Book Review

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Name of Book: *Panduan Pelaksanaan Pengurusan Nilai Dalam Projek Kerajaan* or Guidance on the Implementation of Value Management for Public Projects.

Publisher: Unit Perancang Ekonomi Jabatan Perdana Menteri Malaysia or Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department.

Date of publication: 24th May 2011.

Size: 53 pages, hardcover.

Language: Bahasa Melayu

Review
The Government of Malaysia, on the 29th of December 2009, issued a circular requiring its agencies to implement Value Management or *Pengurusan Nilai* in the procurement of public projects and facilities. The directive covers all programmes and projects valued at RM50.0 million and above, both physical and non-physical.
The sole purpose of the book or perhaps it should be referred to as guidebook is therefore to provide guidance on how Value Management (VM) should be implemented when procuring public projects and facilities. It is the works of 31 experts, drawn from various government departments, private firms and organizations and institutions of higher learning. The Value Management Section of the Prime Minister's Department acts as Secretariat.
In the book, the concept of VM is defined as an approach – multi-disciplinary, systematic and innovative in nature – that is to be applied when examining the functional needs of a programme, design, product, services, project, facility and system in order to achieve better and higher value and at optimum cost but without affecting the performance of the said programme or project.

In this instance, the application of VM extends beyond the traditional borders of construction and manufacturing works for the Government expects VM to be applied in evaluating all of its projects: physical for example buildings and roadwork projects, and non-physical such as training and poverty eradication programmes and ICT projects.

The Government stresses that VM is not merely an approach to cut cost for the techniques of VM should be applied in evaluating newer technologies too such as the Industrialized Building System or IBS and energy efficiency in public projects. In addition, the Government expects that through VM certainty and earlier delivery of projects could be achieved. Furthermore, the Government outlined the following key benefits of VM;

- Delivering projects that meet the needs of stakeholders and citizen;
- Facilitates in achieving better planning and spending of development budgets;
- Ensuring achieving projects' functions and quality; and
- Increasing transparency, ownership and understanding by key payers when implementing Government projects.

The guidebook is presented in 8 main chapters, preceded by a Foreword authored by the Director General of the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department, Noriyah Binti Ahmad. In her Foreword the Director General stresses the importance of VM as a 'management tool' to be applied in the implementation of public projects, from inception to planning and implementation.

The 8 chapters are:
1. Introduction
2. Concept and definition
3. Application of VM in Government programmes and projects
4. Practice of VM
5. Value Assessment (VA)
6. Value Engineering (VE)
7. Value Review or Value Analysis (VR)
8. Roles and responsibilities of key players

The guidebook is presented in Bahasa Melayu. There is a Glossary section to provide brief translations and explanations on key terms and concepts. In addition, the procedures and practice of VM to be followed have been made easier by way of simple, systematic and step by step guidance enhanced by clear and colorful tables, figures and flow charts.

The guidebook offers excellent basis for practitioners of VM (beginners and experts), students and researchers, and the public at large to understand VM as envisaged by the Government.

The Government effort to implement VM and the publication of the guidebook, and their intention to achieve better value for money, increase transparency and accountability in public procurement should be supported and praised.