

**PROBABILISTIC AND DISTRIBUTION
MODELLING FOR PREDICTING PM₁₀
CONCENTRATION IN MALAYSIA**

HAZRUL BIN ABDUL HAMID

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

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**PROBABILISTIC AND DISTRIBUTION MODELLING
FOR PREDICTING PM₁₀ CONCENTRATION
IN MALAYSIA**

By

HAZRUL BIN ABDUL HAMID

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| ACF | Auto-correlation function |
| ADF | Augmented Dickey-Fuller |
| AIC | Akaike information criterion |
| ANOVA | Analysis of Variance |
| API | Air Pollutant Index |
| AR | Autoregressive |
| ARIMA | Autoregressive integration moving average |
| ASMA | Alam Sekitar Malaysia Berhad |
| cdf | Cumulative distribution function |
| CO | Carbon monoxide |
| DoE | Department of Environment (Malaysia) |
| IA | Index of Agreement |
| ILP | Institut Latihan Perindustrian |
| MA | Moving average |
| MAAQG | Malaysian Ambient Air Quality Guidelines |
| MAPE | Mean absolute percentage error |
| MoM | Method of moments |
| NAE | Normalized Absolute Error |
| NO ₂ | Nitrogen Dioxide |
| PACF | Partial auto-correlation function |
| pdf | Probability density function |

| | |
|------------------|---|
| PM ₁₀ | Particulate matter less than 10 μm |
| PWM | Probability weighted moments |
| R ² | Coefficient of Determination |
| RH | Relative Humidity |
| RMSE | Root Mean Square Error |
| SE-1 | Simple explicit1 |
| SE-2 | Simple explicit 2 |
| SO ₂ | Sulphur Dioxide |
| USEPA | United States Environmental Protection Agency |
| WHO | World Health Organization |

**PERMODELAN KEBARANGKALIAN DAN TABURAN UNTUK
MERAMALKAN KEPEKATAN PM₁₀ DI MALAYSIA**

ABSTRAK

Penurunan tahap kualiti udara boleh memberi kesan yang signifikan terutamanya kepada kesihatan manusia. Warga tua, kanak-kanak dan pesakit asma merupakan antara golongan yang paling terkesan jika berhadapan dengan kualiti udara yang rendah. Di Malaysia, Jabatan Alam Sekitar bertanggungjawab untuk memantau dan merekodkan kualiti udara dan pada ketika ini, terdapat sebanyak 52 stesen pemantauan kualiti udara yang dikendalikan oleh Alam Sekitar Malaysia Berhad (ASMA). Antara parameter yang diukur ialah partikel udara bersaiz kurang daripada 10 µm, sulfur dioksida, nitrogen dioksida, karbon monoksida, suhu persekitaran, tahap kelembapan dan juga kelajuan angin. Adalah penting untuk melakukan peramalan pencemaran udara bagi memberi amaran awal kepada golongan berkaitan selain memudahkan pengurusan kualiti udara oleh pihak berkuasa tempatan. Oleh kerana model peramalan yang berkaitan data pencemar udara yang telah dibangunkan sebelum ini hanya tertumpu kepada model taburan statistik dengan dua parameter bagi peramalan jangka panjang, kajian ini membandingkan taburan statistik dengan tiga parameter kerana pencarian model terbaik bagi meningkatkan ketepatan ramalan adalah masih diperlukan. Tujuh stesen pemantauan kualiti udara dipilih dalam kajian ini bagi mewakili kawasan perindustrian (Nilai, Kuching dan Seberang Perai), kawasan bandar dan luar Bandar (Bachang, Kuala Terengganu dan Seberang Jaya) serta satu stesen dikategorikan sebagai stesen rujukan iaitu Jerantut. Data PM₁₀ bagi setiap jam dari tahun 2003 hingga 2009 telah digunakan bagi membanding dan menilai perlakuan pencemar udara PM₁₀ bagi ketujuh-tujuh stesen

yang terlibat. Data ini juga digunakan bagi mendapatkan model taburan statistik terbaik. Tiga taburan statistik yang digunakan secara meluas dalam bidang kejuruteraan alam sekitar iaitu taburan lognormal, taburan gamma dan taburan Weibull terlibat dalam kajian ini. Berdasarkan petunjuk prestasi, taburan statistik dengan tiga parameter berjaya memberikan ramalan yang lebih baik jika dibandingkan dengan taburan statistik dengan dua parameter bagi kebanyakan stesen pemantauan yang terlibat. Taburan terbaik bagi mewakili kepekatan PM₁₀ di kawasan industri, bandar, luar bandar dan stesen rujukan adalah taburan lognormal kecuali bagi kawasan Perai dan Bachang pada tahun 2005 serta Jerantut pada tahun 2009 dimana taburan Weibull adalah lebih baik berbanding taburan lognormal. Berdasarkan keputusan yang diperolehi, secara amnya taburan dengan tiga parameter adalah taburan terbaik bagi kawasan industri. Kepekatan PM₁₀ yang diramal yang melebihi tahap piawaian dalam unit hari juga dianggarkan dengan menggunakan taburan terbaik. Sebagai tambahan, iaitu bagi mendapatkan peramalan jangka pendek, purata harian bacaan kepekatan PM₁₀ digunakan bagi mendapatkan model siri masa terbaik. Dapatan kajian menunjukkan bahawa model ARIMA bermusim sesuai digunakan di kesemua tujuh stesen pemantauan kualiti udara yang terlibat.

PROBABILISTIC AND DISTRIBUTION MODELLING FOR PREDICTING PM₁₀ CONCENTRATION IN MALAYSIA

ABSTRACT

The decline in air quality can have a significant impact, particularly on human health. The elderly, children and people with asthma are among the most affected if faced with low air quality level. In Malaysia, the Department of Environment is responsible for monitoring and recording air quality and at this point, there are a total of 52 air quality monitoring stations operated by Alam Sekitar Malaysia Berhad (ASMA). The parameters monitored are airborne particles smaller than 10 μm , sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, ambient temperature, relative humidity and wind speed. It is important to do air pollution forecasting to give an early warning to people in addition to help the management of air quality by the local authorities. Since the forecasting model for air pollutants previously developed only focused on statistical distribution model with two parameters for long-term forecasting, this research compares the three parameter statistical distributions technique to search for the best models for improving the prediction accuracy. Seven air quality monitoring stations chosen in this study represent the industrial area (Nilai, Kuching and Seberang Perai), urban and sub-urban areas (Bachang, Kuala Terengganu and Seberang Jaya) and one station categorized as the background station which is Jerantut. Hourly PM₁₀ concentrations from 2003 to 2009 are used to assess and compare the behaviour of PM₁₀ concentrations at the selected monitoring stations. These monitoring records are also used to obtain the best statistical distribution models. The three statistical distributions techniques that are widely used in the field of environmental engineering namely

lognormal distribution, the gamma distribution and Weibull distribution were used to fit hourly averages of PM_{10} concentrations. Based on the performance indicators, the three parameter statistical distributions models provide the best long term prediction compared to the two parameter models at most monitoring stations. Predicted PM_{10} concentrations that exceed the permissible guidelines in the unit of day were also estimated using the best distribution. The best distribution to represent the PM_{10} concentration in industrial, urban, sub urban and background area is lognormal distribution except for Perai and Bachang in 2005 and Jerantut in 2009 where Weibull distribution performs better compared to lognormal distribution. In general, three-parameter distribution is the best distribution for industrial monitoring site based on the result obtained. The short-term forecasting, the annual daily particulate matter (PM_{10}) was used to get the best time series model. The results showed that seasonal ARIMA is the most suitable time series model to forecast the PM_{10} concentrations for all seven sites involved in this study.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Air Pollution

Air pollution emissions degrade air quality whether in urban or rural settings. An issue of great concern has been the detrimental effect of low air quality onto human health (Kampa and Castanas, 2008). Understanding the behaviour of air pollution statistically would allow predictions to be made accurately and more pressing are needs to understand the distribution that fits the collected data which can further be used for predictions of exceedences. In the early days of abundant resources and minimal development pressures, little attention was paid to growing environmental concern in Malaysia (Afroz et al., 2003). The Department of Environment is major institution in Malaysia that is responsible for monitoring the status of air quality throughout the country to perceive any significant change which may cause harm to human health and environment.

