

**5TH MANAGEMENT SEMINARS FOR HEADS OF NATIONAL STATISTICAL
OFFICES (NSO) IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC.**

18 – 20 SEPTEMBER 2006, DAEJEON, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

1. Overview of the Population and Housing Census 2000 in Malaysia

- 1.1 The 2000 Population and Housing Census of Malaysia was the fourth decennial census conducted in Malaysia and collects data on the characteristics of the living quarters, households and population in Malaysia. The legal basis for the census is provided by the Census Act of 1960, which empowers the government to conduct a census from time to time.
- 1.2 The responsibility for conducting the 2000 Population and Housing Census was vested in the Department of Statistics, which implemented the project in collaboration with all the state government of Malaysia. The entire Population and Housing Census Malaysia 2000 project was under the direct purview of the Census Steering Committee (CSC) chaired by the Chief Secretary to the Government. Members of the committee were drawn from key ministries, department and central agencies.
- 1.3 The Census Day was 5th July 2000 and the “*de jure*” approach was adopted whereby all persons on Census Day were enumerated according to their place of usual residence. Enumeration was carried out over a period of sixteen (16) days beginning from 5th July until 20th July 2000. Consistent with usual practice, mopping-up activities were also undertaken after the enumeration period, that is, from 21st July until 30th July covering the whole of Malaysia. All persons including foreigners who stayed or intended to stay in Malaysia for six months or more in the year 2000 were included in the Census.

- 1.4 The topics canvassed in the 2000 Census were arranged under three broad headings namely Population, Household and Housing. The trial census, a full rehearsal of the actual census, was conducted a year earlier on 7th July 1999. Data processing involves manual processing and computer processing. The preparation and implementation of the tabulation program involved several phases of work and census data were released in published and unpublished forms.

2. What Do We Want From the Census

2.1 Users of the data

- 2.1.1 The Population and Housing Census of Malaysia which is undertaken by the Department of Statistics in collaboration of various Government agencies. provides the principle means of data collection aimed at providing a comprehensive set of statistical information on population and housing. In this respect it provides a wealth of information on the number of persons and households together with a wide range of their demographic, social and economic characteristics. In addition, the Census provides information on the number of living quarters by types, structural characteristics and the availability of amenities. The availability of such data has made the users not only limited to the government but also those in the private sectors namely businessmen, industry analyst, academicians and researchers of universities, colleges and other individuals including politicians. The data from the Census provide inputs for planning, formulation and implementation of Government policies and programmes.
- 2.1.2 The Population Census provides a complete frame of household for other social and economic statistics surveys to be conducted. As the case of Malaysia, the list of household frames has enabled surveys such as

Households Expenditure survey (HES), Households Income Survey (HIS), Labour Force Survey to be conducted. Other surveys which also use the frame are Agriculture Census and Domestic Tourism Survey.

2.1.3 Apart from that, the Census data is also widely used to evaluate the Malaysia Plan formulated every 5 years by the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime's Ministers Department. The Five Year Plan outlined the comprehensive policy of the Government in terms of social and economics well being of the nation.

2.1.4 Undertaking a huge project such as the Census requires proper planning. The Department has been successful in her implementation of such project with certain pitfalls and has mobilized all resources in a fruitful manner. The Census is a federal government project and the Department receives good cooperation and collaboration from other Government agencies namely the state agencies. A Census Steering Committee which is chaired by the Chief Secretary to the government and the Census Technical Committees comprising of officials from ministries and government agencies which represent the main users of statistical data are formed. The Chief Statistician is appointed as the Census Commissioner and is assisted by experienced staff from various levels to conduct the census. The Census Commissioner reports to the Census Technical Committee

2.2 Image and credibility of the Department

2.2.1 Due to the trust given by the government and the full support from the government agencies, the image and the credibility of the department has to be maintained. The quality of the data collected and compiled is the priority. The data must be reliable, timely, and internationally comparable.

- 2.2.2 In conducting the Census and to adhere to international comparability, Malaysia follows closely to the guidelines stipulated in the UN Principles and Recommendations of Censuses
- 2.2.3 A post- enumeration survey known as Census Coverage Evaluation Survey (CCES) is conducted. Its purpose is mainly to estimate both the coverage and the content errors that occurred during the census. The differences in the results obtained from the CCES and the census are used as a basis to adjust the Census Population count at the national, states, strata level as well as selected demographics characteristics. Thus providing a better estimates of the population.
- 2.2.4 Hence, the Department having a group of experts in population census as well as the ability to handle such an enormous project, the Department has maintained her image as the sole provider of population statistics along with the statistics on demography and other economic and social statistics.

