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Malaysia National Report 2007-08 List of Research Projects in RMK9 (17)

Principle Investigator	Research Project Title
Prof Dr Phang Siew Moi, UM	Adaptive Mechanisms of Antarctic, Tropical and Temperate Microalgae to UVR and
	Temperature stress
Assoc Prof Dr Nazalan Najimudin, USM	Nitrogen cycling in Antarctic ecosystems: ecology, physiology and biodiversity
Assoc Prof Dr Irene Tan Kit Ping, UM	Diversity and metabolic abilities of polar bacteria in ecologically-distinct environments
Assoc Prof Dr Siti Aisah Alias, UM	Biodiversity, adaptation and chemical characterization of Antarctic Fungi
Dr Mohd Yunus Shukor, UPM	Bioremediation of xenobiotics using Antarctic microbes
Dr Michael Wong Vui Lin, UMS	Studies on Psychrophiles from Antarctica and Arctic with special reference to their anti-
-	microbial and enzyme activities
Mahadi Mohammad, USM	Effects of Isolation on the Genetic Biodiversity of Shallow Coastal Benthic Communities in
	Antarctica
Sazlina Md Salleh, USM	Effects of Cultural Euthrophication on the Benthic Primary Production of Tropical,
	Temperate and Polar Ecosystems
Prof Dr Masshor Mansor, USM	Human Impact on the Evolution and Diversity of Antarctic Flora with Special Reference
	to Invasive Species
Prof Dr Zulfigar Yasin, USM	The Biodiversity of the Benthic Invertebrates Faunas from the Antarctic Marine
	Ecosystem
Prof Dato' Dr Azizan Abu Samah, UM	Modeling and Observational Studies of Antarctic Katabatic (MOSAK)
Prof Chuah Hean Teik	Polar Ice Monitoring and Parameter Retrieval with Microwave Remote Sensing
Dr Baba Musta, UMS	Geochemical Study of Rock Weathering in Polar Region
Dr Hii Yii Siang, KUSTEM	Profiling hydrocarbons deposition, vertical transport and Mobilization in Antarctica
Assoc Prof Dr Che Abd Rahim Mohamed,	Radiochemical and chemical changing in glaciers and sediments at Polar Regions:
UKM	Implications for the past and present global oceanography cycles
Assoc Prof Dr Azhar Husin, UM	1. Geological and Geophysical Investigations in Antarctica
	2. Geological and Biological indicators of sea level and climate change in the Antarctic
	and the sub-Antarctic Regions
Dr Norbahiah Misran, UKM (continuing as	Polar-Equatorial-Polar Geospace Ionospheric, Magnetic Storms, and Water Vapour
Lead Researcher for project formerly led	Characterization for the Advancement of Space Weather Prediction – A Malaysian
by Late Assoc Prof Dr Zainol Abidin )	Participation in ICESTAR Programme

#### MALAYSIAN ANTARCTIC RESEARCH PROGRAM 2007

In the year 2007, Malaysian Antarctic Research Program (MARP) has strengthened its research program by continuing all existing research projects. All research projects were vetted by local and international vetting committees before being accepted into MARP. On the whole, there are 10 biological sciences research projects undertaken under MARP in 2007, and 7 in physical sciences. MARP has also increased its capacity in the area of human resource. 2 of MARP's PhD candidates were graduated and 2 have started their PhD in 2007, Currently, 8 PhD candidates are working on various fields of scientific research on Antarctica. There are also 29 M.Sc. candidates and 11undergraduates under the MARP research program.

Throughout summer season 2007/2008, 17 researchers have participated in the Antarctic and Arctic expeditions as part of their research projects to collect samples and data as well as to undertake groundtruthing. Five of the researchers went with the Antarctica New Zealand (ANZ), two with the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), five with the Institute of National Antarctic Research of Ecuador (INAE), two with the South African National Antarctic Program (SANAP), one with the University of Hokkaido, Japan and two with the Institute of National Antarctic Research of Chile (INACH). A Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Academy of Sciences Malaysia for MARP and National Institute of Polar Research, Japan and Chilean Antarctic Institute (INACH) during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Malaysian International Seminar on Antarctica (MISA3).

Among the major outcomes of the research projects include the achievement of Malaysian scientists better known in the international scientific community, increased Malaysian involvement in international Earth System Research efforts (e.g. IPY) especially numerical modeling. Research efforts also increased Malaysian scientific contributions on global issues such as Climate Change and Environmental Conservation and indirectly strengthen our stake in promoting Antarctica as a common heritage for all mankind in UN and other international forum.

In March 2007, MARP and University Malaysia Sabah jointly organized 3rd Malaysian International Seminar on Antarctica. The seminar was the third International seminar being organized by MARP. Participants including from Australia, Britain, USA, Belgium, Japan, China and France attended the seminar held in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Other than paper presentations and discussion on many aspects of the Antarctic Science were held

during the seminar. It summarized our current understanding and considered the gaps in our knowledge at the international level.

