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**FOREWORD BY
THE CHIEF EDITOR**

As the premier Government agency in the collection, interpretation and dissemination of statistics, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) provides input for policy formulation and monitoring of development programmes. While external users and researchers have high regards for DOSM as an important source of data, the relatively limited analysis in the official statistical publications does not reflect the full potential of statisticians in the public service, the majority of whom are in DOSM.

Hence, the journal Statistics Malaysia is intended to serve the following multi-prong objectives:

- To promote a culture of writing on the organisational, operational and methodological aspects of statistical activities with more emphasis on in-depth issue oriented data analysis;
- To foster continuous learning and self improvement in tandem with developments in the field of statistics and related subject matter areas; and
- To stimulate interest and encourage endeavour in new areas.

The Journal will be published bi-annually. In this inaugural issue, there are four articles that cover the topics of future direction of the statistical profession, urbanization, unemployed graduates and pegging of the Ringgit. It should be acknowledged that the views presented in the articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department.

For further improvement, the Department welcomes comments and suggestions from the readers and general public.

**AZIZ OTHMAN
CHIEF EDITOR**

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Contents

Statistical Profession : The Way Forward	<i>Dato' Shaari Abdul Rahman</i>	1
Pegging The Ringgit Against The US Dollar: An Evaluation	<i>Abdul Latib Talib</i>	13
Unemployed Graduates : Pre and Post 1997 Crisis	<i>Nazaria Baharudin</i>	27
Emerging Trends of Urbanisation in Malaysia	<i>Jamaliah Jaafar</i>	43
