# GROUNDWATER AS A SUPPLEMENTARY NATIONAL WATER SUPPLY

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#### Outline

- 1. Groundwater Overview
- 2. Groundwater Utilisation
- 3. Future in Groundwater Development
- 4. The Way Forward

# **OVERVIEW**

- GROUNDWATER resources supply fresh drinking water to nearly half the world's population and support streams, lakes, wetlands, aquatic communities, economic development and growth, and agriculture worldwide
- The use of groundwater is particularly relevant for many potable-water, industrial and agricultural supplies because:
  - groundwater has the capacity to balance large swings in precipitation and
  - associated increased demands during drought;
- it is also helpful when surface-water resources reach the limits of sustainability.





## COMPARISON – ENERGY VS WATER IN MALAYSIA



MALAYSIA: Very dependent on ONLY 1 source of water



Groundwater development in Peninsular Malaysia started since the early 1900's in Kelantan.

- 60% of the groundwater exploited is for domestic supply
- 35% for industrial supply and S
- 5% for agricultural use.

In Peninsular Malaysia, 4 categories of potential groundwater resources:

- The most productive aquifers are the alluvium (sand and gravel), which can yield from 50 to 100 m3/h/well.
- The most productive aquifer in hard rock is in limestone, which can produce up to 50 m3/h/well. But most within the developed areas and extraction may develop sinkhole.
- Fractured sandstone, their metamorphic equivalent and volcanic rock aquifers can yield up to 30 m3/h/well.
- The least productive type of aquifer is made up of fractured igneous rocks, which can give 20 m3/h/well.

## HYDROGEOLOGICAL DIVERSITY



## **HYDROGEOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**



Hydrogeological Map

of Malaysia

Sarawak

The first recorded abstraction of groundwater by tube wells in Sarawak was in 1954 in Sarikei followed by similar schemes in Bintangor and Sri Aman.

Groundwater is presently the main source of water supply in several coastal villages such as Belawai, Igan, Oya, Kabong, Pulau Bruit, Tatau, Limbang and several other new schemes under development.

#### Sabah

The only form of exploitation has been by coastal villagers who have been digging shallow wells for domestic supplies for years and the small-scale tube well abstraction in Sandakan, Kota Belud and Kuala Penyu.

In Labuan, groundwater is being used conjunctively with surface water to supply the water needs on the island.

GROUNDWATER POTENTIAL IN SELANGOR





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## PREJUDICE

Published: Tuesday July 27, 2010 MYT 2:52:00 PM Updated: Tuesday July 27, 2010 MYT 4:12:16 PM

### S'gor's plan to use alternate water sources not sustainable: Chin By DHARMENDER SINGH

PUTRAJAYA: The Selangor government's plan to use alternative water sources like lakes and underground water does not make sense because they are not sustainable and cannot provide supply all year round, said Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Peter Chin.

### He added that it took time for lakes and underground sources to build

their water volume and, therefore, might not be able to replace quickly the amount siphoned out to water treatment plants.

#### STAR ONLINE, Wednesday May 19, 2010

### Preserve underground water, says lecturer

### UNDERGROUND water should be left for future generations, a university

professor recently said. Universiti Sains Malaysia School of Humanities lecturer Prof Dr Chan Ngai Weng said surface water was still adequate if measures were taken to minimise water wastage.

#### UM ARKIB : 30/09/2009

#### Lindungi sumber air bawah tanah semula jadi kita

PERSATUAN Air Selangor, Kuala Lumpur dan Putrajaya (SWAn) bersetuju dengan pandangan Presiden FOMCA, Datuk N. Marimuthu yang membantah projek pembangunan sumber air bawah tanah di Batang Padang, Perak yang dicadangkan oleh Sime Darby Berhad.

#### Eksploitasi sumber air mentah telah diketahui akan memberi kesan buruk terhadap ekosistem dan juga alam sekitar di Malaysia. Antara impak negatifnya ialah ia akan

mengakibatkan penenggelaman tanah, berlakunya penyusupan air laut ke dalam sumber air bawah tanah atau sumber air permukaan serta penurunan paras air atau kadar aliran masuk. Terbukti pengekstrakan air bawah tanah secara berleluasa juga akan menurunkan dasar sungai-sungai dan tasik-tasik yang menjurus kepada lenyapnya sumber-sumber semula jadi kawasan tadahan air Malaysia. Bahkan landskap pertanian Malaysia iaitu tanam-tanaman juga akan terjejas kerana perubahan mendadak di dalam sistem sumber air bawah tanah semula jadi ini.