In Malaysia, there are 52 monitoring locations throughout the country that belong to the Department of Environment (Department of Environment, Malaysia, 2011). The parameters monitored include Total Suspended Particulates, Particulate Matter (PM₁₀), Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) and several airborne heavy metals. This 52 monitoring stations are categorized into five categories which is industrial, urban, sub-urban, rural and

background station. Figure 1.1 and Figure 1.2 shows the location of the monitoring stations in Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia respectively.



Figure 1.1 : Monitoring stations in Peninsular Malaysia.
(Source : Department of Environment, 2011)

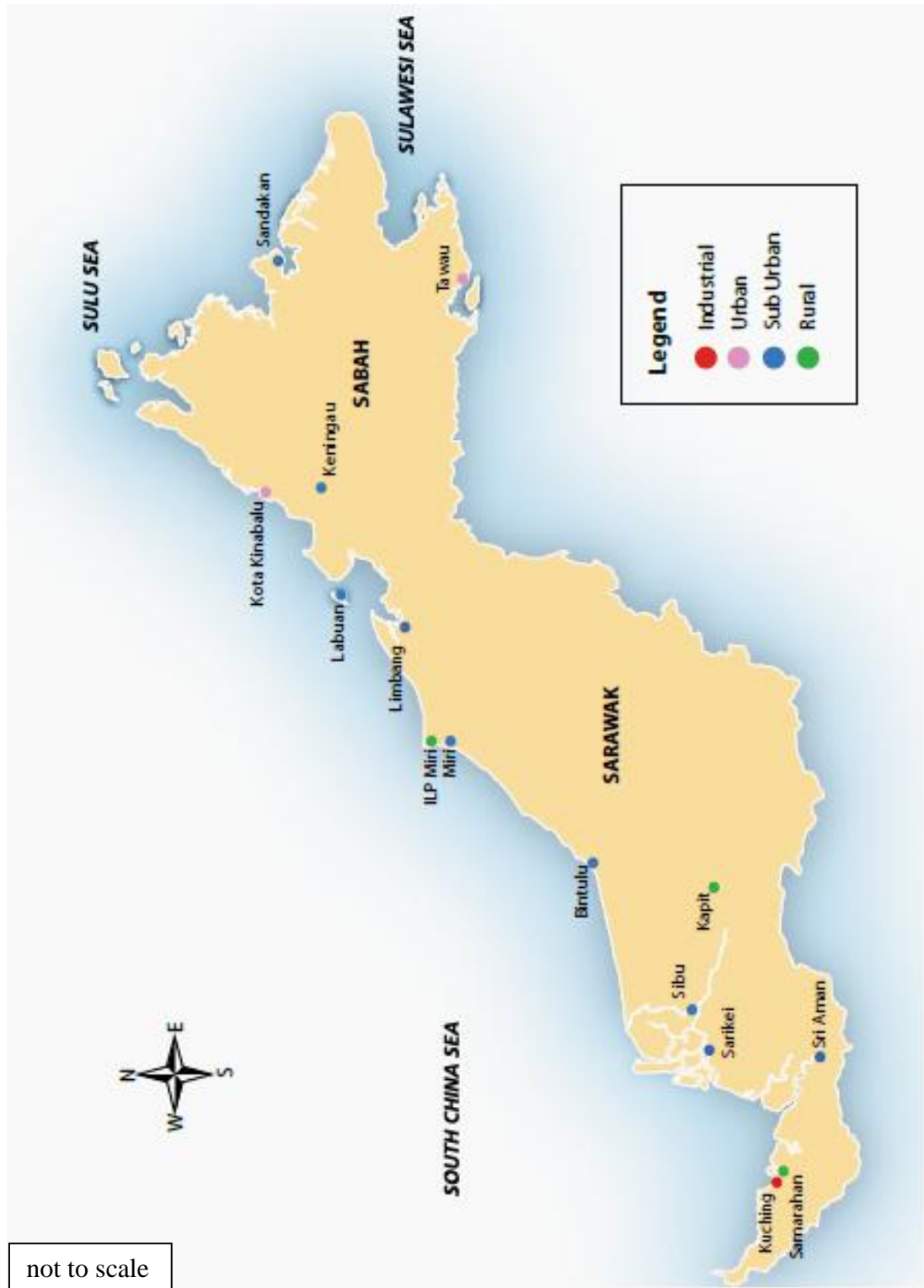


Figure 1.2 : Monitoring stations in East Malaysia.
 (Source : Department of Environment, 2011)

Nevers (2000) defines air pollution as the presence of undesirable material in air, in quantities large enough to produce harmful effects to human health, vegetation, human property, or the global environment as well as create aesthetic insults in the form of brown or hazy air or unpleasant smells.

Air pollutants can be divided into two categories which are primary pollutants and secondary pollutants (Stander, 2000). Primary pollutants are those that have the same form (state and chemical composition) in the ambient atmosphere as when emitted from the sources. Secondary pollutants are those that have changed in form after leaving the source due to oxidation or decay or reaction with other primary pollutants (Stander, 2000). There are many sources of air pollution such as mobile sources, stationary sources and open burning sources (Afroz et al., 2003). Mobile sources include personal vehicles, commercial vehicles and motorcycles. Stationary sources refer to factory and industry, power stations, industrial fuel burning processes, and domestic fuel burning while open burning sources refer to burning of solid wastes and forest fires. However, the major contributor for this unhealthy event is peat swamp and forest fires (Department of Environment, Malaysia, 2002).

In Malaysia, three major sources of air pollution are mobile sources, stationary sources and open burning sources. However, for the past few years, emissions from mobile sources have been the major sources of air pollution which contribute around 70% to 75% of total air pollution in Malaysia (Afroz et al., 2003). The number of vehicle increased significantly each year and that is the reason why mobile sources contribute

the highest percentage of air pollutant. The federal territory Kuala Lumpur has the highest vehicle population followed by Johor, Selangor, Perak and Pulau Pinang (Department of Environment, 2006).

Stationary sources are also a major contributor to air pollution in Malaysia and stationary sources refer to power plant and industrial pollution. In 2010, industrial pollution increase by 71.44% compared to 2009 (Department of Environment, 2012). The third major contributor of air pollution in Malaysia is open burning and commonly caused by transboundary pollution, it is unexpected and also out of control.

