



**Institute for African Studies
of the Russian Academy of Sciences**

Newsletter

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Serafim A. Chukanov (01.06.1940-04.09.2014)



September 4, 2014 at the age of 74 deceased Serafim A. Chukanov, senior research fellow of the Institute for African Studies RAS, after severe and long illness.

Mr. Chukanov was born on the 1st of June, 1940, in the village of Sychevka Nikiforovsky district of Tambov region. In 1969 he finished the Institute of Oriental Languages MSU with major in “The Arabic Language and Literature”. Serafim A. Chukanov worked in an Arab-African editorial office of the “Progress” Publishing House, at the Arab section of the “Raduga” P.H., as a senior research fellow in the Centre for North African and African Horn Studies of the Institute for African Studies RAS.

Serafim A. Chukanov will always stay in the memories of his colleagues as a responsive, modest, hardworking person and a great professional in his field.

The Jubilee of Amilcar Cabral



September 24, a commemorative meeting of the Academic Council of the Institute for African Studies RAS was held. The meeting was dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the African political and public leader's birth, an Honorary Doctor of the Institute for African Studies since 1971, Amilcar Cabral. The Institute for African Studies RAS together with the Embassy of the Guinea-Bissau Republic in the Russian Federation humbly took the responsibility for event's arrangement.

[Amilcar Cabral](#) is the author of numerous publications on issues related to the national liberation movements. His written inheritance also includes poetic works which are classified as a

literature of Cape Verde by researchers.

In his honor were named such places as square in Moscow, the International Airport of the Island of Sal (Cape Verde), the Guinea-Bissau youth organization “African youth of Amilcar Cabral”, the guerrilla groups of Uganda, who were fighting against the regime of Milton Obote.

The event commenced with the opening address of the vice director of the Institute for African Studies RAS, Prof. D.M. Bondarenko; also were provided the statements of:

- Charge d'Affaires ad interim of the Embassy of Guinea-Bissau Republic in Russian Federation His Excellency Issoufou Sauane;
- Director of Africa Department of Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs V.I. Utkin;
- Member of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences A.M. Khazanova “The student years of A. Cabral”.

Dr. A.A. Tokarev made a statement: “Amilcar Cabral: African leader, politician, fighter”. The statements of Y.A. Spirin (Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Prof. V.G. Shubin, Prof. A.Y. Urnov, Dr. E.N. Korendyasov were also included.

Special guests of the commemorative meeting were the veterans of the cooperation between the USSR/ Russian Federation, PAIGC and RGB, the representatives of Republic Guinea-Bissau association in Russia. [Read more](#)

The reception of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in honor to Africa Day

May 22, 2014 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted a traditional reception on the occasion of Africa Day on behalf of the Minister S.V. Lavrov for the heads of African countries' diplomatic missions accredited in Moscow.

In his statement, S.V. Lavrov acknowledged the firm Russian position focused on supporting and strengthening of the political dialog's development and practical cooperation with African partners, and also on a many-sided the African countries' facilitation.

The necessity of lending the contribution to the resolution of the crisis in regions which hamper the collaborative efforts of African countries and international organizations to put Africa on a sustainable development path was especially emphasized.

In reply, the African Diplomatic Corps Dean in Moscow, the Ambassador of the Republic of Madagascar Mr. Eloi Alphonse Duvu Maxim, mentioned that Russian-African cooperation on a wide range of issues of global and regional agenda is constructive and productive. His Excellency confirmed the desire of the peoples of Africa to expand the whole complex of relations with Russian Federation, based on a solid foundation of traditional friendship and mutual sympathy.

During the reception the conversation between the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs S.V. Lavrov and the director of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the academician A. M. Vasiliev, vice director prof. I.O. Abramova on the items related to Russian-African relations was held.

[Read more](#) about the reception



EASA-2014

From July 31 to August 3 [Tallinn University](#) hosted the [13th Conference of the European Association of Social Anthropologists \(EASA\)](#) "Collaboration, Intimacy & Revolution – innovation and continuity in an interconnected world". More than 1,100 scientists were brought together for the forum from all over the world. Their reports were presented in more than 120 [sections](#), laboratories and plenary sessions.

