



MEMENTO ... Masidi (centre) receiving a poster as a memento from Dr Baba (left) while Dr Michael looks on.

Study on South Pole to benefit country: Masidi

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KOTA KINABALU: The country stands to benefit a lot from a study carried out in the South Pole or Antarctic, especially on the natural resources that are found there, said Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Masidi Manjun.

He said that 90 per cent of the fresh water in the world is found in Antarctic in the form of ice and snow, and if this natural resource is not conserved and protected, the global community will face a devastating consequence.

He said despite Malaysia's distant geographical location from the Antarctic, whatever happens in the South Pole would have a direct or indirectly influence and effect on the livelihood of people on this side of the globe.

"For instance, global warming will cause the

glaciers or ice in the Antarctic, Arctic and other cold places such as the Andes to melt which causes the water level around the world to rise and such phenomenon leads to flash floods, soil erosion and devastation of the flora and fauna and, even to human lives," said Masidi.

He made these observations at the opening of the Malaysia Antarctic Research Programme (MARP) and 3rd Malaysia International Seminar on Antarctica (MISA 3) here yesterday.

Also present were UMS Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Noh Dalimin, who is also the coordinator of MARP and co-chairman of the Outreach Programme and MISA 3 as well as head of the Biotechnology Research Institute, Professor Datin Dr Ann Anton. Masidi said

mineral deposits such as iron, coal, uranium, plumbum, nickle, cobalt and excotic resources like natural gas are found in abundance in the Antarctica that could be of beneficial to Malaysia.

Malaysia has been urging that the Antarctica should be declared as a world common heritage for the benefit of the nations worldwide.

"We hope that our students from UMS will have an opportunity to carry out a study in the North Pole and South Pole in the near future," he said.

He congratulated two UMS scientists, Associate Professor Dr Baba Musta and Dr Michael Wong, both from Sabah, who had carried out a three-month research in the Antarctic.