



BIOPOLITICS INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION (B.I.O.)

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RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
SAINT PETERSBURG SCIENTIFIC CENTER

BIOPOLITICS INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

INTERREGIONAL ECOLOGICAL CLUB
Graduate Students, Students and Schoolchildren
Baltic Ladoga Region

XVth Annual Youth Bios Olympiad 2010

St. Petersburg, September 17–21

More than 400 children and young adults gathered last week in St. Petersburg, Russia, to take part in the **XVth Annual Youth Bios Olympiad**, sponsored by the **Biopolitics International Organisation (B.I.O.)**. This year's event also featured a **Jubilee Celebration** with the participation of distinguished international personalities and honoured guests.

The Youth Bios Olympiads are realised annually by **Prof. Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis**, B.I.O. President and Founder, in cooperation with the **Russian Academy of Sciences**, the **Saint Petersburg Scientific Centre** and the **Interregional Ecological Club of the Baltic Ladoga Region**. The initiative owes its great success to the unwavering efforts of **Prof. Alexander Shishkin**, Head of the Ecological Standardisation Laboratory at the St. Petersburg State Technological University for Plant Polymers.

The goal of the XVth Youth Bios Olympiad 2010 was to consolidate biopolicy and bio-culture in future generations. Its mission was to inspire the young to address environmental and biopolicy issues, and to introduce a bios-promoting spirit for the development of a "Green Society" through bio-environmental, bio-cultural and bio-athletic values.

Distinguished international personalities that took part in this year's events included, among others: **Prof. Mikhail Fedorov**, Rector of the St. Petersburg State Polytechnic University and Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences; **Prof. Emil Constantinescu**, f. President of Romania; **Erol User**, President and CEO of USER Corporation Turkey and special sponsor of the event; **Dr. Stylianos Syrmoglou**, Chairman and CEO, and **Michael Poulakis**, Head of the Programming and Planning Department, of Citizen in Deed, Greece; **Dr. Theoharis Provatakis**, f. Secretary General of the Greek Ministry of Culture; **Prof. Athanassios Angelopoulos**, President of the

Institute for National and Religious Affairs, Greece; **Anna Karamanou**, f. Member of the European Parliament; **Dimitrios Koutroulas**, Director of the Institute for National and Religious Affairs, Greece; **Maria Paraschaki**, Consultant at the Regional Management Authority of Crete, Greece; **Claudia Lolas** and Prof. **Eileen Hoesly** from the Hellenic American University; and, **Prof. Ivana Djujic** from the University of Belgrade. Also present were the following B.I.O. staff members: **Elena Efraimiadou**, Geologist, and **Vassileia Pitarokoili**, Laywer.

The XVth Youth Bios Olympiad **opened with a spectacular ceremony** on September 18, at the **White Hall of the Saint Petersburg State Polytechnic University**. The event featured the symphonic and choral Cantata “Life on Earth,” composed by Iakovos Dakoutros after a poem by Prof. Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis. Speeches and greetings by members of the St. Petersburg administration and honoured guests followed, and the opening ceremony concluded with a music festival organised by the young participants.

The second day consisted of a **plenary session** where **more than 240 young students presented reports before the members of the International Jury**. Participants ranged from grade-school children to university students and presented a multitude of creative projects. Thematic sections involved the protection of biodiversity, the ecological assessment of the environment, the medical and social problems of ecology, as well as international cooperation in bio-environmental protection. The presentations of the young participants were of a very high caliber and drew great interest from the attendees. On the same day, at the university showrooms, the young students also presented creative works, photographs, drawings, environmental essays, posters and video films. The crafts were made from many different kinds of material, such as wood, textile, glass, sand and flowers.

The XVth Youth Bios Olympiad concluded on September 20, at the **Russian Academy of Sciences**, with a scientific seminar themed “Ladoga–Neva–Gulf of Finland: cooperation for the protection of water resources.” The impressive **Closing Ceremony** which followed the seminar included speeches by leading personalities, a folk art performance, and the award of diplomas and prizes to the finalists by a panel of international dignitaries.

All events were crowned with great success and contributed to an increased awareness of the importance of bio-environmental and bio-cultural values in building tomorrow’s society.



“Life on Earth” Cantata at the Opening Ceremony



Hundreds of young people attended the events



Prof. Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis and the panel of international dignitaries welcome the participants



Folklore performance at the opening ceremony



Folklore performance organised by the young participants



Musical event at the opening ceremony



Musical event at the opening ceremony



Dance festival at the opening ceremony



Young participants from Serbia



Presentation of a scientific project



Prof. Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis speaks with teachers and jury members



Some of the young participants



The university showrooms showcased the creative works of the young participants



Panel of speakers (from right to left): Prof. Alexander Shishkin, Prof. Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis, President Emil Constantinescu



Teachers and professors who help the young participants prepare for the Youth Bios Olympiads



Prof. Alexander Shishkin, Prof. Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis and President Emil Constantinescu prepare for the award of diplomas to the finalists



Diploma handed out by Prof. Emil Constantinescu, f. President of Romania



Diploma handed out by Erol User, President and CEO of USER Corporation Turkey and special sponsor of the event



Diploma handed out by Prof. Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis, B.I.O. President and Founder



Diploma handed out by Dr. Theoharis Provatakis, f. Secretary General, Greek Ministry of Culture



Diploma handed out by Dr. Stylianos Symoglou, Chairman and CEO of Citizen in Deed, Greece



Diploma handed out by Prof. Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis



Diploma handed out by Prof. Athanassios Angelopoulos, President of the Institute for National and Religious Affairs, Greece



Diploma handed out by Michael Poulakis, Head of Programming and Planning, Citizen in Deed, Greece



Diploma handed out by Claudia Lolas, from the Hellenic American University in Greece



Diploma handed out by Dimitrios Koutroulas, Director of the Institute for National and Religious Affairs, Greece



Diploma handed out by Maria Paraschaki, Consultant at the Regional Management Authority of Crete, Greece



Diploma handed out by Prof. Eileen Hoesly, Hellenic American University, Greece