

Mahathir Launches Coffee Table Book On Malaysia's 'Journey' To Antarctica
Bernama
6 February, 2013

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 6 (Bernama) -- Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad Wednesday launched the coffee table book 'ANTARCTICA: Malaysia's Journey to the Ice' produced by the National Antarctic Research Centre (NARC).

The book, which has 275 pages of text and 366 photographs, was published in collaboration with the Malaysian National News Agency (Bernama) with funding from the University of Malaya and the Higher Education Ministry.

'ANTARCTICA: Malaysia's Journey to the Ice' gives an elaborate account of the icy continent, its geology, climate, flora and fauna, and the scientific research stations as well as the work of the multinational group of scientists and researchers who focus their efforts there.

It also relates the aspiration of Malaysia to persuade the international community to regard and accept Antarctica as a common heritage of mankind and utilise the conducive atmosphere it offers for research that will benefit humanity.

While it portrays the literal journey of scientists from tropical Malaysia to the icy continent to undertake research, it also depicts the unending symbolic journey of preserving Antarctica for the common benefit of mankind.

Also present at the launch were Dr Mahathir's wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali; University of Malaya Vice-Chancellor Tan Sri Dr Ghauth Jasmon; NARC Director and Chief Editor of the book, Prof Datuk Dr Azizan Abu Samah; Bernama Chairman Datuk Abdul Rahman Sulaiman and Bernama Editor-in-Chief and acting General Manager Datuk Yong Soo Heong.

Dr Mahathir, in his speech, said Antarctica must be preserved as a common heritage of mankind and should belong to everyone in the world, and that no one should exploit the resources on the icy continent.

He had headed a Malaysian delegation, which also included Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak who was then the Defence minister, on a visit to Antarctica the icy continent from Feb 6 to 13 in 2002.

Dr Mahathir said he also hoped that Malaysian scientists would continue undertaking research in Antarctica. Since 1999, various scientific expeditions had been carried out, involving about 100 researchers.

"I think not many tropical countries have sent people to Antarctica. We are little bit late, but it's better late than never," he said.

Dr Mahathir congratulated the University of Malaya for supporting the publication of the book, saying it would benefit Malaysians and the rest of mankind as well.

Dr Azizan, in his speech, said the number of Malaysian researchers in polar sciences had increased, with several students undertaking doctoral studies in the subject having graduated from local universities. "Every year, a number of top polar scientists are spending some of their time interacting and supervising Malaysian students in various fields of polar

sciences," he said.

Dr Azizan also said that Malaysia would host the 2016 Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research Open Sciences and Delegates Meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

Bernama's Yong, who was an advisor for the book, told reporters the publication of the book would provide a boost for Bernama, the co-publisher, to undertake more book projects. "This project will enhance our (Bernama's) skills in editing and publishing books," he said.

Bernama's English Desk Editor M. Govind Nair, who was an editor of the book, said the process of writing, editing and publishing took about six months.

He said the information and pictures provided by the NARC were most useful and exclusive.

The book was sold at the promotional price of RM99 per copy soon after its launch at the University of Malaya.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2013 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v6/newsindex.php?id=926570>