New Parameters for Monitoring and Evaluating Urban Development in the Information Age.
R. Ramachandran, Manager / IT Policy Technologist
National Information Technology Council Secretariat d/a MIMOS Berhad, Technology Park Malaysia, Bukit Jalil, 57000 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia
ramachan@mimos.my

Abstract
This paper attempts to identify the new parameters for monitoring and evaluating urban development influenced by the phenomenal development of the Internet. In particular, the Internet changes the way in which people work, play, learn, communicate, interact, do business, perform social and public service transactions and delivery. These changes are so fundamental that they have a profound impact particularly on urban populations. This in turn affects greatly the structure and characteristics of urban and regional economies. Given this context the paper examines the necessity for new data needs and inception of regular and systematic data collation mechanisms. The new data concerns are characterized by anytime and anywhere mode of communication modes, interactive networks, rise of information and knowledge workers, tele-working phenomenon, information sharing, knowledge management, digital and knowledge divides. To address these emerging data demands and issues, the present statistical system is inadequate. Policy formulators and the statistical community require new directions and strategies in undertaking, monitoring and evaluating activities in urban planning. For purposes of illustration the paper also examines urban data in the Malaysian context. Among the references are present statistical systems and new records. Examples from the national level will include data from the Population & Housing Census 2000 and Internet Subscriber Study. Data will also be included from specific urban centers which are being test bedded with new ICT initiatives, namely the Subang Jaya Local Government Authority (SJ2005) and the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).