



«RUSSIA and PAPUA NEW GUINEA»



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The collection contains materials of the International Symposium "Russia and Papua New Guinea", which took place on May 21, 2021 in a face-to-face and distance format.

The organizers of the symposium were the Committee for External Relations of St. Petersburg; Center for the Study of the South Pacific Region of the Center for Southeast Asia, Australia and Oceania of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences; Foundation for the Preservation of Ethnocultural Heritage named after Miklouho-Maclay; Association of the South Pacific Region Researchers.

Scientists and representatives of practical organizations from Russia and Papua New Guinea took part in the symposium.

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INTRODUCTION

FOUR AND A HALF DECADES OF RUSSIA – PAPUA NEW GUINEA RELATIONS: TRENDS, OUTCOMES, PROSPECTS

On May 21, 2021, as part of the events focusing on 45-year anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Russia Federation and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, an international symposium “Russia and Papua New Guinea” was held in Saint Petersburg. Notable representatives of academic and diplomatic communities of both countries, involved in fostering cooperation and defining its course, participated in the symposium. The event was organized by Committee for External Relations of St. Petersburg, Center of the South Pacific Studies of the Center for Southeast Asia, Australia and Oceania IOS RAS, Miklouho-Maclay Foundation for the Preservation of Ethnocultural Heritage and Association of the South Pacific Region Researchers.

The symposium aimed at revealing the specificity of cooperation between Russia and Papua New Guinea, undertaking an expert assessment of its interim results, outlining the most promising directions of cooperation, as well as the most appropriate measures and mechanisms to give it an extra impetus.

The overall assessment shared by the participants of the symposium was as follows: relations between Russia and Papua New Guinea have a growth potential, but it remains far from realized. The reasons are numerous and include the rise of competitiveness in relations between the global and the South Pacific international actors, mainly, China and Australia, as well as lack of self-supporting and self-maintaining ties in Russia – Papua New Guinea relations. Recommendations to substantially and instrumentally eliminate those fundamental shortcomings were submitted during the presentations and the subsequent discussion.

Among the issues on which the participants of the symposium differed, the following were the key:

- Can Russia advance its cultural and humanitarian possibilities in Pa-

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pua New Ginea along with weak economic exchanges between the two countries and their virtually non-existent commercial activity at each other's markets?

- Is the realization of pilot projects of economic cooperation, outlined in the presentations, enough to achieve real progress rather than its imitation?
- To what extent Russia's "vaccine diplomacy" may be a success in Papua New Ginea taking into account strong positions of Russia's competitors which link their policies towards PNG with the promotion of vaccines of other producers?

The outcomes of the symposium suggest that Russia and Papua New Guinea can draw up an agenda of cooperation which will continue the long-established traditions of their relations, as well as will simultaneously be synergized with their strategic planning and the international trends in the South Pacific. Nevertheless, even under the best scenario, Moscow and Port Moresby will have to make considerable effort in order to translate the generally optimistic assessments of future cooperation into the practical reality.

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Alikber Alikberov

Doctor of Sciences,
Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies
of the Russian Academy of Sciences



Dear friends and colleagues!

Let me welcome the participants of the International Symposium "Russia and Papua New Guinea" dedicated to the 45th anniversary since diplomatic relations between Papua New Guinea and Russia were established. The date is important as it characterizes the beginning of our bilateral relations.

Southeast Asia and South Pacific studies as research directions are paid close attention to by the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences. The special Center for South Pacific studies, which is headed by Nikolai Nikolaevich Miklouho-Maclay, was established as part of the Institute of Oriental Studies research activity.

I would like to stress that publishing the new six-volume Nikolai Miklouho-Maclay's collection of works in seven books has become an important event for the Oriental studies. The key factor for success of this ambitious project accounts not only for a high level academic qualification of the specialists who prepared it, but, mostly to their enthusiasm.

Currently, the Institute of Oriental Studies is updating many of its research programs, and I would like to wish every success to Association of the South Pacific Region Researchers. This is a rational approach to consolidate specialists in this area. The fact that this is not only about academic research, but also about practically-oriented issues, makes the Association especially important.

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As an integrated science, Oriental studies covers not only historical and cultural aspects, but also current political relations and development issues of the regions under study. At present, the Institute of Oriental Studies is expanding its research to cover almost all countries of the East. Expeditionary activities, both archaeological and, of course, ethnographic, have become an essential part of the projects performed since they allow the researchers to study everyday activities, traditions and beliefs of the peoples of the East. This is a unique world that should be not only explored, but also understood. I guess that the mutual support, study and awareness of each other are exactly the activities that the Institute does and will support.

I wish you every success in holding the symposium! Thank you!

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Nikolai Miklouho-Maclay

The Head of the Center for Southeast Asia, Australia and Oceania of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the President of the Association of the South Pacific Region Researchers , the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation Founder and Director



**THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA:
THE HISTORY OF BILATERAL RELATIONS**

The origins of the relations between the peoples of Russia and Papua New Guinea (PNG) date back to the last third of the 19th century. Back then, in the 1870s-1880s, there were expeditions of the outstanding Russian scientist and explorer N.N. Miklouho-Maclay (1846-1888) to the northeast coast of New Guinea (now Madang Province, Maclay Coast), which became an important milestone in the history of friendly relations between the peoples of Russia and PNG and contributed to world science. It was Nikolay Miklouho-Maclay who “opened” the indigenous population of the northeast of the island to the outside world and left a unique description of their lives. The famous researcher always promoted the respect of the traditions and culture of indigenous Papua New Guineans and the peoples of the Asia-Pacific region (APR). He was convinced that this attitude towards other people would raise a well-developed individual who would be respectful and open-minded towards all the nations of the world. Using the example of the indigenous population of the Maclay Coast, this Russian scientist proved that all people are equal by nature and that there are no superior or inferior races.

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The scientific and humanistic heritage of Nikolay Miklouho-Maclay is significant for the friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries. The scientist left in the hearts of Papua New Guineans a good memory of Russia and was the first to stand up for the native people of the island against the European cruelties and exploitation. Nikolay Miklouho-Maclay rightfully belongs to the list of five most important personalities for Papua New Guinea, as part of the history of its people, whose traditions were carefully collected and preserved by him, enabling the next generations to assess the legacy that has survived to these days.

