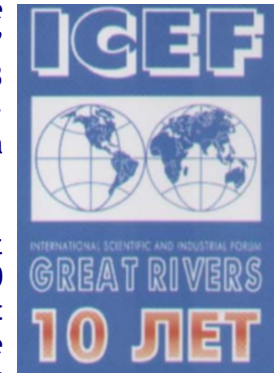




The International Ocean Institute participates in the “The Great Rivers” Forum, Russia, May 2008

As in previous years, IOI took part and contributed to the International Scientific and Industrial Forum “The Great Rivers” which took place in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia from May 20-23 2008. This year the theme of the Forum was “*Ecological, Hydro-meteorological and Energy Security*”. It was organised as a contribution to the International Year of Planet Earth.



In 2008, the Forum celebrated its 10th Anniversary and brought together a few thousand participants and visitors. About 800 experts from 72 countries took part in the work of the Scientific Conference chaired by the WMO President and the head of the RusHydromet Dr A. I. Bedritskii; Head of the Water Resources Agency, Mr. P. Z. Hamitov; Director of the Institute of Water and River Installations of the Karlsruhe University, Germany, Prof F. Nestmann and Rector of the NNGASU, Prof. E. V. Koposov.

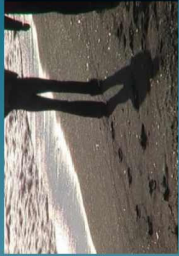
Every year the International Scientific and Industrial Forum brings together scientists, industries, ecologists, decision makers, representatives of local and federal governments, of international organisations and NGOs united by the same goals - to help in solving the problems facing Great Rivers around the world.

The Forum and Scientific Conference give an opportunity to experts and people at large to present their views on the future of the Great Rivers. Numerous scientific papers accumulate experience gained while implementing international integrated projects such as “*Volga Vision*” and “*Cabri Volga*”, within which IOI was a partner; discuss challenges related to monitoring, human health, ecology, the protection of cultural heritage and education. The Forum has become a platform for the effective exchange of information, for establishing cooperation, for discussing rational methods of water usage and water treatment methods in the countries through which great rivers flow.



The IOI delegation at the Forum consisted of three people: Prof. M. Fahmy, Director IOI-Egypt; Dr. I. Oliounine, Executive Director IOI and Dr. A. Ivanov, Director IOI-Volga.

Left: Prof. Fahmy (L) and a participant during the Forum



Prof. Fahmy delivered a presentation on the investigation of the chemical properties of the Rosetta Branch of the River Nile and their influence on the pollution of the areas of the Mediterranean Sea close to the mouth of this Branch. Dr A. Ivanov presented a number of lectures related to the formulation of a strategy for the sustainable development and security of livelihoods in the Volga Basin from floods.

The 2008 Conference was organised on the basis of plenaries, 8 sections and 5 Round Tables. Among the topics of the sections the following were of a special interest to IOI: international projects on the sustainable development of great river basins; water resources - the present state and ways for development; the state of the environment and human health and education on sustainable development.



Dr Oliounine was among the VIP guests of the Conference and participated in the round table discussion on the future of the international projects in the Volga River Basin. For his long-term contribution to the Great Rivers Forum, he was presented with the Diploma of the Forum and conferred with an honorary Doctorate from the University, along with Prof. Reiner Graffe from Innsbruck, Austria and Prof. J. Bogardi from Bonn, Germany.

Left: Dr Yuri Oliounine during the ceremony for the conferral of the Doctorate

With the help of the Director-IOI Japan, Ms Masako Bannai Otsuka, IOI also organised the demonstration of the DVD film on Tone River, the second longest river in Japan, showing stories of nature, aspects of the history and culture of the river people, and usage policies of the River. This DVD Film was given the Silver Screen Prize from the 40th US International Film and Video Festival in 2007 and also shown at the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico.

(Right: Tone River DVD)

