



OPENING SPEECH

**YANG BERTHORMAT DATO' SRI HUANG TIONG SII
DEPUTY MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES,
ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**ASIA 2023
8th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION ON
WATER RESOURCES AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA**

&

**2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DAM SAFETY
MANAGEMENT AND ENGINEERING (ICDSME 2023)**

**14 MAR 2023
SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA**

Salam Sejahtera and Good Morning,

Yang Berbahagia Dato' Hj. Rosli bin Isa

Secretary-General

**Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change,
Malaysia**

Yang Berbahagia Dato' Ir. Dr. Md Nasir bin Md Noh,

Director General

**Department of Irrigation and Drainage Malaysia (DID), Malaysia and
President Malaysian National Committee on Large Dams (MYCOLD)**

Yang Berbahagia Dato' Indera Ir Baharin Din

President/Chief Executive Officer

Tenaga Nasional Berhad, Malaysia

Yang Berbahagia Datin Prof Ir. Dr. Lariyah binti Mohd Sidek

Chairman

**International Conference on Dam Safety Management and
Engineering (ICDSME2023) & Co-President MYCOLD**

Ms Alison Bartle

Director of ASIA 2023 & AQUA-Media International

His Excellency Mr. Michel Lino

President International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD)

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. Terlebih dahulu, saya berasa berbesar hati kerana dijemput untuk menyampaikan ucapan dan seterusnya merasmikan Persidangan Asia 2023 dan Persidangan Antarabangsa Pengurusan Keselamatan Empangan dan Kejuruteraan kedua tahun 2023. Saya juga berasa bangga melihat jumlah yang menghadiri persidangan pada kali ini. Ini merupakan upacara perasmian bersama Asia 2023 dan ICDSME 2023 (*joint opening ceremony*) yang menunjukkan komitmen semua pihak dalam pengurusan sumber air, tenaga yang boleh diperbaharui dan keselamatan empangan.

Distinguished guests allow me to continue my speech in English.

Ladies and gentlemen,

2. Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizing committee for inviting me to deliver the opening speech of Asia 2023 and ICDSME 2023. It is indeed a great pleasure and a privilege to be among these distinguished audiences this morning. The participants of this conference encompass International and Local experts, senior public-sector officials, and captains of industry in the fields of water resources, renewable energy and dam safety engineering worldwide. This will be an important gathering of international experts who will focus on issues of special relevance to the Asian region.

3. I would like to welcome all international delegates to Malaysia, “Selamat Datang”. I am very pleased to note that there are about 600 professionals from 40 countries, such as France, the United Kingdom, The United States of America, India, Canada, Indonesia, Nepal, Japan and Australia, represented here. It is a very impressive turnout. I would like to cordially thank all of you for coming to Malaysia and taking part in this conference.

4. I would also like to thank the collaborating partners, Aqua Media International, Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN), Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID), Malaysia National Committee on Large Dam (MYCOLD), Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB), TNB Power Generation (Genco), National Water Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM), Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (NADMA), Sarawak Energy Berhad (SEB), and other Agencies for their efforts and commitment in organising this conference. This is an excellent example of which collaborative efforts by various multinational and international companies or agencies bring about a positive impact to mankind especially related to water resources, renewable energy and dams management.

5. The decision to organize ICDSME2023 in collaboration with ASIA2023 is relevant and strategic with its mission to turn water resources, renewable energy and dam management development policies into practice which will further boost collaboration with another multidisciplinary group of international experts.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. The technical community in the water resources, renewable energy, and dam field faces significant challenges in the current century. The preservation and development of water infrastructure systems are crucial, especially given the ageing of dams built during the industrialization phase of the past century. Existing dams require rehabilitation, refurbishment, modernization, and maintenance, as well as knowledge transfer between generations. Climate change further complicates the situation, causing increased rainfall, floods, droughts, and impacts on water resources, renewable energy, and dams. It is important to ensure proper maintenance of dams to ensure they function as designed. The ASIA2023 and ICDSME2023 conferences can help focus experts on the most challenging topics and harmonize dam governance in the Asia Pacific region.