The International Symposium on Asian Collaboration in IPY 2007-2008, March 2007 was organized by the National Institute on Polar Research (NIPR), Japan in Tokyo March 2007. Four papers presented by MARP researchers on biological and atmospheric research were well received. Participation in this Symposium has been immensely beneficial to MARP as our researchers have established contacts with few key persons in NIPR.

NIPR also organized 31st Symposium on Space and Upper Atmospheric Sciences in the Polar Region, Tokyo, Japan, July 2007. The organizer invited and sponsored En Sumazly Sulaiman, MARP researcher form Universiti Trengganu Malaysia to deliver 2 papers on Atmospheric Science Research.

Prof Dato' Dr Azizan Abu Samah and the secretariat represented MARP at the XXX Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) in Delhi, April 2007. During this meeting, the representative from Ministry of Foreign Affairs delivered a Malaysian stand on Antarctic Treaty System and indicated that Malaysia is looking forward to enter the Antarctic Treaty System and preparing to do so in near future. The Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties (ATCP) has invited Malaysia to observe the next ATCM in Kiev, April 2008.

Two of MARP researchers were invited to present papers at the International Conference on Cryogenic Resources of Polar Region Salekhard City, Polar Circle which was held in West Siberia, Russia on 17 – 21 June, 2007. Prof. Dr. Phang Siew Moi and Assoc. Prof. Dr Chu Wan Loy presented their papers and were able to establish network with researchers in Alfred Wegner Institute from Germany during the conference.

The Manager of Antarctic Data Center attended a meeting and capacity building workshop of SCAR-COMNAP Joint Committee on Antarctic Data Management (JCADM) in September 2007 which was held in Rome, Italy. During this workshop, training on accessing the Antarctic Master Directory and its new functions and facilities has helps MARP to share research data with other established traditional polar countries.

The Latin-American Symposium on Antarctic Research was held in Ecuador in November 2007, organized by the Institute of Antarctic Research of Ecuador (INAE). Two of MARP's researchers attended the symposium and presented their research findings. During the symposium, a workshop was held to discuss about the collaboration between

Malaysian, Ecuadorian and Chilean scientists in Antarctic research. The workshop was very fruitful as Malaysian and Chilean scientists have established collaborations in Antarctic research and Institute of Antarctic Research of Chile (INACH) has offered to host two MARP researchers on their Antarctic expedition in 2007/2008. The Ecuadorian also offered 5 places for Malaysian researchers on their summer season expedition in January 2008

Dr Agus Suparta and Dr Irsan Brodionegoro from Bandung Institute of Technology visited the MARP Center in UM June 2007. Their visits to the MARP Center were to discuss with Prof Dato' Azizan about establishing Indonesian Antarctic Research Program.

MARP also hosted the Asian Forum on Polar Sciences Delegates Meeting in September 2007. 13 delegates from Japan, China and Korea attended the meeting while three observers from Thailand and Indonesia were also invited. The deleates meeting

Members of MARP also involved in activities designed to communicate and promote Antarctic research as well as increase MARP's profile in the eye of the general public. In March, an outreach program involving children from kindergarten, primary and secondary school and undergraduates from Universiti Malaysia Sabah was held in conjunction with the MISA3. MARP's researchers involved in motivational talks to students and teachers at primary, secondary and matriculation level. The talks were held in Petrosains, National Science Center and some schools in Penang.

Overall, MARP has forged the way to bring Malaysia's research to worldclass level as well as promote national and international cooperation to increase the nation's scientific capability and capacity. The support of ASM and the various ministries in the Government is vital in order for MARP to maintain its momentum to secure Malaysia's place in the international scientific community as well as the ATS.

1. Project Title: Biodiversity, adaptation and chemical characterization of

Antarctic Fungi

Principle Investigator: Assoc Prof Dr Siti Aisah Alias

Expedition:

16th Dec 2002 - 25th Jan 2003 Australian Antarctic V5 to Casey Station

2nd February - 16th February 2003 Former Prime Minister Group Expedition to Peninsular Antarctic

11th February - 28th February 2004 Australian Antarctic V7 to Casey Station, Antarctica

January 2007- March 2007 King George Island, Antarctica Peninsula Chile Institute of Antarctic Research (INACH)

December 2006 - February 2007 Peninsular Antarctica Ecuador Institue of Antarcti Research (INAE)

28th March - 17th May 2007 Marion Island, South Indian Ocean (Sub-Antarctica) South African National Antarctic Programme (SANAP)

January - February 2008 Peninsular Antarctica Ecuador Institue of Antarcti Research (INAE) 2. Project Title: Adaptive Mechanisms of Antarctic, Tropical and

