

World Water Day 2025: Glacier Preservation



Photo credit: Makabera

World Water Day established by the UN in 1993,
is about raising awareness for the sustainable
management of water.

This year, with a specific focus on how *glaciers*,
play a crucial role in sustaining water resources.





UN WATER

22 MARCH
WORLD WATER DAY

2025 Glacier Preservation



Global Water
Partnership
Southeast Asia

Photo credit: Pixabay

While glaciers might seem distant or isolated from daily life in Southeast Asia, they play a pivotal role in the region's water resources.

Stretching from Afghanistan to Myanmar, the Hindu Kush Himalayas contain the largest volume of ice outside the Arctic and Antarctica. These mountains feed major rivers across Asia – from the Ganges to the Mekong river.



It provides water for **drinking, irrigation, and energy** for about **2 billion people**.



Known as **Earth's Third Pole**, is **warming three times** faster than the global average.

Melting glaciers will bring a future of ***water stress, frequent hazards, biodiversity loss, and food insecurity.***

Source: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) (2024) *How Glacial Melt Affects Water Across Asia.*

ICE CAP TRAGEDY

JAYAWIJAYA



Photo credit: The Indonesian meteorological agency (2022)

The Mount Jayawijaya ice cap in Papua, Indonesia (+4,760 m) is **one of three tropical climate ice caps left** over from the last glacial period 15,000 years ago. In **November 2023**, the estimated **snow thickness** remains at **6 m out of the 30 m (25%)** it used to be.



Jun 2010

Credit : PTFI



Nov 2015

Credit : Y. Kaize



Nov 2016

Credit : D. Permana



Mar 2018

Credit : Y. Kaize

Source: Raymond Valiant. (2024, May 23). *Challenges in Water Management in Indonesia*.

Home to almost **670 million people**, Southeast Asia accounts for **9% of the world's population**, where they rely mainly on **surface water** and **groundwater**.

Fresh **water demand** in Southeast Asia is on the **rise** due to contributing factors of **population growth**, **rapid urbanization**, and **industrialization** with increasing **irrigated agriculture** to meet the demand of staple **food production**.

Source: Geetha Maniam, Phaik Eong Poh, Thet Thet Htar, Wai Ching Poon and Lay Hong Chuah (2021) Water Literacy in the Southeast Asian Context: Are We There Yet?



Photo credit: Nuwat Chanthachanthuek

10 MAJOR WATER CHALLENGES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA



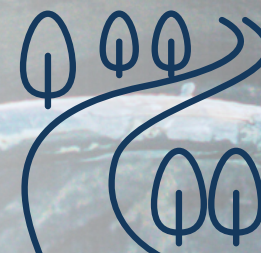
**Water
Scarcity**



**Water
Pollution**



**Flood
Management**



**Cross-border
water resource
management**



**Climate
Change**



**Sustainable
Development**



**Groundwater
overexploitation**



**Poor
infrastructure**

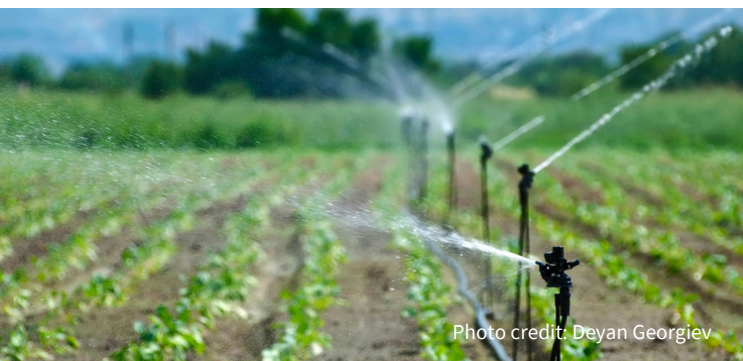


**Population
growth**



**Water governance
and policies**

SO, What can you do?



Individuals, businesses, and governments can act now — adopt practices like **rainwater harvesting, efficient irrigation, water-saving, mind-full buying fast fashion, tree planting,** and more.

Together, we can tackle this challenge by embracing water conservation, innovative technologies, and regional collaboration.

