

Abstract

SESSION 3:

From Vision to Reality: Aligning the Global Agenda with Local Benefits

WORKSHOP 3.3:

Blue Economy Development: Where are we now? Where are we headed?

Ocean in the national income accounts: The Malaysian case

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The maritime sector is recognised as an important sector in the Malaysian economy, with the economic activities of the country largely dependent on its maritime resources. Traditionally, these resources have supported industries such as fishing, coastal transportation and communication, seafood processing and coastal and marine recreational activities. New maritime based industries have developed over the years which include oil and gas production, mariculture, marine fisheries, and marine tourism. The expansion of regional and international trade has further enhanced the role of the maritime sector in the economy through shipping and port services for the country. The potential role of the maritime sector in the long term growth and development of the nation, especially in creating new and non-traditional industries has further been outlined in a number of documents.

The paucity of reliable and updated empirical valuation of the industry has however hampered efforts to measure its worth and contribution to the nation's economy. This study hence attempts to conduct/review existing studies to provide a quantitative measurement of Malaysia's maritime sector by assessing its contribution to the nation's economy. It uses information and data available from credible open sources such as the Bank Negara Malaysia, Department of Statistics Malaysia as well as maritime industry sources. Given its importance to the nation's socio-economic well-being, this study further stresses the need for the maritime industry in Malaysia to get continuous support from the Government to help it develop in an orderly manner. This study concludes that Malaysia needs astute planning, optimal resource allocation and good policies to address current and future challenges in the maritime sector.



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Global Targets
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Setting the Sustainable Development Agenda for
the Seas of East Asia beyond 2015

About Cheryl Rita Kaur:

Cheryl Rita received her MSc in Marine Science, Policy and Law at the National Oceanography Centre Southampton, University of Southampton, United Kingdom and completed her BSc (Hons.) in Marine Biology at University Malaysia Terengganu. She joined the Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA) in 2006. MIMA is a policy research institute set up by the Malaysian Government to look into matters relating to Malaysia's interest at sea, and to serve as a national focal point for research in the maritime sector. Cheryl's research interest is in the areas of ocean governance, natural resources, marine protected areas management, and marine pollution. Her research findings and views on coastal and marine environmental issues have appeared in various publications. Cheryl has also participated and presented papers at national and international events. In addition, she was awarded an Asian Conservation Fellowship (2006-2009) by the Earthwatch Institute of Australia. More recently, she undertook a placement with the government Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) in Lowestoft, UK in 2011 where she worked on the European Union's framework on Monitoring and Evaluation of Spatially Managed Areas; and as a Visiting Scientist at Academia Sinica in Taipei, Taiwan in 2012. Cheryl is currently a member of several national working groups under the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI), and active in regional environmental initiatives including the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) and the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion (SSME) programmes. She was earlier involved in the UNEP/GEF project on Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand.