

The DOS Advisory Panel: Round-up of Discussions

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Introduction

The DOS Advisory Panel (DAP) was established in 2021 to provide strategic guidance and help ensure that the Department remains relevant and responsive to the diverse and evolving needs of data users. It has been a valuable platform for DOS to tap external expertise and perspectives amid a rapidly changing data and technology landscape. Over the years, the Panel has discussed a range of themes reflecting DOS's priorities – from digitalising statistical processes to harnessing new technologies and data sources and considering the wider role of National Statistics Offices in an increasingly complex data ecosystem (Figure 1).

Figure 1: The DAP Discussion Themes through the Years



Bringing Together Diverse Expertise

Chaired by the Singapore Chief Statistician, Dr Koh Eng Chuan, the DAP comprised local and international members with expertise spanning official statistics, data science and technology, academia, financial services and sustainability (Figure 2). This diversity enabled DOS to examine emerging issues under varied lenses, drawing lessons from international and private-sector practices, and reflecting on their applications in Singapore's context.

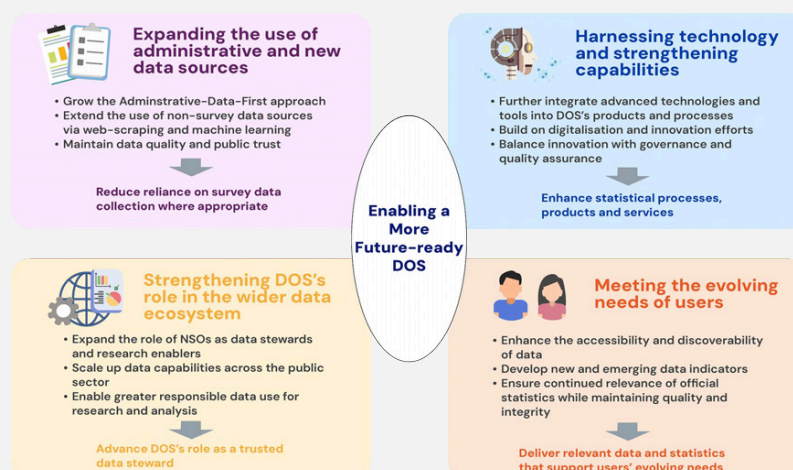
Figure 2: The DAP Members from 2021 to 2026



Key Insights and Outcomes from the DAP

The DAP offered a forum for DOS to bounce off ideas, challenge assumptions and learn from the expertise and best practices of advanced statistical agencies, academia and the private sector. In the areas of technology and AI, the continual conversation has helped inform and reinforce DOS's development over the years (Figure 3).

Figure 3: DOS's Initiatives and Priorities Discussed at the DAP



Reflecting and Looking Ahead

Looking across the Panel's six-year journey, a consistent message has been the need for official statistics to evolve while preserving the qualities that make them trusted. New technologies and data sources offer significant opportunities, but also bring new considerations around data quality, governance, capabilities and public trust.

The DAP also underscored the broader role that NSOs can play beyond producing statistics. Statistical agencies can add value through their expertise in bringing together data, establishing standards, enabling responsible data use and supporting users in deriving meaningful insights.

For DOS, the DAP offered a platform to look beyond immediate priorities, draw lessons from international and private-sector practices, and assess how new approaches could be adapted to Singapore's circumstances. These insights will continue to guide DOS as we respond to new developments and changing user needs, as well as prepare for the future of official statistics.

DOS expresses its appreciation to all panel members for sharing their knowledge, insights and perspectives, which have enriched the discussions and contributed to DOS's development over the past six years.