

## IN THE NEWS

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EIGHT Malaysian scientists from six local universities will embark on a 22-day scientific voyage to the Antarctic to carry out research in various fields, the first Malaysian journey of its kind.

They will be sailing from Jan 22 to Feb 14 to eight destinations such as King George Island, Greenwich Island, Davis Coast, Graham/Loubet Coast, Adelaide Island and Barry Island on the continent to research into biology, ecology, atmosphere chemistry, earth science, astronomy and astrophysics, among others.

Setting off from Malaysia for Argentina on Jan 13, the team made its way to Ushuaia, the southernmost tip of South America. Their yacht, *Australis*, sports both sails and a diesel engine.

Tomorrow, they will sail for four days from Ushuaia to Antarctica across the Drake Passage, an area known for unpredictable weather, rough seas and its 5m-high waves.

From Jan 22, the scientists, who will be joined by three non-Malaysian crew, will sail from coast to coast, with each carrying out his own research on the continent, some of which will be on

# Bound for the Antarctic



UiTM deputy vice chancellor (research and innovation) (centre) **Professor Dr Abdul Rahman Omar** handing over UiTM's flag to **Mohamad Huzaimy Jusoh** (left). With them is UiTM Faculty of Electrical Engineering dean **Professor Dr Mohd Nasir Taib**.

land. The voyage, dubbed the Malaysian Antarctic Research Expedition 2016, is organised at a cost of RM450,000 and financed by Sultan Mizan Antarctic Research Foundation, with the coopera-

tion from the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry.

The team is led by Dr Mohamad Huzaimy Jusoh from Universiti Teknologi MARA. Mohamad Huzaimy

is the head of the Center for Communication Engineering, Faculty of Electrical Engineering.

The other seven lecturers are Dr Goh Thian Lai and Dr Mohd Shahrul Mohd Nadzir (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia), Dr Emienour Muzalina Mustafa (University of Malaya), Dr Mohd Rauhan Wan Hussin (Universiti Malaysia Terengganu), Dr Foong Swee Yeok and Muhamad Hilal Mohd Zainudin (Universiti Sains Malaysia), and Aniqah Zulfa Abdul Latif (International Medical University).

Mohamad Huzaimy said; "I am thrilled but have mixed feelings at the same time. This is my first trip to the Antarctic and I have to brave myself for whatever possibilities throughout the journey.

"We will be spending three weeks on a yacht owned by the Australian government. The team and I are prepared mentally and physically for the worst. I hope that our year-long preparation since the end of 2014 will help us."

The Antarctica, he added, will be at the peak of summer during the expedition, with extreme temperatures of -24°C.