Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and Scientific Cooperation between the Republic of Chile and Türkiye

Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and Scientific Cooperation between Chile and Türkiye

Information Paper submitted by Chile and Türkiye

Summary

This paper gives information about the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Republic of Chile and Türkiye within the context of cooperation on polar research. It also presents a summary of the scientific and educational support of Chile for a Turkish researcher and high-school students in the 2022/2023 season.

The Memorandum of Understanding

The signing process of the MoU between the Republic of Chile and Türkiye has been completed on behalf of the Parties on April 18, 2023 by the signatures of Subsecretaria Gloria de la Fuente and Ambassador Gülcan Akoğuz. The signing ceremony was held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile with the participation of the respective members of the ministries of foreign affairs of both Parties.

In the context of developing, promoting and strengthening the cooperation in polar research, based on equality and mutual benefits of Chile and Türkiye, this MoU expresses a common interest to explore the opportunities for pursuing joint activities in polar sciences.

The areas of cooperation under this MoU include the development of mutually beneficial academic programs, coordination of academic activities and staff mobility, exchange of scientific information and research materials, polar logistic support and cooperation, exchanges and joint studies on polar policy and regulations, and other areas considered to be of benefit to each Participant’s research programs.

TÜBİTAK Marmara Research Center (MAM) Polar Research Institute (PRI) would like to thank Chilean Antarctic Institute (INACH) for this opportunity. Such cooperation is extremely important for both Participants in their aspiration to provide high-quality polar research to address global issues for the benefit of humankind and to strengthen international cooperation in the field of science, technology, education & outreach.

Scientific Cooperation

Within the scope of bilateral cooperation between INACH and TÜBİTAK MAM PRI, a Turkish researcher Prof. Didem Özçimen was hosted in Profesor Julio Escudero Base of INACH between 5 and 17 March 2023 in King George Island to carry out field studies for the project titled “Establishing the relationship between life sciences and atmospheric sciences in the context of global warming and climate change in Antarctica: analysis and modeling of the relationship between atmospheric conditions and microorganisms sensitive to environmental conditions such as algae in Antarctica”. The project was supported by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye(TÜBİTAK) Marmara Research Center (MAM) Polar Research Institute (PRI).

Education & Outreach

In addition to the support for research, Chile hosted three high-school students from Türkiye in Profesor Julio Escudero Base of Chile for education & outreach purposes. The students were the winners of “the High School Students Polar Research Projects Competition 2022” organized by TUBITAK MAM PRI and TUBITAK Science and Society Department, with their project titled “Bioplastic material production to prevent microplastic pollution in the polar oceans”. The students were hosted in Profesor Julio Escudero Base of Chile. During their stay, INACH and Chilean researchers helped the students to better understand ongoing research in Antarctica.

Conclusion

Türkiye expresses the gratitude to Chile and INACH for their valuable collaboration in polar research and hospitality during the stay of the researcher and students. Chile and Türkiye hope that the MoU signed will strengthen and develop the existing cooperation between the two Parties in Antarctica, as the continent dedicated to science and peace.