

Press Release

14th International Rainwater Catchment System Conference

(14th IRWCSC)

3-6 August 2009, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

1. The 14th International Rainwater Catchment System Conference (14th IRWCSC) will be officiated by YB Datuk Douglas Uggah Embas, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia on the 3 August 2009. Jointly organised by the National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia (MNRE) and International Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (IRCSA). This 3 days conference which is held biannual would deliberate on 12 sub-themes encompassing topics on technology, policy, socio-economic and management of rainwater and rainwater related fields.
2. The IRCSA grew out of a series of international conferences held in Hawaii 1982, Virgin Islands 1984, Thailand 1987 and the Philippines 1989. Since its formation, the association has run conferences every two years, in Taiwan 1991, Kenya 1993, China 1995, Iran 1997, Brazil 1999, Germany 2001, Mexico 2003, India 2005 and Australia 2007. Malaysia bid to host this conference during the last 13th IRWCSC in Sydney, Australia and consequently selected to organise the 14th Rainwater Conference.
3. The theme for this year's conference is Rainwater Harvesting in Coping with Climate Change. As climate change is already impacting on the hydrological cycle and water resources, the impacts of hydrological extremes are projected to become even more severe into the future. The occurrence of frequent extremes such as more intense rainfall would lead to severe floods and also occurrence of reduced rainfall lead to periods of extended droughts.
4. We need to adapt to this upcoming extreme phenomena so as to minimize the impact on our environment, socioeconomic activities and human well being. Rainwater Harvesting Systems when it is implemented either in cities, towns or communities, is one of the measures that could

help to moderate flash floods and also supplement public water supply brought about by these hydrological extremes.

5. The 14th IRWCSC aims to promote and advance rainwater catchment systems technology with respect to planning, development, management, science, technology, research and education worldwide; an international forum for scientists, engineers, educators, administrators and those concerned in this field; draft international guidelines on this technology and update and disseminate information; collaborate with and support international programme.

5. 150 participants from 21 countries are expected to attend this conference with 40 paper presenters representing scientists, engineers, policy makers, civil societies and academia. The topics to be discussed would focus on rainwater harvesting covering the aspect of environment, health, innovation, capacity building, modeling, planning, erosion control and urban and rural community.

6. On the 6 August 2009, technical visits related to rainwater harvesting projects near Klang Valley have been arranged for the participants such as Smart Tunnel Project by DID, Rainwater Utilisation for Hippos in National Zoo, and Putrajaya Wetlands.

National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM)

3 August 2009