

### **The Star VIEWS Friday 6 March 2009**

We would like to thank S.O.S, Kuala Lumpur for his view on the importance of SMS in the flood warning system to alert the public on the flood situation which was published in The Star on Friday 6 March 2009.

For S.O.S and general public information, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) through its implementation agency, Malaysian Meteorological Department (MMD) had implemented the SMS alert system for severe weather, earthquake and tsunami warnings. These warnings are disseminate to selected users such as the disaster management agencies and the media.

We are pleased to inform S.O.S that MMD with the cooperation of MAMPU and telecommunication companies (telcos) is currently developing an SMS alerts system, that enable the general public to request weather information and warnings on severe weather, rough sea condition, earthquake and tsunami. This system is under the testing phase. Public who wish to request the current weather warnings need to type: jmm<space>wx<space>warning and send to 15888. MMD provides such services free of charge to the public. However, the users need to pay some fee to the telcos and the SMS gateway provider for such service.

A part from weather warnings, MMD also provides marine warnings, earthquake information and tsunami warnings, typhoon information and weather information for major towns and cities in Malaysia. The detailed information of these services can be obtained from MMD website <http://www.met.gov.my> from 15 March 2009.