



OPENING ADDRESS

YAB Datuk Amar Haji Fadillah bin Haji Yusof
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy Transition
and Water Transformation

in conjunction with

Asiawater 2026 Industry Night

7 April 2026, 8.00 pm
Sapphire Ballroom, Mandarin Oriental Kuala Lumpur

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

[Salutation]

Tan Sri Abdul Rahman Bin Mamat,
Chairman, Informa Markets Malaysia

Datuk Ir Abdul Kadir Bin Mohd Din,
Chairman, Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Air Negara (SPAN)

**Distinguished Guests, Industry Leaders, Valued Partners,
Members of the Media,**

Assalamualaikum and Salam Malaysia MADANI.

Opening

1. It is a pleasure to be with you again this evening. After a full day of exhibitions, technical sessions, and discussions, tonight offers us a chance to pause, reflect, and celebrate the community that continues to drive the water industry forward.

2. Gatherings like this remind us that beyond the conference halls and meeting rooms, it is the relationships we build and the recognition we give to one another that sustain progress.

Distinguished guest, ladies and gentlemen,

The Role of the Water Sector

3. The water sector plays a quiet yet indispensable role in our daily lives. When a tap is turned on, or when industries depend on water for their operations, there is an expectation of safety, reliability, and sustainability. Meeting that expectation, however, is becoming increasingly complex.
4. Utilities and operators face rising costs, ageing infrastructure, and tariff structures that do not always reflect the true cost of operations. Non-Revenue Water remains a pressing challenge, while climate-related events demand systems that are not only efficient but resilient.

Government Commitments

5. As I mentioned in my speech this morning, the Government, through PETRA, is taking a comprehensive approach in addressing these challenges. We are strengthening

infrastructure through targeted upgrades and pipe replacement programmes, while intensifying efforts to reduce Non-Revenue Water nationwide.

6. At the same time, we are working to improve the financial sustainability of the sector by reviewing funding approaches and supporting operators in building stronger operational capacity.
7. Digitalisation and advanced technologies are being adopted to improve efficiency and performance. But progress will ultimately depend on collaboration between government, industry, and all stakeholders across the water ecosystem.

Recognising the Industry

8. Behind these efforts are the people in this room, the **engineers, utilities, technology providers, researchers, and policymakers**. Your work, often unseen, ensures that water systems continue to serve our societies.
9. Despite challenges, the water industry is moving forward with innovation and determination. Smarter monitoring systems, more efficient treatment solutions, and digital technologies are being adopted. Utilities are improving

operations, while technology providers continue to introduce solutions that support sustainability and resource optimisation.

10. Government has also reinforced the use of **alternative water sources such as reclaimed water** to meet the growing demands of sectors like data centres. These are encouraging developments that show how innovation can translate into real-world impact.

Looking Ahead

11. As we look to the future, continued progress will depend on how well we collaborate, how we invest in modern infrastructure, and how effectively we turn innovation into tangible outcomes.
12. This is why platforms like **ASIAWATER** are so valuable. They bring together the global water community not only to showcase technologies, but to exchange ideas, strengthen partnerships, and build relationships that will shape solutions for years to come.

13. The conversations taking place here will extend far beyond this event, strengthening water systems across Malaysia and the wider region.

Closing

14. I would like to conclude by expressing my appreciation to the organisers of ASIAWATER, as well as to all exhibitors, partners, and participants who have contributed to making this event a success.

15. To everyone gathered here tonight, thank you for your dedication and for the important work you continue to do in advancing the water sector. I wish you a pleasant evening and a successful continuation of ASIAWATER 2026.

Terima kasih, thank you.

Wabillahi Taufik Wal Hidayah.

Wassalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.