

CHAPTER 6:

Assessment on Traffic Noise Pollution in Malaysia

6.1 Introduction

The transportation system and its technology in Malaysia continues to evolve over time to meet the challenges towards fulfilling the aspirations of the people. The rapid development in the transportation system is of concern due to its significant effects on the environment and human health. Almost all human activities including traffic and transportation contribute to pollution such as noise and it has become an inevitable issue.

Nowadays, noise pollution has become a worldwide issue and it relates with the quality of life especially in urban areas (Piccolo and Plutino, 2005). The situation is increasingly ubiquitous yet the unnoticed forms of pollution ensues even in developed countries. There are many sources of noise pollution which arises from transportation systems, industries, construction, public works and neighborhoods. Apparently, the transportation system is the predominant source of the noise pollution among those sources (Méline J. et al., 2013). There are three main modes of transportation system that have led to the noise pollution, for instance by road (traffic), rail and air. Extensive research reports have described that noise pollution from road traffic has become a major problem in Malaysia. The increasing number of vehicles has pervasively led towards traffic noise pollution (Shuokr et al., 2012 and Yuen, 2014).

In recent years, a lot of action had been taken to overcome these problems, but these actions have also been successively overtaken by the permanent growth of public traffic. This is kept in pace with the increase in the number of motor vehicles and the extension of the road, rail network and also the expansion of air transport that contributes to the growing noise pollution. Golmohammadi et al. (2009) also revealed that the road traffic noise has become the most significant