

King returns after five-day trip to Antarctica
The Malaysian Insider
November 24, 2011

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 24 — Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin returned today from a five-day working visit to scientific centres in the Antarctica, a trip to mark Malaysia's formal accession to the Antarctic Treaty 1959 on October 31 this year as a non-consultative member.

The King was accompanied by Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili, Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) Antarctica Task Force chairman Tan Sri Salleh Mohd Nor and National Antarctica Research Centre (NARC) director Prof Datuk Dr Azizan Abu Samah.

According to a Bernama report, the King and his entourage went to Cape Royds where Shackleton's Hut is located. The hut was built by Ernest Shackleton during his expedition between 1901 and 1904.

Among other things, they had a panoramic view of Barne Glacier, with its sculptures rising 30m above water level, as well as saw Emperor penguins, the largest of the penguin species.

They also visited Scott's Hut in Cape Evans. The hut was built by Robert Falcon Scott during his expedition to Antarctica between 1910 and 1913.

Malaysia's involvement with Antarctica started when Malaysia and Antigua & Barbuda highlighted the Antarctica issue at the United Nations General Assembly in 1983, said the report.

Malaysia's scientific and research involvement in Antarctica started on November 19, 1997 when the Cabinet approved Malaysia's participation in scientific research there.

A task force under the Malaysia Antarctic Research Programme was then set up at ASM to encourage research in Antarctica among Malaysian scientists.

Following this, Malaysia's scientists and researchers started conducting research in Antarctica from 1999. Sixty-two expeditions have been carried out until last year involving 60 researchers from seven institutions of higher learning.

The Malaysian Insider
Copyright © 2011 The Malaysian Insider
Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/king-returns-after-five-day-trip-to-antarctica/>