

Expeditions for the great explorer, naturalist and humanitarian Nickolay Miklouho-Maclay.

On the 13th of September 2017, Maclay is returning to New Guinea again.

Almost 150 years ago, it took him 11 months to reach New Guinea but now it will take him only 2 days. Well, not the same person but his 4th generation descendent Maclay IV from Russia.

He is the only person in his family to have the same name just as his great grandfather, who is well known all over the world as a great humanitarian, naturalist and medical anthropologist.

He wants to revive the lost cultural and scientific connection between Papua New Guinea and Russia through this expedition.

Team members for the expedition consists of scientists from Kunstkamera Peter The Great's Antropology and Ethnography Museum to whom Maclay Senior gave the collection which he had gathered in the 19th century from New Guinea and Moscow Institute of The Russian Academy of Sciences N.N. Miklouho-Maclay Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology (IEA).

The last expedition was visited in Gorendu and Bongu village by the Soviet researchers in the last century in 1971. They were surprised to know that the locals still remembered Maclay sr. so well.

The 21 st century expedition will have the following plan

- To visit Bilbil and Yakob villages to see the remains of Balangut Canoe and meet the elders who recall the stories of Maclay.
- Celeberation of Independence day in Gorendu and Bongu villages where Maclay Sr., lived and worked
- Exchange information with National University and Musuem of PNG,
- Conduct Exhibitions of the works, photos and paintings done by Maclay during his stay in both the villages, and also, will take lots of pictures and make videos to show the rest of the world.
- Organise Live tele-bridge or teleconference between Russian reporters and PNG
- Visit the Maclay school in Bongu.
- Felicitate the memorial in Garagasi.
- Press conference in Madang/Port Moresby

Later, the expedition will visit Australia especially to Sydney and Melbourne where Maclay sr. lived and worked and also meet with his Australian descendents. He was married to Margaret Robertson, the daughter of the first Prime Minister of NSW (before Federation).

The name Rai Coast was taken from Maclay, the Vitiaz Straits (above) and Alexishafen were named after Russian Frigates who provided transport to Madang for Maclay. His Diary was published in English, other books were written by Mary Mennis, one of which was “Kui, Friend of Maclay “ Mary also wrote related stories about Maclay.

The desired results

The visit by Maclay IV provides us the opportunity to learn more and at the same time assist those who helped Maclay 146 years ago and at the same time promote Papua New Guinea as a destination for Russians and other European tourists to visit and possibility for science and culture between our countries.

Comments

Miklouho-Maclay was the first explorer humanitarian who fought for the rights of the locals of New Guinea. He was also, the first to show the world that the locals of New Guinea were as humans as the rest of the world.

In 1996, UNESCO conferred the title of world humanitarian citizen on Miklouho-Maclay Sr.

Russians till now call the place where Maclay lived in Papua New Guinea as «Maclay Coast».

I am sure that this expedition will open new frontiers and possibility for science and culture between our two countries. Russians and rest of the world who read about Maclay's expedition remember the beautiful coasts and interesting local traditions of Papua New Guinea .

We want the distance between Russia and PNG become closer and closer to us.

Information of Organiser

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Charitable Foundation of ethnocultural heritage name of Miklouho-Maclay.

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M. MacLay