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Institute for African Studies
Russian Academy of Sciences

Newsletter



International Forum «Development of Parliamentarism»

On 5 June, 2018 in the 75th pavilion of VDNH an international forum «Development of parliamentarism» was opened. It brought together representatives of 96 countries. Parliamentarians and experts worked for two days in thematic sections, dedicated to the legislative support of the development of the world economy, strengthening of international security and improving national legislation.

58 official parliamentary delegations attended the forum. 19 delegations were led by the heads of parliaments and 15 – by vice-speakers. Among participants were representatives of 11 international parliamentary organizations, including the OSCE PA, IPA CIS and the

CSTO Parliamentary Assembly, the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, and the Central American Parliament.

During the round table «Russia-Africa: Prospects for Parliamentary Cooperation» (June 4), which was moderated by the director of the Institute of African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, member of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences **Irina Abramova**, acute problems of interstate cooperation were discussed, including inter-parliamentary relations, various aspects of the problems of the African continent in the context of global trends.

The participants of the round table were: **Gennadi Zyuganov** – the leader of the Communist Party, **O.V. Timofeeva** - Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, **Donatille Mukabalisa** - Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies of the Republic of Rwanda, **Baleka Mbete** - Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of South Africa, **Jacob Mudenda** - Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Zimbabwe, **Maria Teresa Efua Asangono** - Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of Equatorial Guinea, **Margaret Natalie Mensah-Williams** - Chairman of the National Council of the Republic of Namibia, and other heads of Parliamentary Affairs of 15 African states, representatives of the Russian Foreign Ministry, international experts and representatives of the media.

Among other speakers were: **L.L. Fituni**, Deputy Director of the IA RAS, Corresponding Member of the RAS, **V.G. Shubin**, chief researcher of IA RAS, Doctor of History, Professor, **O.B. Ozerov**, Deputy Director of the Africa Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and **Teterin O.I.** - Deputy of the chief editor of the journal «Asia and Africa Today».

The participants of the round table stated that there was a great potential for further development of political, trade-economic, scientific-technical, humanitarian, cultural and information interaction between the Russian Federation and African states, while noting the need to apply unused reserves more vigorously. They stressed the



importance of maintaining regular contacts, including at the highest levels, improving long-term cooperation, developing legal mechanisms, and broadening ties through public organizations.

The participants of the round table noted the urgent need for additional measures to bring Russia's current economic ties with Africa in line with the high level of political relations, for which purpose it is necessary to use all available opportunities.

The round table «Russia-Africa: Prospects for Parliamentary Cooperation» was an important milestone on the way to the full-scale international parliamentary conference «Russia - Africa». [Read more](#)



Africa Day in the Institute for African Studies of RAS

On 30 May, 2018 the Institute for African Studies of RAS held a meeting of academic council, devoted to the 55 Anniversary of the establishment of the Organisation of African Unity, which is also celebrated as the Africa Day. Honorary President of the Institute for African Studies of RAS, academician of RAS Alexey Vasiliev congratulated the guests and researches of the Institute. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Mikhail Bogdanov stressed the importance of strengthening Russian-African relationship. The Head of the [Russian Centre for the study of the Russian-African Relations and African States' Policy](#) of the Institute for African Studies Ambassador E.N. Korendjasov delivered a

scientific report «Africa – the formation of a new centre of global influence».

The celebration also included the presentation of a media-project «Mama Africa», prepared by young scholars. Its goal is to expand awareness about Russia in African countries and visa versa. The guests were also entertained by talented artists of African traditional music and songs of «Kimbata» group. Celebrations were concluded by a documentary about Africa. [Read more](#)

The jubilees

On 3 April, 2018, Academic Council of the Institute for African Studies of RAS organised a celebration of 90 year anniversaries of Rose Nurgalievna Ismagilova and Irina Timofeevna Katagoshina. They were congratulated by their colleagues, including the Honorary President of the Institute, academician Alexey Vasiliev and the Director of the Institute, corresponding member of RAS Irina Abramova. Doctor of History Rosa Ismagilova joined the Institute at the time of its creation and witnessed key points of its development. Her research has been devoted to the ethno-cultural problems of Africa. Candidate of Science (History) Irina Katagoshina has focused on the history of social thought, social problems, culture of tropical Africa.

[Read more](#)



The Day of Victory in the Institute for African Studies of R.A.S.

On 8 May, 2018, the Institute for African Studies of RAS marked the 73 years of Victory in the Great Patriotic War. At the meeting, held on the eve of the event, the Institute's team paid tribute to the memory of those who fought in those wars.

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International conference on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Cuito Cuanavale battle (Angola)

From the 10, to the 12 of April, 2018 the Institute for African Studies of RAS held an international conference devoted to the 30th anniversary (1987-1988) of battles, in which Angolian armed forces with the support of the USSR and Cuba defeated UNITA that had invaded the territory of the state with the support of the regular forces of the racist South Africa.