3. Mobilizing the Available Resources

3.1 Human resources

- 3.1.1 Mobilizing the resources in terms of manpower effectively has contributed to the success of the Census. The matrix system of working had been practised by the Department. Several Technical Working Groups are formed at the planning stage with each team headed by the senior statistician who has had experienced on the previous census. These officers will carry out the special task assigned to them besides their main core routine tasks. In this manner, more officers are exposed to various fields related to the population census besides doing their main routine

tasks. These officers have the capabilities to strike a balance between the two tasks assigned to them.

- 3.1.2 In addition, Malaysia also participates in many forums, meetings and workshops, courses organized internationally as well as domestically as part of the training process for her officers as well as improving cooperation and collaborations with other agencies and countries around the region.

3.2 Intangible Resources

- 3.2.1 Beside the availability of tangible resources, the Statistics Act as well as the Census Acts has empowered the Department to carry out her duty effectively and efficiently. Being the sole official statistical agency in the country, the Department is given ample funds and support from the Government to carry out the census. The fund caters for amongst others the cost of recruiting staff at all levels both permanent and temporary, logistics, infrastructure, publicity and others.

4. Meeting the Census Population Goals and Objectives

- 4.1 Census planning is the core process in linking the different phases of the census cycle. The aim of the planning process is to ensure not only that each phase is properly resourced and organized but also the output of each phase is of sufficient quality for all subsequent phases and that all dependencies between the different phases can make use of. The several technical working groups which were formed are given the responsibility to plan the processes and the output to be produced.
- 4.2 The key group of stakeholders are the end-users of the census data. These groups can either be current users of census data or potential users of census data. As for Malaysia, the current users of census data

are mainly the policy makers namely the Economic Planning Unit and other government agencies such as the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank. The different needs of the stakeholders and end-users have to be balanced out and the Department has been successful in meeting their requirements.

- 4.3 Consultation with users of census data is the platform to gauge the demand for potential census topics. The requirements of users are monitored whether the topics are relevant and effective to be collected. However, in meeting the user's requirements, the Department needs to investigate the willingness of respondents to provide adequate information as well as the cost effectiveness in collecting such information.

5. Impact on Census data Users and the General Public

- 5.1 Information collected in the Population and Housing Census is very comprehensive and abundant. Therefore, the Census data is often used as a benchmark for other social and economics surveys carried out by the Department. The comprehensiveness of the database provides essential background for frame selection of household's survey undertaken regularly by the Department as well as a framework for other ad hoc surveys needed by other agencies.\
- 5.2 The census data is also used as population estimations and projections. The uses of administrative records do supplement the work of the Department. For example, data from the birth and death records of the National Registration Department are used in the estimation and projection of the country's population in terms of current, short term as well as for the long term.

- 5.3 The database stored in the GIS system is widely required by the general public. The Department often received requests from external users for data generated from the GIS system. The data is used especially when users want to plan for new projects. Enumeration Block (EB) maps are used by the interested users to develop potential areas in the country. Therefore, accurate information is viable and important in the planning process of such projects.

6. Planning for the Next Census

- 6.1 The next Census for Malaysia is scheduled to be carried out in 2010. The Department of Statistics has started the planning work for the Census. The budget for the Census will be incorporated in the Mid Term Review of the country's Ninth Malaysia Plan. Various technical working committees and groups were formed to study the Census topics, operations, approaches and methodologies. Enhancement of past census experiences will be studied by the groups as well as coverage of new census topics.
- 6.2 Other preparatory work involve enhancement of mapping work and improving the census frame by further development of GIS system, proposed introducing self-enumerated form and internet based approach, improve training strategies, planning for better publicity using latest technology and the possibility of outsourcing as well as enhancing data processing work by utilizing fully automated data processing.
- 6.3 Consultations with users and stakeholders will be continued in order to facilitate effective census planning and implementation programmes. Close cooperation and collaboration with other government agencies will help to ensure the success of the up coming Census.

