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## History and activities of the Arctic Public Academy of Sciences\*

© **Valery B. MITKO**, Dr. Sci. (Tech.), Professor

E-mail: vmitko@arcticas.ru

Arctic Public Academy of Sciences, Saint Petersburg, Russia

© **Marina V. MININA**, Cand. Sci. (Tech.), Associated Professor

E-mail: m-minina@yandex.ru

Arctic Public Academy of Sciences, Saint Petersburg, Russia

© **Arseny V. MITKO**, Cand. Sci. (Tech.), Associated Professor

E-mail: amitko@arcticas.ru

Arctic Public Academy of Sciences, Saint Petersburg, Russia

Saint Petersburg University of State Fire Service of EMERCOM of Russia, Saint Petersburg, Russia

**Abstract.** The founding of the St. Petersburg Scientific Public Organization “The Arctic Public Academy of Sciences”, created at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, is briefly described in the article. The Academy is based on the Arctic direction of the Geopolitics and Security Section of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences. Three stages of its development are designated and commented on, as well as the main directions of the Academy's activities, and examples of projects. The Academy actively participates in international forums, conferences, summits, committees, and festivals. Being an expert scientific organization, AEAS plays a vital role in civil society and consolidates domestic intellectual potential.

**Keywords:** *the Arctic, expertise, non-state academy of sciences, interdisciplinarity, education, publishing, international forums.*

Sixteen years have passed since the idea of creating a new alternative scientific organization in St. Petersburg, the Arctic Academy of Sciences, based on the role of civil society institutions in the development of the country's scientific sphere. Moreover, the prerequisites for its creation arose even earlier, in the last years of the existence of the USSR.

At the end of the 1980s, a significant part of the expert community in Russia had a clear idea of the transition from a planned to a market economy. Representatives of industry and university science understood how easily a crucial and rather thin layer of professionals could disappear due to reforms and foresaw the danger of Russia losing its leadership in scientific and technological development. At that time, the USSR Academy of Sciences, known worldwide for outstanding work in mathematics, physics, chemistry, earth sciences, biology, etc., was still operating. Large industrial research institutes and university laboratories in a wide range of areas also worked. At the same time, domestic scientists realized the need to create new, more viable forms of scientific associations.

At the same time, the Supreme Council of the RSFSR turned to the scientific community of Russia with a request to submit its proposals on the principles of the creation and organization of the Russian Academy of Sciences. An initiative group of Moscow and Leningrad professors put forward the idea of creating the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences as an alternative scientific

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organization. The authors of scientific discoveries published in the Great Soviet Encyclopedia (volume “Scientific Discoveries in the USSR for Thirty Years”) should have become its base. The Academy was formed as a multidisciplinary scientific organization led by talented and prolific scientists.

In 1991, a section of geopolitics and security was formed at the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, headed by Pirumov V.S., and the St. Petersburg branch of the section, led by Yakovlev V.V., then Belyaev V.S., and then Mitko V.B. From the very beginning, the St. Petersburg branch turned towards the Arctic. However, in Moscow at the Scientific Council of the Security Council of Russia, its main proposals were accepted without enthusiasm: they believed that the Arctic problems are more related to the Northern capital than to the central one.

The Arctic Public Academy of Sciences was created based on the St. Petersburg branch of the Geopolitics and Security Section of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences and registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation on December 3, 2003. Its founders were Belyaev V.S., Kudersky L.A., Mitko V.B., Petrov A.A., Privalov A.A., Shchitinsky V.A., Yakovlev V.V. and Minina M.V. was appointed the Scientific Secretary of the Academy.

Three stages can be distinguished in the development of the Academy:

- at the first stage (2003–2008), sections arose that practically corresponded to the main geopolitical factors determining the sustainable development of the Arctic and, accordingly, the Russian Arctic mission, as well as the draft Arctic Doctrine being developed;
- at the second stage (2008–2013), in connection with the emergence of new research priorities (socially significant for a renewed and self-determined Russian society), the sections “Geopolitics and Security”, “Young Scientists of the North” appeared, and the “Agency for High-Tech and Innovative” was created technology”;
- at the third stage (2013–2018), the Center for Arctic Infocommunication Technologies was created, many agreements were concluded with Russian and foreign organizations, the Arctic Council of the Eurasian Peoples' Assembly was formed, chaired by AOAN President VB Mitko, and the scientist was responsible secretary AOAN Secretary Minina M.V.

### *Academy activities*

The main goal of the Arctic Academy of Sciences was to assist in the implementation of scientific and coordinating activities to provide academic support and advice on all issues related to the activities of Arctic organizations, to carry out scientific research that contributes to the comprehensive harmonious development of the northern territories, a radical improvement in the life and life of northerners.

