The Role of the Chief Statistician: The Case of Malaysia

Workshop on Organisation and Management of Statistical System

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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- **Aware that current methods, approaches, or ways of thinking may be no longer valid.**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 Advocator

- **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 advocator.

- 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