



# Expert Group Meeting on the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics New York, 10- 12 November 2009



## Overview of Malaysia's Experience in the Development of Environment Statistics

Lim Soh Wah  
Department of Statistics  
Malaysia

# Development of Environment Statistics by the Department of Statistics, Malaysia

- **Commenced work through the Regional Technical (RETA) Project – via an agreement signed on 10 August 1994 between the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Malaysian Government**
- **Expected Output**
  - **Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES)**
  - **Compendium of Environment Statistics**



# Malaysian FDES

- **Based on UN FDES**

## **Objectives**

- **to identify and prioritise environment statistics/indicators, sources and data availability**
- **to identify data needs of users**
- **to institutionalise the compilation of environment statistics**



# Needs and Usefulness of a Framework

- **assists in the development, coordination and organisation of environment statistics**
- **indispensable part of the environment statistics programme**
- **details the desired coverage within Malaysia**



# Compendium of Environment Statistics

- **Media based approach - components include atmosphere, water, land/soil, human settlements, flora and fauna**
- **Relates each individual component to four information categories**
- **Analysis based on the State-Pressure-Response format**
- **A modified version of the OECD Pressure-State-Response framework**



# Experience and Challenges

## Initial stage:

- **Wide coverage had a direct effect on manpower needs, expertise, timeliness of data, financial resources and work priorities**



# Experience and Challenges (cont'd)

## Initial setback :

- **Lack of expertise - overcome by capacity building with the assistance of ADB**
- **Setting up of an Inter Agency Committee of Environment Statistics on 7 May 1997 (IACES)**
  - Platform for exchanging and sharing of knowledge, experience and expertise
  - Met regularly to discuss and resolve issues pertaining to priority, resources, availability and timeliness of data



# Experience and Challenges (cont'd)

## Data Availability, Reliability and Timeliness

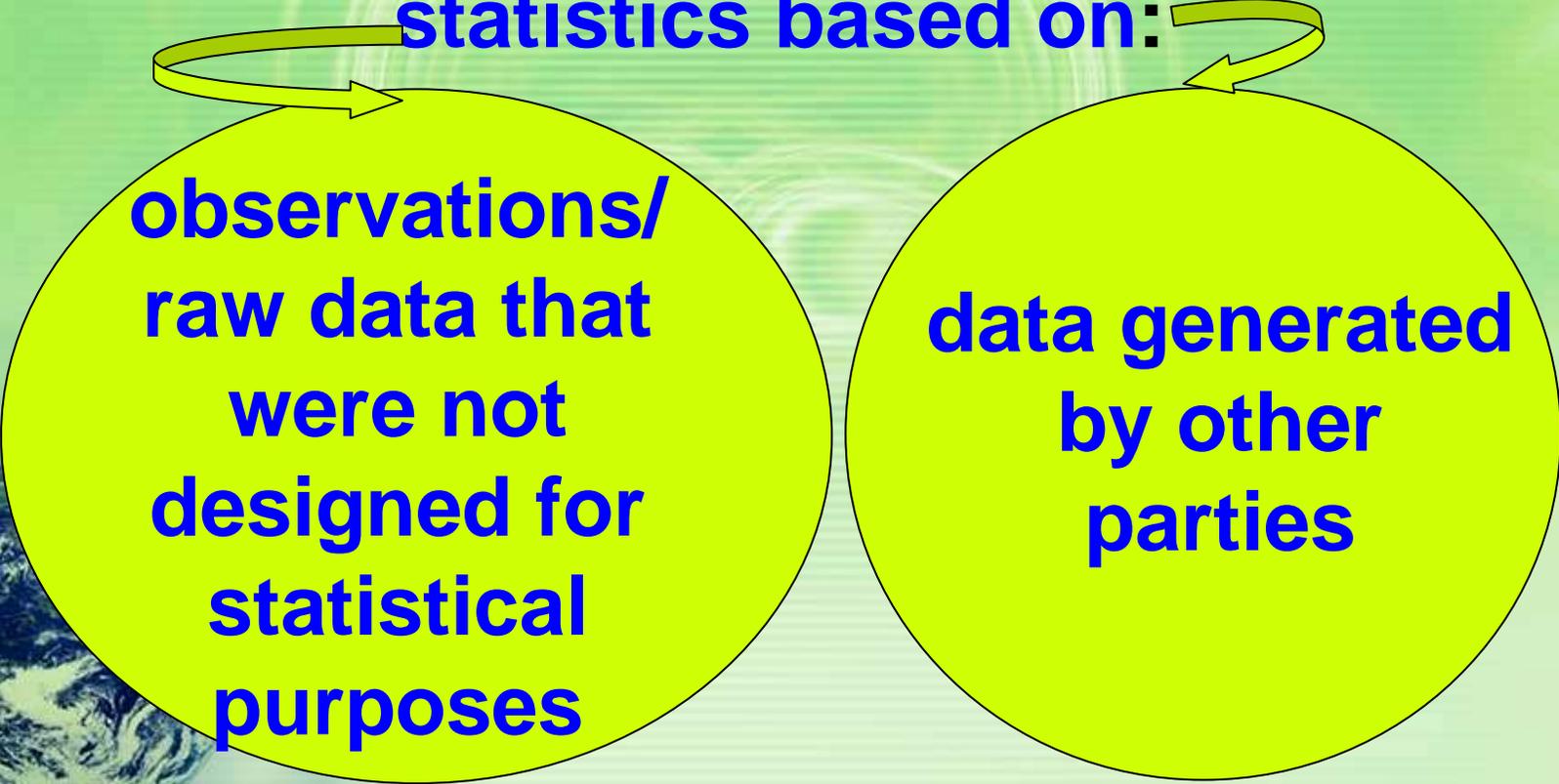
- Initially DOS obtained environmental data through three approaches
  - secondary data
  - administrative records
  - derived statistics
- Data acquired from diverse data producers
- Process is tedious and cumbersome. Requires systematic and continuous cooperation from relevant agencies
- Operational issues – quality, coverage, timeliness, frequency, reliability and consistency



# Experience and Challenges (cont'd)

## Methodology

Main challenge is to produce reliable statistics based on:



observations/  
raw data that  
were not  
designed for  
statistical  
purposes

data generated  
by other  
parties

# **Experience and Challenges** (cont'd)

## **Methodology**

**to overcome the heterogeneity in data sets in order to integrate and link the data in a format that gives coherent information**



## **Experience and Challenges** (cont'd)

### **Standards, Classifications and Definitions**

- **data collection is not always coordinated**
- **irreconcilable differences in data storage and classification e.g. protected areas for forestry**
- **difficult to develop an integrated environmental information system based on consistent standards, definitions and data depositories**



# Experience and Challenges (cont'd)

To harmonise standards, classifications, definitions, concepts and terms used:

by the data providers

for international comparison purposes

Priority of the environmental agencies/data providers is to cater to their respective needs

# Experience and Challenges (cont'd)

## Data Gaps

- **Data gaps -**  
flora and fauna, biodiversity, business expenditure on environmental protection
- **Efforts have been initiated to narrow the data gaps through regular surveys :**
  - **Biodiversity and protected areas**
  - **Environmental expenditure by business units**



## Other Challenges:

- Sustaining the collection of data
- Development of interactive database (for authorised users only)
- Development of Environmental Accounts

## Conclusion:

- **UN FDES** - useful guide in the development and compilation of environment statistics in Malaysia



*THANK YOU*