Having returned to Russia after more than 15 expeditions to the Asia-Pacific region and New Guinea, Nikolay Miklouho-Maclay began to publish his diaries, but in his lifetime, he managed to publish only one volume. This work was continued by the following generations of Russians: the diaries of Nikolay Miklouho-Maclay and the book "Journey to the Coast of Maclay" were published and sold many millions of copies both in Russian and English languages. The expanded and revised second edition of the Nikolay Miklouho-Maclay Collection of Works in six volumes was published in 2020 and it confirms the interest in the scientist's legacy and his research in the South Pacific. The publication appeared in both printed and e-form and is available free of charge for everyone. At the same time, many books about the traveller himself have been published in English, including in Papua New Guinea. So, the works of Nikolay Miklouho-Maclay were sold in tens of millions of copies and became worldwide-known.

One hundred years after the first expedition of Nikolay Miklouho-Maclay, the interest of Russian ethnographers and anthropologists in the studies of New Guinea and the island life of Oceania has not faded. In 1971 and 1977, scientists landed on the Maklay Coast. Thanks to the good memory of the Russian traveller, which the locals keep to this day, they willingly shared information about life on the Maclay Coast with the researchers. The Soviet ethnographers who visited the northeast of New Guinea were amazed by the similarity of the world, which was described by Nikolay Miklouho-Maclay, to the one they encountered – it was as if they were following the traveller's drawings, hundreds of which he left for posterity. Moreover, with each passing day researchers became more and more convinced that

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the personality of Nikolay Miklouho-Maclay had left a significant mark in the folklore of the indigenous population. The locals from generation to generation have been passing the stories of his life in New Guinea and even name their children Maclay. This enabled the Soviet ethnographers to collect unique data, which formed the basis for discoveries and sparked a new wave of interest in New Guinea and the South Pacific.

It is vital to emphasize that the USSR was one of the first countries to recognize PNG's independence. Moreover, the Soviet Union raised the issue of PNG independence at the United Nations as early as in the 1960s.

The 1970s were an important period in the history of the establishment and development of not only scientific, but also diplomatic relations between Russia and Papua New Guinea. After the country gained its independence on September 16, 1975, relations between Moscow and Port Moresby began to develop rapidly. On May 19, 1976 in Canberra (Australia) heads of diplomatic missions of the USSR and Papua-New Guinea signed a joint communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations, which was followed by the official visit (by the invitation of the Soviet government) of the Deputy Prime Minister, the First Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Minister of Defence of Papua-New Guinea Sir Albert Maori Kiki and the Secretary of the PNG Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade A. M. Siaguru to Moscow on July 7-9, 1976.

As early as in November 1988, the PNG government agreed to establish the Soviet embassy in the capital (Port Moresby) and it was officially opened in March 1990. During the time the embassy works, the relations between the two countries have progressed in a number of areas: there were interparliamentary relations, exchange of delegations through public channels, cooperation in the field of education and culture.

At the beginning of the 21st century, relations between Russia and Papua-New Guinea entered a new stage of development. The tradition of exploring the Maclay Coast, established by Nikolay Miklouho-Maclay in the second half of the 19th century and continued by the Soviet scientists in the 20th century, has been supported and continued by new generations of Russian explorers. In 2017 and 2019 the expeditions undertaken by the scientists of the Russian Academy of Sciences from Moscow and St. Peters-

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burg under the guidance of the author of the paper went to Maclay Coast. The travellers followed the footsteps of Mikloukho-Maclay, restored the continuity of research on Maclay Coast and performed extensive scientific research. The expeditions showed that in the contemporary world there is a special place for discoveries that are not just interesting, but also help to develop and build bilateral relations between countries on the basis of the historical memory.

All this gave an impetus to the further development of the research on Maclay Coast by Russian scientists and strengthened educational and cultural ties between Russia and Papua New Guinea. Thus, in 2018, a historic bilateral meeting of the Prime ministers of Russia and PNG took place at the APEC Summit, which was held in PNG's capital, Port Moresby. This event fostered friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries and laid the foundation for further mutually beneficial cooperation. In the same year, at the invitation of the Mikloukho-Maclay Foundation, the first ever delegation from the PNG university teachers visited Russia.

In 2019, by the order of the Russian government, the Russian Centre for introducing Russian culture and language to the PNG citizens was inaugurated in Port Moresby. The Russian Cabinet was immediately welcomed by the citizens of PNG, from young to old, and it happened due to many reasons, including a number of international educational projects organized by Mikloukho-Maclay Foundation. All this was possible thanks to the cooperation of the Foundation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and its Papua New Guinean partners.

Many Russians are dreaming about coming to PNG and seeing the unique world described by the Russian traveller. Due to the convenient visa regime established between our countries, this is real.

A series of events organized by the Foundation both in Russia and in PNG in the cultural and humanitarian areas have laid a good foundation for the development of the future business contacts. In 2019, with the participation of the Ministry of Economic Development in Russia and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea the two countries held business meetings. This allowed identifying the most interesting areas for Russian and Papua New Guinean business cooperation

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and demonstrated that prospects for economic cooperation between our countries are mutually beneficial. Active support from the ministries became possible after the APEC summit and the bilateral meeting of Prime Ministers.

We are at the very beginning of the development of relations between our countries, but we already have deep historical ties and a desire to cooperate.

The International Symposium "Russia and Papua New Guinea" aims to build and strengthen partnership relations in various spheres and became possible thanks to the coordinated activity of Miklouho-Maclay Foundation and the representatives of the Russian and Papua New Guinean state and business agencies.

Our countries aim to cooperate on a number of projects. Despite the obstacles created by the pandemic, the dialogue between the states continues in the remote format, which gives us confidence and faith in the implementation of international projects, including the visit of the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea to Russia, as well as the development of the cooperation in the medical, humanitarian, business and cultural areas.

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Lyudmila Vorobyova,

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Kiribati, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea



**OVERVIEW OF THE RUSSIA-PAPUA NEW GUINEA
RELATIONS AT THE PRESENT STAGE**

This year we celebrate anniversaries at once - the 45th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our countries and the 150th anniversary of contacts between Russian and New Guinean cultures, which were initiated by the expedition of N.N. Miklouho-Maclay to the island New Guinea.

Russia and PNG have developed traditionally friendly cooperation. At the dawn of official relations, in 1976, the Soviet Union became one of the first countries to recognize the Independent State of Papua New Guinea. We appreciate the significant contribution made by the first PNG Prime Minister Michael Somare to the bilateral relations. I would like to once again express my deep condolences to our friends from PNG on the recent passing away of this outstanding politician.

As of late, the most important event in our relations was the visit made in 2018 by former Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev to Port Moresby to participate in APEC summit. On its sidelines, detailed negotiations were held with the former Prime Minister of PNG Peter O'Neal. The agreements reached, as well as their subsequent implementation, gave a strong impetus to our cooperation.

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Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the visit of PNG Prime Minister J. Marape to Moscow, scheduled for 2020, was postponed. We hope that after the normalization of the global epidemiological situation, these plans will be realized.

