

Characterising Patients' Preferences for Information in Doctor-Patient Interactions#

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Abstract: This study involved 108 diabetic patients from a public hospital. The conjoint analysis was used in characterising patients' preferences for information during clinical consultations. The results showed that patients gave priority to the quality of information transferred, represented by clear explanation and active listening from the doctor. Besides, information regarding treatment was preferred to information on diagnosis and illness. Preferences also varied across patients based on their socio-economic characteristics.

Macroeconomic Developments, Policies and Issues in Indonesia, 1950-2005: a Review#

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Abstract: This paper reviews the major macroeconomic developments, policies and issues in Indonesia within a political economy perspective since it gained recognition of independence from the Dutch in December 1949. It reveals that the impressive economic and social progress in this country over the past five and a half decades was not a smooth process. Indonesia, under both the Japanese occupation (1942-1945) and the nationalist revolutionary leadership of President Sukarno (1945-1966), suffered from economic and political instability resulting in an economic and political crises in 1965. This led many observers to term the country an economic 'basket case'. The establishment of the military government under Lieutenant General Soeharto in 1966 provided the much needed economic and political stability over the next three decades (1967-1996). This turned out to be the 'golden era' of Indonesia's modern economic history when the traditional agricultural, albeit natural resource-rich, economy underwent impressive transformation into a balanced, outward-oriented industrialising economy. Then the 1997-98 currency-cum-financial crises came that lasted much longer than in other countries in the region and exposed the dark side of this country's economic miracle, which took the form of 'corruption, collusion and nepotism or crony-capitalism in short.' Indonesia has slowly recovered and by 2004 moved to a higher growth path with improved economic, social and political institutions.

Trade Protection and Employment in Manufacturing: the Case of Malaysia

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Abstract. The primary focus of the study is on employment responses to trade policy in the 1990s. Although tariffs and export duties in manufacturing were substantially reduced, quantitative restrictions were scaled up in the 1990s. The results suggest that trade liberalisation *via* the dismantling of trade barriers is desirable given the positive impact on aggregate employment, both skilled and unskilled. Conversely, only unskilled labour showed significant response to the imposition of licensing requirements. The *type* of licensing mattered as higher import licensing permits reduced unskilled labour demand whilst export licensing had the opposite effect on the latter. Non-tariff barriers rather than tariffs are thus more likely, if any, to have a bearing on skill inequality in manufacturing.

Stochastic Frontier Estimation: an Application to Local Governments in Malaysia#

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Abstract: The purpose of this paper is to estimate the level of efficiency of local governments in Malaysia in providing public goods and services. The study employs the frontier technique to measure efficiency. The study involved 99 local governments in Peninsular Malaysia, categorised into three components: City councils, municipalities and district councils. The results of the study indicate that local councils are inefficient in providing local public goods and services. The cost efficiency scores range from 0.145 to 1.643 with Jempol District Council being the least inefficient. The results also indicate that municipal councils are more inefficient than district councils.

The Development of the Malaysian Plastics Industry

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Abstract: Based on our field research, we studied the emergence and development of the plastic injection industry in Malaysia. Our analysis provides evidence to reconsider the mainstream approach to economic growth as found in the literature. Our findings demonstrate that product upgrading from household wares to electrical and electronic parts brought about the growth of the industry. This movement was initiated by innovative entrepreneurs who had been workers at other companies in the same industry. These features are not incorporated in the neoclassical growth models which have mostly been used for empirical studies.

Impacts of Biodiesel Development on the Palm Oil Industry

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Abstract: This paper examines the impacts of biodiesel growth on the palm oil industry. The implications of biodiesel growth are discussed within the context of the overall oil seeds industry. Insufficient supply of the most major oil seed used for biodiesel—rapeseed—has given rise to a raw material supply gap. In this context, the complementary role of palm oil is expected to become more significant. Major producers of palm oil are keen to use biodiesel as a stock management mechanism for palm oil which is currently perceived to be undervalued in terms of pricing. Ongoing work to increase yield through sustainable plantation practices and improvement of planting materials is being intensified in anticipation of strong palm oil demand. Other measures to meet rising energy demands include increasing oil palm hectareage in a responsible way and producing cellulosic ethanol from palm biomass. A system dynamics model for examining the inter-linkages between palm oil, petroleum and biodiesel is presented. The model shows that when crude oil price is around USD38/ bbl or less, palm biodiesel is not profitable even for a very low CPO price of USD200/ tonne. At a crude oil price of USD70/bbl, palm biodiesel is profitable for CPO at around USD450/tonne or less. The dynamics of the system is also explored to see how biodiesel and CPO prices respond dynamically to changes in the oil price and CPO production rates.