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April 18, 2018 Russian-African Relations in the Context of Africa's «Turn To The East»

On 18 April, 2018, the [Centre for the study of the Russian-African Relations and African States' Foreign Policy](#) organized an international conference, dedicated to the analysis of the Russian-African relations, their prospects in the context of African states, increased role in contemporary world economy and international relations and the African states «turn to the East». The discussion focused on the issues of Africa's cooperation with emerging powers and on Russian-African relations and their prospects. More than 50 people took part in the meeting.

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The Scientific Conference «Afro-Christianity and Afro-Islam - a role in the historical and socio-cultural development of Africa south of the Sahara: the experience of study and contemporary problems»

On 13 June, 2018, The. Scientific Conference «Afro-Christianity and Afro-Islam - role in the historical and socio-cultural development of Africa south of the Sahara: the experience of study and contemporary problems» was organized by the [Center for Civilizational and Regional Studies](#). [Read more](#)

Business conference «Russia-Africa» in a Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation.

On 16 May, 2018, the Russian Ministry of Economic Development held a business conference «Russia-Africa» under the chairmanship of the deputy minister Azer Mutalim oglu Talibov. The event focused on the current state and prospects of Russia-Africa cooperation, existing mechanisms of state support of projects with the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. [Read more](#)

The Director of the Institute for African Studies of RAS Irina Abramova delivered a report at the meeting of the Collegium of the MFA of Russia.

On 16 May, 2018 at a meeting of the Collegium of the Foreign Ministry of Russia, devoted to Africa, following the minister of foreign affairs of Russian Federation Sergei Lavrov, and the director of the Africa Department of the Foreign Ministry Andrey Kemarskij, Director of the Institute for African Studies of RAS Irina Abramova made a report on «The African segment of a multipolar world: significance for the world's leading centres of power and for the RF». [Read more](#)



A public lecture of the ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya in the Institute for African Studies of RAS

On 24 April, 2018 the Institute for African Studies of RAS held a public lecture of the Ambassador of Rwanda Doctor Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya. The lecture was devoted to the 24th anniversary of Rwanda genocide. The theme of the lecture was «Achievements in the economic development of Rwanda during 24 years after the genocide». The lecture was attended by the representatives of the Russian MFA, the diplomatic corps of African countries and the academic community.

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Visit of His Excellency Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt Ihab Nasr to the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences

On 8 May, 2018 the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Arab Republic of Egypt Ihab Nasr visited the Institute for African Studies of RAS with the first secretary of the Embassy Osman Magdi. The working meeting with the leadership of the Institute consisted of: Director Abramova I.O., the Honorary President Vasiliev A.M., the Deputy Director Fituni L.L. and the Head of the [Center for North Africa and the Horn of Africa Studies](#) - Tkachenko A.A. The parties agreed on the preparation of a joint roundtable on water resources of the Nile governance and outlined the formats of cooperation. [Read more](#)



Professor Bondarenko D.M. in the program Sportexpress World Cup 2018

On 25 May, 2018 the Deputy Director for Science D. M. Bondarenko, corresponding member of RAS, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor participated in the program Sportexpress World Cup 2018. [Read more](#)



Speeches of the Director I.O. Abramova and dep. Director L.L. Fituni at the XVIII International Likhachev Scientific Readings

May 17, 2018 the 18th International Likhachev Scientific Readings occurred - the world's largest annual forum of humanitarian knowledge on the subject: «Contours of the Future in the Context of World Cultural Development» in St. Petersburg State University. This year more than 200 scientists, state and public figures presented at the event. 1. Plenary report of the Director of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, member of the R.A.S. Presidium, corresponding member, Doctor of Economics, Professor I.O. Abramova on the theme: «Great

challenges of the Future: resource shortages and international conflicts in Africa». 2. Plenary report of deputy. Director of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, corresponding member, Doctor of Economic Sciences, Professor L.L. Fituni on the theme «Challenges of the Present: Science and Culture between the just world order and the «Ice war». [Read more](#)

Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR) Project «South Africa - Russia's Strategic Partner»

May 22 June 1, 2018. Within the framework of the RFBR project Professor Shubin ([Center for History and Cultural Anthropology](#)) and Dr Sidorov(Center for South African Studies) conducted a field research in South African Republic, from May 22 to June 1. They had meetings with former President Khalema Motlant and other prominent figures of the country, scientists from the University of South Africa (UNISA), Universities in Witwatersand, Western Cape, Johannesburg, Cape Town, Pretoria, Stellenbosch, the National Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences. May 28-31 took part in the BRICS Academic Forum, Johannesburg. [Read more](#)

«Chad is a hard-to-reach country»

April 10, 2018 a member of the Russian Geographical Society, famous writer, traveler and photographer V.A. Snatenkov presented a lecture in the hot pursuit of his trip to Chad in the [Center for Tropical African Studies](#). He visited the southern regions of the country, remote areas of the northeast - on the Ennedi Plateau, took part in the festival of national cultures. His gallery of pictures you can always admire on the walls of the Institute for African Studies. [Read more](#)



Memorandum of cooperation

May 22, 2018 the Memorandum of Cooperation was signed with the College of Wildlife Conservation of Africa Mweka (Moshi, Tanzania). [Read more](#)

Current comment

(the rubric was created in cooperation with IMEMO of the Russian Academy of Sciences)



Geopolitical «funnel» of the Red Sea

March 3, 2018, Russian Foreign Minister S.V. Lavrov gave an interview to the Ethiopian newspaper Reporter on the eve of his five-day visit to five African countries (Angola, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Namibia and Ethiopia). In his speech (among other things) he expressed deep concern over the «increase in the volume of weapons» and the «presence of numerous military bases and naval forces of foreign states» in the region of the Horn of Africa. [Read more](#)



Political crisis in Ethiopia: «Ethiopian spring»?