Russia and PNG coordinate their approaches to major international issues in the framework of the UN General Assembly. Since 2012, Papua New Guinea has been a regular participant in the annual meetings of the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov with high representatives of the South Pacific island states.

We prioritize a dialogue on practical issues, including those related to economic cooperation. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 pandemic, in 2019-2020 the bilateral trade turnover decreased by 20% and amounted to USD 4.2 million. Obviously, these figures are below the potential of our relations, and the parties will have to take effort for improving the trade performance. Specifically, to resolve this problem, it is necessary to sign a MOU on trade and investment, and an agreement on the mutual visa exemption.

Agriculture (grain, special equipment and fertilizers supply), fishing (including catch and processing of tuna), transport, energy, oil, gas and mining industry, tourism, science and education may be specified as promising areas for cooperation.

In this regard, I would like to note the absence of any restrictions for access to the Russian market for the New Guinean goods that meet the necessary quality standards. For example, we are interested in importing high quality New Guinea coffee, tea, cocoa beans, coconut milk and seafood.

The COVID-19 pandemic presents not only challenges, but also opportunities for developing the bilateral partnership in the health care sector. The Russian Federation is open for cooperation in the supplies of the Sputnik-V vaccine. Up to the present point in time, it has been registered in 66 countries with the total population of over 3.2 billion people. We also have several more anti-coronavirus vaccines, which are steadily receiving international certification.

We invite our New Guinean colleagues to establish regular educational exchanges. Currently, those who are interested may submit an application to

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the official "Education in Russia" portal and take part in a competition for studying in Russian universities according to the quota approved by the Russian Government.

The activity of the N. Miklouho-Maclay Ethnocultural Heritage Foundation makes a considerable contribution to in strengthening humanitarian contacts between Russia and PNG. The colleagues from the Foundation undertook scientific expeditions to the Maclay Coast in 2017 and 2019, opened the Russian World Cabinet in the PNG Central Library, organized business forums in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Port Moresby, and also held a thematic photo exhibition at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April 2019. We look forward to further cooperation.

Summing up, I would like to remind you of the main principle of Papua New Guinea's foreign policy: "Friends to all, enemy to none". I wish this symposium would become another step towards strengthening mutual understanding and partnership between Russia and PNG, and, most importantly, towards establishing strong and friendly ties between our nations.

Kanaev Evgeny

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**RUSSIA - PAPUA NEW GUINEA COOPERATION:
PROMISING DIRECTIONS AND THE FACTOR
OF RUSSIA-ASEAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

Four and a half decades after the establishment of diplomatic relations between Russia and Papua New Guinea is a period of time long enough for assessing what has been or, for various reasons, has not been achieved. Besides, it is an invitation to reflect on prospects of the bilateral cooperation: which directions, measures and mechanisms are most promising from the perspective of the dialogue itself and the factors that shape it.

Among the latter, of special note is the external context of Russia-PNG relations. For Russia, it makes sense to take into consideration the factor of its Strategic Partnership with ASEAN (even though substantially and institutionally these tracks of Russia's policy are different). The reasons are outlined below.

First, bordering Southeast Asia, Papua New Guinea has repeatedly declared its intention to become a member of ASEAN. PNG received the ASEAN Observer status and joined ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in 1976 and 1989 respectively. Even if in not-too-distant future PNG

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does not join ASEAN, the consideration of this factor while fostering cooperation with PNG is not unnecessary.

Second, at the present point in time, both ASEAN and Papua New Guinea are experiencing strong influence from extra-regional powers. In ASEAN' and PNG's policies, the American and the Australian factors respectively are increasing in significance. With regard to Canberra's factor, it is not only about its "deputy sheriff" perception by specialists in political science and in area studies (while Washington is the "sheriff"), but also about its "step-up policy" in the South Pacific. Simultaneously, China's proactive policy is deeply felt in both ASEAN member states and PNG: two economic corridors of the Belt and Road Initiative and part of the Maritime Silk Road of the 21st Century run through Southeast Asia, while PNG has participated in the "Blue Silk Road", which runs through the South Pacific, since November 2018.

Third, owing to the geographic proximity, the ASEAN countries and PNG deal with similar, or at least closely connected, threats. First and foremost, these are non-traditional security challenges: natural disasters, food insecurity, infectious diseases which were of profound significance long before the COVID-19 pandemic, etc.

Before revealing prospects for cooperation between Russia and Papua New Guinea in synergy with the international milieu in which it evolves, the areas in which success is problematic must be outlined.

First, agriculture, education and medicine should be mentioned. In those areas, Russia faces strong competition from Australia which not only practically contributes to PNG's development, but substantiates its policy by large-scale financial grants. Revealingly, according to estimates made by Australian experts, in the next three years South Pacific small countries will need at least 3.5 billion dollars to relieve the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. Fiji and PNG account the major share of this sum¹. In the foreseeable future, Canberra is very likely to expand financial allocations to implement anti-

¹ Rajah R., Alexandre Dayant. Avoiding a Pacific Lost Decade: Financing the Pacific's COVID-19 Recovery. // Lowy Institute Policy Brief. 9 December 2020. URL: // <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/publications/lost-decade-pacific>

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COVID-19 measures in PNG, further dragging that country into its sphere of influence.

In constructing gas infrastructure, developing the mining and the aquaculture sectors, Russia's possibilities are also insignificant. In PNG, these areas have been under a close spotlight of Chinese companies substantiated by the PRC's government support as part of the Belt and Road Initiative². Russia clearly lacks comparable resources.

Regrettably, products of Russia's IT companies will hardly be in demand in Papua New Guinea. The reason stems from an interlink between the construction of industrial objects and their ICT support. In case these objects are built by China, its IT companies are given this privilege. Apart from infrastructure, China's assets include e-commerce platforms and online payment systems. Both have been used in PNG for a relatively long period of time.

Concerning the current state of relations between Russia and Papua New Guinea, they clearly lack scale and depth. The bilateral trade is negligible and tends to decrease. In 2015-2020, it plunged from 7.0 to 4.2 million dollars respectively³. Russia's export – its main products are industrial chemistry, machinery and equipment – is several times lower than its import, the major share of which is presented by agricultural raw materials. Mutual investments, as well contractual forms of business cooperation like licensing or franchising, are non-existent. Tourist exchanges are also absent.

Despite those shortcomings, it can nevertheless be argued that Russia and Papua New Guinea have promising directions of cooperation which deserve further developing.

