



OFFICIAL OPENING SPEECH

YAB Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah bin Haji Yusof
Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia
Minister of Energy Transition and Water Transformation
(PETRA)

THE MALAYSIAN WATER ASSOCIATION
WATER MALAYSIA 2025 SPECIALISED CONFERENCE AND
EXHIBITION

Theme: Pipeline Materials, Design, Construction,
Monitoring and Maintenance for Water and Sewerage
Systems

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Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

(Salutations)

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,
Salam Malaysia MADANI, and a very good morning.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is an honour to address this distinguished gathering at the **Water Malaysia 2025 Specialised Conference and Exhibition** on Pipeline Materials, Design, Construction, Monitoring and Maintenance for Water and Sewerage Systems.
2. This year's theme speaks to both urgency and opportunity: **the urgent need to modernise our pipeline systems, strengthen operational efficiency, and address the pressing challenges of leakages and disruptions; and the opportunity to reimagine Malaysia's water sector as a model of resilience, sustainability, and service excellence.**
3. These are not just technical concerns – they are matters of national importance that touch every family, every community, and every generation.

A Moment of Transformation

4. We stand at a defining point in Malaysia's water sector. The decisions we make today will shape the reliability, sustainability, and equity of our water services for generations to come. Our task is not only to upgrade pipeline technology, but also to strengthen the frameworks that govern them – ensuring that every household receives clean, reliable water with resilience and efficiency.

Four Strategic Pillars for Reform

5. PETRA, together with SPAN, is committed to driving change through a comprehensive policy and regulatory framework anchored on four key pillars:
- **Efficiency First** – Efficiency must be integrated from design to operation, considering not just initial costs but also full lifecycle value, environmental impact, and community benefit.
 - **Digital Transformation** – Harness IoT sensors, AI-driven analytics, and smart DMZs to create

responsive, predictive systems that detect leaks early and optimise pressure in real time.

- **Resilience Planning** – Standardise durable materials and design networks that can adapt to climate change, urbanisation, and future needs.
- **Stakeholder Engagement** – Ensure policies and technologies serve people, with inclusive engagement involving communities, regulators, and utilities.

Operational Efficiency: From Principle to Practice

6. Efficiency must be more than a principle on paper – it must become a culture we live and breathe. **True progress lies in moving from ideas to action, from theory to transformation.** That is why we will adopt **condition-based asset replacement programmes**, ensuring that every upgrade is timely, purposeful, and aligned with real needs – not bound by rigid schedules.

7. **We will unify material standards to protect against corrosion and strengthen the very backbone of our infrastructure.** And we will establish water knowledge hubs – centres of excellence where best practices in

rehabilitation, innovation, and rapid response are captured, shared, and scaled.

8. These are not small measures. **They are bold steps toward a future where our assets last longer, our water systems are resilient, and our people – the rakyat – experience a higher quality of service every day.** This is how we turn efficiency into legacy, ensuring that what we build today continues to serve generations to come.

Financing Transformation

9. Transformation requires more than ideas – it requires financing that rewards innovation. That is why we will restructure water utility funding through performance-linked mechanisms that incentivise efficiency and outcomes.
10. We will mobilise **green investment vehicles, including bonds, to accelerate sustainable infrastructure.** These are not just financial instruments – they are investments in resilience, predictive maintenance, and smart infrastructure deployment. The

true return will be measured not merely in ringgit, but in trust, sustainability, and service excellence for the rakyat.

Empowering the Workforce

11. Technology alone cannot drive change. **It is our people – engineers, technicians, operators, leaders – who are the true drivers of progress.** That is why we are building a future-ready workforce through water academies, mentoring programmes, and continuous talent development.
12. A culture of excellence, built on human capability, will sustain the water sector's resilience.

Building Accountability and Trust

13. Trust must be earned and maintained. We need to strengthen public confidence in our water systems. We will move from reactive to proactive regulation by enforcing higher standards for pipeline quality, mandating inspections, and publishing outcomes transparently through a **Pipeline Accountability Portal.**

14. This platform will provide the rakyat with real-time reporting on disruptions, leakage rates, and resolution timelines. Transparency builds trust, and trust strengthens public confidence in our service delivery.

Learning and Innovating

15. This conference is more than an exchange of knowledge – it is a launchpad for innovation. Together, we will showcase success stories, from trenchless technologies to public-private partnerships, and explore future frontiers like Digital Twin Technology, behaviour-driven pressure optimisation, and smart routing.

16. The future we build is not left to chance – it is shaped by deliberate decisions and collective will. Today, we are laying down not only pipelines of steel, but also pipelines of trust, innovation, and hope – ensuring that Malaysia's water sector becomes a benchmark for the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

17. This gathering is not just a meeting of experts; it is a call to action. Let us share, innovate, and commit to excellence so that together, we may drastically reduce

water loss, improve service delivery, and secure a water-resilient Malaysia.

18. **With *Bismillahirrahmanirrahim*, I am honoured to officially declare the MWA Water Malaysia 2025 Specialised Conference and Exhibition open.** May this conference be fruitful, transformative, and inspiring for us all.

Wabillahi Taufik Walhidayah, Wassalamualaikum
Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Terima kasih. Thank you.