

Inaugural Meeting of the DOS Advisory Panel

The DOS Advisory Panel was established in 2021 to guide the Department’s strategic direction, amidst the changing data and technology landscape, and ensure that DOS remains relevant and responsive to the diverse needs of data users.

The inaugural meeting of the DOS Advisory Panel was convened virtually on 7 and 8 September 2021 with the welcome address delivered by the Permanent Secretary of the Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), Mr Gabriel Lim.

The DOS Advisory Panel is chaired by the Singapore Chief Statistician, Ms Wong Wee Kim, and comprises the following local and international members who are experts in the fields of statistics, data science and technology:

Mr Sameer Gupta
Chief Analytics Officer, DBS Bank, Singapore

Prof Ng See-Kiong
Professor of Practice, School of Computing
Director, Translational Research,
Institute of Data Science,
National University of Singapore
Director, AI Technology, AI Singapore

Dr Tom Smith
Managing Director, Data Science Campus,
Office of National Statistics, United Kingdom

Prof Bertrand Loison
Vice Director General and
Head of Data Science Competence Centre
Swiss Federal Statistical Office, Switzerland

Mr Gary Dunnet
Deputy Chief Methodologist,
Statistics New Zealand, New Zealand

The overall theme of the inaugural meeting was ‘Digitalisation Across the Data Value Chain’, which encompassed data collection, data processing and integration, data compilation, data analyses, and data dissemination and engagement, along with the scaling-up of capabilities in National Statistical Offices

(NSOs) to implement digital transformation. The focus of the meeting was on:

- Gathering insights on the application of digital technologies and processes;
- Identifying practices that facilitate effective deployment of digital tools across the data value chain; and
- Anticipating and addressing challenges in implementing DOS’s digitalisation strategy.

The advisory panel covered the following topics:

- Redefining the value proposition of NSOs in an ever-changing data landscape with evolving users’ needs, including shifts in data needs, integrating data from a range of administrative and survey sources, enhancing communication capabilities and the use of digital tools;
- Sharing expertise on new data competencies in various fields along with the impact of digitalisation and advanced technology applications, such as the use of Big data, administrative sources, machine learning, etc.; and
- Sharing expertise on developing capabilities in respective fields as well as the future of the workforce in NSOs, e.g. scaling up statistical capabilities and digital-related skills, and challenges posed in the digitalisation process.

DOS expresses our appreciation to all panel members for the fruitful discussions, and looks forward to the second meeting of the DOS Advisory Panel in 2022.