First, the ASEAN Regional Forum as a multilateral venue in which Russia and PNG participate matters. On the ARF agenda, non-traditional security

² Matsumoto F. Chinese Bids on Pacific Cable Raise Alarm in US and Australia. Nikkei Asia. 3 January 2021. URL: // <https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Chinese-bids-on-Pacific-cable-raise-alarm-in-US-and-Australia>; Whiting N. Chinese Company's Multi-Billion-Dollar Plan to Build a City on Papua New Guinean Island Near Australian Border. ABC News. 10 February 2021. URL: // <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-02-05/chinese-company-plans-to-build-city-on-png-island-near-australia/13123698>; China, PNG Reaffirm Closer Cooperation on Energy, Mining, Fishery, Trade. Global Times. 27 January 2021. URL: // <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202101/1214085.shtml>

³ See: UN Comtrade Database (<https://comtrade.un.org/>) и Внешняя торговля России (Russia's External Trade, in Russian) (<https://russian-trade.com/>) for relevant years.

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challenges have traditionally ranked high. In the ARF framework, Russia supports the measures which focus upon relieving the aftereffects of natural and technological disasters, combatting pandemics (Moscow prioritized this direction of cooperation long before the outbreak of COVID-19). Apart from it, Moscow endorsed the idea to establish Center for Natural Disaster Relief⁴.

Second, effort to foster people-to-people contacts and academic diplomacy should be further encouraged. Specifically, Miklouho-Maclay Foundation for the Preservation of Ethnocultural Heritage advances Russian language in Papua-New Guinea, organizes events aimed at expanding Russia's cultural influence there. This is an example of "projecting public diplomacy". As suggested by its name, it projects Russia's humanitarian possibilities to the PNG cultural space. Since recently, part of this activity focusing upon academic exchanges has been undertaken by Association of the South Pacific Region Researchers.

Third, pilot projects of economic cooperation supported by the administrative leverage should be developed by Russia's and PNG's shared effort. One of them relates to improving the public urban infrastructure in PNG, which is an important priority for its leadership. The implementation of such projects by specialists from Russian mega-cities in cooperation with one or several PNG cities, and to later on expand the obtained experience to other areas, is a reasonable and timely step.

Concerning the factor of Russia-ASEAN Strategic Partnership in strengthening ties between Russia and Papua New Guinea, it should be emphasized that this is not about inviting PNG to join either Russia-ASEAN institutional frameworks or Russia's on-going and prospective projects in Southeast Asia. Another factor is more important. *The* (emphasis added by the author) high level of trust which has been achieved in Russia-ASEAN relations conclusively demonstrates to the PNG government that Russia premises its

⁴ For more detail, see: Канаев Е. Россия и многостороннее сотрудничество в АТР. // Поворот на Восток: развитие Сибири и Дальнего Востока в условиях усиления азиатского вектора внешней политики России/отв. ред. И.А.Макаров. – М.: Международные отношения, 2016. С. 144-157. (Kanaev E. Russia and Multilateral Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region. // Turn to the East: the Development of Siberia and the Far East along with the Intensification Russia's Policy in Asia. / Ed. by I.Makarov. – М.: Mezhdunarodnye Otnosheniya, 2015. P. 144-157. (in Russian))

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foreign policy upon real rather than declaratory equality, without interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign states under any pretext.

In sum, there is a secure foundation for coordinating prospective plans in relations between the Russian Federation and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea. Although the bilateral cooperation is very likely to evolve in a step-by-step manner and without crucial breakthroughs, it has good chances to follow a steady upward trend.

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Gary Juffa

Governor of Oro province (Northern), a member of the National Parliament of PNG, a special representative of the Prime Minister of PNG on cooperation affairs with Russia



**PROSPECTS FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is the largest island state in the South Pacific with a population of approximately nine million people. The country is home to a thousand tribes that speak 860 languages (this is more than a quarter of the world's languages). The tropical forests of Papua New Guinea are home to unique species of flora and fauna. It is believed that PNG is one of the most mysterious, exotic and unexplored places on Earth. The country has a rich not only biological, but also cultural diversity, which makes it similar to Russia.

In the international affairs within the South Pacific where PNG is located, our country, despite being very young (PNG gained independence only 45 years ago, on September 16, 1975), plays a significant role.

Papua New Guinea is a country of opportunities in agriculture, tourism, natural resources and energy sectors, as well as in many other areas that Russia may become interested in.

Close historical ties between our countries are unique in many ways: 150 years ago, a well-known Russian humanist came to our shores and became a true friend of Papua New Guinea. His ideas have become the basis on which we intend to develop relations with the Russian Federation.

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The historic meeting of the leaders of Russia and PNG at the APEC Summit in 2018 also contributed to the development of dialogue between our countries. In cooperation with Miklouho-Maclay Foundation, Papua New Guinea continues strengthening ties with Russia and is ready to collaborate in various areas, including culture, tourism and agriculture. Considering close historical ties, it is necessary to mention the importance of opening the Russian Corner at the PNG National Library in Port Moresby and teaching the Russian language. Cultural cooperation helps us to raise relations to a new level, forming up conditions in which Papua New Guineans are interested in learning something new about Russia.

There is an abundance of natural resources in Papua New Guinea. The country is open for economic cooperation, including exploration and production of oil and gas, gold, nickel, copper, and the development of agriculture and fishery.

Our interest in each other has a secure foundation for cooperation. Russia is a country from which the people of Papua New Guinea have much to learn. PNG is interested in developing relations with as many countries as possible. The policy of the Founding Father of PNG, the man who has led the country to independence, Sir M. Somare, is "Friends to all, enemies to none". And although he passed away in February 2021, this policy is relevant. PNG's approach to cooperation with other countries is based on this principle.

For a long time, Papua New Guinea has not paid proper attention to the conservation of its natural resources. Nowadays, this changes. The country can offer promising economic projects to its partners if their policies meet the priorities of the "Green Economy" and the "Green Development" which play a very important role for PNG.

Papua New Guinea is a very rich country. This refers to the cultural, social and historical diversity of the country. Nature regularly reminds humanity of the need to take care of its richness. Many species of flora and fauna have already disappeared. The current agenda of cooperation, which the COVID-19 pandemic has once again highlighted, is the preservation of forests as the basis for health of humanity and the planet as a whole. The authorities of Papua New Guinea attach great importance to such events and

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will welcome Russia's participation in them. PNG supports and shares the principles of the Russian leaders concerning environmental issues and the responsibility towards next generations.

With a lot of natural resources, PNG is pleased to invite Russian businesses to develop them, providing these companies with full support, as well as to continue cementing sustainable, long-term friendly and mutually beneficial ties with the Russian Federation.

