



**REMARKS BY YB. DATUK DR. EWON EBIN  
Minister of Science, Technology and  
Innovation,**

**At the  
6<sup>TH</sup> MALAYSIAN INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR  
ON ANTARCTICA 2013**

**Park Royal Hotel, Pulau Pinang, 8<sup>th</sup> October  
2013**

Terima kasih Tuan/Puan Pengerusi Majlis

Mengadap Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Al-Wathiqu Billah Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin Ibni Almarhum Sultan Mahmud Al-Muktafi Billah Shah, Sultan dan Yang Di-Pertuan Negeri Terengganu Darul Iman dan Penaung, Yayasan Penyelidikan Antartika Sultan Mizan.

Semoga Tuanku dilanjutkan usia, dilimpahi rahmat dan dikurniakan hidayah oleh Tuhan Yang Maha Esa.

Ampun Tuanku Beribu Ampun, Sembah Patik  
Mohon Diampun

*...Terlebih dahulu...*

Terlebih dahulu, patik dan semua para hadirin merafak sembah menjunjung setinggi-tinggi kasih serta berasa amat berbesar hati dan bertuah di atas perkenan Tuanku mencemar duli berangkat ke majlis ini, dan seterusnya merasmikan Seminar Antarabangsa Malaysia ke 6 Mengenai Antartika (*6<sup>th</sup> Malaysian International Seminar on Antarctica*).

Sesungguhnya ini jelas menunjukkan keperihatinan dan komitmen tinggi Tuanku terhadap perkembangan sains, khususnya sains kutub, apatah lagi Tuanku sendiri pernah melawat ke benua yang amat mencabar ini.

*...Ampun Tuanku,...*

Ampun Tuanku,

Dengan hormat dan takzimnya patik memohon perkenan Duli Yang Maha Mulia Tuanku untuk menyampaikan sepatah dua kata kepada sidang hadirin sekalian dalam Bahasa Inggeris.

(SALUTATIONS)

*...It is a pleasure for me to be here...*

It is a pleasure for me to be here today on the occasion of the Official Opening of the 6<sup>th</sup> Malaysian International Seminar on Antarctica (6<sup>th</sup> MISA). First of all, I would like to thank the organisers for inviting me to deliver the opening speech. Let me also extend a very warm welcome to all our guests and participants and wish them a fruitful seminar and a pleasant stay.

*...Ladies and Gentlemen,...*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. Antarctica, the most remote continent, is one of the last frontiers in global exploration, a place of fascination and huge challenges. In fact, the Antarctic is an archive of the world's natural history, a barometer of climate change and a near pristine wildlife laboratory. Drawing on a deeper understanding of the geological, natural and climatological history that makes up the Antarctic as well as the creation of new knowledge will enable us to address challenges of the future, especially those associated with global warming and climate change.

...3. *The crucial role of the Antarctic...*

3. The crucial role of the Antarctic and its surrounding oceans in the regulation of the world's climate is now becoming better understood, at a time of great urgency, where the visible impacts of climate change had been observed. The rising temperatures of the ocean, cryosphere and atmosphere has resulted in increasing the levels of ocean acidity, freshening of the polar seas and the overall reduction in sea ice extent during the last century, especially in the Arctic.

...4. *In recent years,...*

4. In recent years, several countries have significantly increased their activities in the Antarctic including the establishment of new research stations. It is my very strong conviction that as more countries take an increasingly active interest in the Antarctic and the Arctic, it is crucial that Malaysia continues to expand its research activities in the efforts to realise the global benefits of Antarctic science and also to contribute to its environmental protection.

*...5. Our continued presence in Antarctica...*



5. Our continued presence in Antarctica to undertake fundamental research will create new knowledge and this is in line with our nation's aspiration of achieving a knowledge-based society. Fundamental research is an essential foundation for our future prosperity.

...6. *In October 2011,...*

6. In October 2011, Malaysia had acceded to the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) and the Government of Malaysia has also agreed to ratify the Madrid Protocol. The ATS provides a legal mechanism in ensuring freedom, promotion and development of international scientific investigations on the continent. As a party to the ATS, Malaysia can now participate in the process of Antarctic governance as well as intensify its scientific collaboration and cooperation with foreign polar research communities.

