

CERAMAH TEKNIK TECHNICAL TALK

Journey to The Most Southern World of Earth: Antarctica

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Abstract: Eight scientists from six local universities successfully conducted their research in the land of Antarctica in a 22-day scientific expedition to study the link between Climate Change and the South Pole. Five of them were biologists, one geologist, one atmospheric expert and one geomagnetic engineer. Two of them were from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). The expedition team made their first attempt by research yacht to sail across Drake Passage on 18th January 2016. However, they failed to set sail due to bad weather. The second attempt was successful after a 36 hours wait in Port William, Chile. In this expedition, the scientists collected algae, water, small invertebrates in the sea, soils, rocks, pollen and sediments samples. Some of the samples collected were processed on the yacht and at research station in Antarctica and some were brought to the lab in Malaysia for further analysis. The samples and reading were used for scientific studies especially those related to biodiversity, climate changes, greenhouse gas and ozone layer. The researchers were from Universiti Teknologi Mara, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Malaya, Universiti Sains Malaysia and International Medical University. The Malaysian scientists explored eight locations on the Antarctic continent; King George Island, Greenwich Island, Deception Island, Hut, Trinity Island, Enterprise Island of Danco Coast, Paradise Bay, Booth Island, and Darboux Island. The researchers also visited King Sejong Research Station (Korea), Great Wall Research Station (China), Eduardo Frei Research Station (Chile) and Vernasky (Ukraine).