



50th anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity - African Union

By the invitation of [Dr. Nkosazana Dhlamini-Zuma](#), Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Prof. Vladimir Shubin attended the AU Assembly devoted to the [50th anniversary](#) of the OAU-AU that took place in Addis Ababa on the 25th of May. During his visit he had discussions with Ethiopian academics, in particular in the [Centre of Ethiopian Studies](#) of the University of Addis Ababa and the [Ethiopian International Institute of Peace and Development](#).



Africa Day

On the 27th of May the Conference Hall of the Institute hosted the [enlarged session](#) of the Academic Council of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences,

The meeting was opened with the foreword of the Director of the Institute, Full Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences Alexei Vasiliev followed by the welcoming speech of the Director of the Africa Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Sergey Kryukov.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Madagascar – the Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps in the Russian Federation – [H.E. Eloi A. Maxime Dovo](#); representatives of the African Diplomatic Corps in Moscow; Prof. Adu Yao Nicaise from the Department of International Law of the [Peoples' Friendship University](#) of Russia also delivered welcoming speeches and reports on the relevant issues.

The keynote speaker, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation, Leading Research Fellow of the [Institute](#), Prof. Andrey Urnov spoke on «Russia and Africa: Yesterday and Today».

The session was closed by the Folk-lore dances of the group of students from Uganda and Benin. After the cultural part the Ambassador of the Republic of Benin, Anniset Gabriel Kochofa expressed his gratitude to the Institute and read the poem of A.S. Pushkin by heart.



Round Table on the African - Russian relations

A [Round Table](#) on the African - Russian relations past and present will be held with the participants of the senior executive course of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies ([NIPSS](#)), Kuru, Nigeria during their visit to the Institute for African Studies.

A welcoming speech was made by the Deputy Director of the Institute Prof. D.M. Bondarenko.

In the discussion took part: a representative from the embassy of Nigeria Dotun Adepoju, Dr. Igho Natufe, Prof. of NIPSS Bande T. M., Prof. Jumare I. M., Amb. Adamu A. Abbas and other guests from Kuru, Nigeria. Among colleagues from the Institute for African Studies were: Dr. T.Denisova, Dr. P.Kupriyanov, Dr. Y.Vinokurov, Dr. V.Fillipov, Dr. K.Turyinskaya.



In acknowledgement of gratitude and collaboration the Institute representatives were given a [diploma](#) with a memorial initials engraved on for remembering the meeting and our guests from NIPSS, Kuru, Nigeria. [Read more](#)

International Conference ECAS 2013 in Lisbon (Portugal)

June 27-29, the Lisbon University hosted the 5th European Conference on African Studies [ECAS 2013](#) «African dynamics in a multipolar world» that included more than 170 Panels.

Eleven scholars from the Institute, including PhD students, took part in this event: Prof. V.Shubin, Dr. A.Arkhangel'skaya, Dr. T.Deych, Dr. E.Demintseva, Dr. A.Zhukov, Dr. D.Zelenova, Dr. O.Kulkova, Dr. S.Mezentsev, A.Khamatshin, V.Kruchinsky and A.Panov. [Read more](#)

«Present Africa's diplomacy» conference

April 23rd, Dr. T.Deych and Dr. L.Prokopenko participated in the People's Friendship University [conference](#) [«Present Africa's diplomacy»](#) that took place in the framework of the XVII Week of African people's cultures. Dr. Deych spoke on «Chinese diplomacy in Africa» while Dr. Prokopenko made a presentation «Women's representation in the Southern African region countries' diplomacy». Among the speakers were 7 African Ambassadors, 15 diplomatic corps members and more than 100 students of PFU and other Universities.

Roundtable on BRICS

April 24 the roundtable «The resume of the 5th BRICS summit and Africa» took place at the Institute by the initiative of the Centre for the Study of the Russian-African Relations and African States' Foreign Policy. Among the discussants were research fellows of the Institute for African Studies and colleagues from other research Institutes.

Publications



A [book](#) by Dr. G. Sidorova «Military conflicts in Africa: a case of Democratic Republic of Congo» has been published.

A combatant and a witness of a range of politico-military warfares in DR Congo explores the roots, upgrowth and possible ways of conflicts resolution.

[Read more](#)



In his new book, «Hot "Cold War": African south (1960-1990)», Prof. Vladimir Shubin introduces the audience to the national

liberation movement in Southern Africa during the "cold war" and to the role of our country in supporting the struggle against colonialism and racism. The publication is based on Soviet and foreign archive documents, memorials of the participants and author's experience.

[Read more](#)

PhD theses defense

On the 21st of May Tatyana Deych successfully defended a dissertation [«Africa in the China's foreign policy strategy \(end XX – beg. XXI cc.\)»](#) pursuing a Doctor's degree at the Dissertation Council D002.030.02 session at the Institute for African Studies.

Round Table on Sudan

On 17 May, International press center [RIA Novosti](#) (Moscow, Russia) hosted a [roundtable](#) on the present-day political and economic situations in the Republic of Sudan. The event, held under a title question «Will Sudan remain spared by the turbulent aftermath of the ‘Arab spring?’», was attended by the Institute researcher Dr. Alexander Zhukov, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Sudan in Russia H.E. Dr.



Omar Dahab, an expert of the Moscow-based Institute for the Middle East Dr. Sergey Seregichev, the international media and diplomats.

In his speech, Dr. Zhukov discussed Sudan's potential as

a supplier of mineral resources and the anti-crisis economic policies of the Sudanese government following the separation of the country in July 2011. The discussion also touched on the issues of relationship between Sudan and its closest neighbor South Sudan, as well as on the prospects for the Russian-Sudanese economic partnership.

A video coverage of the roundtable is available [here](#).

