

Problems, Analyses, Actions, Evaluations and Measurements of Road Safety in Brunei

Mohammed Ohidul Haque, Ph. D (Sydney), Professor of Econometrics and Statistics
Universiti Brunei Darussalam

ABSTRACT

This paper demonstrates how action research can be done in road safety area, using Brunei road fatality data. Brunei has a tragic road safety history, where road accidents result 79 fatalities and 495 injuries in 1993. Many road safety initiatives were then taken to reduce road casualties, which worked well and effectively reduced road casualties. But recently road fatality increases which can be reflected by various media reports. For example, on February 6, 2009, the Brunei Times reported “38 road accidents, three fatalities reported in four days”, which is very high for a country of population 388, 498. I have then discussed this matter with the Royal Brunei Police Force, and various road safety workers in Brunei to understand the problem. I then collected the relevant data and undertook a through investigation of road safety situation in Brunei and delivered a public lecture, where various concerned people from the community were present on April 22, 2009, showing that there is a significant upward trend of road casualties in recent times due to lax of enforcement of traffic laws. I then advocated for re-enforcement and implementation of all traffic law, which was taken very seriously and all widely circulated newspapers and the country’s TV widely published this finding. Almost instantly, police acted and worked very seriously to implement all road safety laws strictly including heavy police presence on roads. Complete data of road casualties of Brunei are now available until December 2009. I have evaluated the effects of re-enforcement of traffic laws in Brunei by two popular methods, viz., (i) the pre-post method, and (ii) the time series intervention method; which indicated that the traffic law re-enforcement in Brunei significantly reduced road fatality for the first seven-month post re-enforcement period: May 2009 to December 2009.