

Title: E-democracy and Public Administrators: The Malaysian Case

Supervisors: Associate Professor Dr. Graeme Johanson, Dr. Steve Wright and Dr. Kerry Tanner.

Primary research question:

How do interactive Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) (as part of e-democracy) inform Malaysian public administrators in developing policy?

Summary:

The thesis investigates the Malaysian public administrators' use of interactive Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) in developing public policy at the federal level of government. The thesis aims at identifying the nature of e-democracy for online citizen participation in the policy development processes.

Contribution:

This study seeks to contribute towards:

- Identifying administrative dimensions of e-democracy by studying it in the institutional context of the Malaysian public administration.
- Enriching knowledge of how use of technology shapes e-democracy practices.
- Providing a foundation for understanding e-democracy in the context of Malaysia (which will allow for a comparison of similarities and differences between implementations of e-democracy in different countries).
- Laying out clear advantages to public administrators by helping to remove their misconceptions about e-democracy in the policy development process.
- Providing a foundation for guidance in e-democracy implementation for government.

Methodology:

The study utilizes a qualitative paradigm and employs exploratory, ethnographic, qualitative case study strategies. The empirical evidences for this study were derived from two primary sources, namely, documents and in-depth interviews.

About the researcher:

Abdul is a PhD student, since Mac 2007, at the Faculty of Information Technology, Caulfield, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. Abdul's research interests include e-democracy, ICTs in organization, and public administration.