



Vasily Solodovnikov 95th anniversary

On March 13, 2013 there was a celebration for the 95th anniversary of Vasily G. Solodovnikov, the Director of the Institute from 1964 to 1976. The event was attended by the Institute scholars.

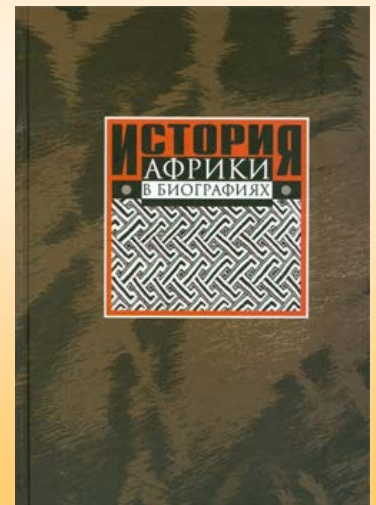
In 1964-1976 Vasily Solodovnikov served as the director of the Institute for African Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences and as the vice-president of the international Africanists' Congress in 1965–1973. Most of his publications are devoted to socio-economical and political issues in developing countries. Doctor Honoris causa of the [University of Lagos](#) (Nigeria). In 1976-1981 served as an Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the USSR to the Republic of Zambia. Awarded with an Order of the Red Banner of Labour and different medals.

The Editorial Board of the Newsletter congratulates Vasily Grigorievich and wishes him good health and success in his further work!

Publications

On 20th of March 2013 in the context of meeting dedicated to International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (celebrated all over the world since 1966 in accordance with the UN General Assembly resolution) there was the presentation of scientific compilation “The History of Africa in biographies” edited by A. Davidson. The meeting was held as a round table discussion including the authors of the monograph, the representatives of the African Embassies in the Russian Federation, the UN Information Centre in Moscow, the Russian Foreign Ministry, the Institute for African Studies and other governmental and non-governmental organizations, funds, and the media.

Among the authors are the following scholars from the Institute for African Studies: A. Arkhangelskaya, Y. Vinokurov, V. Gribanova, L. Prokopenko, N. Rodionova, A. Savateev, O. Teterin, A. Tokarev, S. Shlenskaya. The Deputy Director for Research Prof. D. Bondarenko gave an opening speech.



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As a result of the «Racism, xenophobia, discrimination. How we did see them» seminar organized in 2010 by the Center of history and cultural anthropology of the Institute in collaboration with the [Fondation Maison des sciences de l'homme](#) and French-Russian cultural center in Moscow, the book of collected of the same name was published in March 2013 (editor – E. Demintseva).

The book depicts the phenomenons of racism, xenophobia and discrimination as complex topical issues and burning socio-political matters at the same time.

The first chapter of the symposium is devoted to the different theoretical approaches to the studies of these issues.

In the second chapter the phenomenons are analyzed on the examples of several case studies based on the results of field research in Russia and Europe (particularly in France).



II ITAR-TASS press-conference

January 24, 2013 the press conference «Integration of Russia into the Afro-Arab region» was held in the conference hall of the ITAR-TASS. The keynote speaker was the director of the Institute, Alexey Vasiliev.

Vasiliev told about Russian political and business circles interests towards the African continent.

In the nearby future he predicts the appearance of African «lions» as fast-developing Asian «tigers» that might occur as a result of conflicts and crises.

кадемик РАН А.М. Васильев.

Part of the press conference was devoted to the Middle East issues: the director of the Institute gave an expert assessment of the current situation in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon.



Official news

The Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences Decree №35 dated February 19, has approved the Full Member of the Academy Alexey Vasiliev as the director of the Institute for African Studies for five years.

The Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences has decreed to assign the Institute for African Studies the first category as decided by the Commission on appraisal of results of the research institutions of the

Alina Lapushkina's fieldwork in Ghana, December 2012 - January 2013.

