

**TITAH KE BAWAH DULI YANG MAHA MULIA
AL-WATHIQU BILLAH SULTAN MIZAN
ZAINAL ABIDIN IBNI AL-MARHUM SULTAN
MAHMUD AL-MUKTAFI BILLAH SHAH**

**SULTAN DAN YANG DI-PERTUAN BAGI
NEGERI TERENGGANU DARUL IMAN SERTA
SEGALA JAJAHAN TAKLUKNYA
&
PENAUNG, YAYASAN PENYELIDIKAN
ANTARTIKA SULTAN MIZAN**

**KE:
MAJLIS PERASMIAN
*THE EIGHTH MALAYSIAN INTERNATIONAL
SEMINAR ON ANTARCTICA (MISA8)***

**PADA:
SELASA, 9:00 PAGI, 18 JUN 2019
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA
SERDANG, SELANGOR**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim, Wabihi Nastain,
Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.
Salam sejahtera and a very good morning.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It gives me a great pleasure to welcome all guests and participants to The Eighth Malaysian International Seminar on Antarctica (MISA8) jointly organised by Yayasan Penyelidikan Antartika Sultan Mizan (YPASM), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and National Antarctic Research Centre (NARC) with the support of the Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC).
2. To visiting speakers, I wish you a pleasant and memorable stay in Malaysia.
3. It is gratifying to know that Malaysia has made progress in the focus continent of Antarctica. In retrospect, Malaysia's involvement started when a pivotal statement was made by our Prime Minister, Yang Amat Berhormat Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1982. The statement was simply; 'The Question of Antarctica'.
4. Since then, Malaysia had been accepted as a full member of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and has acceded to the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS). Along with that, Malaysia has ratified the Protocol on Environmental Protection to

the Antarctic Treaty (Madrid Protocol) and also accepted as an observer of the Council of Managers of the National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP).

5. These efforts go far in showing without a doubt that Malaysia is committed in addressing issues of global concerns especially climate change and to ensure continued protection and assessment of the various environmental impacts in the Antarctica continent.
6. Some scientist say we have now entered the age of Anthropocene and climate change is a known fact. In fact, climate change is the most daunting collective challenge that humanity has ever faced. These changes are mainly due to the impacts of pollution and mismanagement of our environment.
7. In the Antarctic, the main symptom of climate change is seen by the melting of the ice sheets. This phenomenon is predicted to continue and accelerate with each passing year.
8. Even here in Malaysia, we are affected by climate change. We are experiencing a warming trend and its impact for the past decades. All these impacts will definitely cause negative socio-economic changes, including deterioration in economic growth, loss of livelihood opportunities, human health impacts and augment biodiversity loss.
9. Therefore, it is not a choice but an obligation for every nation to be concerned about the Antarctic continent and the potential climatic changes that can occur. Our climate is the engine for life support system that sustain and nurture us.

10. Thus, it is best to conserve and protect this pristine Antarctic environment and ecosystem before further damage is done. While efforts to act on climate change need to be undertaken at the political level to implement various policies, and to carry out adaptation and mitigation efforts, I would like to stress that for research to thrive in the Antarctic, we must have a policy framework which resource mobilisation for supporting Antarctic research endeavours.
11. In this regard, I would like to congratulate the Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC) for spearheading Malaysia's involvement in Antarctica including the establishment of Yayasan Penyelidikan Antartika Sultan Mizan (YPASM) of which I am the Patron.
12. I am happy to note, since the establishment of YPASM, the Foundation has provided substantial amount and number of polar research grants worth RM4.3 million mainly to Malaysian young scientists, targeted at contributing to our understanding of how the planet works and predict how it will change.
13. Malaysia has grown from strength to strength in its scientific endeavours and I must also congratulate Malaysian scientists from various universities, who have made the country proud in Antarctica research. I hope the research in Antarctica will also help us with our own country efforts to address climate change.
14. Finally, I am very confident that this Seminar will meet its objective and I look forward to receiving the recommendation of this seminar.

15. On this note and In the Name of Allah, Bismillahirrahmanirrahim, it is my pleasure and honour to declare the Eighth Malaysian International Seminar on Antarctica open.

Wabillahi taufiq wal hidayah.

Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.