The activities of the Arctic Academy of Sciences from the very beginning were aimed at achieving the goals and objectives of realizing the scientific potential of St. Petersburg in solving the problems of the Arctic and the North, Russian and international organizations and coordinating its work with committees of priority projects of the Arctic direction. From the very beginning, work was carried out in humanitarian and socio-economic areas.

Most sections of the Academy operate inside universities. Moreover, a significant part of the Academy members is leading professors of the best universities, institutes, and academies of Russia, Bulgaria, Finland, France, China, Kazakhstan, Armenia, and other countries. It is these people who bring fundamental and applied knowledge to youth audiences.

### ***The main programs and projects of the Academy***

#### ***In the field of research activities:***

- carrying out studies in support of the formation of a management system for the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation with the Center in St. Petersburg;
- development of digital models of regional management at the federal, local and corporate levels and assessment of the strategic stability of the state in the Arctic;
- development of territorial development schemes, transport infrastructure, planning organization of the Murmansk and Tomsk regions, the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), etc.

#### ***In the field of scientific and organizational activities:***

- participation in the international competition of scientific, scientific, technical and innovative developments aimed at the development of the Arctic and the continental shelf OFSHOR-2015, 2016, 2017, where the Academy's projects are annually recognized as laureates of the Government of the Russian Federation (Ministry of Energy);
- development of a methodology for assessing environmental risks in the Arctic and participation in the development of the Environmental Public Standard;
- involvement in the competition of innovative projects of the Committee on Science and Higher Education of the Government of St. Petersburg.

#### ***In the field of scientific and educational activities:***

- development of textbooks and teaching aids, teaching materials on disciplines corresponding to the profile of sections of the Academy and the section of Geopolitics and Security of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences;
- participation in the National Arctic Scientific and Educational Consortium of the Northern (Arctic) Federal University named after M.V. Lomonosov;
- co-organization of the annual International BIOS - Olympiad for schoolchildren and students;
- assistance in conducting the yearly All-Russian educational meeting of young polar explorers "Our Planet";
- participation in the work of the Scientific Council of the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous District with financial support from the Presidential Grants Fund, which implements the Arctic School project.

#### ***In the field of culture, arts and tourism:***

- participation in projects and programs "Marine Heritage" as members of the Association with the involvement of the Council of Young Scientists of the North;
- participation as co-organizers of the annual international film festival of marine and adventure films "The Sea Calls";
- implementation of the project "Alexander Sibiryakov - scientist and philanthropist";
- holding ceremonial events in St. Petersburg and Kotka (Finland), dedicated to the anniversary of A.S. Popova;
- organization of work on the annual International Festival of Folk Art and Multimedia "Young Arctic";

- Organization and implementation of the annual International Cultural and Educational Project “Talents of the Arctic. Children”;
- the initiation in 2019 of the International Scientific and Educational Cluster “Preservation of National Traditions, Language and Culture of Indigenous Peoples of Europe”;
- the scientific discovery of the theory of Arctic circumpolar civilization as a historical phenomenon in the development of humanity, which occupies a special place in the system of local civilizations of the fifth generation;
- patronage of the expedition to Vottovara and Arkaim.

***In the field of scientific and industrial activity:***

- interaction with organizations of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) on the safety of operation of energy systems;
- participation in expeditions of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) for a medical examination of residents of the Arctic areas of Yakutia;
- scientific substantiation of the main areas of conversion and diversification of defense industry enterprises for the needs of the Arctic areas.

***In the field of international cooperation:***

- traditional cooperation with the Scandinavian countries (Norway, Finland, Estonia). This cooperation is even more relevant in turbulent international conditions;
- cooperation with the Arctic Economic Council of the Intergovernmental Forum “Arctic Council”;
- continuation of the project “Admiral de Traverse - Minister of the Sea of Russia” to study the naval interaction of France and Russia and prepare for the 200th anniversary of the discovery of Antarctica in 2020;
- a new direction - the development of relations with China, participation in the maritime forum together with the Academy of Military Sciences of the Russian Federation and the Center for the Study of World War II - the Anti-Japanese War and the post-war international peace at the University of Jilin, organized at the direction of the leaders of China and Russia;
- restoration of scientific ties with Azerbaijan in many areas: in the field of information technology, noise-monitoring of risks during oil transportation through pipelines in Eastern Siberia and South Yakutia, and the educational sector. This cooperation seems important and promising, given the signed agreements.

