

– MIKLOUHO – MACLAY – FOUNDATION –

Russia in Papua New Guinea: science, culture, business. Results 2019.

“A man can be judged by his goals”,

N. N. Miklouho-Maclay

The end of December – the time to sum up the outgoing 2019, because a new 2020 is coming! This year was very intense for the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation. We are happy to share the brightest events of 2019 with you.

The beginning of the year became a continuation for the already popular **project “Miklouho-Maclay XXI. Revived history”**, which includes an exhibition of photo canvases with the copies of drawings of Miklouho-Maclay of XIX century and photographs taken in 2017 during a research expedition to the Maclay Coast. At the exhibition visitors could trace what had changed in 150 years and what had remained unchanged. In 2019, the project was presented at the sites of Moscow, Saint-Petersburg and Veliky Novgorod region.

(the project “Miklouho-Maclay XXI. Revived history” page on the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation website)



“Miklouho-Maclay XXI. Revived history” on the Krassin icebreaker

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April 2019 was very intense for the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation. Exhibition “RUSSIA-PAPUA NEW GUINEA” about the history of relations between Russia and Papua New Guinea, organized with the support of the Third Asian Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, was opened during April 04-12 in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

The exhibition was officially opened by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation I.V. Morgulov and the founder of the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation N.N. Miklouho-Maclay. It should be noted that this event was a good step towards building bilateral relations between Russia and Papua New Guinea. ([“RUSSIA - PAPUA NEW GUINEA” page on the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation website](#))



“RUSSIA – PAPUA NEW GUINEA” exhibition in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

On April 17, the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation hosted a **meeting-presentation “Russia-Papua New Guinea: cooperation perspectives”**, attended by Deputy Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation Azer Talybov, Director and founder of the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation Nickolay Miklouho-Maclay, “Maclay Investments” expert Dmitry Kumanovsky, as well as representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Industry and Trade Russia, the Russian State Corporation “Rostec”, the Russian Export Center, PJSC “Rosneft”, JSC “Rosgeo”, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Russia.

At the meeting-presentation the peculiarities of doing business in Papua New Guinea were discussed, an overview of perspective areas for cooperation was presented, and the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian

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Federation reported on the interest in the development of bilateral relations between the Russian Federation and Papua New Guinea in all areas and assured of supporting business initiatives.

[\(The meeting-presentation “Russia - Papua New Guinea: cooperation perspectives” page on the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation website\)](#)



“Russia - Papua New Guinea: cooperation perspectives” at the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation

On May 13, 2019, the first business meeting “Russia-Papua New Guinea: cooperation perspectives” was held in the capital of PNG, Port Moresby, as a continuation of the meeting already held on April 17 at the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation. The event was supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industry, “Maclay Investments”, with participation of the Papua New Guinea business community. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation, the business community, relevant Ministries, the National Library And Archive of Papua New Guinea, as well as the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Papua New Guinea.

At the event, the sides exchanged views on perspective areas of trade and economic cooperation between our countries. During the visit of the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation in Papua New Guinea in May 2019, three Agreements on the creation of the Russian Center (Russkiy Mir Cabinet) in Port Moresby and Madang were signed, one of which was concluded with the National Library And Archives of Papua New Guinea in a solemn atmosphere at the end of the meeting. [\(The Miklouho-Maclay Foundation delegation in Papua New Guinea, May 2019, Miklouho-Maclay Foundation website\)](#)

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“Russia – Papua New Guinea: cooperation perspectives” in PNG.

It is impossible not to mention an important event – in April 2019, the **second research expedition to the Maclay Coast (Rai Coast)**, North-East of the New Guinea Island took place. The expedition team members deeply studied various aspects of culture of the local inhabitants – Papuans.

The expedition team in 2019, as well as in 2017, accommodated in Gorendu village among the numerous descendants of Tui – the best friend of N.N. Miklouho-Maclay. Within the field work, the expedition team visited a number of other Papuan villages, where they experienced many surprises. In addition to an ethnologist, the expedition team included a linguist, as it was necessary to continue the tradition of studying the Bongu language by domestic scientists, started by Miklouho-Maclay.

[\(“Miklouho-Maclay. XXI century. Maclay Coast” 2019 expedition, Miklouho-Maclay Foundation website\)](#)



Н. Н. Миклухо-Маклай с жителями деревни Бонгу, берег Маклая, Папуа-Новая Гвинея. Фотография из экспедиции 2019 г. Хранится в архиве Фонда им. Миклухо-Маклая.

Н. Н. Миклухо-Маклай с со старейшиной деревни Гунбу, берег Маклая, Папуа-Новая Гвинея. Встреча старых друзей. Фотография из экспедиции 2019 г. Хранится в архиве Фонда им. Миклухо-Маклая.

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Research expedition to the Maclay Coast in 2019

June for the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation began with **the Saint-Petersburg International Economic Forum 2019**, which was held in the Northern capital on June 6-8. During the three days of the forum, the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation staff held talks and meetings with representatives of the Russian business and Government agencies in order to develop further cooperation between Russia and Papua New Guinea in cultural, humanitarian and economic spheres.

In particular, the negotiations led to the confirmation of future cultural events of the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation at the Russian Centers (Russkiy Mir Cabinets) in Port Moresby and Madang, which would allow to attract young scientists to the study of Papua New Guinea and Oceania in order to restore continuity in the study of the region, to confirm the historical presence of Russia in Papua New Guinea, to preserve historical ties, covering the achievements of past centuries; common ground was identified for the Russian companies' activity in Papua New Guinea. The Foundation members also attended sessions and meetings where important and interesting topics were discussed.