The ambient air quality measurement in Malaysia is described in term of air pollution index (API). Air pollution index is obtained from the measurement of particles below 10 micrometre in aerodynamic diameter and several gaseous such as carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone and nitrogen dioxide. To determine the API for a given period of time, the monitoring records for all five pollutants included in the API system were calculated based on the average concentration. The maximum index between the five pollutants was selected as the API (Department of Environment, 2000). Table 1.1 shows the air pollution index for Malaysia. The Malaysia air pollution index has six categories to categorize the level of air pollution namely good, moderate, unhealthy, very unhealthy, hazardous and emergency. Details for each category is also explained in Table 1.1.

Figure 1.3 and Figure 1.4 shows the number of registered vehicle in 2008 and 2009 and the number of registered vehicle in 2010 and 2011 respectively. As a comparison, the numbers of passenger cars, motorcycles, buses and taxis have increased every year. For sure, the increment of vehicle will contribute to the air pollution. Figure 1.5 and Figure 1.6 shows the number of in use vehicle in 2008 and 2009 and the number of in use vehicle in 2010 and 2011 respectively.

Table 1.1: The Malaysia air pollution index

| Air Pollution Index | Diagnosis | Level of Pollution | Health Measures |
|---------------------|----------------|--|--|
| 0 – 50 | Good | Pollution low and has no ill effects on health. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no restriction of activities for all group of people - to practice healthy lifestyle e.g. not to smoke, exercise regularly and not to observe proper nutrition. |
| 50 – 100 | Moderate | Moderate pollution and has no ill effects on health. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no restriction of activities for all group of people - to practice healthy lifestyle e.g. not to smoke, exercise regularly and not to observe proper nutrition. |
| 101 – 200 | Unhealthy | Mild aggravation of symptoms among high risk person e.g. those with heart or lung disease. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - restriction of outdoor activities for high risk person - general population should reduce vigorous outdoor activities. |
| 201 – 300 | Very Unhealthy | Significant aggravation of symptoms and decreased exercise tolerance in person with heart or lung disease. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - elderly and person with known heart or lung disease should stay indoor and reduce physical activity - general population should reduce vigorous outdoor activities - those with any health problems to consult doctor. |
| 301 – 500 | Hazardous | Severe aggravation of symptoms and endangers health. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - elderly and person with existing heart or lung disease should stay indoor and reduce physical activity - general population should reduce vigorous outdoor activities |
| Above 500 | Emergency | Severe aggravation of symptoms and endangers health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - general population advised to follow the orders of the national Security Council and always to follow the announcements through the mass media |

Source: Department of Environment, Malaysia (2009)

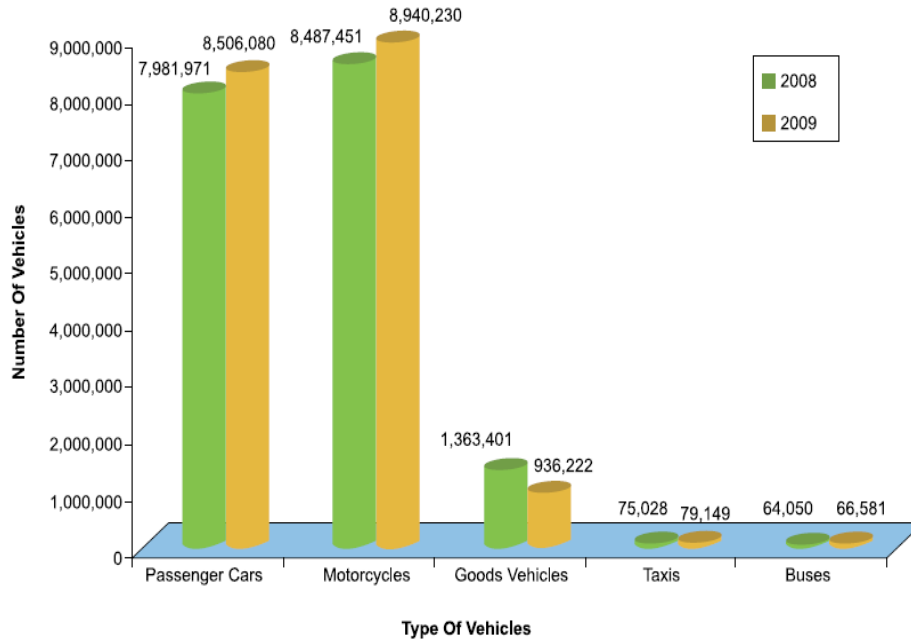


Figure 1.3 : Number of registered vehicle in 2008 and 2009
(Source : Department of Environment, 2009)

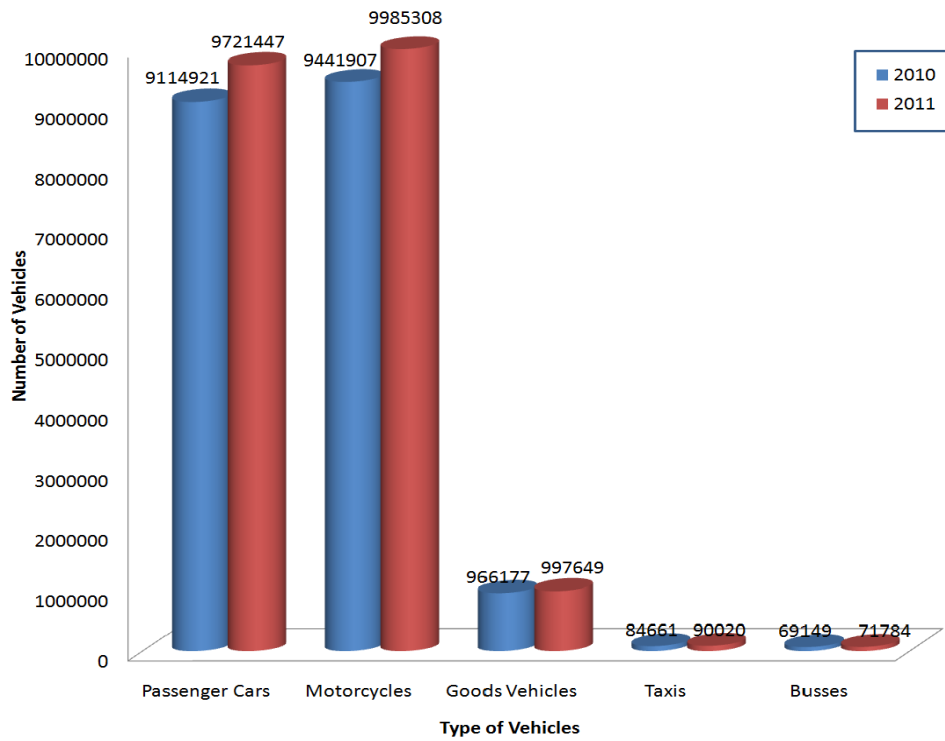


Figure 1.4 : Number of registered vehicle in 2010 and 2011
(Source : Department of Environment, 2011)

