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Foreword

Enhancement of research and analysis and the inculcation of a culture of innovation is one of the strategic thrusts outlined in the Strategic Plan 2010-2014 of the Department of Statistics, Malaysia (DOSM). The plan was formulated towards achieving the aspiration of a leading statistical organisation internationally by 2020. In realising the vision, the products and statistical services can be value add through in-depth analysis and effective presentation and communication. Thus, this journal is one of the medium to enlighten the stakeholders and statistical community on the analysis of the dynamic environment as well as current issues and challenges.

Three articles are published in this journal which focus on the current efforts of DOSM to promote effective data communication and to enhance environment and national accounts statistics. In addition, it relates to the implementation of the statistical business system in the Department.

The first article highlights issues on data communication or data dissemination which is one of the main functions emphasised by national statistical offices worldwide. As such, the statistical system and initiatives implemented by DOSM in strengthening its role as the producer of national statistics particularly in data communication are discussed. The article also highlights programmes initiated and undertaken by DOSM in meeting customers' needs through effective data dissemination strategies as outlined in the Strategic Plan.

The role of official statistics in the measurement of the impact of climate change in Malaysia is discussed in the second article. Its impact on several sectors such as agriculture, forestry, coastal and marine resources, energy, water and public health are further explained. The authors also examine the role and challenges faced by DOSM in developing a database on environment statistics.

In the third article, the authors discuss the characteristics of the informal sector enterprises in Malaysia based on the Pilot Survey of Informal Sector 2006 which was conducted by DOSM at national level. The findings of this survey such as informal employment in informal sector enterprises by strata, gender, age and economic activities are elaborated.

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