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Distribution of water `uneven`

Chok Suat Ling

BANGI, Tues. - Water resources are unevenly distributed and this has resulted in some areas having limited water supply, Chan Ngai Weng of Universiti Sains Malaysia School of Humanities' geography section said today.

Consequently, he said, water crises were not uncommon.

"Currently, the supply management approach focuses on increasing water supply. However, as the population and cities grow vis-a-vis water pollution and depletion of water resources, such an approach may not be enough.

"There is much evidence to support the view that no matter how much water is being supplied, it will not be enough if users keep abusing and wasting it."

Chan said this at the Third International Malaysian Studies Conference at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

He said the management of water resources should, therefore, be the joint responsibility of the Government, water corporations, consultants, industries, non-governmental organisations and the rakyat.

Dennis J. Parker of Middlesex University Business School spoke on strategies to manage floods in Malaysia.

He said even with flood alleviation and rehabilitation assistance projects, the people must be independent and not rely too much on government schemes.

In another conference at UKM, Kikue Hamayotsu of the Australian National University's department of political and social change said the Government's Islamisation drive under Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had seen the country experience a dramatic expansion of the Islamic administrative apparatus.

This he said, had also led to the organisational expansion of Islamic affairs in many core jurisdictions.

"The judiciary experienced the highest level of Islamisation on constitutional, administrative and policy accounts.

"The jurisdiction of the Syariah courts and legal apparatus expanded, with enhanced independence and authority," Hamayotsu said at the Third International Malaysian Studies Conference.

He said in the educational sphere, however, Islamisation remained at an intermediate level.