



PRESS STATEMENT

MINISTRY OF WATER, LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES (KATS)

**YB DR. XAVIER JAYAKUMAR
MINISTER OF WATER, LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES (KATS)**

**“THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER RESOURCES
(ICWR 2018)”**

BAYVIEW HOTEL, LANGKAWI, KEDAH

27 NOVEMBER 2018 (TUESDAY)

1. YB. Dr. Xavier Jayakumar, the Minister of Water, Land and Natural Resources (KATS) delivered his officiating speech during the opening ceremony of **“The 4th International Conference On Water Resource (ICWR 2018)”** at the Bayview Hotel, Langkawi, Kedah.

2. The 4th International Conference On Water Resources is organised by Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) and the Department of Irrigation and Drainage Malaysia (DID) in collaboration with the Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources (KATS), Humid Tropics Centre Kuala Lumpur (HTC KL), Kedah State Government, Langkawi Development Authority (LADA), The Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO (MNCU), and other Agencies and Universities in Malaysia.

3. The international conference will be held from 27 until 28 November 2018 at Bayview Hotel, Langkawi, Kedah with the theme “Water As Resources And For Livelihood”, aims to bring together the academics, scientists, leading engineers, researchers, water managers, government officials and practitioners from wide range of disciplines working on water resources and sustainability science to collaborate, communicate and share their experiences and research findings, to reiterate the importance of managing water resources and to re-establish virtue and harmonizing the natural order of life through knowledge.

4. The global water sector faces immense challenges in the 21st century due to the emerging threat of climate change, rapid population growth and urbanization, changing demographics and energy constraints. This will eventually lead to more pressure on water needs and create competitions among the different users at national and basin scales. At the current time, more than 2 billion people are living with the risk of reduced access to freshwater resources and by 2050 at least one in four people is likely to live in a country affected by chronic or recurring shortages as of freshwater. In Malaysia, 82% of the water resources are unaccounted for water usage, discharges into rivers to the sea. This huge amount of water loss should be wisely and efficiently managed using available concept such as implementing rainwater harvesting. It is Ministry’s vision to spearhead the management of its portfolio through sustainability for the wellbeing of the nation to achieve a developed nation status in 2020, whereby Malaysia must conserve and manage its water resources well to ensure adequate and safe water for all in line with the Malaysian Water Vision.

5. Due to increasing water scarcity and uncertainty with the associated effects of insufficient water for people, energy, food and ecosystem, the water resources challenges to attain water security should be highlighted in the agenda for every government in this world. The process must include related targets for achieving water security, as this will address multiple priority development areas under consideration such as conflict; environmental sustainability; growth and employment; health, hunger, food and nutrition; energy and of course water. Thus, it is our mission to lead the integrated management of water, land and natural resources through efficient optimisation of resources in line with the national policies, laws and international commitments.

6. Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources (KATS) also embraces Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) and those policy directions were spelled in several Malaysia Development Plans as early as the 8th Malaysia Development Plan. As with many IWRM approaches which stresses the introduction of the enabling environments, Malaysia had launched its National Water Resources Policy (NWRP) in 2012 and now in the midst to legislate the National Water Resources Act (NWRA) for the purpose of introducing IWRM principles and elements and in promoting uniformity in water resources management. With these two key enablers in place, Malaysia hope to strengthen its water resources governance and management approaches.

7. Malaysia continues its international commitments in the field of sustainable development at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015 which contains 17 goals, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No.6 is specifically related to water. SDG 6

contains six targets on outcomes across the entire water cycle. Two targets specifically address drinking water and basic sanitation needs which our country has already successfully fulfilled. The remaining targets look into the broader water context that was not explicitly included in the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) framework, but whose importance was acknowledged at the Rio+20 Conference, such as water quality and wastewater management, water scarcity, water use efficiency, integrated water resources management, and the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems.

8. By organizing this conference, we will be able to contribute towards continuous effort in tackling and solving water resources problems associated to the current and future development such as water scarcity, downgraded water quality, the frequency of flooding and environmental problems.

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