***In the field of organizing core activities and events:***

- the main result is the creation in 2016 of the Arctic Council of the International Union of Non-Governmental Organizations “Assembly of Eurasian Peoples”, where the scientific and organizational responsibility lies with the Arctic Academy of Sciences and the section of Geopolitics and Security of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences. The Arctic Council was successfully represented in Paris, in 2019 - in Turkey, Bulgaria, Denmark, China;
- development of public-state partnership - membership in the Public Chamber of the North-West Federal District;
- Organization and leadership of the Polar Commission of the Maritime Council under the Government of St. Petersburg;
- conclusion of bilateral cooperation agreements with many Russian and foreign organizations;
- in 2006, the creation of the Agency for High-Tech and Innovative Technologies;
- in 2016, the creation of the Center for Arctic Infocommunication Technologies based on the Leningrad branch of the Central Research Institute of Communications;

- 2008–2016 holding the International Congress “Millennium Development Goals and innovative ways of developing the Arctic territories”, St. Petersburg;
- In 2014, the holding of the Arctic International Investment Summit “Northern Sea Route. Infrastructure and transport and communication system of the Arctic region” in Moscow, Hotel “Moscow Tverskaya”;
- in 2015, the holding of the II Arctic International Investment Development Summit in Moscow, the Borodino Hotel;
- in 2018, the holding of the III International Arctic Summit “The Arctic and Offshore Projects: Prospects, Innovations, and Regional Development” (Arctic 2018 SPb) in St. Petersburg at the St. Petersburg State Marine Technical University;
- since 2012, once every two years, the holding of the International Scientific and Practical Conference “Russia in the Arctic” within the framework of the International Festival of Sea and Adventure Films “The Sea Calls” in St. Petersburg, a branch of the Museum of the World Ocean in St. Petersburg - an icebreaker “Krasin”;
- since 2013, the annual joint seminar with the Center for Social and Political Studies and the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation “The Arctic: the vector of development and dialogue” in St. Petersburg;
- since 2018, the holding of the International Seminar with the support of the Gorchakov Foundation “Arctic Public Diplomacy in a Community of One Destiny” in St. Petersburg.

#### *Large projects examples*

Over the years of the Academy, several major projects have been implemented. Two of them are the most significant.

**The project “Alexander Sibiryakov - a scientist and a philanthropist”** began with a report at one of the conferences about a man forgotten by compatriots whose name was associated with an icebreaker who died in the Kara Sea in World War II. The Academy became interested in this topic and organized a round table, began work in the archives and searched for concerned scientists and specialists. It was 2008. As a result, the project became international, the activities of the Academy in 2009 were dedicated to the name of Alexander Mikhailovich Sibiryakov, whose 160th birthday was celebrated by the scientific community. During 2009, a lot of archival material was collected, a large international scientific-practical conference was held at the House of Scientists of the RAS, which brought together representatives of 5 countries associated with the name of Sibiryakov, a collection of works was released, and in October a delegation of the Academy visited Paris, Toulon, and Nice, where in the Russian cemetery “Kokad” A.M. Sibiryakov rests in peace. Academy representatives became the only delegation from Russia to lay flowers on his grave in recent decades.

Here is just a small list of merits to the Fatherland of A.M. Sibiryakov. Financing, together with the English entrepreneur Gardiner, the voyage of the Scottish captain W. Wiggins in 1876 to the mouth of the Yenisei River and up to the confluence of the Kureyki River with the delivery of European goods to the region. The organization, at the expense of the sponsor, of the expedition of A. Nordenskjöld along the Northeast Passage and around Eurasia in 1878–1880. These were the first attempts to develop the Northern Sea Route. Paving the road from Europe (for the successes of which participants and organizers were noted in Sweden, but not in Russia in any way) to Asia

via the Northern Urals, connecting the Ob and Pechora rivers, called the Sibiryakovsky Trakt, organizing expeditions of German and French naturalists to the Ob region in 1890. An equally important part of his activity is educational and charitable. The entrepreneur's funds built the first Siberian university in Tomsk, four free primary schools in Irkutsk, established the Higher Technical School, the Siberia printing house, built churches and temples, allocated 10 thousand rubles to the Academy of Sciences to award a prize every three years for the best historical original essay on Siberia, material support was given to Siberian students studying in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

In 2019, the Arctic Academy of Sciences, in the year of the 170th anniversary of the birth of A.M. Sibiryakov, again turned to this project, announcing an essay contest on Siberia and the North for high school students and university students as part of the upcoming Arctic Innovation 2019 St. Petersburg Arctic Summit.