The representation of the Institute for African Studies was impressive: vice Director of the Institute, Professor D.M. Bondarenko traditionally led (jointly with Dr. Thilo Graetz) the [African section of the conference](#), which this year was dedicated to entrepreneurship in Africa: «Cultural entrepreneurs in Africa: endeavors, constraints and pathways of success». Young scientists presented their researches on Africa, but in other sections: junior research fellow V.V. Kruchinsky made a [report](#) «Right angles, vicious circles: state regulation of the urban informality in contemporary South Africa»; joint [presentation](#) of junior research fellows O.V. Ivanchenko and P.A. Popov was entitled «Regulation of the grassroots mutual help practices among urban communities in Dar Es Salaam: economic empowerment or the opposite?».».

Conference "The City of different cultures"

September 9-10 the Institute "Strelka" hosted a [conference](#) "The City of different cultures". Russian culture experts, historians and anthropologists presented their last researches related to multicultural aspect in the context of city. The presentations and discussions were dedicated to the attractive for migrants and multicultural megalopolis – Moscow.

How do the migration flows affect the development of the urban space? How can a qualitative interaction between those who move to the capital and the citizens be developed at the local level, the level of a single district and community residents? Which urban, cultural, economic and social Programs should be launched in order to solve the problems of exclusion and confrontation?

One of the curators and speakers of the event was Dr. E.B. Demintseva. Her interview to the blog "Strelky" can be found [here](#).



AfroFest in the Bauman Garden

August 16-17, the N. Bauman Garden of Culture and Rest hosted the festival of cultures of African peoples «AFROFEST» organized by «[House of Africa](#)», a non-profit partnership for development of cultural, educational, public and business relations.

Among the grand opening ceremony speakers were: the festival head organizer – the president of «House of Africa» Serge Odunlami, Dr. Janne d'Arc. Mujawamariya – the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Rwanda to Russia, investments, trade and tourism attaché of the Embassy of the Republic of Tanzania – George Lingegu, cultural attaché of the Embassy of the Republic of Angola – Reginaldo Santos, representative of «Turkish Airlines», the sponsor of the event – Ekaterina Zhidkova.

The dancers' group «Afro Dance» demonstrated the guests some traditional African dances, as well as the duet from «RusAngo Dance» school,



the drummers from the school of African drums «Sun Drums», African couturiers have demonstrated their new fashion lines.

The Institute for African Studies took an active role in promotion and festival activities. The Head of the Centre of Information and International Relations, Natalia Bondar and her junior research fellows Alina Lapushkina and Petr Popov have prepared and held the program for kids «African journey». The Institute's team took part in the exhibition of African souvenirs, crafts and art having provided the stuff from the Institute's and private collections. The staff have received the [letter of gratitude](#) from Mr. Odunlami. [Reed more](#) about the festival.

Policy Advisory Group Seminar «South Africa and the BRICS»

On the invitation of the South African Centre for Conflict Resolution Prof Vladimir Shubin submitted a report at the Policy Advisory Group [Seminar](#) on “South Africa and the BRICS: Progress, Problems and Prospects”, convened in Tshwane (Pretoria) on 30-31 August and took part in the Public Dialogue on “South Africa's Foreign and Economic Policy after Two Decades” held there as well. During his stay in South Africa Prof Shubin visited the Africa Institute of South Africa, Institute of African Renaissance and University of Johannesburg, and met researches of the Human Science Research Council and South Africa Democracy Education Trust.

Field research of D. Bondarenko and V. Usacheva in the USA From August 9 to 27, 2014, the research into mutual perceptions of, and the relationship between recent migrants from Africa and African Americans, launched by the Institute for African Studies in the previous year, was continued in three cities of the state of Alabama: Albertville, Guntersville, and Huntsville. The research is supported by the [Russian Foundation for Humanities](#) (projects 13-01-18036 and 14-01-00070). This year, fieldwork was done by the Institute Vice-Director Prof. Dmitri M. Bondarenko and Senior Research Fellow Dr. Veronica V. Usacheva. [Reed more](#).

