

*Malaysia's performance in*  
**HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT**  
**2013**

Human Development  
Report **2013**



**The Rise of the South:**  
Human Progress in a Diverse World



## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The 2013 Human Development Report – "The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World" was launched on 14 March 2013. The 2013 Human Development Report examines the profound shift in global dynamics driven by the fast-rising new powers of the developing world and its long-term implications for human development. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been publishing the Human Development Report each year since 1990.
- 1.2 The Report identifies more than 40 countries in the developing world that have done better than had been expected in human development terms in recent decades, with their progress accelerating markedly over the past ten years. The Report analyses the causes and consequences of these countries' achievements and the challenges that they face today and in the coming decades.

## **2.0 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT**

- 2.1 Human Development Report 2013 shows that Norway, Australia and the United States lead the rankings of 187 countries and territories. The index, which measures national achievements in health, education and income, once again ranked Norway (first), with the United States rounding out the top three nations for 2012. New Zealand is in the sixth place, with Sweden equal seventh alongside Ireland. The Democratic Republic of Congo and Niger are at the back of the 187 countries, ranking at 186<sup>th</sup>.

- 2.2 The report also highlights that China has already overtaken Japan as the world's second biggest economy while lifting hundreds of millions of its people out of poverty. India is reshaping its future with new entrepreneurial creativity and social policy innovation. Brazil is lifting its living standards through expanding international relationships and antipoverty programs that are emulated worldwide. But the "Rise of the South" analysed in the Report is a much larger phenomenon: Turkey, Mexico, Thailand, South Africa, Indonesia and many other developing nations are also becoming leading actors on the world stage.
- 2.3 Each of these countries has its own unique history and has chosen its own distinct development pathway. Yet they share important characteristics and face many of the same challenges. They are also increasingly interconnected and interdependent. And people throughout the developing world are increasingly demanding to be heard, as they share ideas through new communication channels and seek greater accountability from governments and international institutions.
- 2.4 The 2013 Human Development Report identifies policies rooted in this new global reality that could promote greater progress throughout the world for decades to come. The Report calls for far better representation of the South in global governance systems and points to potential new sources of financing within the South for essential public goods. With fresh analytical insights and clear proposals for policy reforms, the Report helps chart a course for people in all regions to face shared human development challenges together, fairly and effectively.
- 2.5 The rise of the South is noteworthy for its diversity. This wave of developing countries encompasses countries with very different endowments, social structures, geography and history: for example, Algeria and Argentina, Brazil and Bangladesh, China and Chile, Ghana and Guyana, India and Indonesia, and

Malaysia and Mozambique. These countries demonstrate that rapid people-centred development can take root in a wide range of contexts and their experiences and knowhow are an expanding source of best practices that should enable other developing countries to catch up.

### **3.0 MALAYSIA'S PERFORMANCE IN THE HDR 2013**

- 3.1 The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in its Human Development Report 2013 indicated that **Malaysia** scored 0.769 points, which was better than the global average of 0.758 points, putting it in the **high human development group**. In addition the ranking had improved slightly when pitted against its 2011 rank at 61<sup>st</sup> spot out of 187 countries.
- 3.2 The report also stated that the average Malaysian was now living seven years longer, had furthered his schooling by five more years and had seen his gross income raised by about 191 per cent.
- 3.3 In the Gender Inequality Index, Malaysia ranked 42 out of 148 countries surveyed last year. While it performed better than Thailand (66), the Philippines (77) and Indonesia (106), the country again trailed Singapore which was placed 13 in the chart that graded countries based on the level of women's empowerment, their economic activity and their reproductive health (Table 1).

**Table 1: Malaysia's Performance in the Human Development Report 2013**

	Life expectancy at birth	Expected years of schooling	Mean years of schooling	GNI per capita (2005 PPP\$)	HDI value
1980	67.4	9	4.4	4,692	0.563
1985	68.8	9.8	5.6	5,099	0.603
1990	70.1	9.7	6.5	6,328	0.635
1995	71.1	10.2	7.6	8,702	0.678
2000	72.1	11.9	8.2	9,378	0.712
2005	72.9	12.6	8.9	11,020	0.742
2010	74	12.6	9.5	12,758	0.763
2011	74.2	12.6	9.5	13,322	0.766
2012	74.5	12.6	9.5	13,676	0.769

3.2 The top 10 performing countries are shown in Table 2.

**Table 2: Malaysia among Top 10 Performing Countries in The Human Development Report 2013**

Rank	Country	Human Development Index
1	Norway	0.955
2	Australia	0.938
3	United States	0.937
4	Netherlands	0.921
5	Germany	0.929
6	New Zealand	0.919
7	Ireland	0.916
7	Sweden	0.916
9	Switzerland	0.913
10	Japan	0.912
64	Malaysia	0.769

3.3 Among the Asia-Pacific countries, Malaysia ranked 8<sup>th</sup> while Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Korea and Hong Kong were among the top five within the Asia Pacific region (Table 3). Malaysia is however better than China, Philippines and Indonesia.

**Table 3: The Human Development Report for Asia-Pacific Countries**

Rank	Country	Human Development Index
1	Australia	0.938
2	New Zealand	0.919
3	Japan	0.912
4	Republic of Korea	0.909
5	Hong Kong	0.906
6	Singapore	0.895
7	Brunei	0.855
8	Malaysia	0.769
9	Sri Lanka	0.715
10	China	0.699
11	Thailand	0.690
12	Mongolia	0.675
13	Philippines	0.654
14	Indonesia	0.629
15	Vietnam	0.617
16	India	0.554
17	Cambodia	0.543
18	Bangladesh	0.515
19	Pakistan	0.515
20	Nepal	0.463

3.4 Among ASEAN countries, Malaysia ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> after Singapore (Table 4).

**Table 4: The Human Development Report for ASEAN Countries**

Rank	Country	Human Development Index
1	Singapore	0.895
2	Malaysia	0.769
3	Thailand	0.690
4	Philippines	0.654
5	Indonesia	0.629
6	Vietnam	0.617

## **4.0 METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 The Human Development Index (HDI), is a composite measure of indicators along three dimensions: life expectancy, educational attainment and command over the resources needed for a decent living. HDI classifications are relative-based on quartiles of HDI distribution across the 187 countries denoted as very high, high, medium (each with 47 countries) and low (with 46 countries).
- 4.2 The 14 statistical tables provide an overview of key aspects of human development. The tables include composite indices estimated by the Human Development Report Office (HDRO) using data available to the HDRO on 15 October 2012. All indicators, along with the technical notes on the calculation of composite indicators and additional sources of information, are available online at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics>.
- 4.3 Countries and territories are ranked by their 2012 HDI value. Robustness and reliability analysis has shown that for most countries the HDI is not statistically significant at the third decimal place (see Aguna and Kovacevic 2011 and Høyland, Moene and Willumsen 2011). For this reason countries with the same HDI value at the third decimal place are listed with tied ranks.