February 15, 2018, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Hailemariam Desalegn, resigned, motivating it with a desire to facilitate the implementation of the reforms. March 27, the Executive Committee of the ruling party, the Revolutionary Democratic Front of the Ethiopian Peoples (RDFEN), consisting of 180 members, elected Dr. Abiy Ahmed Ali as chairman. The elections took place in a difficult situation: in fact, the ruling party of the country - the Popular Front for the Liberation of Tigers (TPLF) - did everything possible to maintain a leading position in the country's power structures.

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Presidential elections in Sierra Leone, 2018

March 2018, Sierra Leone held presidential elections in two rounds: the first on March 7 and the second on March 31. According to the Constitution, in the first round the candidate must get at least 55% of the vote to be elected; in the second - the president becomes one of the two top candidates, who received the largest number of votes. 16 applicants participated in the presidential race. among them several are experienced politicians who held high party and government positions in different years that is why, the rivalry was tough. So from the very beginning, it was suggested that the vote would be held in two rounds. And it happened. [Read more](#)



In search of a mutually acceptable solution for the Nile

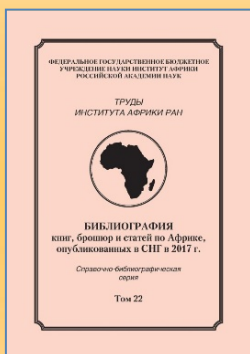
The scarcity of fresh water, which is becoming an increasingly scarce natural resource, is acutely felt in many countries of the world. It is therefore not surprising that in September 2015 the UN defined «ensuring the availability and rational use of water resources and sanitation for all» as the sixth of the seventeen global goals of sustainable development.

One of the ways to reduce the severity of the problem is to conclude intergovernmental agreements defining the order of use and protection of water bodies by countries located in transboundary river basins. [Read more](#)



Predictable results of the presidential elections in Egypt

March 26-28, 2018, another presidential election was held in the Arab Republic of Egypt (Egyptians living abroad, voted in advance - March 16-18, 2018). In accordance with the provisions of the country's Constitution, approved at the January 2014 referendum, the President is elected for a term of 4 years, and can be re-elected only once. [Read more](#)



Publications of the Institute:

A bibliography of books, pamphlets and articles on Africa published in the CIS in 2017 was published. Ed. N.A. Ksenofontova. Compiled by A.N. Ivanov M : IAfr. RAS, 2018. - 356 p. [Read more](#)



Scientific notes of the Institute of African Studies, RAS No. 4 (41), 2017. Moscow: Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, 2018. [Read more](#)

Obituaries



VYSOTSKAYA Natalia Ivanovna

(04/04/1927 - 24/04/2018)

At the 92nd year of life passed away, VYSOTSKA Natalia Ivanovna, one of the oldest employees of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Candidate of Historical Sciences,

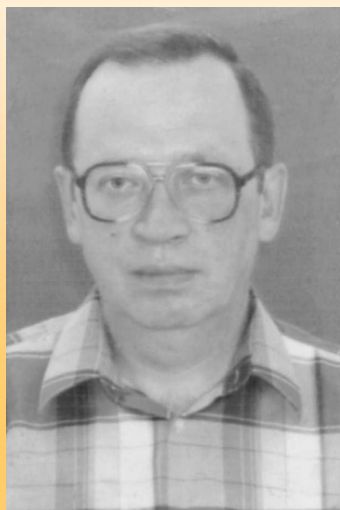
Leading Research Associate who worked at the Institute from the day of its foundation to retirement, which made a significant contribution to the development of domestic African Studies. Her works on the history of Africa are widely known both in our country and abroad.



IVANOVA Olga Yakovlevna

(18.07.1947 - 8.04.2018)

In the year of 71, a long-time employee of the Institute for African Studies passed away. On behalf of all colleagues, we express our sincere condolences to her family and friends.



KIRYUSHIN Sergey Alekseevich

(12/07/1948 - 05/17/2018)

At the age of seventy, Sergey Alekseevich Kiryushin, the chief power engineer, who worked at the Institute more than 13 years, passed away. We express our condolences to Sergey's family and friends.



GROMOVA Olga Borisovna

(20.01.1938 - 23.06.2018)

After a serious illness, Gromova Olga Borisovna - Ph.D. (Hist.), Senior Research Fellow of the Centre for Sociological and Political Sciences Studies, who worked at the Institute from the day of its basis, passed away. She made a significant contribution to the development of domestic African Studies.