[\(Miklouho-Maclay Foundation at SPIEF 2019, Miklouho-Maclay Foundation website\)](#)



Saint-Petersburg International Economic Forum 2019

Июль для Фонда им. Миклухо-Маклая по доброй традиции проходил в г. Окуловке Новгородской области – малой Родине всемирно известного ученого-гуманиста Н.Н. Миклухо-Маклая.

On July, the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation, as a glorious tradition, held some of its activities in Okulovka, Veliky Novgorod region – the small homeland of the

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world-famous humanist and scientist N.N. Miklouho-Maclay. Here, on July 17, 2019, the XXXIII Maclay readings was held, at which the educational project “Russia and Oceania (XIX-XXI centuries)” was presented, created by the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation with the support of the Presidential Grants Foundation and the project partners, dedicated to the Russian scientists’ and travelers’ research activities in Oceania. An exhibition of paintings was opened, aimed at expanding the horizons and designed to tell the younger generation about the achievements of our compatriots in the study of the South Seas.

It should be noted that since September 2019, after Okulovka, the project was launched in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Veliky Novgorod region, and had a great success.

[\(XXXIII Maclay readings, Miklouho-Maclay Foundation website\)](#)

[\(Educational project “Russia and Oceania \(XIX-XXI centuries\)” page on the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation website\)](#)



XXXIII Maclay readings

In October 2019, the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation, with the support of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation, presented a **unique project** “Russia and Papua New Guinea. Unity in diversity” in the largest educational institutions of Port Moresby and Madang in Papua New Guinea. The purpose of the project is to tell about the culture and traditions of Russia, Russian education, and to attract citizens of Papua New Guinea to the regular study of the Russian language.

This project, including exhibitions, lectures and video screenings showing life of Russians and the history of the relations between the Independent State of Papua New Guinea and Russia, which began about 150 years ago, since the first

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expedition of the Great Russian scientist and explorer Nikolay Miklouho-Maclay to the North-East of the New Guinea Island, has attracted thousands of Papua New Guineans who visited the exhibition and signed up for the Russian Language Study courses.

[\(“Russia and Papua New Guinea. Unity in diversity” project page on the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation website\)](#)



“Russia and Papua New Guinea. Unity in diversity”

On November 14, Nickolay Miklouho-Maclay, the founder and Director of the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation, presented his **90-minute director's cut of the documentary “The Man from the Moon”** at the Saint-Petersburg International Cultural Forum.

It should be noted that the announcement of the premiere caused a real fuss – the tickets on the official website of the Cultural Forum were sold out two weeks before the event.

The premiere of the documentary film dedicated to the Great humanist, scientist, fearless traveler, “man from the moon”, as the natives called him, — Nikolay Miklouho-Maclay, were attended by more than 80 people, which is more than the seating capacity of the hall! The visitors were lucky enough to watch the motion picture, work on which began in 2017. It was then that the first in the contemporary history of Russia research expedition “Miklouho-Maclay XXI century. Maclay Coast” took place, which encouraged for creation of the documentary “The Man from the Moon” and for further activities of the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation in Russia and Papua New Guinea. The documentary “The Man from the Moon” in English was premiered in Papua New Guinea on December 10, 2019.

[\(“The Man from the Moon” premiere, Miklouho-Maclay Foundation website\)](#)

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Premiere of the director's cut of the documentary “The Man from the Moon”

In addition, on November 16, 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Russian Culture Foundation and the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation was signed at the VIII Saint-Petersburg International Cultural Forum. Due to the Memorandum, on December 10-14, 2019, a festival “Days of Russian culture in Papua New Guinea” was held in Port Moresby, in the National Library And Archive of Papua New Guinea.

The main purpose of this unique project was to tell about cultural diversity of Russia, to present Russian traditions, art, elements of material culture through an exhibition “About Russia with love”, a series of cultural and educational lectures “Great Russia”, and Russian films about Russian folklore.

[“Days of Russian culture in Papua New Guinea” page on the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation website](#)



“Days of Russian culture” festival

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It should be noted that a historic event took place on December 12 in the capital of Papua New Guinea, Port Moresby. On this day, the Russian Center (Russkiy Mir Cabinet) was opened. The purpose of the Center is the promotion of the Russian language and culture, support of educational programs, development of cultural and humanitarian cooperation between the Independent State of Papua New Guinea and the Russian Federation. The Russian Center will operate a permanently. In addition, in 2020, it is planned to open similar Centers in the Universities of Madang and Port Moresby.

Lyudmila Vorobyova, extraordinary and plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Russian Federation noted at the ceremony that the opening of the Russian Corner was a historic event testifying to the mutual desire of the peoples of our two countries to strengthen traditional relations of friendship. “We hope that the recent positive trend will be continued,” – the Ambassador added.

[\(Russian Corner website\)](#)



“Days of Russian culture” festival

This year has passed in one breath and we would like to thank everyone, who joined us believing in our strength. All these important events could not have taken place without the hard work of the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation made both in Russia and Papua New Guinea during the recent years.

We commend the partners and share the success with them. Our projects would have not been so bright without your support.

We express our gratitude to the sponsors (companies and individuals) who helped the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation in the implementation of the projects.

Special thanks to VTB Bank (PAO) – general partner of international projects, as well as personally to A. L. Kostin.

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Thank you, friends! We have done it together!

We are confident that 2020 will bring even more unique and important projects, new meetings and, of course, exciting travels!

The plans include educational and cultural projects, international humanitarian and volunteer programs, awards for the best of the best, new documentaries, research expeditions, exhibitions and more!

Stay with us, and we will keep sharing good and interesting news with you!

Miklouho-Maclay Foundation Press Office