Since the seminal works on population-development nexus in the 1980s, Malaysian demography has undergone dramatic changes amidst rapid socio-economic development. The high rate of population growth has eased due to continuing decline in fertility despite the reversal of an anti-natalist policy. Subsequently, severe labour shortage has caused an influx of migrant workers from various parts of the world, making Malaysia a major labour importing country, while experiencing brain drain at the same time.

This book is a timely reminder that population issues are very much prescient, and that they need to be addressed urgently. The various chapters highlight the population issues that will impact this nation sooner than expected. These issues include the ageing of the population, with implications for the government's fiscal burden and demand patterns for health services and housing at the macro- and sectoral levels but also for families at the micro-level. The focus is also on human capital for national development. The other pertinent issues include the inexorable concentration of population in the cities with all the environmental consequences.