



MEDIA RELEASE

MALAYSIA LEADS GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON SCIENCE-BASED AND INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT AT ICWR 2025

KUALA LUMPUR, 23rd September 2025– The 6th International Conference on Water Resources (ICWR 2025)’s theme, “Embracing Change for a Resilient Future in Water Resources” is aligned with the UNESCO IHP-IX Strategic Framework (2022–2029) to promote scientific innovation, education, data sharing, integrated water management, and science-based governance.

Uniting global experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to address pressing water management challenges, the conference was officiated today by YB Tuan Haji Akmal Nasrullah bin Mohd Nasir, Deputy Minister of Energy Transition and Water Transformation.

Through Ministry of Energy Transition and Water Transformation (PETRA), the Government of Malaysia is reinforcing the National Water Policy and implementing key initiatives under the 13th Malaysia Plan, including flood mitigation projects in high-risk river basins and urban areas; AI-powered flood forecasting and early warning systems; a comprehensive Water Transformation Roadmap focusing on reducing non-revenue water, advancing water recycling, and promoting innovation; and stronger federal, state, and private sector collaboration to ensure long-term water security.

The conference highlights the urgent water-related challenges facing Malaysia, including floods, prolonged droughts, and river pollution. The recent severe flooding in Johor Bahru's Skudai River Basin and the 2024 El Niño drought underscore the need for integrated and adaptive approaches. Currently, 27 of the nation's 672 monitored rivers are classified as polluted due to industrial, agricultural, residential, and livestock activities. This was emphasized by the Deputy Minister of Energy Transition and Water Transformation during his keynote address at the opening of ICWR 2025.

The opening ceremony was also attended by YBhg. Dato' Haji Mad Zaidi bin Mohd Karli, Secretary General of the 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) and YBrs. Ir. Haji Mohd. Azmin Bin Hussin; Deputy Director General DID Malaysia. The conference, which runs from 23 to 25 September 2025, is organized by Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Department of Irrigation and Drainage Malaysia (DID), together with the Humid Tropics Centre Kuala Lumpur (HTC KL), UNESCO-IHP Malaysia.

ICWR 2025 is expected to strengthen partnerships, expand scientific knowledge, and inspire innovative strategies that will benefit Malaysia and the global community, in line with the aspirations of Malaysia MADANI which emphasize sustainability of natural resources for the nation.

**MINISTRY OF ENERGY TRANSITION AND WATER
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