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Stacey O'Nea
CEO, Port Moresby
Chamber of Commerce and Industry
(POMCCI)



**BILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN
RUSSIA AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA
AT THE PRESENT STAGE**

For 95 years, the Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industry (POMCCI) has been working in the interests of its participants – representatives of the business community of the capital of PNG. POMCCI has established cooperation with the Government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) and foreign partners, both companies and their foreign partners, acting as an integrator of contacts with foreign investors.

Russia and Papua New Guinea are interested in developing long-term relations and establishing full-fledged diplomatic missions in both countries. The presence of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Indonesia at this Symposium and her visits to PNG confirm the seriousness of these intentions.

Representatives of the business communities of both countries have yet to choose mutually beneficial areas for future long-term economic cooperation, taking into account its political and legal drivers. The guidelines for such cooperation will be the directions outlined in the documents of the World Trade Organization, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the agenda of the APEC Summit 2018.

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In practical terms, Russia and PNG intend to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on trade and economic cooperation, which will contribute to the growth of trade and investment flows between our countries. The PNG economy develops through exports, which are mainly based on the products of the extractive industries: mining, energy and others. However, there are opportunities for the supply of other products: copra, palm oil, cocoa, seafood, timber and industrial goods, as well as tourist services.

PNG is interested in expanding and diversifying technical and technological cooperation. This opens up opportunities for Russia to export the products of its machinery and technological solutions for the needs of the PNG extractive industries.

There are opportunities for developing investment cooperation. The priority areas are mining, oil and gas, manufacturing, agriculture, tourism and fishery. In 2014, the PNG Parliament passed the Law "On Public-Private Partnership", in accordance with which the State undertakes to promote cooperation with the private sector. The priority areas of investment are infrastructure, including transport with an emphasis on airport and port facilities, information technology, and consumer services. Despite the importance of these areas, cooperation should not be limited to them.

At this stage, Port Moresby and Moscow have not signed any agreements on bilateral cooperation, but Papua New Guinea has received an offer from Russia to develop a dialogue in the field of education and research. In particular, the citizens of Papua New Guinea have the opportunity to study at Russia's universities. It is possible and desirable to work out various areas of cooperation in the healthcare sector. Other relevant directions include launching educational programs for the study of the Russian language, combatting the COVID-19 pandemic, and coordinating actions on climate change issues. The PNG Ministry of Foreign Affairs is considering the Russian Federation's proposal for technical cooperation. At this stage, it is seen as a Framework Agreement that opens up opportunities for the parties to prepare Memorandums of Understanding in various areas.

A special track of our cooperation accounts for the UN programs. In 2015, a Framework Partnership Agreement was signed between the Government of the Russian Federation and the United Nations Development Programme.

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Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development was established with the initial capitalization of \$25 million for four years. Under this Agreement, a \$ 7.6 million disaster management project has been launched. It covers small island states of the Pacific, including Papua New Guinea. The emphasis is placed on the development of early warning systems and monitoring the climate change, as well as on improving the level of readiness of practical Departments in conducting operations to relief the impact of natural disasters. This is important for Russia and its partners in the South Pacific, one of which is Papua New Guinea.

Another promising area of cooperation is the development of tourism. Russia and Papua New Guinea are aware of a high economic and commercial potential of the tourism industry: there is a prospect of the multiplying effect on mutual trade exchanges. Other positive consequences are job creation, the exchange of experience and innovative solutions, and the development of information and communication technologies. PNG can offer unique eco-tours to Russia's citizens, offering some of the world's best natural routes and places for diving.

In terms of technical and technological cooperation, good prospects can open up after the operationalization of the Kumul submarine cable, which is laid from Sydney through the Coral Sea. As a result, the PNG enterprises will have access to high-speed Internet at a low cost. The overall effect will include a positive impact on the development of relations between PNG and the Russian Federation.

At the present stage, the foreign policy priorities of the Russian Federation are to promote the formation of a stable world order, ensure the rule of law in international relations, strengthen international security, and expand international economic and humanitarian cooperation. This fully correlates with the priorities and policies of the PNG Government which pays special attention to creating conditions for sustainable development, expanding dialogue on economic and environmental issues, and promoting people-to-people contacts. The Russian Federation and PNG plan to establish a visa-free regime for citizens with all categories of passports. This will have a profound impact on the development of trade and the intensification of tourist exchanges. As part of the priorities shared by the two countries, the

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Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industry supported the initiative on visa-free travel between PNG and the Russian Federation and sent an official request to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

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Vyacheslav Kalganov

Deputy Chairman of

St. Petersburg Committee for External Relations -

Head of the Information and Liaison with

International Organisations Department



**ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CITY OF SAINT PETERSBURG
AND THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL RELATIONS
OF SAINT PETERSBURG WITH PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

Although cooperation between the Committee and the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation for the Preservation of Ethno-Cultural Heritage, represented by its founder and director Nikolai Miklouho-Maclay, began less than a year ago, through joint efforts we have managed to implement a number of projects aimed at developing bilateral relations between St. Petersburg and Papua New Guinea. The first successful and large-scale project was the festival "Papua New Guinea's Days in St. Petersburg", which took place in the end of November and the beginning of December 2020. On the first day alone, the opening ceremony, which was held in a mixed format on the website of the Historical Park "Russia - My History" in the social network VKontakte, was viewed by more than 50,000 people.

Despite the unstable epidemic situation, we have already celebrated the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Russia and Papua New Guinea with a number of interesting and academically useful events. Specifically at the beginning of February this year the International Academic and Practical Conference "On Russian Names of Geographical Objects in Oceania" was held in the Smolny Library in the face-to-face and the online formats, bringing together specialists from St. Petersburg, Moscow, Ekaterinburg, Irkutsk, Vladivostok and Canberra. During

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the conference, I had the honor to entrust the representatives of the Foundation "Orthodox Catechism" by Ivan Glukhov, Associate Professor of the Moscow Theological Seminary, published by the St. Petersburg Association of Abbess Taisia (clergyman - hieromonk Alexander). A modern Orthodox catechism has already been given to a representative of the Russian Orthodox Church, who will be a part of an expedition preparing to go to Papua New Guinea. In March, the Committee attended the first meeting of the Association of the South Pacific Region Researchers.

Russia and Papua New Guinea have a unique and relatively long-standing historical relations, dating back to the expeditions of the world-famous Russian humanist, explorer, intellectual and social activist, N.N. Miklouho-Maclay, to north-eastern New Guinea. This July we are celebrating another milestone, the 175th anniversary of the birth of our globally-renowned compatriot.