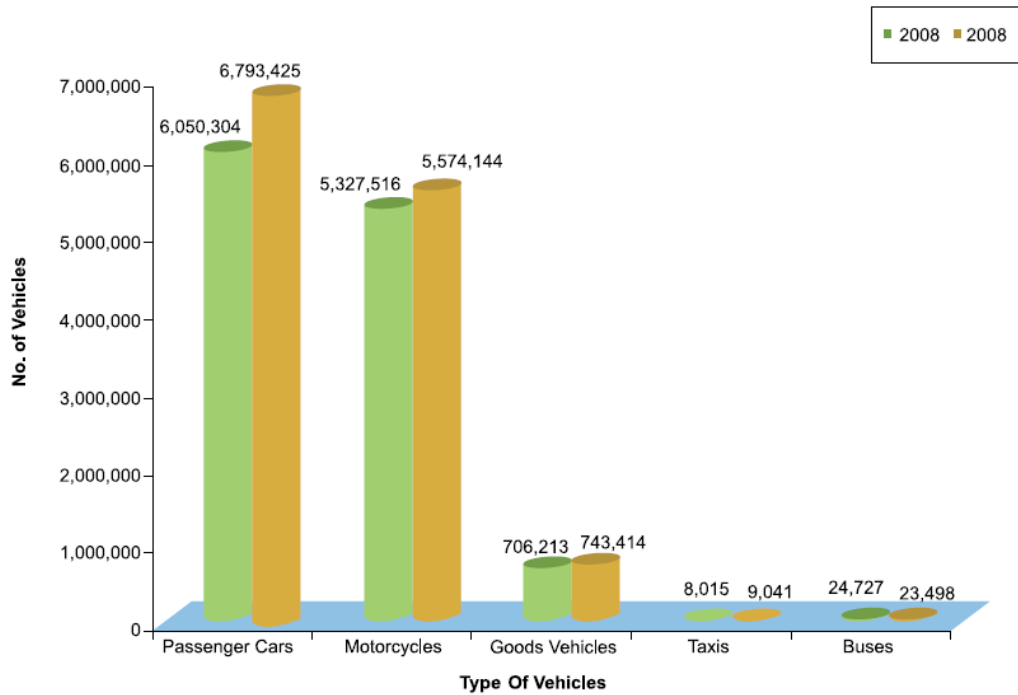


Figure 1.5 : Number of in use vehicle in 2008 and 2009
(Source : Department of Environment, 2009)

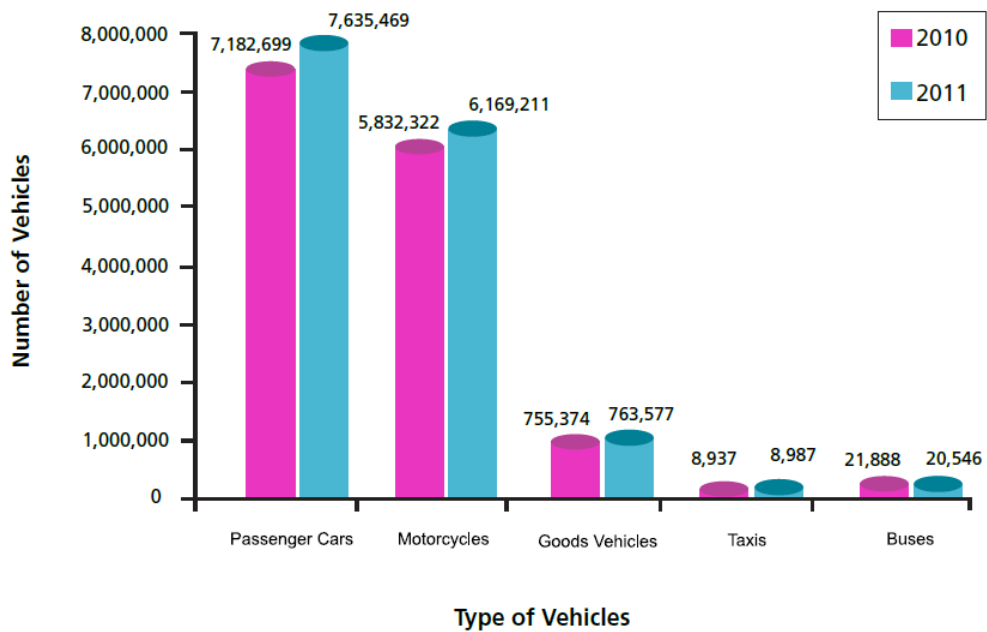


Figure 1.6: Number of in use vehicle in 2010 and 2011
(Source : Department of Environment, 2011)

The number of industrial air pollution sources in Malaysia in 2011 is shown in Figure 1.7. Johor recorded the highest number of industrial sources followed by Selangor. The lowest number of industrial sources was recorded in Wilayah Persekutuan Labuan and Perlis.

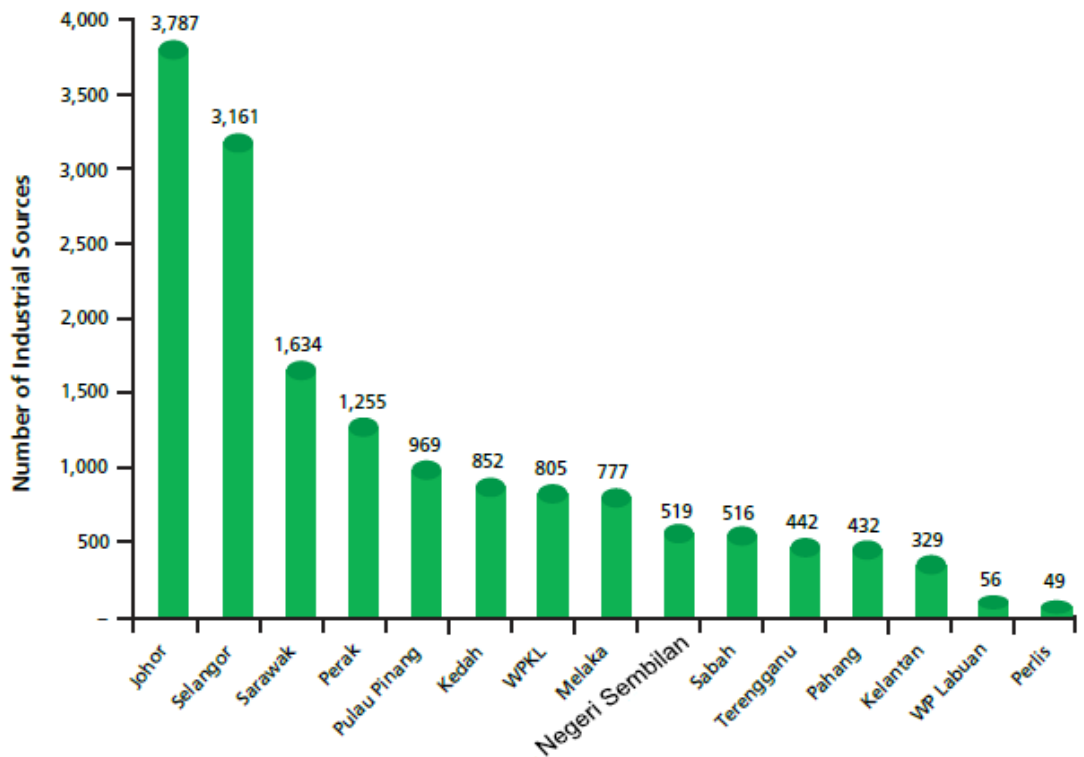


Figure 1.7 : Number of industrial air pollution sources in 2011
(Source : Department of Environment, 2011)

Figure 1.8 shows the Air Pollution Index status in 2011 in several areas in the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia. There are several unhealthy days recorded in west coast of Peninsular Malaysia. Tanjung Malim in Perak recorded the highest number of unhealthy days followed by Alor Setar, Nilai and Port Dickson. However, Bukit Rambai recorded the lowest number of healthy days with only 16 days in 2011 followed by Nilai with

only 64 healthy days. Figure 1.9 shows the Air Pollution Index status in 2011 in several areas in east coast of peninsular Malaysia. There are no unhealthy days recorded at all monitoring stations in east coast of peninsular Malaysia except Kota Tinggi which recorded one unhealthy day in 2011 (Department of Environment, 2011).

