



KEMENTERIAN SUMBER ASLI, ALAM SEKITAR
DAN PERUBAHAN IKLIM

PRESS RELEASE

MALAYSIA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE 2023 UNITED NATIONS WATER CONFERENCE

The world is paying attention to the water agenda and the United Nations (UN) Water Conference 2023 is the second time that the UN Summit has put water issues as the main agenda since 1977. Malaysia responded to the UN's call in the Decade of Water Action 2018 to 2028 with the participation of the Malaysian delegation led by the Minister of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change to the Conference which started on 22 to 24 March 2023. The Malaysian Government had received an official invitation from the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres and the Co-Chair of the Conference which is the Government of The Netherlands and the Republic of Tajikistan.

This conference is the highest platform in the world regarding water and it will set the direction and priorities of the world to increase the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 6 related to Clean Water and Sanitation. Most UN member countries participated in the Conference to express their respective countries' positions in plenary meetings and 5 interactive dialogues covering five (5) important themes, namely Water for Health; Water for Development; Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment; Water for Cooperation and Water Action Decade.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change, representing Malaysia has expressed the country's commitment to water management and the achievement of SDG 6 as well as highlighted the adaptation and resilience of the water sector, particularly in dealing with flood issues.

Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad, the Minister of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change stated that the country welcomes the UN's efforts to discuss global water issues seriously, "The climate change crisis is a water crisis. Water acts as a link to the actions outlined in the UN framework and the country's participation will ensure that the relationship between water and climate change actions, the environment, resilience, health, socioeconomics and the national development agenda is given attention".

Malaysia's participation in the Conference aims to ensure the continuation of the multilateral water agenda in other forums such as the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF) which will be held in New York, the United States from 10 to 19 July 2023 and the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) in the United Arab Emirates.

Malaysia has also organised a joint forum with the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation and Aither titled The Urgent Case for Action: Setting up the Water Agenda for Resilience on March 22 at the ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters.

The New York Water Week is also organised by the Government of the Netherlands and the Republic of Tajikistan from 18 to 24 March 2023 in conjunction with the Conference. Water Week will be focusing on the participation of non-governmental organisations, private parties and academic institutions to run water-related programmes.

Nik Nazmi has also held meetings with his counterparts from the United Kingdom, Bangladesh, Singapore, Saudi Arabia and the Republic of South Korea. Bilateral meetings between Malaysia and these countries are to increase cooperation especially in the field of water management through smart partnerships and strategic cooperation. Apart from that, meetings were also held with UN Habitat and the International Water Association.

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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