

- MIKLOUHO - MACLAY - FOUNDATION -

International Online Conference. Russia-Singapore. Within the project "The Beacon of Russia's Achievements"

An international online conference within the project "The Beacon of Russia's Achievements", created in a form of a virtual expedition over 15 major universally recognized achievements of Russians, was held on November 30 and united Russia and Singapore bringing together scientists, lecturers, businessmen, and public figures from different countries.

Moderator:

Nickolay Nikolaevich Miklouho-Maclay, Founder and Director of the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation, Head of the Center for South Pacific Studies, research fellow at the Center for Southeast Asia, Australia and Oceania of the Institute of Oriental Studies RAS, President of the Association of the South Pacific Researchers.

The conference was opened by **Nickolay Miklouho-Maclay**, founder and Director of the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation. Nickolay Nikolaevich told the audience about the project "The Beacon of Russia's Achievements", within the framework of which the conference was held. This project includes a virtual expedition over 15 major universally recognized achievements of Russians made in recent years and is presented on the project's website in articles and videos. He also recounted a history of scientific and cultural relations with South Pacific countries that had begun when his ancestor traveled in the 1880s, leaving a note in his diaries of the hospitality he received in Singapore.

Anastasia Budnik, First Secretary of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Singapore, made a welcoming speech. "It is gratifying that such an online format allows to attract the Singaporean public, to introduce the latest achievements of domestic science, what will certainly contribute to further rapprochement of our countries and peoples," - Anastasia Andreevna noted. She also spoke about the main milestones of bilateral cooperation, one of which was the celebration of the 50th anniversary of bilateral relations in 2018, culminating in the visit of the President of the Russian Federation.

Speakers from Singapore, **Winnie Teo**, Head of the regional office of the Russia-Singapore Business Council in Singapore, and **Desmond Chow Zhan Hong**, Business strategist, entrepreneur lecturer, government emissary, noted the willingness to cooperate and the benevolent attitude of Russians to the development of economic and cultural relations.

Sergey Pronin, Deputy Chairman of the Russian-Singapore Business Council at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, spoke about the development of economic cooperation in his key areas and the main task - to increase turnover through the joint creation of high-tech products.

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Alexander Soloviev, Director of the Russian cultural centre in the Republic of Singapore, expressed the opinion that the level of the conference allows to solve the tasks in a practical way. Currently, the Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Singapore, the Russian House and the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation are working on scientific cooperation directly between the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Science Center Singapore.

From the report of **Ekaterina Astafieva**, PhD in History, senior research fellow at the Center for the Southeast Asia, Australia and Oceania of the Institute of Oriental Studies RAS and Executive Director of the Association of the South Pacific Researchers, we learned about the experience of colleagues from Singapore, which had been used during creating E-Government in Moscow with 936 million visits to the resource providing services in all areas of life on the example of the eCitizen Portal in Singapore.

Anna Volodkina, Head of the sector of attracting foreign students, Far Eastern Federal University, spoke about the opportunities for international students to study at the FEFU. One of the advantages of the Russian university located in Asia-Pacific is the courses for foreign citizens at the Center of Russian Language and Culture. It was also noted that the Association of Russian and International Students (ARIS) contributes to a favorable international environment at the FEFU, thanks to which the FEFU students are involved in all international events.

Representatives of the **Kazan Federal University** and the Institute of Design and Spatial Arts spoke about the history of the University, which is rich in the names of great scientists, outstanding public figures, educators, writers and artists, about the areas of study of the Institute of Design and Spatial Arts, as well as about the active student life of the Kazan Federal University. The speakers noted that dormitories can be provided to nonresident students. These can be in buildings in the city and in the student city - Universiade Village built for the XXVII Summer Universiade.

Natalia Orlova, Senior Specialist at the Admissions Office for Foreign Citizens, in her report told about the oldest Russian university, founded in 1724, located in the cultural capital of Russia which combined traditions and innovations. Natalia also debunked the myths about studying in Russia.

Sergey Zaryansky, a specialist of the Center for International Student Mobility and Recruitment at the Ural Federal University, told about the Ural Federal University's modern approaches to education. Sergey noted that the UrFU, located in the fourth largest city in Russia, is an excellent educational center that provides opportunities for future employment, international mobility, offers courses in foreign languages, as well as safe and comfortable life in an international university family of 36,000 students.

Sophia Pale, PhD in History, research fellow at the Center for Southeast Asia, Australia and Oceania of the Institute of Oriental Studies RAS, Academic Secretary of the All-Russian Association of the SPR, gave her comments. She noted the importance and necessity of developing such initiatives.

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"The Beacon of Russia's Achievements" presents not only the most significant Russian discoveries of recent years, but also demonstrates options for cooperation in the scientific, cultural, humanitarian, educational and business spheres.

In this regard, the speakers' reports were relevant; they showed by their own examples how important and useful it was to study the Russian language and to get Russian education, which in the future would allow laying the foundation for the implementation of joint international projects.

For more information about the project: <https://bra.mikluho-maclay.ru/?lang=en>

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The project "The Beacon of Russia's Achievements" is implemented by the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation with the support of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rossotrudnichestvo, the Embassy of the Russian Federation, the All-Russian Association of the South Pacific Researchers, the Center for the South Pacific Studies of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Miklouho-Maclay Foundation Press Office