

**Government To Establish Sultan Mizan Polar Research Fellowship Award
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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 14 (Bernama) -- The government is working at establishing the Sultan Mizan Polar Research Fellowship Award, which aims to encourage more young scientists to undertake research in polar science, said Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili.

"The initiative, which will be funded by the government and private sector, has received Cabinet approval," he told reporters after the launching of a pictorial book titled "A New Landmark of the Malaysian Antarctic Research Programme" by the Sultan of Terengganu, Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin, here, Tuesday.

He said it would make it easier to manage polar research programme involving Malaysian scientists.

Present were Sultanah Nur Zahirah and New Zealand's High Commissioner to Malaysia David Pine.

The 184-page coffee-table book commemorates the historic November 2011 visit to Antarctica by Sultan Mizan, who was then Malaysia's Yang di-Pertuan Agong (King).

The trip was to mark Malaysia's formal accession to the Antarctic Treaty 1959 as a non-consultative member on Oct 31, 2011.

Earlier, in his speech, Ongkili said Malaysia had invested in Antarctic research since 1999, making it one of the very few tropical countries that had ventured into polar research.

He said that within the past 10 years, the Malaysia Antarctic Research Programme, with the support of the ministry, had organised 62 expeditions involving 60 local researchers from seven institutions of higher learning in 24 research projects, in the areas of biological and physical sciences.

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