



KEMENTERIAN PERALIHAN TENAGA  
DAN TRANSFORMASI AIR

## **OFFICIAL OPENING ADDRESS**

**YB TUAN HAJI AKMAL NASRULLAH BIN MOHD NASIR  
DEPUTY MINISTER  
OF ENERGY TRANSITION AND WATER TRANSFORMATION**

**FOR**

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER RESOURCES 2025**

**EVERLY HOTEL, PUTRAJAYA  
23 SEPTEMBER 2025**

[SALUTATIONS]

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam Malaysia Madani and a very good morning to all of you.

**Yang Berbahagia Dato' Haji Mad Zaidi Bin Mohd Karli**

Secretary General, Ministry of Energy Transition and Water Transformation (PETRA)

**Yang Berusaha Prof. Dr. Shamsul bin Sahibuddin,**  
performing the function of Head of UTM Campus (Kuala Lumpur Branch)

**Yang Berusaha Ir. Haji Mohd. Azmin Bin Hussin**

Deputy Director General of Department of Irrigation and Drainage Malaysia (DID)

**Yang Berusaha Profesor Ts. Dr. Mohd. Rosli bin Hainin**

Dean of the Faculty of Civil Engineering (FKA) Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

**Yang Berbahagia Dato' Ir. Ratna Rajah a/l Sivapiragasam**

Co-Chair of ICWR 2025,  
Director of Humid Tropics Centre Kuala Lumpur (HTC KL), Department of Irrigation and Drainage Malaysia (DID)

**Yang Berusaha Dr. Noraliani binti Alias**

Co-Chair of ICWR 2025 (UTM)  
Head of the Water and Environmental Engineering Department Faculty of Civil Engineering (FKA), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

**Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

## INTRODUCTION

1. First and foremost, praise be to God. It is His grace that allows us to gather here today for the **6th International Conference on Water Resources (ICWR 2025)**. This conference serves as a vital platform for academic discourse, where we can come together to understand, address, and leverage various aspects of water resource management on both local and global scale.

2. I want to extend my sincere thanks to the organizers — the **Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) Malaysia**, the **Humid Tropics Centre Kuala Lumpur (HTC KL)**, **UNESCO-IHP Malaysia**, **Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)**, and all our strategic partners. Your collective efforts have made this conference a reality.

## THE THEME OF ICWR 2025

Ladies, and gentlemen,

3. The theme of this year's conference, “**Embracing Change for a Resilient Future in Water Resources**”, aligns perfectly with the UNESCO IHP-IX strategic framework for 2022–2029. This framework prioritizes five key transformative areas — scientific research and innovation, water education in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, bridging data and knowledge gaps, integrated water management in the face of global change, and science-based water governance for mitigation and resilience. These priorities are not only in sync with global aspirations, but they are also highly relevant to the reality we face today. Climate change,

population growth, and increasing pressure on our water resources demand that we adapt efficiently and wisely.

## CHALLENGES RELATED TO WATER RESOURCES

4. Malaysia itself faces diverse challenges related to water resources. We are well aware of the increasingly frequent **large-scale floods, prolonged droughts, and river pollution**. The recent extraordinary flood incident in the Skudai River Basin in Johor Bahru serves as a stark reminder of how exceptional rainfall and high tides can devastate thousands of lives. Likewise, the severe floods in Sabah just last week claimed many lives and disrupted electricity supply, underscoring once again the urgency of strengthening our resilience.

5. The country also experienced hot and dry weather in 2024 due to the **El Niño phenomenon**, which significantly impacted our water supply. River pollution is another serious concern. A staggering **27 of Malaysia's 672 monitored rivers** are classified as polluted, primarily due to industrial, agricultural, residential, and livestock activities.

6. In light of these challenges, it is high time we implement comprehensive, coordinated, and integrated actions. Collaboration among government agencies, industries, communities, and non-governmental organizations is absolutely essential to ensure our nation's water resources remain clean, safe, and sufficient for current and future generations.

## PETRA'S INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Ladies, and gentlemen,

7. The Malaysian government, through the **Ministry of Energy Transition and Water Transformation (PETRA)**, is actively strengthening the **National Water Policy** to ensure water security and the well-being of our people. This policy also aims to transform Malaysia into a dynamic water hub, contributing to our economy, creating jobs, and driving research and technological innovation.

8. Under the **13th Malaysia Plan**, several key initiatives have been outlined:

- i. The implementation of **Flood Mitigation Projects** in high-risk locations such as the Johor River Basin, Sungai Muar, Sungai Pahang, Sungai Likas, Sungai Trolak, and Kuching City.
- ii. The use of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** in flood forecasting and early warning systems to enable faster and more accurate responses.
- iii. Adopting **innovative approaches in flood adaptation**, such as the construction of floating houses, elevated buildings on stilts, the use of flood-resistant materials, and the development of sponge city implementation guidelines for local authorities.

- iv. A **comprehensive Water Transformation Roadmap** that includes reducing **Non-Revenue Water (NRW)**, promoting the use of **recycled water**, and empowering local innovation.
- v. **Close cooperation** between the Federal Government, state governments, and the private sector to ensure long-term water supply stability.

## OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Ladies, and gentlemen,

9. The challenges of water management are too vast for any one party to handle alone. They demand the **cooperation of the entire international community**, transcending national borders. Malaysia is committed to working hand-in-hand with all stakeholders to ensure water resource management is resilient, sustainable, and equitable for generations to come.

10. I am confident that this conference will strengthen our networks, broaden our knowledge horizon, and foster new strategies that will benefit not only Malaysia but also the global community as a whole.

## CONCLUSION

11. Therefore, by the grace of God, I am honored to declare the **6th International Conference on Water Resources (ICWR 2025)** officially open. May this conference be a significant milestone for our global efforts

to build a more sustainable, resilient, and prosperous future for water resources.

**Wabillahi Taufiq Wal Hidayah.**

**Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.**

**Thank you.**