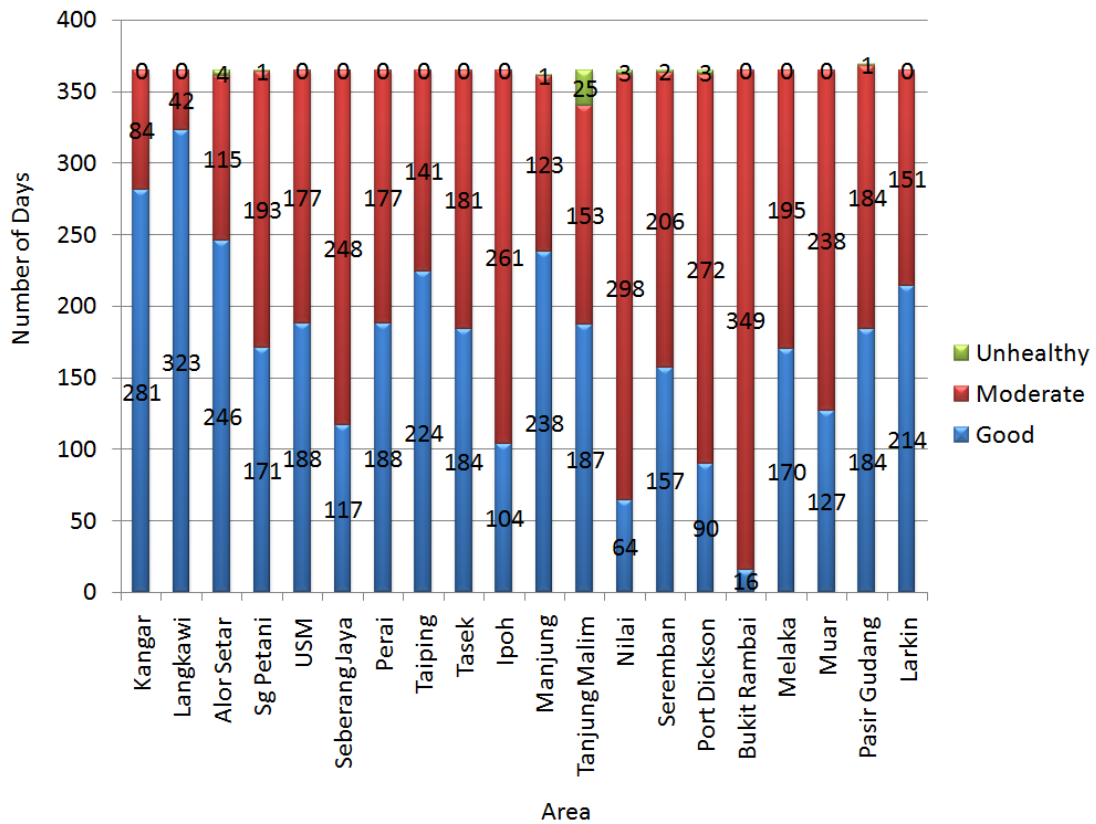


Figure 1.8 : Air Pollution Index status in 2011 in several areas in west coast of Peninsular Malaysia
(Source : Department of Environment, 2011)

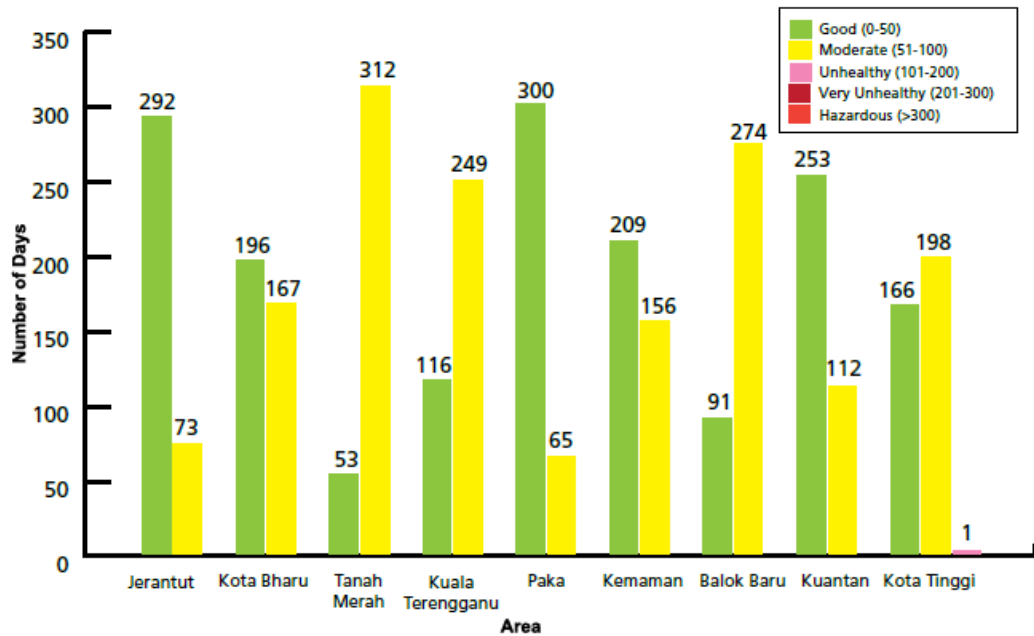


Figure 1.9 : Air Pollution Index status in 2011 in several areas in east coast of peninsular Malaysia
(Source : Department of Environment, 2011)

The Air Pollution Index status in several monitoring stations in Sabah and Sarawak in 2011 is shown in Figure 1.10. All 15 monitoring stations in Sabah and Sarawak recorded the majority of good air pollution index except for Bintulu where the moderate air pollution index is higher than good. Only Sri Aman, Sibul and ILP Miri recorded unhealthy days in 2011.

