



**KEMENTERIAN PERALIHAN TENAGA DAN
TRANSFORMASI AIR**

OFFICIAL OPENING ADDRESS

**YAB. DATO' SRI HAJI FADILLAH BIN HAJI YUSOF
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MALAYSIA
AND MINISTER OF ENERGY TRANSITION AND WATER
TRANSFORMATION (PETRA)**

TRENCHLESS ASIA 2025

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KUALA LUMPUR CONVENTION CENTRE (KLCC)



[Salutations]

Assalamu'alaikum WBT and Salam Malaysia Madani.

A very good morning to all distinguished guests at Trenchless Asia 2025. I have been made to understand that the inaugural Trenchless Asia 2016 was held right here in KLCC, and Trenchless Asia 2025 is the fourth time such an event has been held in Malaysia. It is good to welcome the international trenchless community back to our shores.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we all know, rapid urban development is happening at an unprecedented pace in Malaysia. This progress calls for a corresponding expansion of our infrastructure to support the growing needs of our population. However, while we build for the future, we must remain mindful of the environmental impact of this expansion and the disruption it may cause to communities.

Trenchless technology has emerged as a practical and sustainable solution to addressing these challenges. Applications such as pipe jacking have made it possible to lay sewer lines in urban and congested areas with minimal surface disruption, playing a key role in the expansion and modernization of Malaysia's sewerage systems.

In the Klang Valley, the **Sewerage Services Department (Jabatan Perkhidmatan Pembetungan, JPP)** under the Ministry of Energy Transition and Water Transformation (PETRA), has implemented several remarkable regional sewerage projects. These have successfully connected millions of households to centralized sewage treatment systems, improving effluent discharge standard and protecting our precious rivers for future generations. Similar efforts have been extended to **Ipoh, Penang, Kuantan**, and other regions across the country.

This is where trenchless technology becomes indispensable. By minimizing excavation and surface disturbance, trenchless methods help preserve the environment, reduce community disruption, and avoid damaging existing infrastructure. They enable faster, safer, and more cost-efficient construction qualities that are essential for sustainable and accelerated infrastructure growth.

Beyond sewerage, trenchless applications have proven their worth in the construction of **water and gas pipelines, telecommunications networks**, and **underground utilities**. As we continue to prioritize sustainability, trenchless solutions should be recognized not just as alternatives, but as **technologies of choice** in our development strategies.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Malaysia's commitment to sustainable infrastructure is further reinforced through the national agenda of **AIR 2040**, a long-term strategy aimed at reforming our water services sector to become more resilient, integrated, and future-proof.

This transformation envisions a comprehensive overhaul of the water and wastewater ecosystems, focusing on three key pillars: **sustainability**, **efficiency**, and **innovation**. Among its goals are reducing non-revenue water (NRW), enhancing wastewater treatment standards, modernizing water assets, and ensuring water security for all Malaysians.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I believe trenchless technology will play a vital role in realizing this vision. Its low-impact, high-efficiency methodologies align seamlessly with the goals of AIR 2040, particularly in the rehabilitation of aging pipelines, upgrading of sewer networks, and integrating smart water solutions. With trenchless approaches, we can modernize water infrastructure even faster with minimum disruption or delays often associated with conventional methods.

By incorporating trenchless technologies into the AIR 2040 roadmap, Malaysia positions itself as a regional leader in adopting innovative, eco-conscious solutions to address critical water and wastewater challenges. This synergy between policy and technology is essential for long-term success.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Innovation will be the key to pushing the boundaries of trenchless technology even further. We must embrace new ideas, new tools, and new methods that enhance the practicality and viability of these systems. Just as importantly, we need to develop and share **local experience**, tailored to Malaysia's unique conditions, to ensure that we maximize the

full potential of trenchless solutions. Collaboration with government bodies, industry stakeholders, and international partners is essential to build a sustainable infrastructure ecosystem.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Malaysia's commitment to the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** reinforces our drive to adopt technologies that are environmentally conscious, economically viable, and socially responsible. I welcome the participation of both local and international trenchless practitioners in this journey. Let us turn the ideas and inspiration from **Trenchless Asia 2025** into meaningful and long-term commercial opportunities that contribute to a sustainable future.

Furthermore, I welcome the idea of collaboration between **International Society for Trenchless Technology (ISTT)** with local know-how practitioners to build awareness of trenchless technology applications at the academic level. By integrating trenchless technologies into **university curricula and vocational programs**, we can equip our graduates with the knowledge and skills needed to embrace these modern technologies. A skilled, future-ready workforce is crucial to supporting Malaysia's efforts to generate **high-value jobs** and drive innovation in the infrastructure sector.

In conclusion, trenchless technology is more than just a construction method, it is a vital enabler of sustainable development. Let us all work together to advance its application, nurture local expertise, and drive innovation for the benefit of future generations.

To all delegates of **Trenchless Asia 2025**, I wish you a fruitful and engaging experience. While you network and explore new ideas at the event, I hope you also take time to enjoy the many attractions across **Kuala Lumpur** and throughout **Malaysia**, and experience the warmth of our culture and hospitality.

With that, I am honored to officially officiate the opening of **Trenchless Asia 2025**.

Wabillahitaufig Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi
Wabarakatuh