*...In this regard, I would like...*

In this regard, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the national polar programs of Australia, Argentina, Chile, Britain, New Zealand, Korea, Japan and many others that had provided logistical and scientific cooperation, including the use of their bases for our researchers. These partnerships had help Malaysian scientists to gain a foothold on this icy continent.

7. It is Malaysia's wish that we can be admitted as a consultative member under the ATS. The research works that our scientists are undertaking now will certainly contribute to this direction.

...8. *Our keen interests...*

8. Our keen interests in continuously sustaining our presence in the Polar Regions have been demonstrated through the works of the Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation (MOSTI). MOSTI will ensure that the legislative and institutional frameworks are put in place to support our research interests. These include the drafting of Antarctic Bill and the establishment of Sultan Mizan Antarctic Research Foundation in July 2012.

*...Ladies and Gentlemen,...*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. To date, after a year of its establishment, the Sultan Mizan Antarctic Research Foundation has made some progress and this include providing 3 fellowship awards to Malaysian young scientists and supporting Malaysian participation in the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in Brussels, Belgium in May 2013, and co-organising today's 6<sup>th</sup> MISA seminar and Asian Forum on Polar Sciences Meeting which is held back-to-back with 6<sup>th</sup> MISA.

...10. *I was also informed...*

10. I was also informed that today, the Foundation will award fellowships to Malaysian young scientists and also announce the recipients of the polar research grants. The fellowship will provide opportunity for young scientists to undertake short-term visits to major international laboratories, field facilities, and institutes operated by the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) member countries. The aim is to develop long-term scientific partnership, while the polar research grant provides support for Malaysian scientists to undertake polar science related research at their home institutions or in the Polar Regions itself.

*...11. The Foundation also undertakes...*

11. The Foundation also undertakes and supports programmes in promoting awareness of the importance of Polar Regions to mankind. This includes sponsoring the first, second and third prizes of the Creative Video category under the Sustainable Antarctica Contest 2013. We will witness the prize giving ceremony of this contest at the end of this opening session.

*...12. The Foundation will undertake...*

12. The Foundation will undertake related activities for the purpose of raising funds in supporting its programmes and activities. To date, the Government of Malaysia has contributed RM10 million as the launching grant and the Foundation has secured RM3.15 million through the contribution from the Terengganu State Government (RM2 million), 1 MDB Foundation (RM1 million), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (RM100,000) and Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (RM50,000).

*...MOSTI, together with the Sultan Mizan Antarctic...*



MOSTI, together with the Sultan Mizan Antarctic Research Foundation would like to acknowledge the support from the Malaysian Government, Terengganu State Government and other sponsors that enables the Foundation to carry out its noble cause in supporting polar research. I would like to urge the private sector and multinational companies in Malaysia to join us hand in hand in supporting our research endeavours towards sustaining Malaysia's presence in polar research and strengthening our research capacity in the area of global frontier sciences.

*...13. We are among the very few...*

13. We are among the very few tropical countries that have ventured into polar research. In acknowledging our scientific contribution, we were admitted as a full member of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) in 2008. Our scientists sit on various SCAR Committees and I was informed that recently Malaysia has been selected to host the 2016 SCAR Open Science Conference.

*...This major polar conference is organised...*

This major polar conference is organised every two years by SCAR to draw attention to Antarctic issues and provide an opportunity for scientists from various disciplines and countries to present their work, establish networking and become more involved in SCAR science activities. I would like to take this opportunity to invite all polar scientists to come to Malaysia for the 2016 SCAR Open Science Conference.

*...14. Finally, I would like to thank...*

14. Finally, I would like to thank the organizers, notably the Universiti Sains Malaysia, the Sultan Mizan Antarctic Research Foundation and the National Antarctic Research Centre, University of Malaya and all those involved for their hard work in organizing this Seminar. I am confident that this seminar will be an outstanding success. With these brief remarks, I thank you all for your indulgence.

*...Ampun Tuanku,...*

Ampun Tuanku,

Demikian ucapan patik kepada sekalian jemputan yang hadir. Sekali lagi, patik merafak sembah menjunjung setinggi-tinggi kasih di atas keberangkatan Kebawah Duli Tuanku ke majlis yang penuh bermakna ini. Ampun Tuanku, sembah patik mohon diampun.