



SCAR Visiting Professor Scheme



Report

*by Yeadong Kim (Korea)*





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**Host Institution: Polar Research Center, Turkey**

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Host Country: Turkey

**Dates of Visit: 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2018**

## Summary of Visit

I visited the Polar Research Center of Turkey during 16-22 July, 2018 with support by the SCAR Visiting Professor Scheme. I was hosted by Prof. Burcu Ozsoy, Director of Polar Research Center, Istanbul Technical University (ITU PolReC) located in the city of Istanbul, Turkey. The main purpose of the fellowship was to introduce the importance of Antarctic science to Turkish polar community, to introduce the role of SCAR and its science programmes, to give an advice in developing a long term plan of National Antarctic Programme, and to encourage international collaboration in the Antarctic.

Following the individual participation of Turkish scientists in other national programmes Turkish National Antarctic Programme was officially launched with the opening of ITU PolReC in January 2015. The PolReC is run by the Board of Administration and has the Scientific Advisory Board of 13 members of various disciplines from 11 national and international universities. The PolReC has two Vice Directors, Profs. Bilge Tutak and Elif Genceli Guner and a few operation staffs.

Since the PolReC was established two expeditions had been organized in the Antarctic Peninsula region with 9 members in 2016/17 season and 28 members in 2017/18 season. Research was conducted especially in the areas of geology, biology, oceanography, glaciology and sea-ice. Turkey joined the Antarctic Treaty in 1996, ratified the Environmental Protocol in 2017 and became an Associate Member of SCAR in 2016. Turkey intends to apply for a Full Member of SCAR and has an ambitious plan to build a seasonal station in the Antarctic Peninsula in a few years.

I had a series of meetings with the Scientific Advisory Board Members, PolReC members and various science groups. PolReC organized a workshop on polar science cooperation on 18 July at ITU Mastak Campus. More than 50 scientists from many Turkish universities and institutions attended. Presentations on Turkish polar research vision, science program in the Arctic and Antarctic were made together with my one. In my presentation I stressed the importance of Antarctic science in the context of global environmental studies, SCAR activities of the Horizon Scan, Roadmap Challenges, Scientific Research Programmes and various capacity building activities especially for helping early career scientists. I also introduced Korean Polar Programme as a feasible international collaborator in the Antarctic researches.

The ITU PolReC representing Turkish Polar Community appreciated my visiting and SCAR support for sharing experience of Antarctic science and operation. The visit was timely since Turkey is developing a long term science programme with prioritizing research themes, building a station, enlarging international partnership and outreach. I believe that the future of Turkish Polar Programme is very bright with many enthusiastic scientists about the Antarctic and Arctic and operation staffs who are well dedicated and disciplined. Overall my visit was very successful and fruitful for the development of the Turkish Polar Programme and international partnership through SCAR.

## **Capacity Building, Education and Outreach Activities**

I had opportunity to meet many students working in Turkish Polar Research Center as well as in the ITU campus. Even I participated in the University Fair of ITU that was held during my visit and met many students and professors who have interest in Antarctica in general.

I did not have chance to give a public lecture but had a short video interview with the university TV station. My visit was also introduced in detail on the news of the ITU webpage: <http://global.itu.edu.tr/news/2018/07/27/>

## **Future Plans**

PolReC and Korea Polar Research Institute plan to collaborate in Antarctic research by exchange scientists in their expedition. A Korean scientist will participate in the PolReC expedition and Turkish scientists will visit the Korean Station King Sejong in 2018/19 season. A group of people from the Turkish Polar Programme is planned to visit Korea Polar Research Institute for discussing collaboration and exchange of MOU in the later part of 2018.