We appreciate that it was the city on the banks of the Neva that became the "guiding star" for N.N. Miklouho-Maclay, the main starting point of all his travels. As a child, he moved here with his family. He began his schooling at the Second Saint-Petersburg Gymnasium and at Saint Petersburg University. From this city, he sailed for distant countries in New Guinea, Oceania and South East Asia. After his expeditions he returned to St. Petersburg, where he was warmly welcomed by the imperial family, the academic society, the students, and the ordinary people. His letters flew here from all over the world, and it was in St. Petersburg that he returned with his family from Australia. It was also the place of his final resting.

The Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, the hon. James Marape, has underlined that the Foundation, headed by the late Miklouho-Maclay, is a "bridge between Russia and Papua New Guinea in developing cultural, humanitarian and business links". We share this assessment of the institution that has achieved remarkable results in just four years. In this sense, I fully agree with His Excellency that the Fund is working very hard and its success is of course due, to a considerable extent, to its founder, who is infused with enthusiasm and creative energy. Personally, my acquaintance and first meeting with him was a very pleasant experience.

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Today, there is exceptional potential for cultural and humanitarian cooperation between our countries. In recent years, Papua New Guinea has witnessed increased interest in Russian culture and Orthodoxy. As Metropolitan and Exarch Sergius of Singapore and Southeast Asia noted during the inaugural ceremony of the Papua New Guinea Days in Saint Petersburg, "Today a great number of Papua New Guineans are practicing Christianity and many of them have already turned to Orthodoxy in the Russian tradition, the same tradition to which Nikolai Nikolaevich Miklouho-Maclay belonged". There is information that over a hundred people have already applied to His Holiness Patriarch Kirill with collective petitions to open a permanent Orthodox mission in Papua-New Guinea. The opening of an Orthodox church would contribute to the rapprochement of our peoples.

I would also like to remind that at the festival "Papua New Guinea Days in St. Petersburg" Orthodox missionaries, pastors, as well as students from the Philippines, Indonesia and countries of the canonical territory of the Orthodox Exarchate of Southeast Asia of the Russian Orthodox Church, who receive spiritual education in St. Petersburg, were among the participants.

Much work on the development of Orthodox culture in Papua New Guinea is carried out by Miklouho-Maclay Foundation. D.I. Petrovsky, adviser to the Patriarchal Exarch of Southeast Asia of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate, mentioned at the opening of the festival, that the Foundation also supports young Orthodox communities, which are now being established in Papua New Guinea and expressed the hope that in the near future students from Papua New Guinea would come to St. Petersburg and would tap into the inexhaustible well of spiritual joy of the Holy Orthodox Church. "Common faith, common prayers - this is what unites people over and above any political, economic and other opportunistic moments, this is what establishes a cordial bond between our people and our countries," said D.I. Petrovsky.

I will say, and think many will agree with me, that Papua New Guinea's people are proud and open, but most importantly they are real warriors, fighters who four and a half decades ago were able to defend their independence and sovereignty. In September 1975, the Soviet Union was one of

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the first countries to recognize Papua New Guinea's political independence, and the following year, diplomatic relations were established.

I hope that today, despite the current epidemiological situation, bilateral cooperation between our two countries will continue to grow, and an increasing number of projects will be developed.

I am confident that by the 50th anniversary we will have concrete results of our cooperation. At least, the Institute of Honorary Consuls will appear, which will enable us to get more information about the two countries and intensify cooperation in many areas. For my part, I would like to assure that the St Petersburg Committee for External Relations is ready to provide all possible support for developing cultural, humanitarian, academic and business contacts between the Northern Capital and Papua New Guinea.

I am sure that the friendly relations between our two countries, which have developed over decades, will serve as a solid foundation for further expansion and strengthening of cooperation to ensure security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

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Sir Peter Barter

Commander of the Order of the Logohu and Commander of the Order of the British Empire, Chairman of Melanesian Tourist Services (MTS), University of the Western Pacific, Melanesian Foundation, Former Governor of Madang Province, Former Minister of Health, Provincial and Bougainville Affairs, a prominent statesman of Papua New Guinea



**MADANG AND THE HISTORY OF
RUSSIAN-PAPUAN-NEW GUINEAN COOPERATION**

On 20 October 1969, the Russian research vessel “Vityaz” dropped anchor at the port of Constantine in Astrolabe Bay in Madang Province, at the place called Garagassi. Here, the Russian sailors built a memorial that bears witness to the first stay of Nikolai Nikolaevich Miklouho-Maclay, which lasted 15 months.

I was then working as a pilot for Territory Airlines. In my spare time, I established a tour operator known as Talco Tours and together with the manager, Lyn Symonds, offered the crew and the passengers an opportunity to visit the village of Gorenda where they could meet the descendants of Tuy, the man who first befriended and assisted Maclay during his first and subsequent visits to the island.

In 1969, the political situation was tense, and Papua New Guinea, then administered by Australia, was very suspicious of that visit and closely monitored the activities of guests from Russia. Also, I was asked to stop the distribution of specially prepared leaflets to the public since it was considered to be the Soviet propaganda.

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Despite all misgivings, the visit went on well, and a rather crudely decorated memorial was built in the village of Gorendu to mark Maclay's first arrival in 1871.

Since then, we have retained contacts with Tuy, who was a teacher in the neighbouring village of Bongu in those days. Together, we participated in preparations for Russians' visit, sponsored the publication of two books about Maclay written by Mary Mennis, and opened a room dedicated to Maclay at the Madang House Museum in Tubun in order to commemorate him.

To my surprise, in 2017 I received an email from Nikolay Nikolaevich Miklouho-Maclay, and later on learned that he was a descendant and a full namesake of Maclay. This was an impetus to start a relationship, which led to several visits made by the Russian scientists to PNG and a visit to Russia by a delegation from PNG that included staff members of PNG University and Divine Word University. And, had it not been for COVID-19, there would have been other visits that would have allowed nationals of both countries to learn more about Russia and PNG, which was one of the Maclay's main goals.

Mikloukho-Maclay Foundation continues to perform research, publish books and produce films, which eventually will attract more tourists from Russia to PNG, as PNG has much to offer through its culture, natural beauty, flora and fauna, and underwater world, which, according to divers, is the 3rd best in the world.

The Melanesian Foundation is pleased to welcome Russians to PNG and is ready to support the activity of Mikloukho-Maclay Foundation after the removal of COVID-19 restrictions.

CONCLUSION

The Russian Federation (RF) and Papua New Guinea (PNG) have long-standing – one century and a half – historical ties. The expeditions of the globally-renowned scientist and explorer N.N. Miklouho-Maclay in the second half of the 19th century, the Soviet expeditions of the 1970s and the Russian expeditions of 2017 and 2019 made a significant contribution to the study of the traditions and culture of the PNG people, as well as of the economy and politics of this unique country.

The international symposium "Russia and Papua New Guinea", which was held on May 21, 2021, followed the tradition of studying PNG and the South Pacific, marking a new milestone in Russia-Papua New Guinea cooperation.

