

Flood control projects ready by year-end

KUALA LUMPUR: Thirty-two flood mitigation projects, costing a total of RM880 million, are being implemented nationwide and are expected to be completed by the end of the year.

"The projects involve the construction of flood control embankments, including in Sabah and Sarawak, and the cleaning of rivers," said Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Tan Sri Joseph Kurup.

To coordinate the projects, he said six flood hazard maps for six rivers had been completed — Sungai Muar, Sungai Kulai, Sungai Kinta, Sungai Selangor, Sungai Muda and Sungai Kedah.

The flood hazard map for Sungai Pahang is being prepared.

The projects are being undertaken by the Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID).

Kurup was opening the three-day Asia Water Resources (AWARE) 2012 Conference yesterday, themed "Transboundary Water Related Disasters: Lessons to be Learned."

Some 700 exhibitors from 40 countries are taking part in the event, which is aimed at improving the management of water-related disasters and also enhancing public awareness on such disasters.

Kurup said the number of water-related disasters arising from floods, droughts, tropical cyclones, landslides and tsunamis had increased over the decades and would likely continue to rise.

He also said that 90 per cent of all disasters were triggered by natural hazards.

Noting that the attention given to water-related disaster risk reduction was still weak, he said there was a need to further develop international networks and guidance on the problem.

"It is clear that there is a need for further development of international networks and guidance on the problem of water risks, involving relevant actors from the water, disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development sectors, to review and make recommendations on principles needed to tackle water-related disaster risks," he said.