On the 1st of December 2012 the second expedition to Avatime people of Ghana commenced. The research fellow of the Centre of Information and International Relations Alina Lapushkina took part in 2 projects organized by missionaries living in Ghana.

The first project was dedicated to the Ghanaian children. The bright presentations with the humanitarian aid distribution for children were held in every Avatime school. The second part of the expedition was devoted to the project «Avatime History». The aim of this work was to fix and record the historical oral tradition of Avatime in general and of each village in particular. Further results of the research will be translated into the local language and published.

Avatime are one of the indigenous small numbered peoples of Ghana. The main area of their residence is 8 villages in the south-east of the country (the Volta region).



Inter-Institutional collaboration

In March, through the high mediation of the Embassy of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Uganda and the [Embassy of the Republic of Uganda in Moscow](#), the Institute signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Collaboration with the [St. Lawrence University](#) (Kampala, Uganda).

In addition, the agreement with the [Institute of Economics, Management and Law](#) (Kazan, Russia) was signed. The Memorandums of Understanding with the [Université de Lomé](#) (Togo), [l'Université d'Abomey-Calavi](#) (Benin) and Kazakh Ablai Khan University of International Relations and World Languages [KazUIR&WL](#) (Almaty, Kazakhstan) are being prepared.

Roundtable at MGIMO

On March 28 a round table on «Africa Today: Problems and Prospects» was held at MGIMO. The event was organized by the Institute of International Studies in conjunction with the editorial board of the «International Affairs» journal of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The experts of the Institute Dr. Irina Abramova, Dr. Alexandra Arkhangel'skaya and Dr. Leonid Fituni gave speeches. More information about the conference.



Conference at MGIMO

March 15, the MGIMO hosted the [conference for young scholars](#) «BRICS in the present World: specifics and perspectives of the strategic partnership».

The event was organized by the MGIMO [Students' Union](#), [Institute for International Studies](#) and the Organizing Committee with the support of Center for BRICS countries, Ibero-American center of MGIMO and the Russian Youth Union.

During the event, the young researchers discussed a wide range of issues related to the BRICS. A. Arkhangel'skaya was among the spokespersons of the conference.



Grants

February 14, the Contest Commission of the Russian Humanitarian Science Foundation (RHSF) unveiled the Competition 2013 results. The results were made public during the [RHSF Board session](#). 1450 new projects were supported in 2103.

Among the winners of the RHSF competitions are the following researchers from the Institute (as heads of the projects):

- Prof. Dmitri Bondarenko, project [№13-01-18036](#) «Relationship among African Americans and migrants from the African countries to the USA: socio-cultural aspect of the communities' interperception» in terms of the General competition RHSF 2013;

- Dr. Ekaterina Denintseva, project [№13-21-08001](#) «African students in Soviet Union: post-graduate mobility and career development» in terms of the International competition RHSF –Fondation Maison des sciences de l'homme (France) 2013;

- Dr. Daria Zelenova, project [№13-31-01284](#) «Mutual aid practices in African cities. The cases of urban communities in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) and Johannesburg (South Africa)» in terms of the RHSF Competition in support of young scholars 2013.

Vladimir Sntenkov's photo exhibition

Noon, March 19, 2013 in the Conference Hall of the Institute an exhibition of photographs «Africa today» made by traveler Vladimir Sntenkov was opened. At the opening ceremony, Mr. Sidi Mohamed Ould Taleb Amar, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, and Dr. Jaka Mgvabi Mwamba, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Republic of Tanzania made speeches. Vladimir Sntenkov delivered a speech and answered questions from the visitors. The exhibition was opened by Prof. Dmitri M. Bondarenko, the Institute Vice-Director for Research. The ceremony was attended by media representatives, faculty members of research institutions and universities.