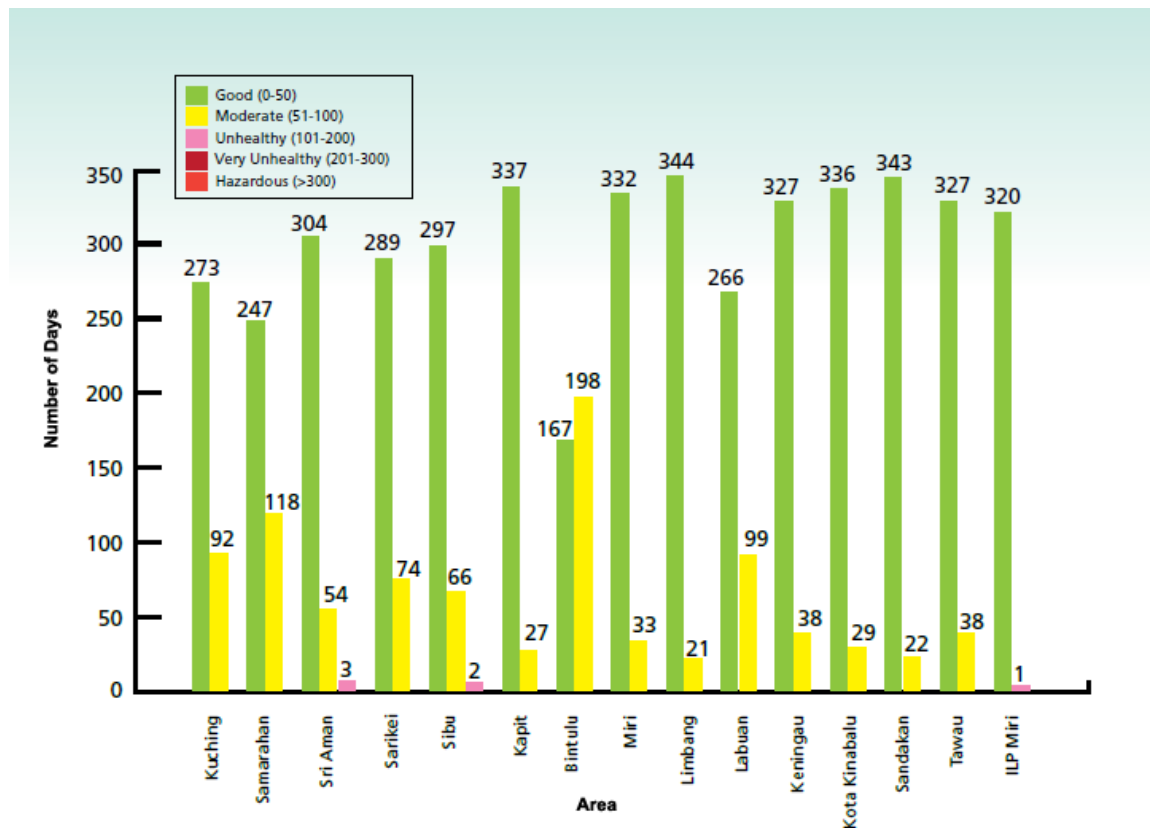


Figure 1.10 : Air Pollution Index status in 2011 in several areas in Sabah and Sarawak (Source : Department of Environment, 2011)

The impact of air pollution is noticeable, especially for human being where it can cause several significant effects including carcinogenic effects. Such health problems include cardiac arrhythmias, reducing lung function, asthma, chronic bronchitis and increasing respiratory symptoms, such as sinusitis, sore throat, dry and wet cough, and hay fever (World Health Organization, 1998). There are possible short-term and long term health effects of exposure to air pollution. In the short-term, high levels of air pollution lead to an acute condition. In addition, blockage of sunlight by air pollutants may promote the spread of harmful bacteria and viruses that would otherwise be killed by ultraviolet B

light (Beardsley et al., 1997). Table 1.2 give the specific air pollutant and associated health effects and Table 1.3 give the detail of the Malaysia Ambient Air Quality Guideline (MAAQG). The MAAQG was calculated based on the averaging time for each pollutant concentration. For example, the guideline for daily average of PM_{10} concentration is $150 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and the annual average of PM_{10} concentration is $50 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (Department of Environment, 2011).

Table 1.2 : Specific Air Pollutants and Associated Health Effects

| Pollutants | Health |
|---------------------------------|--|
| CO | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in ability of the circulatory system to transport oxygen • Impairment of performance on task requiring vigilance • Aggravation of cardiovascular disease |
| NO ₂ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased susceptibility to respiratory pathogens |
| O ₃ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduction in pulmonary function • Coughing • Chest discomfort • Increased asthma attacks |
| Peroxyacetyl nitrate, aldehydes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eye irritation |
| SO ₂ / Particulates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased prevalence of chronic respiratory diseases • Increased risk of acute respiratory diseases |

Source : Stern (1984)

Table 1.3 : Malaysia Ambient Air Quality Guideline

| Pollutant Type | Averaging time | Malaysia Guidelines | |
|---|----------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| | | ppm | $\mu\text{g} / \text{m}^3$ |
| Ozone | 1 hour | 0.10 | 200 |
| | 8 hour | 0.06 | 120 |
| Carbon Monoxide | 1 hour | 30.0 | 35 |
| | 8 hour | 9.0 | 10 |
| Nitrogen Dioxide | 1 hour | 0.17 | 320 |
| | 24 hour | 0.04 | |
| Sulphur Dioxide | 1 hour | 0.13 | 350 |
| | 24 hour | 0.04 | 105 |
| Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀) | 24 hour | | 150 |
| | 12 month | | 50 |
| Total Suspended Particulate | 24 hour | | 260 |
| | 12 month | | 90 |
| Lead | 3 month | | 1.5 |

Source : Department of Environment Malaysia (2011)

1.2 Particulate Matter

Particulate matter (PM) is the term for particles found in the air, including dust, dirt, soot, smoke and liquid droplets. Particulate matter is made up of a number of components, including acids such as nitrates and sulphates, organic chemicals, metals

and soil or dust particles. Particles can be suspended in the air for long periods of time. In the simplest terms, particulate matter is anything solid or liquid suspended in the air (Dockery, 2009). Some particles are large and dark enough to be seen as soot or smoke. Others are so small that they can be detected individually only with specialized microscopes (World Health Organization, 2002).

Some particles are directly emitted into the air from a variety of sources such as vehicles, factories, construction sites, farms and unpaved roads. Other particles may be formed in the air when gases from burning fuels chemically react with sunlight and water vapour. These can result from fuel combustion in motor vehicles, at oil fields and refineries, at power plants and in other industrial processes.

The size of particles is directly linked to their potential for causing health problems. The presence of particulate matter in atmosphere can cause severe health impacts to human health that range from minor nose and throat irritations to more severe impacts such as hospital admissions and premature mortality (Koenig, 2001). Particulate matter is also a useful indicator of several sources of outdoor pollution, such as fossil-fuel combustion (Kunzli et al., 2000).

Particulate matter can be categorized into two categories. The first category is coarse particles such as those found near roadways and dusty industries, ranging in size from 2.5 to 10 micrometres in aerodynamic diameter. The second category is fine particles such as those found in smoke and haze, have aerodynamic diameters smaller than 2.5

micrometres (World Health Organization, 2006). They differ from PM₁₀ in origin and chemistry. These particles can be directly emitted from source such as forest fires or can be form when gases emitted from power plants, industries and automobiles react in the air. Table 1.4 shows the comparisons between fine and coarse particulate matter.

World Health Organization (2006) has detailed the air quality guidelines for particulate matter, ozone, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide. Table 1.5 shows the World Health Organization Air Quality Guidelines and Interim Targets for Particulate Matter for Annual Mean Concentrations and Table 1.6 shows the World Health Organization Air Quality Guidelines and Interim Targets for Particulate Matter for 24-hour concentrations. For the annual mean of PM₁₀ concentration, Malaysia chose to use the interim target-2 which is 50 µg/m³ and for the 24-hour concentrations, Malaysia chose to use the interim target-1 which is 150 µg/m³ (Department of Environment, 2009).

