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# Malaysia may set up research centre in Antarctic: PM

LONDON, Sun: Malaysia might set up a scientific research centre in the Antarctic to study insects that inhabit the continent which are also found in Malaysia, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He said the fact that the insects were able to live in both the tropics as well as the Antarctic merited an investigation into their existence. "Although Malaysia is in a tropical zone, there is no reason why we cannot carry out research in the Antarctic."

Mahathir said he visited the Antarctic to learn more about the continent "although it may appear to have no connection with Malaysia".

He said Malaysia would not be the first country to conduct research in the area. Several Malaysian scientists were conducting research using facilities owned by Australia and New Zealand.

Mahathir, who spent nine days in the Antarctic, then visited Argentina where he held discussions with President Eduardo Duhalde on cooperation in the field of research.