By REGINA LEE regina@thestar.com.my | Apr 13, 2012

# FACTS

Groundwater to be tapped for sustainable supply

KUALA LUMPUR: Groundwater will be tapped in order to have a more sustainable water



# MAJOR GROUNDWATER USERS



#### 2 states:

- Kelantan public water supply system
- Selangor industrial

Total groundwater production in Kelantan (1990-2010)

## **Tubewell Distribution in KOTA BHARU**



- The production of groundwater is 134 mld
  - 41% of total potable water supply (327 mld)
- The districts which are groundwater-dependant in potable water supply are:
  - Kota Bharu (95%)
  - Bachok (100%)
  - Tumpat (30%)

## LARGE SCALE – Public Water Supply



## LARGE SCALE – Public Water Supply



#### LARGE CAPACITY WELLS



16 MLD well (Banting)



Opening ceremony by The Honourable Minister at the Dengkil groundwater scheme in Selangor



#### 14 MLD well (Olak Lempit)

## TAPPING GROUNDWATER – Plenty of high quality water



LANGAT GROUNDWATER STUDY



#### PUTRAJAYA GROUNDWATER STUDY

## Groundwater Development for Agricultural Use



# TECHNOLOGY - Management of Aquifer Recharge (MAR)

### Making Better Use of Our Largest Reservoir

- Management of Aquifer Recharge (MAR) describes intentional storage and treatment of water in aquifers.
- 'Natural' recharge to aquifers occurs through infiltration of precipitation, either directly to land or through the beds of streams and rivers.
- Unintentional or incidental recharge due to man's activities also occurs as a result of the effects of land clearing, excess irrigation and leakage from water mains, sewers and storm drains. This water can form a major component of aquifer recharge and should be managed, both from the quantity and quality perspectives, and treated as a resource rather than a disposal problem.
- MAR has also been called enhanced or augmented recharge, water banking and sustainable underground storage.

### MANAGED AQUIFER RECHARGE (MAR)



# MAR METHODS:

induced infiltration, bank filtration & river releases

pond infiltration, percolation tanks, soil aquifer treatment







# **BANK INFILTRATION**



Perak muncul negeri perintis di Malaysia memperkenalkan teknologi baru dikenali Sistem Penapisan Tebing Sungai (RBF) River infiltration system at Water Intake Loji Air Jeli



Courtesy: MajuPerak

**Courtesy: AKSB** 

16/03/2010

## **R&D IN BANK INFILTRATION**

## STUDY ON GROUNDWATER OPTIMISATION IN JENDERAM HILIR, DENGKIL, SELANGOR





R1208918:11

### CONJUNCTIVE USE OF SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER



- Conjunctive use is the coordinated management of surface and groundwater resources, taking advantage of their complementary properties.
- Both surface and groundwater storage are used to redistribute water in time to match supply and demands.

# **Policies**

- **Policy 1: Holistic Approach**
- **Policy 2: Sustainable Development**
- **Policy 3: Legislation on protection and over-abstraction of groundwater**
- **Policy 4: Jurisdictional streamlining**
- **Policy 5: Promote investment**





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## FUTURE OF GROUNDWATER IN MALAYSIA

## **Time for a Paradigm Shift?**



- Groundwater first *paradigm shift* from utilising man-made water storages to **utilising natural water** storages
- Focus on viable decentralised projects paradigm shift from spending million RM on one project to spending million RM on many projects

## FUTURE OF GROUNDWATER IN MALAYSIA

- 1. Groundwater as the only option alternative to surface water
  - ✓ Technically feasible,
  - Economically viable less capital-intensive to develop and run,
  - ✓ Quality is good
  - ✓ Environmentally sustainable
  - ✓ Accessible to a large number of users, and
  - Provide individual supplies
- 2. Conjunctive use as collective source to increase water security
- 3. Avoid *crisis driven* developed only during emergency or period of drought
- 4. Offers better insurance against drought as a tool for climate change adaptation
  - ✓ To improve water management in changing climate
  - ✓ Use of management of aquifer recharge (MAR)





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### **Averting water crisis in densely** populated Malaysian states

There is a water crisis looming in the developed west coast states of Malaysia. Among the solutions put forward are water-transfer though tunnel and tapping of groundwater.

Corporate conglomerate Sime Darby Berhad and government linked entity Khazanah Berhad are said to be working on the plan to drill 3.5km around in the Batan

Small foot print;

better water quality;

Inundation (flooding of inhabited, or good agricultural land) e.g. Sg. Selangor dam - 600 hectares/6 km<sup>2</sup> (3% of catchment area)

AITERNATIVEIY

View of Sungai Selangor Dam.

- Dams are extremely expensive to build
- The flooding of large areas of land means that the natural environment is destroyed
- **Displaced people** living in villages and towns that are in the valley to be flooded.

Advantages of groundwater over surface water resource:

- Its supplies are not subjected to abrupt change as a result of abnormal weather Cheaper to develop: unpolluted, no or less treatment before use and developed stage by stage
- Can often be tapped near to where it is needed.
- Does not require large impounding area, and
  - Increase water security as supplementary/only source or conjunctive **US***e*

## SOMETIMES YOU ARE STANDING ON A SOLUTION WITHOUT KNOWING IT

## Avoid Crisis Driven Groundwater Development





# **THANK YOU**