



'Media partnership crucial for ACSS'

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| Hakim Hayat |

THE media play a crucial role in disseminating statistical information to the general public, said Awang Yusof bin Hj Abd Rahman, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office.

In his speech during the opening ceremony of the Asean Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee's Third Session Meeting yesterday, he said the media would be an important partner in creating awareness and interest in statistics.

"It is important to build a strong working relationship with the media, promote the news value of statistical releases and make it easy for the media to report them in an accurate, timely and informative manner."



Awang Yusof bin Hj Abd Rahman, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office (6th L) with Dr Hj May Fa'ezah (5th L) in a group photo with the officials at the meeting. – HAKIM HAYAT

The three-day meeting, hosted by the Department of Economic Planning and Development (JPKE) of the Prime Minister's Office, is being held at the Royal Berkshire Hall of the Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club in Jerudong.

Meanwhile, JPKE Director-General Dr Hj May Fa'ezah binti Haji Ahmad Ariffin, in her welcoming remarks, lauded the significant achievements made by the ACSS Committee since its inception three years ago.

Among these, she said was the release of a number of publications.

Despite the achievements, she added that there was still much more to do.

The meeting, chaired by JPKE Deputy Director-General Awang Haji Abd Amin bin Haji Hashim, is attended by Heads of the National Statistical Offices from Asean member states, officials from the Asean Secretariat, representatives from the Dialogue Partner Countries, International Organisations and other Development Partners.

JPKE, the third session of the ACSS Committee will discuss, among others, the review and outcome of the ACSS Strategic Plan and Multi-Year Action Plan 2011-2015, the draft Strategic Plan 2016-2020 and the ACSS Communication Plan.

"The meeting will also be discussing the possible ways of strengthening cooperation between the Asean member states and the Dialogue Partner Countries, International Organisations and other Development Partners." JPKE added.

At the 43rd meeting of the Asean Economic Ministers in Manado, Indonesia, in 2011, the terms of reference for the establishment of the ACSS Committee was endorsed to replace the Asean Heads of Statistical Offices Meeting (AHSOM).

The ACSS Committee is responsible for strengthening regional statistical cooperation in support of the Asean Community and providing professional guidance on production, dissemination and communication of Asean statistics.

The broad strategies for the establishment of the ACSS encompass the strengthening of institutional framework, strengthening of AseanStats and narrowing the development gap.