

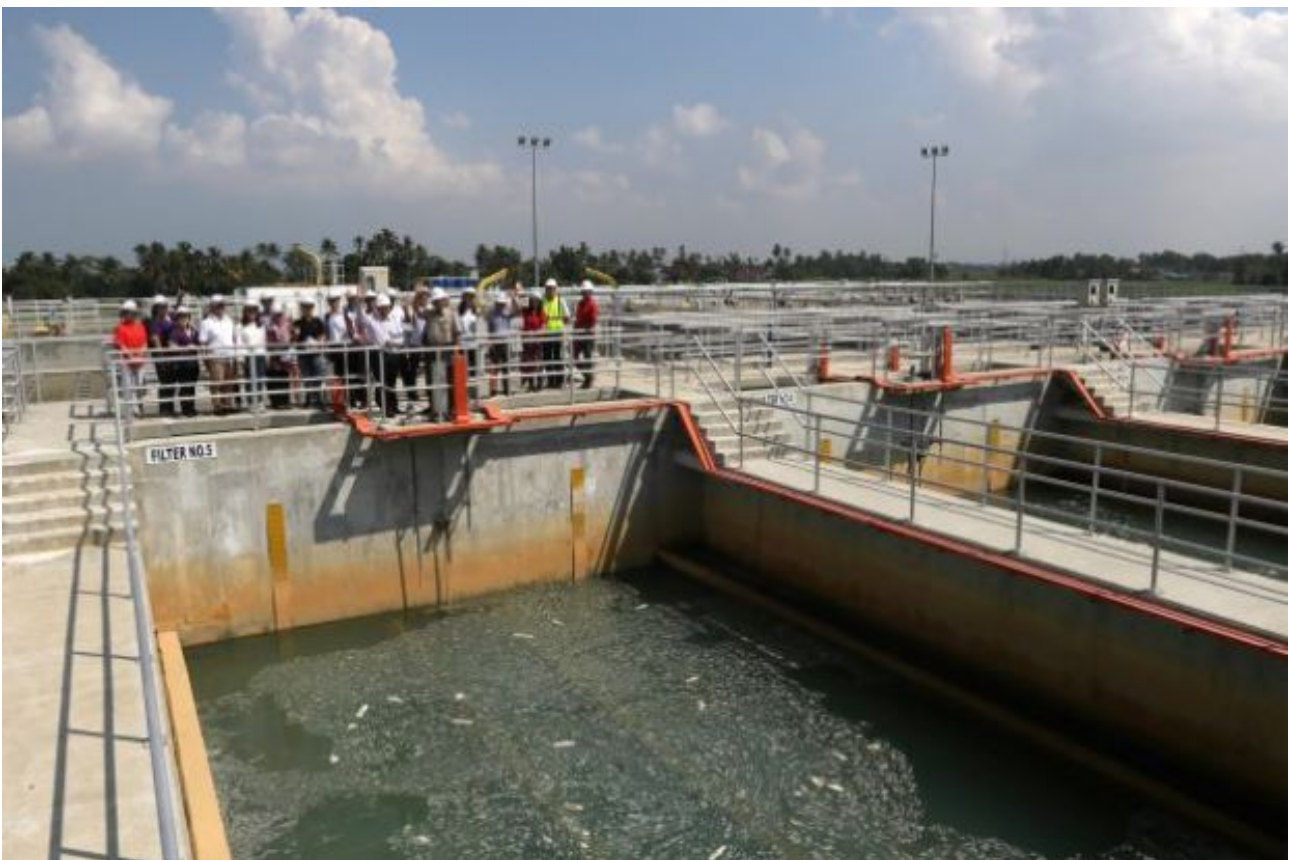
Asiawater 2020 to feature the country's largest water treatment plant

NATION

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Asiawater 2020 advisor Datuk Teo Yen Hua and Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBSPP) CEO Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa leading the visitor around the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant in Butterworth. Pic by: ZHAFARAN NASIB/The Star

BUTTERWORTH: The upcoming Asiawater 2020 Expo and Forum is the 11th edition of the event and will feature 2,000 local and international exhibitors and 11 international and regional pavilions.

More than 17,000 delegates and visitors from 48 countries are expected to turn up for the four-day event, which will be staged at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) in Kuala Lumpur from Mar 31 to Apr 2 next year.

Asiawater 2020 advisor Datuk Teo Yen Hua said the region's leading water and wastewater industry event will showcase innovations and solutions in the fields of water management, sewerage, industrial waste water purification, irrigation and water resource management.

"Themed 'Embracing Change, Pursuing Excellence', the event focuses on promoting the government's efforts to transform and improve the country's water and waste water industry services.

"Malaysia faces overbearing challenges in the water industry, such as high levels of non-revenue water (NRW) and a conventional and old water infrastructure that is poorly maintained.

"Recognising these challenges, the government has invested into water infrastructure and the construction of new wastewater treatment plants and upgrades on existing facilities," he said during a press conference at The Light Hotel in Seberang Jaya Thursday (April 18).

As such, the country's biggest water treatment plant, the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant (WTP) here, has been chosen for participants of Asiawater 2020 to pay a scheduled technical visit during the event.

Penang Water Supply Corporation chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa who was also present said the Sungai Dua WTP which was opened in 1973, also serves as the most important water treatment plant in Penang.

"Last year, the Sungai Dua WTP produced more than 80% of the treated water consumed in Penang for the benefit of 1.77mil people and thousands of businesses.

"It occupies 18.2 ha of land and draws raw water from Sungai Muda and Mengkuang Dam via a 14km long canal.

"With a maximum capacity of treating 1,228 million litres per day (MLD), Sungai WTP has been upgraded seven times since 1973 to increase its production capacity by 900%, from 136 MLD to 1,228 MLD," he said.

Earlier, he also led a group of media personnel and for a site visit at the Sungai Dua WTP as part of the event's media tour and marketing campaign in promoting water management and conservation for adequate, safe and affordable water services and preserving the environment.

They spent over an hour to tour the plant's Package 12 section to understand how raw water was brought in and filtered through multiple processes such as coagulation, sedimentation and filtration, and visited the command centre equipped with state-of-the-art data server, a 10-screen video wall, as well as hardware and software to monitor electronic data from key treated water installations.