

Abstract

SESSION 2:

Accelerating Actions for Sustainable Development and Climate Change

WORKSHOP 2.1:

Scaling up ICM: Innovations and Impacts at Local, National and Regional Levels

Increasing Management Efficiency of Water Resources in Selangor through Close Coordination between IRBM and ICM

Norfaezah Shamsuddin

Engineer

Selangor Water Management Authority
Selangor, Malaysia



Proper management of river basins and coastal areas are important in reducing water pollution, which causes degradation in the upstream and downstream areas, including the coastal and estuarine areas. Increase in population leads to an increase in demand for water supply and safe water. This valuable resource needs to be managed in a sustainable manner to ensure the well being of human population.

The management of water resources in Selangor State is under the responsibility of the Selangor Water Management Authority (LUAS). LUAS aims to adopt and implement an integrated water resources management (IWRM) covering the river basin and coastal area of the state. An integrated river basin management (IRBM) project is being implemented in Selangor River to establish a framework for integrated management of river basins and their water resources. LUAS is also implementing an integrated coastal management (ICM) program covering the entire coastline of Selangor State. These two management concepts must work together such that the management of river basins is linked to the management of the coastal and marine areas. Effective integration of IRBM and ICM will help minimize the degradation of coastal ecosystems and reduce the frequent mismatch in the development objectives between river basins and coastal zones. LUAS has formed a task force called, 'State of Selangor River Basin & Coastal Area Management Committee', that aims to promote coordination for the integrated management of river basins and coastal area among various agencies from government, private sector, NGO and community.

Recognizing the upstream-downstream linkages of a linked management approach ensures that development activities upstream in the State of Selangor river basins are initiated with the full knowledge of the potential impacts on the ecosystems and economic activities and livelihoods in the coastal and marine areas. By promoting the idea that the coastal area is an integral part of the river basin, linked management also provides a framework for achieving the benefits of the ecosystem approach in the protection of the marine environment from land-based sources.

The adoption and implementation of a linked management approach of water resources management in Selangor State will ensure that operation of any water infrastructures or land-based activities will take fully into account the downstream impacts, hence preventing negative consequences to the environment and the welfare of the populace and subsequently save considerable resources that could have been used for remedial measures or for other important management initiatives.



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About Norfaezah Shamsuddin:

Ms. Norfaezah Bt Shamsuddin holds a Master of Science in Civil Engineering (Water Resources) from MARA University of Technology, Malaysia. She is currently an Engineer and Head of ICM Section of Selangor Waters Management Authority (LUAS). She has been responsible for implementation of ICM in Selangor since 2008 and with support from the State Government, she and the whole team of ICM Section managed to replicate the implementation of ICM throughout the state coastline within 3 years since 2010. She is now actively promoting the Sustainable Development of Coastal Area through the implementation of ICM to the other states in Malaysia and has been invited by the State of Kedah to share her knowledge and experiences of ICM implementation. She is also actively participating in awareness program especially related to coastal management. She is the person who initiated the 'Adopt a Beach' program, the first program in Malaysia that aims to encourage local communities working together to create permanent solutions to shoreline and marine debris and fosters feelings of pride and ownership as local communities begin to care for 'their' beach and it gives people of all ages the opportunity to learn about and actively participate in conserving coastal resources.