In Memory of My Father (November 8, 1998)



ABSTRACT

Financial liberalization had caused instability in the money demand function as well as in the velocity of money. As a result, money supply is no longer reliable as the main intermediate target and there appeared to be a shift in the technique of monetary control towards greater reliance on interest rates as the main operating instrument. Developing countries that continue to emphasize on quantitative method in their monetary framework while at the same time implement financial reforms may face the problem of a loss of monetary control and hence, monetary policy may possibly not be effective in influencing income or prices. Although Malaysia has moved to give greater emphasis to interest rates in its monetary operations since the 1990s, it continues to rely on M3 as the implicit intermediate target. The shift in monetary framework has allowed for greater flexibility in the conduct of monetary policy. This move has made monetary policy become more effective in affecting real output and prices. During the sample period under review, broad money M3 appeared to statistically show low significance in its predictive power with respect to income. Nevertheless, both narrow money M1 and broad money M3 were found to have long run relationships with real output but not with prices. However, both aggregates seemed to be poor variables in their role in providing information to movements in prices. On the other hand, interest rates have gained significance and this is evidence by the empirical results in this study.

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ABBREVIATIONS

M1GR - annual growth rate of narrow money M1 for Malaysia
M2GR - annual growth rate of broad money M2 for Malaysia
M3GR - annual growth rate of broad money M3 for Malaysia
CURRGR - annual growth rate of currency in circulation for Malaysia

RMGR - annual growth rate of reserve money in Malaysia IR3M - 3 month inter-bank interest rate in Malaysia

ALR - average lending rate of commercial banks in Malaysia

CB FD - commercial banks fixed deposit rate
NGNP - nominal gross national product

M3CRGR - annual growth rate of private sector credit defined under broad

money M3 for Malaysia

DEPGR - annual growth rate of private sector deposits defined under

Broad money M3 for Malaysia

RIR3M - 3 month inter-bank real interest rates

IRMY_SG - interest rate differential between Malaysia and Singapore IRMY_UK - interest rate differential between Malaysia and United Kingdom IRMY_US - interest rate differential between Malaysia and United States

RIRFD - fixed deposit real interest rate

RGDPGR - annual growth rate of real gross domestic product

CPIGR - inflation rate in Malaysia

UKIBR3M - United Kingdom 3 month inter-bank interest rate

UKINF - United Kingdom inflation rate

UKGDPGR - United Kingdom annual growth rate of real gross domestic product

UKM0GR - United Kingdom annual growth rate of narrow money M0

USFFR - United States federal funds rate
USINF - United States inflation rate

USGDPGR - United States annual growth rate of real gross domestic product

USM2GR - United States annual growth rate of money supply M2

FRIBOR - France inter-bank offered rate

FRINF - France inflation rate

FRGDPGR - France annual growth rate of real gross domestic product

FRMSURGR - France annual growth rate of monetary survey

BDIBR - Germany inter-bank interest rate

BDINF - Germany inflation rate

BDGDPGR - Germany annual growth rate of real gross domestic product

BDM3GR - Germany annual growth rate of broad money M3

IDGDPGR - Indonesia annual growth rate of real gross domestic product

IDINF - Indonesia inflation rate

IDIBR - Indonesia inter-bank interest rate

IDMSURGR - Indonesia annual growth rate of monetary survey

THCALL - Thailand call rate
THINF - Thailand inflation rate

THGDPGR - Thailand annual growth rate of real gross domestic product

THGMSURGR - Thailand annual growth rate of monetary survey

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