The second significant international project implemented by the Arctic Academy of Sciences is **“Admiral de Traverse - Minister of the Sea of Russia”**. It dates back to 2004 when a conference was organized within the walls of the Agrarian University in Luga dedicated to the 250th anniversary of the birth of the Frenchman by birth, but the true son of Russia for many years of impeccable service, Ivan Ivanovich Traverse, nee Jean Baptiste Prevost de Sansac, Marquise de Traverse. During the time of Catherine the Great Traverse distinguished himself in battles with the British during the American War of Independence, he was invited to Russian service and gave his consent. The Great Revolution raged in France, and the new power did not favor the hereditary nobles. By his appearance in Russia, the Frenchman, the initial enemy of Britain, openly confused the cards of the anglophiles, of whom there were many at court, which was especially evident in the murder of Paul I, who assigned de Traverse the rank of rear admiral. Intrigues haunted the Marquis all his life, which did not prevent him from first showing himself as the commander of the sailing squadron of the rowing flotilla of the Baltic Fleet (1802), then as the Chief Commander of the Black Sea Fleet and, finally, as the Minister of the Sea of the Russian Empire (1809) to the highest degree of efficiency. The last post he took in 1811. the Marquis 18 years headed the Ministry of the Sea, becoming a member of the Council of State. For organizing numerous expeditions, incl. the expedition of F.F. Bellingshausen and M.P. Lazarev, who discovered Antarctica in 1820, Admiral Traverse was awarded the highest order of the Russian Empire - St. Andrew the First-Called. So the “golden age” of the geographical discoveries of our fleet is connected precisely with Admiral de Traverse.

However, the most eloquent episode characterizing Marquise Traverse as a person is connected with Napoleon's attempt to return the admiral to his homeland at all costs. In 1811, a special envoy of the emperor of the French arrived at Admiral Traverse with a proposal to return to France on his terms and take any post, including the position of Minister of the Sea ... The Marquis refused, declaring that he would not betray his new homeland, which helped him out in a difficult time, and in the same year, he accepted Russian citizenship. He kept his word and met his death on an estate in the village of Romanshchina near Luga, where he was buried.

Over the years of the project, archival materials were collected, round tables and seminars were held, scientific relations were established with France, Finland, Ukraine, the USA, the Traverse Association of Heirs; a delegation of the Arctic Academy of Sciences annually in April visits the burial place of the Sea Minister and his wife in the Roman region, holds press conferences and meetings at the Head of the local administration. In March 2019, the International Conference “Le Marquis de Traversay un autre héros des deux mondes” (Marquis Traverse - the hero of the Old and New Worlds) was held, which provided an opportunity to consider the admiral’s personality in a broad aspect of Franco-Russian-American relations in a retrospective of three centuries. The conference was held as part of the implementation of the International Project of the Arctic Academy of Sciences “Admiral de Traverse - Minister of the Sea of Russia”, initiated in 2009 and dedicated to the 200th anniversary of the discovery by the Russian navigators of the sixth continent of the Earth - Antarctica. The organizers of the conference, in addition to the Arctic Academy of Sciences and the host of the event - the Historical Service of the Ministry of Defense of France (Service historique de la Défense), located in the Chateau de Vincennes of Vincennes - were: Sorbonne and Panthéon-Sorbonne Universities and Naval War College, Newport, USA. In 2020, the year of the 200th anniversary of the discovery of Antarctica by Russian sailors, the Academy will hold a response International Scientific and Practical Conference in St. Petersburg. The Academy plans to establish the Traverse International Charitable Fund to support scientific, historical, cultural ties between Russia and France, as well as the organization of historical tourist routes in the Luga district of the Leningrad Oblast.

### *Conclusion*

The peculiarities of geopolitical factors that determine inter-regional interactions in the Arctic super-region are, first of all, in the new role of regions in the context of globalization. The study of these processes is one of the main activities of the Arctic Academy of Sciences. Her participation in the development of the national security concept and many years of efforts in adopting the proposed version of the Arctic Doctrine of Russia were crowned with success, finding almost complete reflection in the Fundamentals of Russian State Policy in the Arctic. In content, they completely reiterate the doctrine proposed by the Arctic Academy of Sciences, except for the last section, which spoke about the Arctic organization of the state. The proposed doctrine was consonant with the military doctrine, where without this section, all the previous ones are simply a declaration, which is observed today in the Arctic.

A situation has arisen in which Russia must develop a completely new strategy in its regional policy in order not only to maintain its integrity but also to recognize its new geo-economic role in a rapidly changing world. It requires a serious scientific justification.

The current socio-political situation in Russia is significantly different from the middle of the 20th century when a centralized management system made it possible to implement the northern (Arctic) policy based on directives of the USSR State Planning Commission. At present,

harmonization of the relations “Science - Power - Business” is necessary in the context of the formation of civil society. And this means involving local government institutions, an active public resource - and the scientific justification of decisions made.

For sixteen years, the Arctic Public Academy of Sciences has been upholding scientific principles that contribute to the sustainable development of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation and ensuring a decent quality of life for the population of the Arctic.