7. The Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment, and Climate Change has merged two portfolios, demonstrating the importance of sustainability amid a global push towards renewable energy and reducing fossil fuel usage. The government seeks to balance sustainable economic activity while building resilience against climate change impacts. The National Energy Efficiency Action Plan and the Electricity Supply Generation Development Plan 2021-2039 aim to increase electricity generation from renewable energy sources and drive efficiency and energy-saving initiatives. The Energy Transition aims to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, in line with the country's agenda to address climate change.

8. The government has increased the Green Electricity Tariff (GET) quota by 46%, from 4,500 GWh to 6,600 GWh, due to the rise in renewable energy (RE) generation capacity and demand from consumers. The Ministry of National Resources, Environment and Climate Change (NRECC) is dedicated to providing green electricity to commercial and industry participants seeking to reduce their carbon footprint for environmental sustainability. NRECC is exploring and implementing viable mitigating actions, including alternative and sustainable fuel resources, preserving green spaces, and natural disaster management. The conference on Water Resources, Renewable Energy and Dams for Safe Communities emphasizes the importance of maintaining reliable and safe dams to sustain a nation's economic growth, as the absence of best management practices on dam safety may lead to severe consequences.

MALAYSIA GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. In Malaysia, fortunately we have not had the experience of any such failures since 1883. However, as the dams in this country get older, we cannot avoid but to face the reality that we have to address the condition of these dams from a safety point of view. We should not wait until failure occurs, which may endanger public safety.

10. For your information, a Special Committee on Dam Structural Safety has been established in February 2015 under the stewardship of the then Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE), which is now under my Ministry. The members of this committee are representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID), Department of Mineral and Geoscience (JMG) and National Water Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM). The main roles of this committee are to establish the standardized Dam Safety Inspection and Monitoring guidelines for all dam operators.

DAM SAFETY MANAGEMENT IN MALAYSIA.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. Prior to 2018, dam safety management in Malaysia was largely regulated by self-regulation without any specific laws or guidelines. However, since September 2017, the Malaysia Dam Safety Management Guidelines (MyDAMS) have been implemented to ensure that all dams are maintained sustainably and are environmentally friendly. The objectives of MyDAMS are to ensure systematic and effective dam management, maintain dam safety, and ensure that dams are functioning as designed. Moving forward, a new centralized Dam Safety Act will be established to regulate all 104 dams nationwide for their safety and maintenance. With the unification of several former ministries into the NRECC, the government is committed to holistically tackling climate change and environmental issues related to water resources, RE and Dam Safety by addressing the contributing factors, stakeholders, and ecosystems.

CONCLUSION

Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. This international conference and exhibition offer ideas, solutions, and products for water, Renewable Energy and dams infrastructure. The participation of distinguished resource persons, keynote speakers, paper presenters, and participants from both local and overseas actively involved in water-energy-related research and management is highly appreciated. Their expertise is needed to help in developing and sustainably managing water resources, Renewable Energy and Dams while considering people's livelihoods and the environment. The speakers and participants' valuable contribution to the conference is appreciated.
13. Special praise goes to the conference Chairman of ASIA2023 and ICDSME2023, members of the Organizing Committee, Exhibitors and Sponsors for their time and efforts put forth to ensure the success of this conference. I truly appreciate the International Commission on Large Dam (ICOLD) for their cooperation and continuous support. Special thanks to Mr. Michel Lino (President of ICOLD) and his team.
14. Thank you for being a part of this conference. To all delegates from abroad, a very warm welcome to Malaysia, and I hope your stay here is an enjoyable one.

15. On that note, ladies and gentlemen, I take great pleasure in declaring the 8th International Conference and Exhibition on Water Resources and Renewable Energy Development in Asia (ASIA2023) and 2nd International Conference on Dam Safety Management and Engineering (ICDSME2023) officially open.

Thank you.