencing the third stage of demographic transition as the steady decline in birth and death rates leads to rapid population ageing. By 2030, the proportion of older persons aged 60 years and over will reach 15% (UN, 2008). Changes in the population over time present numerous opportunities and challenges. This paper aims to illustrate the application of population census data and projections, together with geographic information systems (GIS), in public health planning for older Malaysians. Multi-method assessments to analyze the distribution, coverage and network of facilities and services were performed using ArcGIS and SPSS. Results from the analysis for the districts in Selangor indicated a need for prioritization in planning for the efficient delivery of geriatric health care services. Geographical gerontology offers a spatial perspective to ageing by highlighting the impact of variability in places and spaces, thus improving evidence-based decision making. By utilizing spatial tools and integrating multiple sources of data, the value of demographic data from the decennial population and housing census can be increased significantly. Broader applications of demographic data in other areas such as housing, urban planning and public spaces can help policy makers to improve the present and future accessibility of facilities and services.

ECONOMIC INDICATOR ANALYSIS AND BUSINESS CYCLES FORECASTING IN MALAYSIA

By Mr Abd. Latib bin Talib, Director, Economic Indicators Division.

Cyclical indicators are important for the policy maker to define and describe business cycles in the economy. In Malaysia business cycles reference dates were exclusively determined by the movement in the coincident index. From 1970 to the date, there are four business cycles recession. The first recession was registered in mid of 1970s followed by second recession in 1985/86. The 1997/98 was the third recession in Malaysia followed by the forth recession in the year 2001/02. The duration and the interval of recessions are varies. Based on the past behavior of business cycles recession in Malaysia, can we predict when the next recession will occurs. If it is to happen, will it take longer period of time to end? What will be the best model to predict the business cycles recession in Malaysia? These are the central issues to be focused in this presentation.

STATISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT POSITION (IIP) – RELEVANCE TO MALAYSIA

By Mr Lok Chung Lee, Director, Balance of Payments Statistics Division

IIP in simple term is the balance sheet that shows the total holdings of foreign assets by domestic residents and the total holding of domestic assets (liabilities) by foreign residents at a point of time. The importance of IIP cannot be underestimated especially during the time financial crisis. When the net international asset position is such that the value of foreign assets (debts and equity) held by domestic residents exceeds the value of domestic assets held by foreign residents, the country is said to be creditor nation. Its relevance becomes evident when assessing the vulnerability of a nation. IIP provides a snap shot of the levels, sectoral distribution and maturity of a country's liabilities (external debts) and also its size and composition of its external claims (international reserves and bank's foreign claims) that may be available to meet its external obligations. In addition, IIP is also closely related to the investment income component of the current account in BOP. This components measures income accruing on an economy's external financial assets and liabilities. IIP is being used to gauge the openness of an economy. It has become an alternative way of assessing an economy's relation as well as the developments and trends in the performance of an economy with rest of the world.

STATISTICAL DATA FOR EFFECTIVE MEASUREMENT AND DYNAMICS

By Mr Kamaruddin Muhamed, Senior Director,
Prices, Income and Expenditure Statistics Division.

This paper attempts to show how the Household Income Survey conducted by the Department of Statistics is used as resources to identify the poor households in Malaysia.

The Government, as stated in the Ninth Malaysia Plan, is committed to fully eradicate hardcore poverty and reduce the overall poverty to 2.8 per cent by the year 2010. The paper outlines the role of household income survey and the use of income data in the determination of poverty line, the estimation incidence and severity of poverty and poverty mapping.

**NATIONAL ENTERPRISE WIDE STATISTICAL SYSTEM (NEWSS)
– THE IMPACT TO DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA**

By Mr Sabri Omar, Senior Director, Information Management Division.

The Department of Statistics, Malaysia (DOSM), as the official provider of statistical information in the country, has embarked on a journey to transform itself “To become a leading statistical organization internationally”. Central to this vision is the project to revamp and develop new enterprise-wide systems to replace the numerous nonintegrated systems. This project is called the National Enterprise-Wide Statistical Systems (NEWSS).

Through the integrated solution called Integrated Statistical Systems Framework (ISSF), it will provide the main business functionalities of DOSM on pre-collection, collection, processing, analysis and dissemination. The web browser will be the front end interface to this integrated system and provides wider access capabilities anywhere and anytime. Centralized and online survey approached will be used to enable easy and faster access by clients.

The Information Support System (ISS) is the supporting module that will support the services and functions required by ISSF in providing contents management and operational capabilities to perform the work in a more efficient manner and to improve the management processes.

The Integrated Business Process Management is used to execute the process centric workflow, perform multiple workflow rules and functionalities. It will manage and monitor the business and workflow processes automatically.

The implementation of NEWSS will accommodate DOSM with integrated and standardized system. Users will be empowered with direct access to the system to do analysis and data mining. It will automate and orchestrate all processes that interact with the services within DOSM as well as external organization.