



KEMENTERIAN PERALIHAN TENAGA DAN
TRANSFORMASI AIR

OFFICIAL SPEECH

YAB DATUK AMAR HAJI FADILLAH BIN HAJI YUSOF

**DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA &
MINISTER OF ENERGY TRANSITION AND WATER
TRANSFORMATION (PETRA)**

FOR

**THE OPENING CEREMONY OF
MALAYSIA INTERNATIONAL WATER CONVENTION (MIWC) 2025**

**14 OCTOBER 2025 (TUESDAY) | 9:00 AM
WORLD TRADE CENTRE, KL**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

Salam Malaysia MADANI, and a very good morning.

SALUTATIONS

Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Amirudin bin Shari,
Dato' Menteri Besar Selangor

Yang Berbahagia Dato' Mohd Rodzwan bin Mohd Baba Sakri,
Deputy Secretary-General (Water), PETRA

Yang Berusaha Tuan Hairi Basri,
President of The Malaysian Water Association (MWA)

Yang Berbahagia Datuk Ir. Abdul Kadir Mohd Din,
Chairman, Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Air Negara (SPAN)

Yang Berbahagia Dato' Ahmad Faizal bin Abdul Rahman,
Chief Executive Officer, Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Air Negara (SPAN)

Yang Berusaha Tuan Narendran Maniam,
Chief Executive Officer, Indah Water Konsortium (IWK)

Yang Berusaha Tuan Adam Saffian Ghazali FCA,
Chief Executive Officer, Air Selangor

Yang Berusaha Tuan Mohd Hedzir bin Hanafi,
Chief Executive Officer, Ranhill Utilities Berhad

Yang Berbahagia Dato' Ir. Pathmanathan A/L Krishnan Kutty Raman Nair,
Group Chief Executive Officer, Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang (PBAPP)

Yang Berusaha Tuan Ir. Zulkiflee Omar,
Chief Executive Officer, Pengurusan Aset Air Berhad (PAAB)

Yang Berusaha Tuan Faharuddin Ibrahim,
Director/Head of Business, Cubiq Meter Sdn Bhd

Yang Berusaha Mr. Oh Chean Seong,
Chief Executive Officer, Koson Technology Sdn Bhd

Yang Berusaha Mr. Ronald Chiew,
Group Managing Director, PROTEMP Group, and Organiser of
MIWC 2025

Distinguished Guests,
Representatives of Water Operators,
Industry Leaders, Members of Academia, Civil Society,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is indeed a great pleasure and a distinct honour to be here this morning at the **Malaysia International Water Convention 2025**, a gathering that reflects our nation's unwavering commitment to advancing sustainable and resilient water solutions.
2. This year's theme, "**Harnessing Water Potential, Empowering Opportunities: Technology, Applications, and Innovations,**" captures the very essence of Malaysia's vision — ***to transform water from a finite resource into an infinite opportunity for progress, prosperity, and sustainability.***

3. Allow me to begin by extending my heartfelt appreciation and warmest congratulations to the **Malaysian Water Association and the PROTEMP Group** for their dedication and professionalism in organising this prestigious event.
4. Your efforts not only strengthen Malaysia's position as a regional and global leader in the water community, but also demonstrate how partnership and purpose can translate into impact and innovation.
5. I also commend all water operators, utilities, experts, and practitioners gathered here today. Through your collective expertise and tireless commitment, Malaysia continues to make steady progress in ensuring that every citizen enjoys safe, reliable, and sustainable water services.
6. In line with our **commitment to modernization**, we must continue to **embrace innovation and digital transformation** across the water sector. Through **data-driven decision-making, smart monitoring systems, and real-time analytics**, utilities can detect inefficiencies earlier, optimize operations, and strengthen overall system resilience.

7. The shift towards **intelligent, technology-enabled water management** and improve service reliability, but also ensure that Malaysia's water industry remains **future-ready, adaptive, and globally competitive**.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. MIWC 2025 is more than a conference. **It is a catalyst for transformation.** It brings together government, industry, academia, and innovators — united by a common goal: to harness water's full potential, empower opportunities, and drive the next wave of technology and innovation.

As Jalaluddin Rumi once said: "You are not a drop in the ocean. You are the entire ocean in a drop."

9. His timeless words remind us that water is more than an element. It is a mirror of creation, a reflection of how each small effort ripples into something greater. Through this shared purpose, MIWC becomes a space where ideas evolve into action, and collaboration becomes the engine of progress.

