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Newsletter

Festival "Africa-Moscow 2017"

On December 23, 2017 Institute for African Studies Africa RAS hosted the Festival "Africa-Moscow 2017". Young guests of the event were offered master classes on African drums from the school of African drums, they could participate in the children's drawing competition, in the New Year's gatherings "Oga! Or welcome to visit the Avatime!" together with Alina Lapushkina, the African fairy tale "Wise Turtle" with Anna Ben and Pavel "Afrikanda" Korotkov and, of course, the African "Ded Moroz" (ghost of New Year celebrations)!

The adult participants of the festival got acquainted with African traditions and customs, African culture and music, took part in master classes in kizomba dances and folk art exhibitions, they could see African jewelry and try real African coffee!

The scientific program included reports from the staff of the Institute for African Studies, RAS: "Expedition to Punt: the country of giraffes, leopards and myrrh through the eyes of ancient Egyptians," by Anastasia A. Banshchikova; "The daily life of Africans: Rituals, Traditions, Women's Fate" by Alexandra A. Arkhangelskaya; "From Russia with Faith: Old Believers of Uganda" by Dmitri M. Bondarenko, Alina O. Lapushkina.

At the end of the festival, a disco was held in the rhythm of African music.

[Program of the Festival](#)

[Photogallery of the Festival "Africa-Moscow 2017"](#)



Cooperation Agreement

On December 21, 2017, the Agreement on Cooperation between the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the leading European center for African Studies - the Nordic Africa Institute (Uppsala, Sweden) - was signed.

[Text of agreement](#)



Researcher of the Institute for African Studies took part in the international conference "MEDays-2017"

Kulkova Olga, Ph.D., Senior Research Fellow at the [Center for Russian-African Relations Studies and Foreign Policy of African Countries](#) of the Institute, took part in the international conference "MEDays-2017" in Morocco, Tangier, from 8 to 11 November 2017. She spoke on November 9, 2017 at the section "BRICs-Africa: From Growth to Co-Emergence", describing Russia's position in the BRICS and the goals of African policy of our country.

Политический кризис в Зимбабве: переворот ли?

On November 17, 2017, PhD (Hist.), Research Fellow of the [Center for International Relations and Scientific Information](#) of the Institute Eldar Salakhmetdinov gave his expert opinion on the political events in Zimbabwe and international reaction to them on the TV channel "Russia 24" during the programme "International Review: guests of Yevgeny Primakov".

[View more](#)



"It cannot be said that China has captured everything in Africa"

On November 20, 2017, PhD (Econ.), Senior Research Fellow of the [Center for Southern Africa Studies](#) of the Institute Yuri Skubko appeared on the TV channel "OTVrussia". He pointed out, that one cannot say that China has captured everything in Africa. The competition with the West continues, but China is the most successful in it. So, in the "bloodless correction" of Mugabe government in Zimbabwe in November 2017, many saw the Chinese influence - Beijing has plans for the economy of this country. Platinum mining, gold, rubies ... This can seriously hurt Russian business in these areas. How will the African incident affect world politics? [View more](#)



Publications of the Institute

1. The next issue of the journal "[Academic Proceedings of the Institute for African Studies](#) of the Russian Academy of Sciences", No. 3 (40) 2017.

2. The publications of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences for 2017 can be found [here](#)



Mugabe's mother lived to 110 years old, her son intended to be president for a long time

A recent military coup in Zimbabwe was carried out by the "old guard", which did not want the country to be ruled by an eccentric woman who cuts people with diamond rings and beats with an extension cord, believes Research Fellow of the [Center for African Studies](#) of the Institute Albert Khamatshin. In the interview, Khamatshin told why the USSR was having a difficult time building relations with Robert Mugabe, how friendship with the West led to the collapse of the Zimbabwean economy and whether it is possible to draw parallels between the head of this

African country and Russian President Vladimir Putin. [See more](#)

"The Arab Crisis: the Experience of Studies"

On December 20, 2017, with the support of the Institute for African Studies RAS and the Laboratory for Monitoring the Risks of Socio-Political Destabilization (Higher School of Economics), the conference "[The Arab Crisis: The Experience of Studies](#)" was held. It was dedicated to the regional and civilizational consequences of the socio-political crisis in the Arab world. It is possible to consider the Arab spring as a trigger of a global wave of socio-political destabilization, which significantly exceeded the scale of the Arab Spring itself and affected absolutely all the world-system zones. Indeed, the events that began in 2010 in Tunisia and formally ended with the death of Libyan leader M. Gaddafi in the fall of 2012, influenced many regions of the world have also experienced a significant surge of socio-political destabilization.