Conference at [IMEMO](#)

Sep 9-10, the Young Scholars' Councils of the 7 Institutes of the Department for Global Problems and International Relations of Russian Academy of Sciences delegated their young researchers to the all-Russian conference «Challenges for Russia in the changing world».

Dr. Olga Kulkova and Alexander Panov delivered their presentations «Africa as the continent of new prospective for Russia and the world» and «The image of Russia in Africa (based on the fieldworks in 2009, 2013 and 2014)» respectively within the panel «Latin American and African countries in Russian foreign policy». [Reed more](#).



XII Rhodes Forum

Sept 25-29 the ancient Greek island of Rhodes hosted a session of the annual World Public [Forum](#) «Dialogue of Civilizations».

Within the framework of the Forum Alexander Neklessa delivered a [lecture](#) «Cartography of the New World Complex». [More](#).

«World as the sum of interactions»

July 2nd, the Head of the Laboratory for Geoeconomic Analysis A. Neklessa led a [masterclass](#) «World as the sum of interactions» for the MA students of the [School](#) for Potanin Scholarship holders in the city of Khimki. [Reed more](#).

Lecture at the Youth Library № 115

Aug 26, Dr. K. Turyinskaya [conducted a seminar for kids and youth entitled «Journey to East Africa», hosted by the Moscow Youth Library](#) № 115 r. The narrative was devoted to nature and peoples of East Africa accompanied with a slideshow of photos made during the expeditions to [Ethiopia](#) (2011) and [Tanzania](#) (2013).

«Many Africans still live and run the household in line with the nature. The nature gives them everything they need for everyday life. The pictures that author captured in Ethiopia and Tanzania, provide us with the image of wild and unaffected world in contrast with artificial landscapes, the togetherness of the nature and culture in the everyday life of local people». [Reed more](#).

Cinema club «Africa shows!»

August 8th, the Institute's cinema club together with the Meeting Points 7 project organized the screening of Eron Davidson's and Ana Nogueira's award-winning [documentary](#) «**Roadmap to Apartheid**» (2012). The film gives a detailed look at the apartheid analogy commonly used to describe the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Narrated by Alice Walker (author of *The Color Purple*), *Roadmap to Apartheid* is as much a historical document of the rise and fall of apartheid in South Africa

Prof. Vladimir Shubin attended the screening as an expert-discussant.

[Reed more](#).

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August 15th, the attendees of the «Ten thousand wiles..» exhibition had an opportunity to meet Alexander Markov, the film director from Saint Petersburg who brought his [new footage](#) «**Our Africa**» to be presented at the Institute. The film tells the story of large-scale Soviet aid and assistance to the young liberating African states, about Soviet and Russian impact in Africa and its loss in 90s.

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August 22nd, the Institute hosted another public screening within the Meeting Points 7 exhibition. Shot by Dara Kell and Christopher Nizza, the [documentary](#) «**Dear Mandela**» unveils the story of Abahlali baseMjondolo (zulu «Shack dwellers movement») — a powerful South African grassroots initiative based on the principles of self-organization. The directors' research focuses on the South African urban poor struggle for their rights and on severe problems of South African democratization.

The screening was followed by the skype-debates with the authors.

«Ten thousand wiles and a hundred thousand tricks»

July 8 to August 22, the last chapter of Meeting Points 7 took place in the Institute for African Studies in Moscow with the exhibition *Ten thousand wiles and a hundred thousand tricks*, at which twenty contemporary artists are presented in the unique location of a working scientific institution that does not lend itself easily to the demands of the white cube, but neither to site-specificity rooted in its physical location or the temporality of its scientific, cultural and political roles. Resisting the drive towards nostalgic celebration of international solidarities during the times of anti-colonial liberation struggles and the symbolic capital that the Institute for African Studies in Moscow entails, the exhibition rather acknowledges its own status as a temporary intruder, pushing the agenda of anti-colonialism towards contemporary class struggles. It takes a stance against the processes described by David Harvey as "accumulation by dispossession", colonial replays, the revival of Cold War rhetoric and stereotypes, the neo-imperialism of multinationals and international organizations, and the renewed imperial aspirations of states as they

political constellations. [Reed more](#)

