

Open Data and Challenges Faced by National Statistics Office

Siti Haslinda Mohd Din, Nur Aziha Mansor, Faiza Rusrianti Tajul Arus
Department of Statistics, Malaysia

An amazing growth of interest in open data worldwide over the past half-dozen years has derived tremendous open data initiatives (ODI). Open data of which defined as data that can be freely used, shared and built-on by anyone, anywhere, for any purpose. The benefits of the availability of open data can be served many groups including government. Open data creates value for the government. It is able to improve measurement of policies, better government efficiency, deeper analytical insights, greater citizen participation, and a boost to local companies by way of products and services that use government data. However, in order to gain these huge potential benefits, the question of what is hindering the success of open data and what are the real challenges need to be worked on. The challenges that need to be considered include the standard guides and definitions of open data; the proper technologies for opening up data; the paid data if the data providers are tied into government bodies' revenues; the ability to interact with public organizations when involving sensitive datasets; no structured approach to openness; too little research on the impact of openness; technological barriers for governments; the privacy issues; and the mosaic effect. Challenges were includes NSO have limited independence and unstable budgets; access to and usability of data are limited; discrepancies between survey-based data and administrative data and coping with confidentiality.