Cinema Club «Africa Shows»

Cinema Club demonstrated a South African film [«White Wedding»](#) (director Yann Terner, South Africa, 2009). Romantic comedy, the heroes of which belong to different African peoples and where one can hear 6 different official languages of South Africa, became the most popular film in the 2009 distribution.



«Nikolay Gumilev's Africa» evening

April 11, the Big Hall of the Central House of Writers ([CDL](#)) hosted the memorable evening [«Nikolay Gumilev's Africa»](#) devoted to the 100 anniversary of the Gumilev's expedition to Africa acting through the Russian Academy of Sciences. The celebration was organized by the Gumilev Society, CDL and the Institute for African Studies.



The evening's foreword was declaimed by vice-director of the Institute, Prof. D. Bondarenko; among the invited speakers also were Dr. Y.Kobischanov; director of the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography Y.Chistov; Ethiopian embassy staff: Plenipotentiary Minister-Counsel Mekonnen Gossaye Tiba, First Secretary Gutema Getacheu Degene; historian, full member of the Russian Academy of Sciences A.Davidson; Gumilev's biography and art explorer E.Stepanov; People's artist of Russia D.Pevtsov; artist A.Zlakazov; Russian writers and artists, members of the 2008 expedition to Africa according to an itinerary of N.Gumilev.

At the closure of the evening two films were screened: a documentary by I. Alimpiev «Nikolay Gumilev. African Hunt» (1988), and fragments of a documentary devoted to the African expedition of Kunstkamera staff.

Roundtable «African students in USSR / Russia»

April 25th, the [roundtable «African students in USSR / Russia»](#) took place in the National University of Science and Technology «MISIS». The meeting was organized by the Institute for African Studies in liaison with [Fondation Maison des sciences de l'homme](#) (Paris).

Scholars have set out the results of their research focused on the present life of former African students in USSR as well as the results of familiar research conducted in Soviet times. The alumni of 1970-1980s who settled in Russia or returned to the home-countries also took part in the debates.

«Political Systems of Early States» International Conference

June 19-22, 2013 Profs. Dmitri M. Bondarenko and Andrey V. Korotayev took part as papergivers and discussants in the International Academic Conference «Political Systems of Early States» in Institute of History and Culture, Shaanxi Normal University (Xi'an, China).

Admission

For those applying for a [graduate program](#) at the Institute:

The deadline of the application process for the Fall semester 2013 had been shifted to June 20th – July 31st.

The entry examination period is August 1st – August 28th.

Enrolled students will be notified after September 2nd.

«Russian business strategies in Africa»: delegation to Southern Sudan and Uganda

On May 12-18 Russian delegation of business community visited two countries in Eastern Africa: Republic of Southern Sudan (Djuba) and the Republic of Uganda (Kampala). Essentially, it was the first delegation of Russian manufacturers to these countries. Previously the interest to Africa was manifested primarily by natural resources corporations.



During the business trip the group charted the future task concerning the widening of the range of types of economic interrelationship between Russia and two Eastern African countries where the presentations of contemporary technologies and products of Russian companies were organized. The mutually interested spheres for both African and Russian sides were targeted,

the issues of concern in potential collaboration discussed as well as the further steps for the fruitful partnership. The following final protocols were signed:

1. Memorandums on cooperation between the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Southern Sudan;

2. Memorandums on cooperation between the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Uganda. Dr. Elena Kharitonova headed the project.

[Read more](#)

The School of Young Africanists

The Academic Council on African countries' problems and Young scholars council of the Institute for African Studies with the Lab of monitoring of the socio-political destabilization risks of the Higher School of Economics on November 7-8, 2013 are organizing the [XII School of Young Africanists](#) «BRICS and prospective of socio-economic, political and cultural development in Africa».

The Conference brings together students, graduate students and young scholars interested in African studies. The deadline for abstracts (not exceeding 300 words) submission is October 1, 2013. The book of abstracts is to be published prior to the Conference opening.

The Paper proposals are to be sent to the Academic secretary of the Academic Council of the Institute for African Studies, Dr. Natalia Zherlitsyna (e-mail: NS_inafr@mail.ru).

The venue is a main campus of the National Research University Higher School of Economics: Myasnitckaya 20, Moscow. [Read more](#)

13th International Conference of Africanists (May 27-30, 2014)

On the 1st of April the Call for Panel proposals submission to the [13th Conference of Africanists](#) «Society and Politics in Africa: Traditional, Transitional, and New» was closed. By the decision of the Organizing Committee, 58 Panels submitted by the scholars from 18 countries: Russia, Africa, Europe, Asia, North and South Americas, were approved.

Since April 15th the *Call for Papers* is opened to the Panels accepted and a Free Communication Panel.

The deadline for paper proposals (in the form of abstracts within *300 words* in Russian or English) is *November 1, 2013*. The proposals should be sent directly to the respective panel convener.

The information to be submitted alongside with the paper abstract includes full name, title, position, institutional affiliation, full mail and e-mail addresses, telephone and fax numbers.

However, in case you feel your paper does not fit any particular panel but corresponds to the Conference's general topic, you may submit your proposal to the Organizing Committee by the same date (November 1, 2013) and it will be considered for scheduling for the Free Communication Panel. Besides, if the Organizing Committee finds it reasonable to unite an appropriate number of proposals submitted for the Free Communication Panel into a thematic panel, it may establish such a panel and propose one of its prospective participants to convene it.

The Organizing Committee can be reached by e-mail, at the addresses: conf2014@gmail.com (for general inquiries on the Conference-related academic matters and proposals for the Free Communication Panel) and inter.inafr@mail.ru (for the inquiries regarding technical matters – accommodation, visas, etc.). To find a list of the Panels accepted and for the detailed information please refer to the official [Announcement](#) and the [website](#).