

The Role of the Chief Statistician: The Case of Malaysia

**Workshop on Organisation and
Management of Statistical System**

**Kuala Lumpur
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The Role of the Chief Statistician

- **Government / Civil Servant**
- **Manager**
- **Professional**
- **Advocator**

Government/Civil Servant

- **DOSM placed in the Prime Minister's Department**
 - responsible directly to Chief Secretary to the Government
- **Membership in the "Statistical Steering Committee" and the "Main User Committee"**
 - requires that Chief Statistician (CS) be able to not only see the needs of planners and administrators but also to communicate with these agencies.
- **Centralised Statistical Organisation**
 - a structure to be developed to anticipate the integrated policy needs of Ministries

Manager

- **Leadership qualities**
- **CS needs to develop a unique vision that attracts commitment, inspires people, and revitalize the organization.**
- **Able to mobilize the resources needed to realize the vision.**
- **Aware that current methods, approaches, or ways of thinking may be no longer valid.**
- **to enhance its capability as the premier statistical agency in the country, periodic restructuring of the organization is undertaken**
 - through upgrading of posts in priority areas and creation of more regional centres

Professional

- **Credibility and integrity of the statistical service**
- **Statistical agency to provide the necessary statistics as inputs for policy making**
- **Image building through “marketing” of products and services eg. web site**
- **Social responsibility to the public and the international statistical community**
 - continually provide data to international agencies

Professional (cont'd.)

- **New skills for the new environment**
- **Need for multiple skills**
- **Managing the knowledge workforce**

Strategic Advocate

- **Promote collaborative efforts among key members**
- **Creating awareness among relevant groups**
- **As collaborative leaders who could bring people to work together for their mutual benefit**
- **Close relationships are forged with other public and private agencies**

Conclusion

- Globalisation, information and communication and technology, the demand better quality of service will influence the role of the chief statistician in the new millennium.
- The chief statistician will be a leader, facilitator, pacesetter, negotiator and strategic advocate.
- Human resource management strategies required include:
 - a. periodic reengineering and restructuring of organization
 - b. extensive networking
 - c. acquisition of new skills
 - d. the possession of multiple skills to undertake multiple tasks
 - e. the need to engage in continuous learning;

Challenges

- To achieve a reasonable balance between meeting increased demands for statistics and minimising the burden on respondents;
- To produce, within available resources, a range of statistics which best meets the needs of users.
- Continually reviews both statistical priorities and efficiency,
- Redeploy available resources between existing and new work.
- The aim - is to provide an optimum service within given resources by reasonable balance of costs and benefits.

Thank You