

THE INTERNATIONAL MARINE ARCTIC COMPLEX EXPEDITION

«CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE
OF THE RUSSIAN ARCTIC»

The International Marine Arctic Complex Expedition is organized on the basis of the Marine Arctic Complex Expedition of the Russian Scientific Research Institute for Cultural and Natural Heritage named after D.S. Likhachev with the assistance of the Russian Geographical Society, Association of Russian Polar Explorers and Information Centre of the United Nations Organization in Moscow.

This is one of the few international expeditions in this remote and large area of the Arctic including the Franz-Josef Land and Novaya Zemlya Archipelagos and Vaigach Island in the last 100 years which is planned to accomplish so varied scope of research tasks.

The Expedition is planned for the period of 1.5 months (48 days) from July 15 until August 31, 2009.



An official press-conference will be held in order to present to the media the programme of the 2009 International Marine Arctic Expedition “The Cultural and Natural Heritage of the Russian Arctic” which will take place in Moscow at the Exhibition Hall of the “Photocentr” Association (8 Gogolevsky Boulevard) at 5 p.m. on February 4, 2009.

After the press conference, from 6 p.m. the official opening of the exhibition dedicated to the history of exploration of the Archipelagoes of Novaya Zemlya, Severnaya Zemlya and Zemlya Franza Iosifa (Franz Josef Land) and also of Taimyr Peninsula and Vaigach Island will present the important role that has been played by the annual 24 years long research of the Marine Arctic Complex Expedition (MACE) of the Russian Scientific Research Institute for Cultural and Natural Heritage named after D.S.Likhachev.

Among the invited persons there will be veterans of Polar expeditions, deputies of the State Duma, members of the Council of Federation, scientists, journalists. The opening speech is to be delivered by Hero of Russia, Hero of the Soviet Union, the special representative of the President of Russia for international collaboration in the Arctic and Antarctic, deputy of the State Duma, Dr.Sc.Artur N.Chilingarov.

MISSION OF THE EXPEDITION

PRESERVE THE PAST SAVE THE FUTURE

Many generations of explorers attracted by the magic power of the Arctic and by the strong desire to unveil new lands and find new routes connecting the “Old World” with the “New World” aspired to reach high latitudes. Names of those fearless travellers – the path breakers – are world renowned. Many of them have found their last haven in those severe lands. We should always remember our predecessors and keep these memories for future generations.

The contemporary Arctic regions again draws attention of the entire mankind. Global climatic changes occurring on our planet have become a dangerous reality. Global warming, most noticeable in the Arctic latitudes, is the reason for the growing number of natural catastrophes. Common efforts of all developed countries are necessary to understand the true nature and reasons of such changes, to find solutions for the most critical challenges.

We are the first generation to see the risks of the natural processes developing in the Arctic region, but we may also become the last generation that is able to change the situation.

The purpose of the expedition will be finding and examination of the historical sites evidencing discovery and development of the Arctic Archipelagos and their natural environments.

The expedition will search for new evidences of the Arctic pioneers – Russian Pomor sea-hunters who discovered Novaya Zemlya and Svalbard supposedly in the XII century, for William Barents ship's wreck trapped by sea ice in 1596 by the coast of Novaya Zemlya, then en route on Franz Josef Land it will examine remains of the expedition of Leigh Smith camp and of the vessel "Eira" which sank there in 1881, camps of the expeditions of Evelyn B. Baldwin, William Ziegler, Anthony Fiala, search for the wreck of S.Y. "America" expedition ship (sank in 1903) of Fiala-Ziegler North Pole Expedition, for historical sites connected with the expedition of Georgy Sedov on "St.Foka", expedition of Georgy Brusilov on "St.Anna" and the tragic ice-passage of a part of her crew led by Valerian Albanov through "the white death" in 1912-14, Fridtjof Nansen, Duc d'Abruzzi and others. Within the framework of one expedition its members will try to locate and make some initial examination of the three shipwrecks cradled in the icy bottom.



TASKS OF THE EXPEDITION

- Search and recording of historical sites belonging to the national cultural and natural heritage of Russia including those of indigenous peoples of the Russian North - ancient sanctuaries, ancient harbours, hunters and fishermen huts, winter quarters of famous Russian and foreign expeditions and study of the surrounding natural environment.
- Search and examination of the shipwrecks of the first Polar expeditions, collection of underwater archaeological materials for Russian museums.
- Performance of complex scientific research aimed at studying the dynamics and reasons of climatic changes in the Arctic regions, flora and fauna of Arctic archipelagos, ecological condition of the environment.



- Realization of historical and geographical experiments based on analysis of the diaries of Arctic explorers and actual living of modern researchers in similar environment.

- Creation of documentary video materials and films on the cultural and natural environment, history of exploration of the Russian Arctic regions for wide TV audience and Internet users, especially for the youth; attraction of attention of population at large, first of all – young people, to the world of travel, sports, propagation of healthy way of life, careful attitude to the ecology of our planet.
- Compilation of a fund of "Arctic sound and musical landscapes".
- Collection of materials for the "Atlas of cultural and natural heritage of Arctic regions" and creation of a system of preservation and usage of this heritage.
- Preparation and publication in Russian and English languages (with participation of authors from various countries) of catalogues of the International Marine Arctic Complex Expedition comprising cultural heritage objects (including the expedition finds, museum exhibits and items in private collections, both in Russia and abroad), evidencing the contribution of Russian and foreign researchers into the study of Arctic regions.
- **Preparation of an international travelling exhibition 2009-2010 in Russia, Switzerland and other countries to be defined.**



ORGANIZING INSTITUTIONS OF THE EXPEDITION

From the Russian part:

- Head and Scientific Supervisor of the IMACE, professor **Petr V. Boyarsky**. Marine Arctic Complex Expedition (MACE) of the Russian Scientific Research Institute for Cultural and Natural Heritage, named after D.S.Likhachev of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and the Polar Research Foundation, Moscow;

- Co-organizer of the IMACE, Head of expedition service, Director of the IMACE Project **Vladimir S. Chukov**. Public Foundation for Support of Expedition Activities "ARCTIC" of the Russian Geographical Society, Moscow;

- Co-organizer of the IMACE, Deputy Director of the IMACE Project, **Igor A. Pliusnin**. "Sphera" Centre for Science and Industry Company, St.Petersburg Scientific Centre of RAS.

From the Swiss part:

Co-organizer of the IMACE, Head of International Documentary Film Group **Milko Vuille**, Managing Director of "ACARSA" Scientific Expeditions. "ACARSA" Scientific Expeditions Company, Switzerland, CH- 2000, Neuchatel, Rue des Vignolants, 6

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