Participation of the Institute in the "Izvestia" round table

December 20, 2017 "Izvestia" held a roundtable on the prospects of fighting HIV. How many years are needed to create an effective medicine? Can it be developed in Russia? Will scientists around the world join forces to fight the virus? Elena Volchkova, Head of the Infectious Diseases Department at the Sechenov University, Galina Pozmogova, Head of the Artificial Antigenogenesis Laboratory of the FNC of Physical and Chemical Medicine of the Federal Medical



Academy of the Russian Federation, Sergei Krynsky and Daniil Ogurtsov, researchers of the Immunology and Virology Laboratory of the Kurchatov Institute Research Center, Senior Researcher of [the Center for Global and Strategic Studies](#) of the Institute for African Studies, Ruslan Dmitriev were looking for answers on these and other questions. [See more](#)

120th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations Establishment between Russia and Ethiopia

December 26, 2017 Institute for African Studies held a roundtable on the 120th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Russian Federation and the [Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia](#). The Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Ethiopia Mr. Grum Abay Teshome, Counselor-Ambassador Mr. Kasa, as well as other representatives of the diplomatic mission of Ethiopia in Russia took part. During the round table, the leadership of the Ethiopian diplomatic mission and the Institute's scientists conducted an exchange of views on a number of topical issues about the history of the bilateral foreign relations development. The state and prospects for the development of economic relations between Russia and Ethiopia were also assessed.



ACTUAL COMMENT



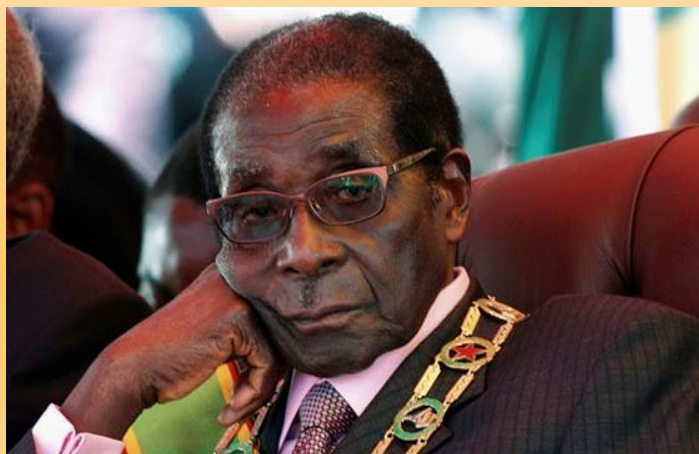
About some aspects of Uganda's economic development and potential opportunities for developing cooperation with Russia.

In accordance with the estimates of foreign analysts, the investment attractiveness of the African Continent is already surpassing China and India. According to the International Monetary Fund, the economic growth of African countries in the coming years could be 5-6% per year, and among the 20 fastest growing economies in the world, two will be in North Africa, 10 in sub-Saharan Africa. [See more](#)

The political crisis in Zimbabwe: evaluation and prediction of the situation

For many years, Western countries and the former metropolis – the United Kingdom set the regime change in Zimbabwe as their goal, applying sanctions and leading a constant information war. Nevertheless it seems that the current dramatic events in Zimbabwe were caused by mainly internal dynamics and, more to the point, by subjective factors. But can be the events in Zimbabwe in November 2017 regarded as a military coup, who will come to power in the country and what should Russia prepare for?

[See more](#)





The visit to Russia in the frameworks of the foreign policy strategy of Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir

November 23-24, 2017 the official visit of Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir to Russia took place. The visit was quite interesting because it was the first visit of the Sudanese President who has been 28 years in office to the Soviet Union and then to Russia (his predecessor Sadik al-Mahdi visited Moscow in 1986; in 1961 Leonid Brezhnev paid a visit to Khartoum as the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR). The fact that al-Bashir turned to Putin with a request to protect Sudan from aggressive US actions and proposal to

discuss the use of "the Red Sea bases" gave special importance and even some sensationalism to the visit. In an interview with RIA Novosti al-Bashir reported that the US is trying to split the Sudan into five states, so his country needs protection.

[See more](#)

Kenya: presidential campaign has become an impetus for the growth of separatist sentiments

1 September 1, 2017 The Supreme Court of Kenya declared an invalidity of the results of the August elections. In opposition circles of the Kenyan society this was regarded as an actual recognition of Raila Odinga's victory, the main opponent of the incumbent president Uhuru Kenyata. However, the hopes that the second round of elections, scheduled for October 28, only visually confirm this victory, dispelled after the opposition leader's attempts to achieve resolution of the revealed violations in the electoral process for holding "fair elections" failed.

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New page of the Russian-Egyptian cooperation

December 11, 2017 President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin paid a working visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt (ARE) and conducted negotiations with Egyptian President Abdelfattah Sisi, during which the development of Russian-Egyptian relations in the political, economic humanitarian spheres and trade was discussed. The most significant result of this visit was the signing of acts on the entry into force of four contracts for the construction of the Dabaa nuclear power plant, the supply of nuclear fuel for the entire period of operation of the plant, a service contract and a



contract for the management of spent\used nuclear fuel. According to experts, it is a record deal in the history of the world nuclear industry. It is also the largest package of non-raw export contracts for the entire history of Russia.

[See more](#)