

**Remarks by His Excellency Datuk Lim Juay Jin,
High Commissioner of Malaysia to the Federal Republic of Nigeria**

**Inter-Regional Workshop on South-South Cooperation for Upscaling Integrated
Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Ecohydrology as Tools for Achieving
Water Security in Africa, 24 - 26 January 2017**

**9.15 a.m., 24 January 2017
Rockview Hotel, Abuja**

The Honorable Minister of Water Resources of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Engr. Suleiman Hussaini ADAMU FNSE,

Director, UNESCO Regional Office for Sciences in Asia and the Pacific – Professor Shahbaz KHAN,

Regional Director and Representative, UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office, Abuja, Dr Benoit (*behn-waa*) SOSSOU (*sos-siu*)

Head, Regional Centre for Integrated River Basin Management (RC-IRBM), Dr Omogbemi YAYA,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen.

1. I would like to begin by first congratulating the organisers, for organising this inter-regional workshop here in Abuja, which brought together subject matter experts and participants from Asia and the Pacific as well as Africa to share knowledge and innovative ideas to improve sustainable management of water resources in Africa.

2. I am pleased to see two distinguished water management experts from Malaysia among the participants. They are Prof. Dr. Mohd Ekhwan Toriman from the National University of Malaysia and Dr. Norlida Mohd. Dom from the Regional Humid Tropics Hydrology and Water Resources Centre for Southeast Asia and the Pacific (HTC Kuala Lumpur). A warm welcome to Abuja to all of you.

3. I would also like to use this opportunity to thank the organisers for inviting me here this morning and to give some remarks before the commence of this important workshop.

4. I am happy note that the excellent relations between Malaysia and UNESCO bore fruitful results under the Malaysia-UNESCO Cooperation Programme (MUCP) since November 2011, which resulted towards the establishment of the Malaysia Funds-In-Trust (MFIT) in 2013.

5. To this end, the Government of Malaysia is providing financial support to the MUCP projects and programmes whilst UNESCO will ensure the projects are carried out as planned under its close supervision and monitoring in collaboration with projects' key stakeholders.

6. At the same time, Malaysia continues its unwavering supports to UNESCO's agenda can be seen through the sharing of knowledge with specific engagements of local organisations and agencies to each endorsed project. These initiatives are merely part of Malaysia's commitment to support UNESCO's areas of competence in education, science and technology, natural, social and human sciences, culture, communications and information.

Ladies and gentlemen,

7. The MUCP was announced by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Hon. Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Tun Abdul Razak during the 35th session of UNESCO General Conference in 2009, with initial contribution of USD 5 million and subsequent USD 1 million per year until the year 2016. Through this Fund, the cooperation between Malaysia and UNESCO is strengthened, in particular to the mobilization of local expertise and services for the benefit of the countries in Asia and the Pacific regions as well as Africa countries, with particular emphasis on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDSs).

8. Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO – Natcom Malaysia envisions itself as an active player in the planning, management and evaluation of the programmes and projects included in the MUCP alongside UNESCO Regional Offices in Jakarta and Bangkok. With its steadfast commitment to sustain the fruitful partnership between Malaysia and UNESCO, Natcom Malaysia looks forward to working closely with UNESCO in ensuring the programs and projects under the MUCP are pursued and their development goals and objectives are attained.

9. To date, 29 projects have been approved including this “Inter-Regional Workshop on South-South Cooperation for Upscaling Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Ecohydrology Tools for Achieving Water Security in Africa”, which we have today.

10. Malaysia hopes its undivided support and commitment through MUCP and MFIT as well as its active involvement in UNESCO may help to materialize the UN Development Agenda 2030 alongside UNESCO key priority areas.

Ladies and gentlemen,

11. Finally, I would once again like to congratulate the organisers, the UNESCO, UNESCO Category 2 Regional Centre for Integrated River Basin Management (RC-IRBM) and the National Water Resources Institute (NWRI) Kaduna, for having put all this together. And I truly appreciate the opportunity given to me in addressing the workshop this morning. I wish all of you, the participants, success in your deliberations.

Thank you, Terima Kasih, naa goodee (*in Hausa*), eh-sheh-wuh (*in Yoruba*) and ee-may-nah (*in Ibo*).

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