Table 1.4 : Comparisons of fine and coarse particle matter

| | Fine Particles | Coarse particles |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Formed from | Gaseous | Large solids and liquid droplets |
| Formed by | Chemical reaction ; nucleation; condensation; coagulation; evaporation of fog and cloud droplets in which gases have dissolved and reacted | Mechanical disruption (e.g. crushing, grinding, abrasion of surfaces); evaporation of sprays; suspension of dusts |
| Composed of | Sulphate; nitrate; ammonium; hydrogen ion; elemental carbon; organic compounds ; particle bound water | Resuspended dust (e.g. soil dust, street dust); coal and oil fly ash; metal dioxides of crustal elements ; sea salt; pollen, mould spores; plant/animal fragments |
| Solubility | Largely soluble, hygroscopic and deliquescent | Largely insoluble and non-hygroscopic |
| Sources | Combustion of coal, oil, gasoline, diesel, wood; atmospheric transformation products of NO _x , SO ₂ and organic compounds including biogenic species (e.g. terpenes); high temperature processes, smelters, steel mills, etc | Re-suspension of industrial dust and soil tracked onto roads; suspension from disturbed soil (e.g. farming, mining, unpaved roads) ; biological sources; construction and demolition; coal and oil combustion; ocean spray. |
| Lifetimes | Days to weeks | Minutes to hours |
| Travel distance | 100 to 1000 kilometres | Less than 1 to 10 of kilometres. |

Source : United State Environmental Protection Agency (1996)

Table 1.5 : World Health Organization Air Quality Guidelines and Interim Targets for Particulate Matter : Annual Mean Concentrations

| | PM ₁₀ | PM _{2.5} | Basis for the selected level |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--|
| Interim target-1 (IT-1) | 70 | 35 | These levels are associated with about a 15% higher long-term mortality risk relative to the WHO Air Quality Guidelines. |
| Interim target-2 (IT-2) | 50 | 25 | In addition to other health benefits, these levels lower the risk of premature mortality by approximately 6% [2 – 11%] relative to the IT-1 level. |
| Interim target-3 (IT-3) | 30 | 15 | In addition to other health benefits, these levels reduce the mortality risk by approximately 6% [2 – 11%] relative to the IT-2 level. |
| Air Quality Guideline (AQG) | 20 | 10 | These are the lowest levels at which total, cardiopulmonary and lung cancer mortality have been shown to increase with more than 95% confidence in response to long-term exposure to PM _{2.5} . |

Source : World Health Organisation (2006)

Table 1.6 : World Health Organization Air Quality Guidelines and Interim Targets for Particulate Matter : 24-hour Concentrations

| | PM ₁₀ | PM _{2.5} | Basis for the selected level |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--|
| Interim target-1 (IT-1) | 150 | 75 | Based on published risk coefficients from multi-centre studies and meta-analyses (about 5% increase of short-term mortality over the AQG value). |
| Interim target-2 (IT-2) | 100 | 50 | Based on published risk coefficients from multi-centre studies and meta-analyses (about 2.5% increase of short-term mortality over the AQG value). |
| Interim target-3 (IT-3) | 75 | 37.5 | Based on published risk coefficients from multi-centre studies and meta-analyses (about 1.2% increase in short-term mortality over the AQG value). |
| Air Quality Guideline (AQG) | 50 | 25 | Based on relationship between 24-hour and annual PM levels. |

Source : World Health Organization (2006)

Firstly, this research will be concerned with coarse particles that are ten micrometre in diameter (PM₁₀) or smaller. Previous researches have shown that particles larger than 10 µm in aerodynamic diameter did not penetrate the body's defences in nose, mouth, and upper airways so it is unlikely to cause respiratory effects (Dockery, 2009). PM₁₀ generally pass through the throat and nose and enter the lungs. Once inhaled, these particles can affect the heart and lungs and cause serious health effects (Dockery, 2009). Large particles can be trapped in nose and throat and are removed when cough or sneeze. In some areas, particulate matter can be very serious because of high levels of industrial activity.

PM₁₀ is also a useful indicator of several sources of outdoor air pollution, such as fossil-fuel combustion (Kunzli et al., 2000). Increase in ambient PM₁₀ concentration can lead to significant impacts on the respiratory health of children, the elderly and susceptible individuals, which are normally associated with reduced lung function, asthma, pneumonia, bronchitis and emphysema (Shamsul, 2002). At extremely high levels and long term exposure, it may even cause death.

Secondly, this research will focus on the short-term prediction of PM₁₀ concentration, gaseous pollutants and meteorological parameters. The simultaneous time series model will be used in this part. As Malaysia has two seasons which is wet season and dry season by referring to the south west monsoon and north east monsoon (Md Yusof et al., 2010 ; Oliver et al., 2011), the time series modelling will also consider the seasonality.

In Malaysia, all monitoring stations by the Department of Environment are used to observe PM₁₀ concentration, gaseous pollutants and also meteorological parameters. Figure 1.11 shows the annual average concentration of PM₁₀ in Malaysia from 1999 to 2011. The Malaysia Ambient Air Quality Guideline (MAAQG) for the annual mean of PM₁₀ concentration is 50 µg/m³. In 1999, there are only 45 monitoring stations but increase to 51 stations in 2003. Another monitoring station was added bringing the total numbers of monitoring stations are 52. The annual average of PM₁₀ concentration between 1999 and 2011 complied with the MAAQG. Even though the annual average of PM₁₀ concentration did not exceed the limit, but in 2002, the annual mean was 50 µg/m³.

