

Annual Report  
On  
RBOs Annual Report

Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO)

## 1.0 Summary

Malaysia has 189 major river basin which was traditionally source of portable water supply. Although Malaysia is rich of water resources, but the demand for clean water is increasing rapidly and shortage occurs during dry periods.

The need for a holistic and integrated approach is now widely recognised and is strongly reflected in Government policies as incorporated into the 8<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan (8MP 2001 – 2005) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Outline Perspective Plan (OPP3 2001 – 2010). Both policies encourage State Government to establish water management bodies to ensure proper planning, monitoring, enforcement and management of water resources on a river basin basis.

## 1.1 Organisation

### 1.1.1 Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID), Malaysia

#### 1.1.2 Objectives

The objective of DID is to provide services in the field of;

- Irrigation & Agricultural Drainage
- Flood Mitigation
- River Engineering
- Coastal Engineering
- Hydrology & Water Resources
- GIS

The core business of the department are;

- Water in Agriculture & Food Production
- Protection of Property and Life from River and Coastal Forces
- Water in Environment Enhancement
- Water as a Resource

#### 1.1.3 History

In 1913, Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department (PWD) was formed to handle hydrological investigations.

In 1921, the branch was renamed as Hydraulics Branch of the PWD and the scope of work was expanded to include surveys and investigations for the river conservancy.

In 1927, the PWD was restructured and was provided with additional staff for river conservancy works to complement irrigation and water supply projects.

In 1930, the Rice Cultivation Committee was set up and one of the recommendations called for formation of an agency to deal with land and water development.

In 1932, DID was formed which held executive power in the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States and advisory in nature in the Unfederated Malay States. Its objectives were to provide, maintain or regain a stable river regime by maintaining natural channels, implementing flood control works and river diversions where necessary.

In Mac 2004, Malaysian Government restructured the cabinet set up and DID was put under newly formed Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment which was formerly under Ministry of Agriculture.

#### 1.1.4 Organisation

Director General of DID is Datuk Ir. Hj. Keizrul Abdullah since 1998.

DID headquarters is situated in Kuala Lumpur consists of five main divisions, has fourteen states office, three training centre and numbers of project office.

Total number of employee is 1829 persons.

#### 1.1.5 Financial

DID finances come from government budget which is planned for every five years. Its source come from either federal or state government for project implementation, operation and maintenance. The departmental federal budget for 8<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan (2001 – 2005) is about RM2.56 billion and the allocation for river related works is RM235.56 million.

#### 1.1.6 Projects

DID is undertaking the following projects as to fulfilled the departmental responsibilities and approved by the government;

1. construction of dams, tunnel, breakwater, tidal barrages, flood mitigation structures, irrigation canals, river improvement works
2. operation and maintenance of all constructed structures
3. restoration works of damages due to flood
4. all related activities

#### 1.1.7 Installing Law or the Articles of Association

DID was establish based on Malaysian Government Gazet and Ministerial Duties.

#### 1.1.8 Related Legal System

Drafting of River Law.

To legalise the application of Stormwater Management Manual.

Adoption of Integrated River Basin Management.

Related existing laws and acts to water;

- Water Act (rev 1989)
- Road, Drain and Building 1974
- Irrigation Area Act 1953
- Local Government Act 1976
- Environmental Quality Act 1974
- National Land Code 1965
- Land Conservation Act 1960

- National Forest Act 1984
- Fisheries Act 1985
- Sewerage Services Act 1993
- Federal Constitution
- Drainage Works Act 1954 (Act 354)

## 1.2 NARBO Activities

Participated in the benchmarking workshop Surabaya Indonesia in November 2004.

## 1.3 Topics

- Rain  
Total rainfall is 2500 – 3000 mm (average). Highest rainfall intensity is 150 mm per hour.
- Weather  
Wet season occurs in November - Februari.  
Drought occurs in June - August.
- Studies  
Integrated River Basin Study for major river basins.
- Organisational reforms  
Organisation review proposal submitted to the Government in view of new role and responsibilities (river basin management and water resources management).
- Workshop  
Conducted series of IRBM workshop for professional / administrator and supporting group.