Temperate Microalgae to UVR and Temperature stress

Principle Investigator: Prof Dr Phang Siew Moi

#### Expedition:

30th December 2000 - 8th February, 2001 Casey Station Australian Antarctic Division

17th December 2002 - 8th January 2003 Casey Station Australian Antarctic Division

December 2005 Casey Station Australian Antarctic Division

17th February 2004 - 12th March 2004 Casey Station Australian Antarctic Division

27th March - 16th May 2005 Marion Island South African National Antarctic Programme (SANAP)

September 2006 - April 2007 Australian Antarctic Program

28th March - 17th May 2007 Marion Island, South Indian Ocean (Sub-Antarctica) South African National Antarctic Programme (SANAP) 3. Project Title: Polar Ice Monitoring and Parameter Retrieval with Microwave Remote Sensing

Principle Investigator: Prof Chuah Hean Teik

#### Expedition:

18th October - 25th October 2001 5th November - 15th November 2002 25th October - 03rd November 2003 18th October - 25th October 2004 22nd October - 4th November 2005 10th October - 27th November 2006 19th October - 26th October 2007

Scott Base, Antarctica New Zealand

4. Project Title: Diversity and metabolic abilities of polar bacteria in ecologically-distinct environments

Principle Investigator: Assoc Prof Dr Irene Tan Kit Ping

#### Expedition:

17th December 2002 - 8th January 2003 Casey Station Australian Antarctic Division

10th December 2004 - March 2005 MAITRI Indian Antarctic Expedition

December 2005 Casey Station Australian Antarctic Division

November 2005 - January 2006 Antarctic Expedition (Signy Island) British Antarctic Survey

26th November 2006 - March 2007 Antarctic Expedition (Signy Island) British Antarctic Survey 5. Project Title: Studies on Psychrophiles from Antarctica and Arctic with

special reference to their anti-microbial and enzyme

activities

Principle Investigator: Dr Michael Wong Vui Lin

Expedition:

10th December 2004 - March 2005 MAITRI Indian Antarctic Expedition

December 2007- February 2008 King George Island, Antarctica Peninsula Chile Institute of Antarctic Research (INACH) 6. Project Title: Effects of Isolation on the Genetic Biodiversity of Shallow

Coastal Benthic Communities in Antarctica

Principle Investigator: Mahadi Mohammad

7. Project Title: Effects of Cultural Euthrophication on the Benthic

Primary Production of Tropical, Temperate and Polar

**Ecosystems** 

Principle Investigator: Sazlina Md Salleh

8. Project Title: Human Impact on the Evolution and Diversity of

Antarctic Flora with Special Reference to Invasive

Species

Principle Investigator: Prof Dr Masshor Mansor

9. Project Title: The Biodiversity of the Benthic Invertebrates Faunas

from the Antarctic Marine Ecosystem

Principle Investigator: Prof Dr Zulfigar Yasin

Expedition:

Dr Rashidah abd Rahim, Dr Latifah Zakaria, Farida Merican

04 January, 2004 - 13 February, 2004

Base: Casey Station

Host: Australian Antarctic Division

Dr Zulgigar Yasin, Dr Wan Maznah Wan Omar, Mahadi Mohamad, Sazlina Md Salleh

03 January, 2003 - 17 March, 2003

Base: Casey Station

Host: Australian Antarctic Division

Masdialily Dahalan Dec 2006 - Feb 2007 Peninsular Antarctica

Ecuador Institue of Antarcti Research (INAE)

10. Project Title: Polar-Equatorial-Polar Geospace Ionospheric, Magnetic

Storms, and Water Vapour Characterization for the Advancement of Space Weather Prediction - A Malaysian

Participation in ICESTAR Programme

Principle Investigator: Dr Zainul Abidin, Dr Norbahiah Misran (continuing as Lead Researcher

for project formerly led by Late Assoc Prof Dr Zainol Abidin)

Expedition:

24th October, 2002 - 30th October, 2002 11th December, 2004 - 24th December, 2004 December 2005

Scott Base, Antarctica New Zealand

11. Project Title: Modeling and Observational Studies of Antarctic

Katabatic (MOSAK)

Principle Investigator: Prof Dato' Dr Azizan Abu Samah

Expedition:

2nd February - 16th February 2003 Former Prime Minister Group Expedition to Peninsular Antarctic

25th January 2005 - 10th February 2005 28th January 2006 - 3rd Feb 2006 28th January 2007- 3rd Feb 2007

Scott Base, Antarctica New Zealand

12. Project Title: Geological and Geophysical Investigations in Antarctica/

Geological and Biological indicators of sea level and climate change in the Antarctic and the sub-Antarctic

Regions

Principle Investigator: Assoc Prof Dr Azhar Husin

Expedition:

January - February 2008 Peninsular Antarctica

Ecuador Institue of Antarcti Research (INAE)