**Russia and Malaysia: Bridge of Friendship**

On December 12, 2020, due to the popular demand from foreign citizens the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation with the support of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Malaysia and the assistance of the Russian Center of Science and Culture (Rossotrudnichestvo) in Kuala Lumpur hosted an international conference that united Russia and Malaysia within the framework of the project “Russian Academic and Cultural Luminaries and Their Worldwide Legacy”. The Conference was in conjunction with the Constitution Day of the Russian Federation.

The conference, which covered more than 200 people, was attended by the representatives of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russian universities, as well as public figures and journalists from Malaysia.

The participants of the conference learned about the history of bilateral relations between Russia and Malaysia, the myths and reality of the perception of Russia by foreigners, the practice of learning Russian as a foreign language and the opportunities for foreign students to study in Russia. Moreover, Malaysian specialists and students told the audience about their experience in learning the Russian language and its advantages.

Welcoming remarks were made by the First Secretary of the Embassy and Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations in Vienna Aadela Melati Ahmad Termizi, Founder and Director of the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation, Top Specialist of the Center for Southeast Asia, Australia and Oceania of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences Nikolay Miklouho-Maclay, Head of the Russian Center of Science and Culture in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Counsellor of the Embassy of the Russian Federation to Malaysia Svetlana Kovaleva.

Doctor of Philology, Professor of the Department of Russian and Foreign Languages ​​of Emperor Alexander I St. Petersburg State Transport University, Lyudmila Miller, Doctor of History, Professor of the Department of Oriental Studies of the Ural Federal University Alexe Antoshin, Head of the Department for Export of Educational Services of the Sechenov University’s Center for International Education Yegor Babayev, member of the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation Youth Expert Council Artyom Garin presented their reports to the audience.

Journalist Bilqis Bahari and a teacher of Russian as a foreign language at the Russian Center of Science and Culture in Kuala Lumpur Inna Zakhezina made interesting comments and additions.

The conference was in the Russian language with simultaneous translation into English. Recording of the conference is available for all registered participants and on the project website: https://cse.mikluho-maclay.ru/conference-in-malaysia-kuala-lumpur/

We would like to note that the international project "Russian Academic and Cultural Luminaries and Their Worldwide Legacy" is gaining momentum in social networks and on the website, thanks to the published information on the possibilities and prospects of cooperation with Russia. Using the example of our great compatriots N.N. Miklouho-Maclay and A.S. Pushkin, it was managed to establish an intercultural dialogue that would be interesting for both sides, and the online format of the conference made the live communication possible, which strengthened the trust.

We will continue to delight you with educational materials about the culture, traditions, history of Russia, as well as articles about outstanding Russian scientists and cultural figures, including the great Russian poet A.S. Pushkin and the outstanding humanist and traveler N.N. Miklouho-Maclay on Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/russiancultureandscience> and the official website: <https://cse.mikluho-maclay.ru/>

Follow the news!