The symposium brought together scientists, representatives of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, political and public figures from Russia and Papua New Guinea. It has become the first academic event that was accompanied by in-depth discussions on the historical ties between Russia and PNG, on joint projects in the cultural, humanitarian, academic and business areas, as well as on cooperation between the two countries in the international arena.

The Russian and the PNG speakers elaborated on new ideas aimed at energizing the further strengthening the bilateral relations, and set a number of tasks which Russia and Papua New Guinea must perform:

1. Fostering strong ties in the cultural, scientific, humanitarian and educational areas;
2. Establishing network connections between the representatives of the academic, political and business communities;
3. Forming up favorable conditions for the comprehensive development of trade and investment cooperation;
4. Developing bilateral partnerships in healthcare area;

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5. Providing support for tourist exchanges between Russia and Papua New Guinea after the COVID-19 restrictions are removed;

The goals outlined above are simultaneously ambitious and realistic.

Miklouho-Maclay Foundation with the support from Russian and Papua New Guinean partners regularly fosters intercultural dialogue. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, the sides are ready to maintain this dialogue through exhibitions, festivals, film screenings, organizing the Russian language courses, fostering academic exchanges.

High-level visits will also be resumed, including the one by the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea James Marape, after the global epidemiological situation returns to normal.

The parties are to reveal the potential for the development of bilateral trade relations. However, Russia and Papua New Guinea are ready to sign a memorandum of understanding on trade and investment, as well as an agreement on the mutual visa exemption. This will facilitate the establishment of business ties between the two states.

At the same time, Russian is ready to set a bilateral partnership with PNG in the healthcare sector, including the supply of the Sputnik V vaccine, and other anti-coronavirus vaccines produced in the Russian Federation. This track of cooperation will allow PNG to lessen the COVID-19 impact and to establish tourist exchange with Russia. Certainly, those actions will provide an impetus to intercultural, business and humanitarian dialogue between the two countries.

Russia - Papua New Guinea cooperation looks promising in the international arena, specifically, at the ASEAN Regional Forum, with the main focus upon humanitarian assistance and disaster relief joint exercises. Moreover, the emergence of the institution of honorary consuls, both in Russia and in Papua New Guinea, will contribute to improving the bilateral relations.

In the mid-term perspective, the implementation of these tasks set will allow the Russian Federation to achieve tangible progress in strengthening ties with PNG.

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Considering the wide spectrum of issues raised and discussed, the international symposium "Russia and Papua New Guinea" can be rightfully referred to as an example of interaction between government, business and science, driven by the shared purpose.

Papua New Guinea is a promising direction for Russia's diplomacy. It clearly demonstrates that Russia's interests and capabilities have the global dimension. The symposium organizers are ready to continue close and all-embracing cooperation in order to foster the comprehensive development of relations between the Russian Federation and PNG.

USEFUL LINKS

- Miklouho-Maclay Foundation <http://mikluho-maclay.ru/>
- Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Indonesia <https://indonesia.mid.ru/>
- Committee for External Relations of St. Petersburg <http://kvs.spb.ru/>
- Institute of Oriental Studies RAS <https://ivran.ru/>
- Center for Southeast Asia, Australia and Oceania, Institute of Oriental Studies, RAS <https://seasia.ivran.ru/>
- Association of South Pacific Region Researchers <http://association.southpacificworld.org/>

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PROGRAM AND PARTICIPANTS
OF THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
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Opening Remarks:

10:00 Nikolai Miklouho-Maclay, Head of the Center for South Pacific Studies of the Center for Southeast Asia, Australia and Oceania, Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, President of the Association of South Pacific Region Researchers, founder and director of the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation, Russia, St. Petersburg

The Presentations:

10:05 Nikolai Miklouho-Maclay, Head of the Center for South Pacific Studies of the Center for Southeast Asia, Australia and Oceania, Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, President of the Association of South Pacific Region Researchers, founder and director of the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation, Russia, St. Petersburg

Topic of the report: «The Russian Federation and Papua New Guinea: The History of Bilateral Relations»

10:15 Lyudmila Vorobyova, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Kiri-bati, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea

Topic of the report: «Overview of the Russia-Papua New Guinea Relations at the Present Stage»

10:25 Sir Peter Barter, Commander of the Order of the Logohu and Commander of the Order of the British Empire, Chairman of Melanesian Tourist Services (MTS), University of the Western Pacific, Melanesian Foundation, Former Governor of Madang Province, Former Minister of Health, Provincial and Bougainville Affairs, a prominent statesman of Papua New Guinea

Topic of the report: «Madang and the History of Russian-Papuan-New Guinean Cooperation»

10:35 Alikber Alikberov, Doctor of Sciences (History), Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Welcome Address)

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10:45 Gary Juffa, Governor of Oro province (Northern), a member of the National Parliament of PNG, a special representative of the Prime Minister of PNG on cooperation affairs with Russia

Topic of the report: «Prospects for Cooperation between the Russian Federation and Papua New Guinea»

10:55 Evgeny Kanaev, Doctor of Sciences, Professor, Deputy Head of the School of International Regional Studies, Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs, National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE University); Vice President for Science, Association of the South Pacific Region Researchers

Topic of the report: «Russia – Papua New Guinea Cooperation: Promising Directions and the Factor of Russia–ASEAN Strategic Partnership»

11:05 Stacey O’Nea, CEO, Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industry (POMCCI)

Topic of the report: «Bilateral Economic Cooperation between Russia and Papua New Guinea at the Present Stage»

11:15 Kakaito Kasi, Director General, Papua New Guinea Libraries and Archives Authority

Topic of the report: «The Russian Cabinet in Papua New Guinea and the Replenishment of the Library's Collections as a Factor of Cultural Cooperation»

11:25 Vyacheslav Kalganov, Deputy Chairman of St. Petersburg Committee for External Relations - Head of the Information and Liaison with International Organisations Department

Topic of the report: «On Cooperation between the City of Saint Petersburg and the Committee on External Relations of Saint Petersburg with Papua New Guinea»

Closing remarks, summing up

11:35 Nikolai Miklouho-Maclay, Head of the Center for South Pacific Studies of the Center for Southeast Asia, Australia and Oceania, Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, President of the Association of South Pacific Region Researchers, founder and director of the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation, Russia, St. Petersburg