10. Across the nation, our water professionals have demonstrated remarkable resilience, creativity, and excellence. From advanced treatment systems, to digital monitoring and smart networks, it is your ingenuity that keeps our nation's water flowing — sustaining lives, livelihoods, and growth.
11. At the same time, Malaysia must continue **to advance the use of bio-based and plant-derived technologies** as sustainable alternatives to traditional chemical treatments in water and wastewater processes.
12. These innovations not only **reduce our carbon footprint and minimise environmental impact**, but also **enhance resource efficiency** and **strengthen national self-reliance** by reducing dependence on imported materials.
13. Such efforts are fully aligned with our broader mission under the **National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR)** — to ensure that water sustainability and environmental stewardship move forward in harmony, creating lasting benefits for both people and planet.

14.A key highlight of this convention, the **Non-Revenue Water Workshop**, exemplifies this spirit of innovation. Reducing NRW is essential to improving efficiency, conserving resources, and ensuring long-term sustainability. Through smart metering, leak detection, and data-driven monitoring, Malaysia is taking bold steps to align with global sustainability goals and enhance operational excellence.

15.As we advance towards **Air 2040: Water Sector Transformation 2040**, Malaysia must take bold steps to **embrace emerging technologies** and **empower local innovators** to shape the future of our water industry. We must not only **adopt technologies from abroad**, but also **create, refine, and export Malaysian innovations** to the world.

16.By cultivating a vibrant ecosystem of **home-grown startups, researchers, and entrepreneurs**, we can build a strong foundation of **local intellectual property (IP)** — strengthening our national capacity, driving economic resilience, and **inspiring a new generation of**

technology leaders who will carry the nation's water legacy forward.

17. Equally inspiring is the **Young Water Professional Initiative**, particularly the **Mentor–Mentee Programme** that we are honoured to launch today. This initiative reflects our shared commitment to building the next generation of leaders, cultivating not only technical expertise but also the values of integrity, accountability, and innovation.

18. By linking experience with youth, and knowledge with curiosity, we ensure that Malaysia's water future remains in safe, capable, and visionary hands.

19. We must also strengthen the implementation of **Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)** by optimising all seven **TAPS of supply** — surface water, dams, groundwater, recycled water, rainwater harvesting, atmospheric and data-centre recovery, and desalination.

20. These sources must operate as **one integrated and adaptive system**, designed to **balance supply and demand efficiently** while enhancing resilience against climate variability and regional water stress.

21. Through a holistic IWRM framework, Malaysia can ensure that our **industrial, domestic, and environmental needs** are met sustainably — securing long-term water security for generations to come.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

22. I also wish to highlight the strategic collaboration between **PROTEMP and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia**. It is a partnership that bridges research and application, academia and industry, vision and reality.

23. Through initiatives like **NextWave Innovation**, PROTEMP continues to foster creativity, stimulate technological breakthroughs, and showcase future-ready solutions that can transform not just utilities, but entire communities. **These partnerships represent the collaborative DNA that Malaysia must continue to**

strengthen, where knowledge, technology, and purpose converge to create real-world impact.

24.To anchor all these efforts, **Malaysia envisions the establishment of a National Water Hub by 2040**, in alignment with the aspirations of **Air 2040: Water Sector Transformation 2040**.

25.This hub will serve as the **nerve centre of the nation's water ecosystem — connecting research, innovation, policy, and industry** under one dynamic framework.

26.Through a network of **regional sub-hubs across states**, it will empower local participation, accelerate knowledge exchange, and drive collaboration across sectors.

27.By 2040, the **National Water Hub will stand as a symbol of Malaysia's collective success — an integrated, innovative, and sustainable water ecosystem that reflects our commitment to secure the nation's future for generations to come.**

28. The mission of sustainable water management cannot rest on one institution alone. It requires collective responsibility with the combined efforts of policymakers, industry players, researchers, and communities.

29. **This is the spirit of MIWC 2025 — a celebration of collaboration, shared knowledge, and an unyielding pursuit of excellence.** Over the coming days, MIWC will serve as a platform for dialogue and discovery, where ideas become action, and innovation becomes transformation.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

30. In that shared spirit of purpose and progress, I am deeply honoured to officially declare open the **Malaysia International Water Convention 2025**, and to launch both the **NextWave Innovation initiative** and the **Young Water Professional Mentor–Mentee Programme**. These milestones mark our collective journey towards a sustainable, resilient, and technologically advanced water future for Malaysia and for the world alike.

***As the eminent scholar Ibn Khaldūn once reminded us,
“The strength of a civilisation lies in its unity. When people
come together with shared purpose, they build legacies
that endure.”***

31. Let this spirit of unity guide us, as governments, industries, and communities. Let us work hand in hand for a future where water sustains not only life, but also progress, equity, and peace.

32. Together, let us move forward with unity of purpose, clarity of vision, and confidence in our collective strength to secure a water-secure and sustainable tomorrow.

Wabillahi Taufik Walhidayah,

Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Terima kasih. Thank you.