Ph.D. thesis defense

The defense of the Doctor's degree dissertation of Tatyana Deych «Africa in the China's foreign policy strategy (end XX – beg. XXI c.)», specialization 07.00.15 – «History of international relations and foreign policy» is scheduled for May 21st and will begin at 12 a.m. at the Dissertation Council session at the Institute for African Studies (123001, Moscow, Spiridonovka 30/1, Conference Hall).

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According to the Ministry of education and science of the Russian Federation [order №165/nk](#) dated April 1 2013, A. Zhukov was awarded a PhD diploma.

Young scholars council column

On the 20th of March the meeting with a famous journalist Alexander Prosvetov has taken place at the Conference Hall of the Institute for African Studies.

Alexander Prosvetov worked as a TASS correspondent in Ethiopia, Benin and Namibia, regularly wrote for «Echo of the Planet» magazine. In 1997-2000 was a staff correspondent of the «Sport-express» newspaper in France. Today Mr. Prosvetov is a «Sport-express» observer and, in particular, covers the theme of African sport competitions.

Cinema club

The cinema club «Africa shows!» resumed showing documentary and feature films on the major crucial topics for African societies.

The documentary «Roadmap to Apartheid» was shown at the Institute for African Studies on the 3rd of April. The film is the laureate and the winner of numerous international contests including the Milan International Film Festival 2012.

The authors drawn parallels between the apartheid in South Africa and the policy of segregation of Israel towards the Palestinians. Comparing the historical themes of Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the establishment of the regime of apartheid in South Africa, the film explores the physical and psychological aspects of segregation through the eyes of the Palestinians and South Africans.



Institute staff in the media

On the 25th of January among the discussants of the «Opinion» broadcast on the «Russia 24» channel you could see Prof. Dmitri Bondarenko. The meeting was devoted to the events in Mali and Algeria.

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On February 6, Dmitri Bondarenko was a guest of the «Art Council» teleshov on the «Culture» national TV channel and [talked](#) about the destruction of historical and cultural heritage in Mali.

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March 5, Dr. Veronica Usacheva took part in the discussion as an expert on Africa during the «Let them talk» talk-show on the «First channel». The broadcast was devoted to the Russian-Tanzanian family reunion after 30 years of separation.

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The 19th of March is a day of the 200th anniversary of David Livingston. In the interview to the BBC Russia on the 24th of March the vice-director of the Institute Dmitri Bondarenko narrated about the venerable explorer of the African continent, a physician and a fighter against slavery.

Staff members



[Dr. Igho Natufe](#) (Ph.D., International Politics, McGill University) joins the Institute for a year for doing research into the Russian-

Nigerian relations, Russian policy in North Africa, and policy of the great powers in Africa. Dr. Natufe is an alumnus of the [People's Friendship University of Russia](#), a former university professor of Political Science ([University of Ghana](#), Accra, Ghana, 1978-1980, and the [University of Benin](#), Benin City, Nigeria, 1980 - 1989) and senior advisor to the Government of Canada (1970 - 1978, 1989 - 2011). He is the author of «Soviet policy in Africa: from Lenin to Brezhnev» (Bloomington, IN: iUniverse, Inc, 2011).

Meeting South Africa: a Rainbow Nation

On March 16, the Russian State Children's Library hosted [a day of South Africa](#).

During the day children were listening the Russian researchers' and South Africa representatives' narrations about the country, traditional songs by the [People's Friendship University of Russia](#) students, got acquainted with Xosa and Tsonga languages, undertook a virtual tour to the Juma reserve via Skype, watched the video on the diving with sharks. After that the presentation of the South African children literature has taken place. As an entertainment, children's and adults' faces were painted with ritual make up, and in the end of the evening in the Library there was a quiz on South Africa.

Among the event co-organizers were researchers from the Institute for African Studies A. Arkhangel'skaya and Ekaterina Demintseva, as well as representatives of the Embassy of South Africa in Russia: Simon Cardy, Tembani Maluleke and Pumeza Moyloa.

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](#) of the Institute for African Studies.