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PHOTO GALLERY

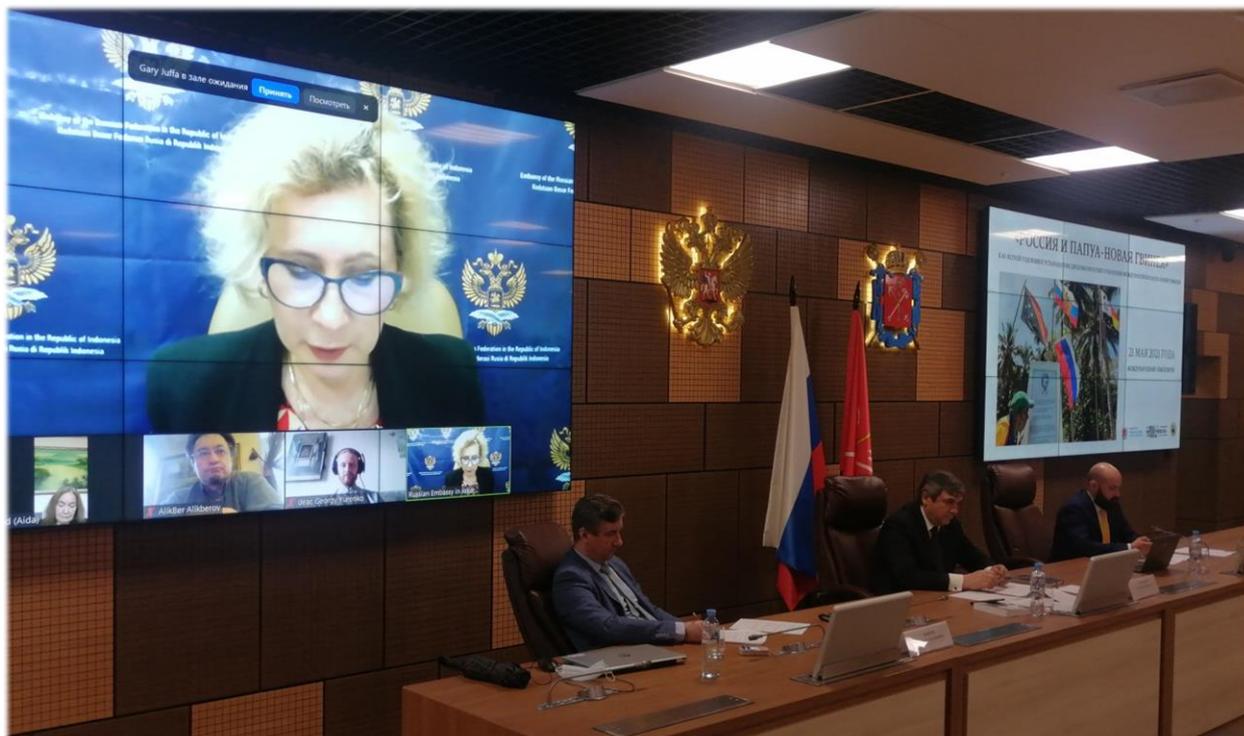


*At the podium (from left to right) E. Kanaev, V. Kalganov,
N. Miklouho-Maclay*



Speech by N. Miklouho-Maclay

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Speech by L. Vorobyova



Speech by E. Kanaev

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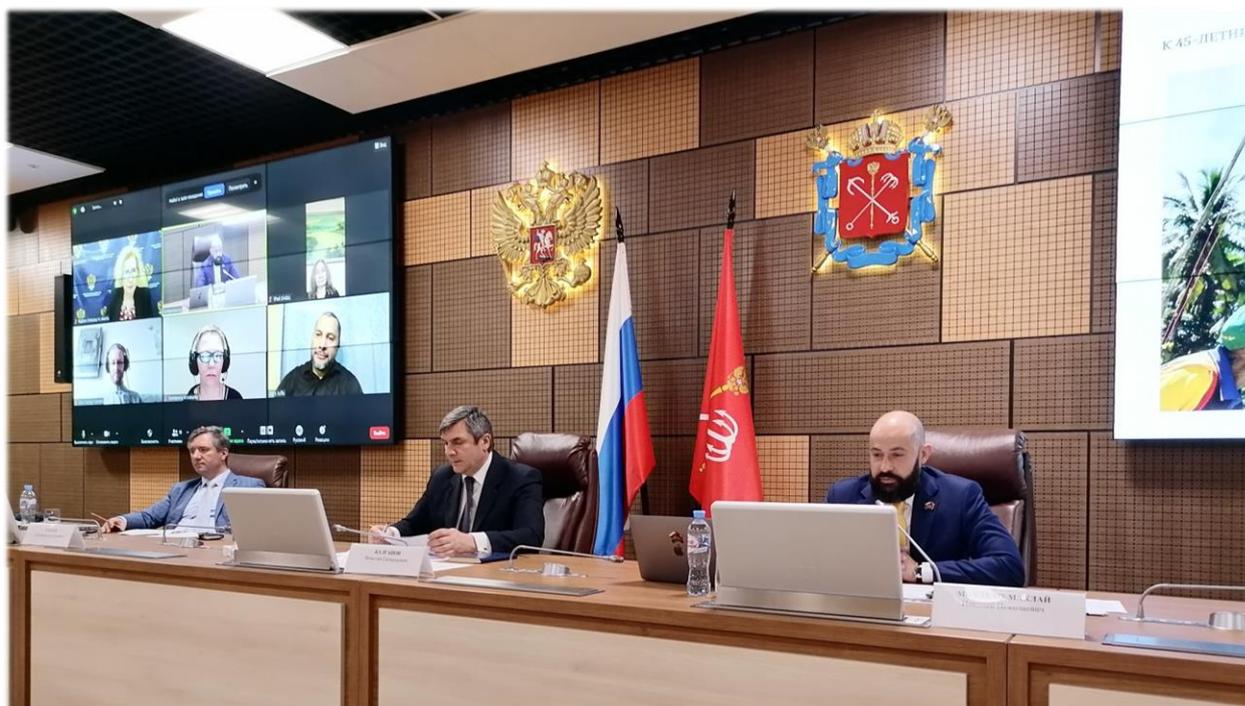


Speech by A. Alikberov



Speech by Gary Juffa

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Symposium Participants



V. Kalganov, E. Kanaev, N. Miklouho-Maclay, I. Bondarchuk

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Maclay Coast. Papua New Guinea 2017



Residents with the leader of the village of Gumbu, Maclay Coast 2017

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A resident of the Maclay Coast on the background of the Russian flag, 2017

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*N. Miklouho-Maclay, Director of the MM Foundation,
James Marape, Prime Minister, Papua New Guinea
Gary Juffa, Member of Parliament, Governor of Oro Province*



Opening of the Russian World Cabinet in PNG, 2019

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*Opening of the exhibition "RUSSIA - PAPUA NEW GUINEA"
in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, 2019*



APEC Summit 2018