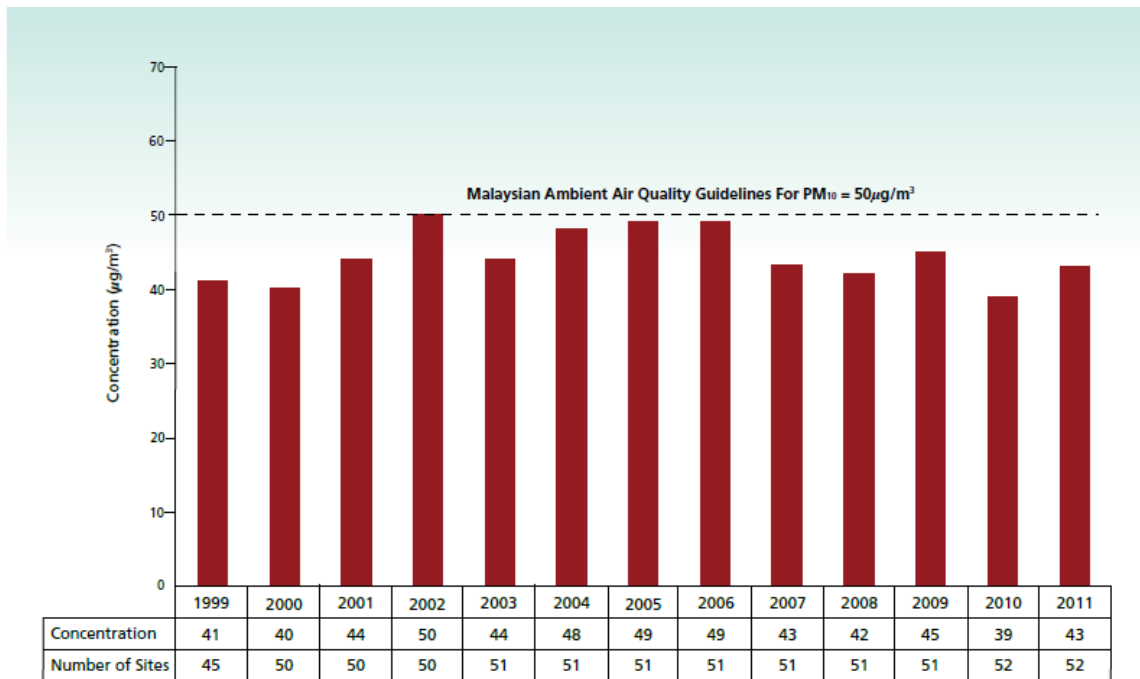


Figure 1.11 : Annual Average Concentration of PM₁₀ in Malaysia from 1999 to 2011
Source : Department of Environment (2011)

Figure 1.12 give the detail of the annual average concentration of PM₁₀ by land type from 1999 to 2011. Almost every year, the urban area recorded the highest mean of PM₁₀ concentration. In 2002, 2004 and 2005, the annual mean of PM₁₀ concentration in urban area exceeded the Malaysia Ambient Air Quality Guideline.

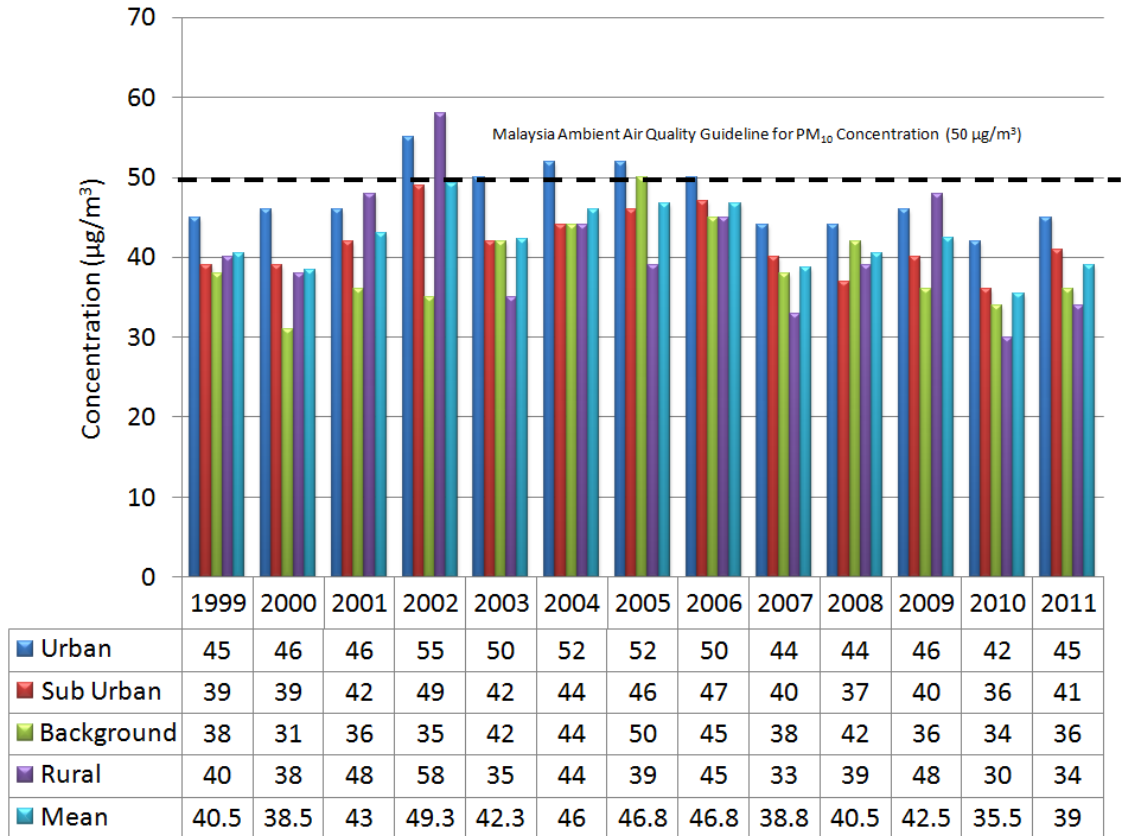


Figure 1.12 : Annual average concentration of PM₁₀ by land type
Source : Department of Environment (2011)

The sources of particulate matter in 2011 are given in Figure 1.13. The highest contributor of particulate matter emission was from industrial sources which is 42%. At second place with a total contribution of 25% is from power plant. Motor vehicles were also one of the main contributors with a total contribution of 17% and the remaining from other sources. From Figure 1.13, industrial sources is a major contributor to the particulate matter pollution in Malaysia.

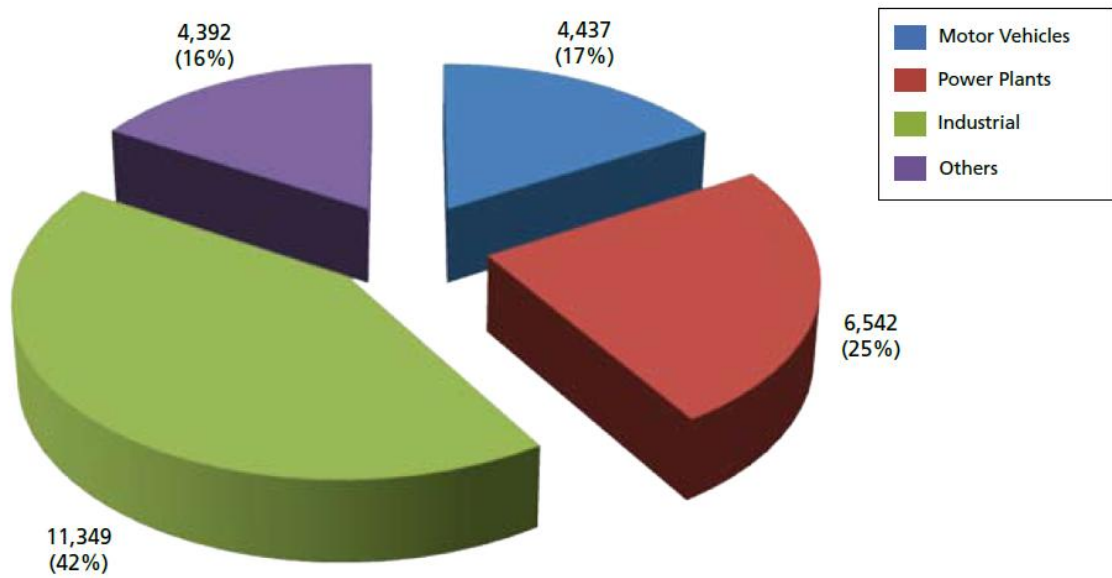


Figure 13: Particulate Matter emission load by sources in Malaysia in 2011
(Source : Department of Environment Malaysia, 2011)