

Out to plug water leaks

Malacca wants to further reduce wastage at the source

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MALACCA: Water concessionaire Syarikat Air Melaka Bhd aims to achieve a target of 18% non-revenue water (NRW) for this year.

The NRW level in Malacca dropped to 19.3% last year compared to 30.1% in 2008, a remarkable achievement for the state, but SAMB would try its best to improve efficiency, said its chief executive Datuk Mohd Khalid Nasir.

NRW is water that has been produced and is lost before it reaches the customer. The losses can be real through leaks, or apparent through theft or metering inaccuracies.

It is defined as the difference between the amount of water put into the distribution system and the amount billed to consumers.

Mohd Khalid said the success story of NRW reduction was achieved by SAMB's holistic house-keeping approach.

"We have done several changes and are upgrading our services to achieve this, such as by setting up a 24-hour centre, repairing and maintaining pressure-reducing valves and altitude valves, reactivating reservoirs, building new tanks and reorganising the metering and billing section," he said during a visit to the NRW Gallery at Duyong Complex, here.



Proud achievement: Mohd Khalid (right) briefing Asiwater 2016 delegates on Syarikat Air Melaka Bhd's success in NRW reduction.

Mohd Khalid added that United Business Media Asia was expected to visit the state's water treatment plants to promote the best practices on NRW in Malaysia during the Asiwater 2016 Expo and Forum from April 6-8.

The initiative by the organiser was to create awareness on the water services industry.

The forum, which would take

place at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, is expected to attract more than 780 exhibitors from 48 countries and would have 11 major international pavilions, including those from China, Taiwan, Singapore, South Korea, the United States, Austria, Germany and India.

Asiwater adviser and former chief executive of the National

Water Services Commission Datuk Teo Yen Hua said they were excited to cooperate with SAMB and hoped it would share its success stories at the conference.

"I believe this will not just benefit the private sector but also water services operators, universities, policy makers and regulatory agencies in Malaysia and other developing countries in Asia," he said.

Sabah still able to cope with dry spell

KOTA KINABALU: Water officials are confident of weathering the El Nino-induced dry spell until the middle of April before they introduce water rationing.

Sabah Water Department deputy director Teo Chee Kong said the current water levels at the Bambagon and Telibong dams as well as river intake points were sufficient for the city and other areas spanning from Tuaran to Papar.

"We are monitoring on a daily basis and at present we are able to provide normal water supply. If the dry spell persists, we will have to resort to rationing," he said, adding that the weatherman had forecast that the dry spell would end by late March or early April.

The Babagon dam, which can store up to 22 million cubic litres of water, is Sabah's biggest dam, while the Telibong dam has a capacity of 10 million cubic litres.

Teo said there had been minimal rainfall around the catchment areas in January and records showed that it was lower than the minimum recorded rainfall in 100 years.

"If the water levels hit 111m (45% capacity), we will need to put in place some form of rationing. If it drops to the 102m level (20% capacity), then we go into full rationing," he said.