

WORLD WATER DAY HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF WATER AND ENERGY

WORLD Water Day, celebrated on March 22 every year, embodies the renewed determination in the implementation of Agenda 21 Environmental programme under the auspices of the United Nations.

Globally, it is celebrated with the aim of galvanising and bringing together nations in their efforts to address water crisis according to a global strategic plan and by individual countries.

This vision is part of the initiative and objectives of the Millennium Development Goals as outlined by the world body two decades ago.

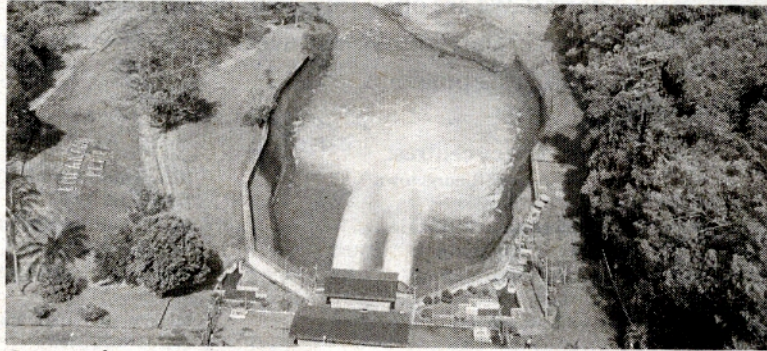
At the national level, the World Water Day 2014 was launched at Dewan Sri Siantan of the Putrajaya Corporation building in Putrajaya.

The event was jointly organised by the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry; Energy, Green Technology and Water Ministry; and Suruhanjaya Kebangsaan Unesco Malaysia (SKUM).

"Water and Energy" has been picked by the UN as the theme for this year's celebration. The decision is apt as water and energy are closely linked and dependent on each other.

Generating energy and distributing it requires a large quantity of water, such as by hydro power stations and nuclear power plants, which are the main sources of thermal energy.

Some eight per cent of the total amount of energy generated in the world are used to source, treat and



Generating energy requires a large quantity of water.

distribute water to consumers.

In tandem with the theme, UN-Water has outlined several guidelines to help achieve the goal of enhancing awareness about the correlation between water and energy, as well as contributing to the general discussions that focus on issues related to the two elements.

Case studies, meanwhile, demonstrate to decision-makers on water and

energy that an integrated approach and solution to solving issues related to the two elements is capable of bringing a bigger impact on the economy and community; determining policies and capacity development issues in which UN agencies, such as UN-Water and UN-Energy can contribute on a larger scale; and identifying and securing greater involvement and participation of the main stakeholders in the de-

velopment of water and energy, as well as discourses on the matter post-2015.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri G. Palanivel says this year's celebration focuses on the cooperation between the UN, its member countries and other stakeholders in addressing water and energy issues.

The main concern is addressing inequality, especially involving the poor living in slums and rural areas who are deprived of access to clean water, cleanliness, sufficient food and energy services.

It is also aimed at facilitating the formulation of policies and frameworks that bring together the ministry and other sectors on measures to enhance energy security and sustainable use of water in a green economy environment.

Special attention will be given to identifying sound practices which can realise the goal of having a green industry with efficient water and energy



Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri G. Palanivel says cooperation on water issues is important

management.

"In conjunction with the national-level World Water Day celebration, it is my hope that all parties can renew their determination and resolve in protecting the country's natural resources, especially water which is vital for life," says Palanivel.

Various programmes have been organised for each target group, such as public lectures, open days at water treatment and hydro power plants, leadership-camps and nationwide exhibitions on water and energy.



Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa
Bersatu untuk Pendidikan,
Saintifik dan Kebudayaan



Program
Antarabangsa
Hidrologikal



Jabatan Pengairan dan
Saliran Malaysia

