

THE INTERNATIONAL MARINE ARCTIC COMPLEX EXPEDITION

«CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE OF THE RUSSIAN ARCTIC»

The International Marine Arctic Complex Expedition (IMACE) is organized on the basis of the 24-years long experience of the Marine Arctic Complex Expedition (MACE) (Head and Scientific Supervisor professor Petr Boyarsky) of the Russian Scientific Research Institute for Cultural and Natural Heritage named after D.S. Likhachev on the Russian part; in collaboration with Milko Vuille Founder and Managing Director of ACARSA Scientific Expeditions as the co-organizer on the Swiss part.

The expedition is planned for 48 days from July 15 until August 31, 2009. 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 a highly varied scope of research tasks.

A team of about 50 scientists, divers and media crew will conduct and cover the researches using an expedition ship, with the support of traditional and new technologies: ski, canoes, and a helicopter, zodiacs, scientific equipment.

Some of the main goals will be:

Performance of complex scientific research aimed at studying ecological condition of the environment, the dynamics of climatic changes in the Arctic regions, florae and faunae of the archipelagos.

The search for new evidences of the Arctic pioneers - Russian Pomor's sea-hunters who discovered Novaya Zemlya and Svalbard in the XII century and for three famous historical shipwrecks cradled in the icy bottom: the William Barents ship's remains trapped by sea ice in 1596, the shipwrecks of the "Eira" of Benjamin Leigh-Smith expedition 1881 and of the S.Y. "America" of the Fiala-Ziegler North Pole Expedition 1903. Inspection and documentation of the remains of their winter camps as well as of historical sites connected with the expeditions of Georgy Sedov on "St.Foka", Georgy Brusilov on "St.Anna", Valerian Albanov, Fridtjof Nansen, Duc d'Abruzzi and others.

An official press-conference will be held in order to present to the media the programme of the IMACE in Moscow at the Exhibition Hall of the "Photocentr" Association (8 Gogolevsky Boulevard) at 5 p.m. on February 4, 2009.

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