



PRESS RELEASE

MINISTRY OF ENERGY TRANSITION AND WATER TRANSFORMATION (PETRA)

GLOBAL WATER CRISIS KNOWS NO BORDERS: MALAYSIA LEADS CALL FOR URGENT COOPERATION

PARIS, 13th May 2025 – Malaysia calls on the international community to strengthen cooperation in addressing the global water crisis – a transboundary challenge impacting nations of rich and poor alike. Strategic partnerships and coordinated policy actions are essential to securing a sustainable and resilient water future for all.

While sharing Malaysia’s experience at the Global Water Summit 2025 in Paris, the Deputy Prime Minister cum Minister Energy Transition and Water Transformation, YAB Dato’ Sri Fadillah Haji Yusof said, it is time for the global community to recognise water as an invaluable resource to human survival and development.

During his speech at the Opening Plenary Session: “Delivering the Economics of Water” today, YAB Dato’ Sri Fadillah stated that water is the lifeblood of the planet that unites the global community in a shared responsibility. Therefore, the global water crisis, which transcends borders and economies, demands urgent collaboration.

Sharing the nation’s progressive approach to sustainable water management, Dato Sri Haji Fadillah highlighted both its successes and lessons learned, reaffirming Malaysia’s commitment to offering its expertise as a model for countries facing similar water security issues.

In his address, Dato’ Sri Haji Fadillah outlined key milestones in Malaysia’s water management journey, emphasising reforms that have transitioned the country from fragmented state governance to a more

coordinated federal-state partnership. He also underscored Malaysia's ongoing efforts to manage growing demands, including urbanisation, climate change and industrial water use.

The Key Highlights from Malaysia's Water Sector Transformation 2040 Agenda:

1. **Shifting Perspectives on Water** – Malaysia is focusing on treating water as a precious, finite resource. The nation is accelerating smart water management systems and implementing a matching grants program to reduce non-revenue water (NRW) with co-funding from federal government.
2. **Strengthening Private Sector Collaboration** – Malaysia is inviting private sector investment to help drive innovation in water management. New policies are fostering opportunities for greater participation in green initiatives, water reclamation and the use of alternative energy sources in water infrastructure.
3. **Proactive Preparedness for Climate Change** – Malaysia is strengthening its resilience to climate change by enhancing flood forecasting, advance data modelling and scenario planning to better anticipate extreme weather events.

Dato Sri Fadillah also added that Malaysia's active role in regional efforts, particularly within ASEAN, while extended an invitation to global innovators to invest in and collaborate on the next generation of water technologies.

Meanwhile, Indah Water Konsortium (IWK) Sdn Bhd Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Narendran Maniam stated that resource recovery has shifted from a discretionary measure to a policy imperative, driven by the pressing need to enhance environmental resilience and ensure sustainable resource management amid escalating economic and ecological pressures. Narendran added that for IWK, resource recovery has evolved from being a nice-to-have to a necessity, with a focus on three main drivers:

1. **Commitment to Environmental Sustainability** – IWK is dedicated to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, minimising waste and creating positive environmental impact through all its efforts.

2. **Changing the Utilities Landscape** – by becoming the second tap for the nation. As Malaysia is rapidly becoming a regional hub for data centres, it presents a unique opportunity for IWK to support the sustainability of Malaysia's data centre industry through reclaimed water supply.
3. **Economic Values and Financial Sustainability.**

In line with the Malaysia MADANI concept, which emphasizes the well-being of the people and environmental sustainability in governance and national development, the Government of Malaysia remains committed to promoting sustainable water management practices through continuous innovation, strategic partnerships, and collective global solutions.

**MINISTRY OF ENERGY TRANSITION AND WATER
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