MINISTRY OF ENERGY TRANSITION
AND WATER TRANSFORMATION

MEDIA RELEASE

MALAYSIA STRENGTHENS NATIONAL WATER RESILIENCE THROUGH ECOHYDROLOGY AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

PUTRAJAYA, 3rd NOVEMBER 2026 – Malaysia has reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to advancing the national water transformation agenda by integrating ecohydrological science, technology, and Nature-Based Solutions (NbS). This initiative is crucial to ensuring that the country's water management systems become more sustainable and resilient in the face of climate change challenges and rapid urbanisation. Integrating ecohydrology and Nature-Based Solutions into water management offers substantial advantages, such as mitigating long-term flood risks, restoring ecological balance, and enhancing water quality. These approaches establish a robust framework for managing changing rainfall patterns, extreme hydrological events and urban development challenges.

Additionally, this approach highlights the importance of combining engineering infrastructure with natural ecosystem functions, digital tools, and whole-of-society collaboration. These efforts not only enhance ecosystem health but also support long-term environmental sustainability and national economic productivity. This was highlighted by YAB Datuk Amar Haji Fadillah Bin Haji Yusof, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy Transition and Water Transformation (PETRA), in his officiating speech at the 1st International Conference on Ecohydrology and Water Resilience (ICEWR 2026), themed "Ecohydrology and Water Resilience: Advancing Nature-Based Solutions for Sustainable Water Systems".

The main objective of this inaugural conference was to serve as an international platform to translate scientific knowledge into practical solutions, strengthen multi-stakeholder governance, and advance Nature-Based Solutions for sustainable water systems.

The conference, held for 2 days at the Everly Hotel, Putrajaya, was organised by the Department of Irrigation and Drainage Malaysia (JPS Malaysia) and HTC Kuala Lumpur, in partnership with UNESCO, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM), and other strategic partners. The conference brought together 200 participants, including policymakers, industry representatives, academicians, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and international partners to foster sustainable collaboration toward a secure and resilient water future.

The Deputy Prime Minister further emphasized that water resilience must be regarded as a strategic national priority and highlighted Malaysia's leadership through its three UNESCO Ecohydrology Demonstration Sites, namely the Putrajaya Wetlands, the Sustainable Stormwater Management Project at UTHM, and the Bio-Ecological Drainage System (BIOECODS) at USM. He stressed that addressing complex water challenges requires cross-sectoral cooperation across government, industry, academia, and local communities to turn knowledge into practical improvements and lasting impact.

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