**Matrosov Institute for System Dynamics and Control Theory of Siberian Branch of
Russian Academy of Sciences
Siberian Institute of Plant Physiology and Biochemistry of Siberian Branch of
Russian Academy of Sciences
V.B. Sochava Institute of Geography of Siberian Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences
Institute of Mathematical Problems of Biology RAS – the Branch of the Keldysh Institute of Applied
Mathematics of the Russian Academy of Sciences"**

with the support of **GBIF: the Global Biodiversity Information Facility**

and
Department Of Nanotechnology And Information Technology RAS

will arrange an
**INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE
"INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES
IN THE RESEARCH OF BIODIVERSITY"**

Respected colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the International Conference "Information Technologies in the Research of Biodiversity" http://bit.icc.ru, which will take place on September 11–14, 2018 (followed by the master class on data mobilization skills on September 15–19) in Irkutsk, Russia at Matrosov Institute for System Dynamics and Control Theory of Siberian Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences. Integration of modern information technologies and classical methods of biodiversity research enables reaching new levels of knowledge acquisition. New demands on researchers require coordination, standardization and unification of data and methods.

The conference includes plenary and sectional reports, round tables, and master classes on the publication of biodiversity data for use in basic and applied research to provide you with principles for working with existing biodiversity information systems. Those interested in participating can register electronically via http://bit.icc.ru.

Applications for master class on data mobilization are collected before 1 May 2018; for details and application form see http://www.forbio.uio.no/events/courses/2018/Data_mobilization_Baikal.html.

Goals

1. Coordination of research interactions to digitize, standardize and publish data on biodiversity in Russia and other countries, as well as promoting and spreading modern international principles, resources and tools for working with biological data.
2. Consideration of modern principles for creating and integrating local and regional information system projects for biodiversity research in Russia and other countries.
3. Creation of infrastructures for implementing technological and information support to organizations seeking to exchange data and data analysis methods.
4. Development of specialized software for handling biodiversity research tasks.

5. Networking and exchange of experience, advanced technologies and trends in the field of distributed databases and data processing.

Conference sections

1. Global biodiversity data portals: data integration, use in knowledge generation tasks.
2. Information and analytical systems on biodiversity. Virtual natural history collections.
3. National data on biodiversity: the current state of digitization. Copyright issues, methods and concepts for assessing data quality.
4. Theoretical fundaments and organization technologies of the information and telecommunications infrastructures. Standards for describing digital data, processing services, etc.
5. Methods, models, software systems and Web services for the analysis of biodiversity data.
6. Application of remote methods in vegetation mapping and biodiversity research.

The working languages of the conference are Russian and English. Participants will be given 20 minutes for a report in the plenary session and 15 minutes for a sectional session report. Poster session will be 2 hours long, where   authors will be able to briefly present the main idea of the report and answer the questions. Poster presentations are posted during the Conference in the conference room. The size of a poster is not more than A0 / portrait. Speakers will be provided with a computer, a multimedia projector. Supported presentations formats are PPT / PPTX and PDF. If other technical resources are required, please contact the Organizing Committee in advance.

Important dates

May 1, 2018 – electronic registration of the conference closed and abstracts accepted. End of registration for master-class (separate form)
May 20–15 June, 2018 – confirmations of registration, conference and visa invitations.
August 30, 2018 – conference program online, arrival info.
September 11–14, 2018 – conference dates, including excursion.
September 15–19, 2018 – master-class on data mobilization skills.

Registration Fee

Remote participation (publication of materials with the assignment of ISBN and registration in RSCI) is 700 rubles; for students and post-graduate students the registration fee is 500 rubles. Participation in presence is 2000 rubles; for students and post-graduate students – 1000 rubles. Travel costs and allowances are participant's own responsibility. Registration fee for participation in presence includes the publication of conference materials, participant package, and coffee breaks. If you need to make an invitation to get a visa, the registration fee is 3000 rubles. Foreign participants pay the registration fee on arrival. In case of cancellation, registration fee is not refundable.

Acceptance of registrations and abstracts

Deadline for participants to register and submit abstracts is May 1, 2018, via http://bit.icc.ru. Abstracts up to 3000 characters (with spaces, no tables and figures) should be submitted in English.
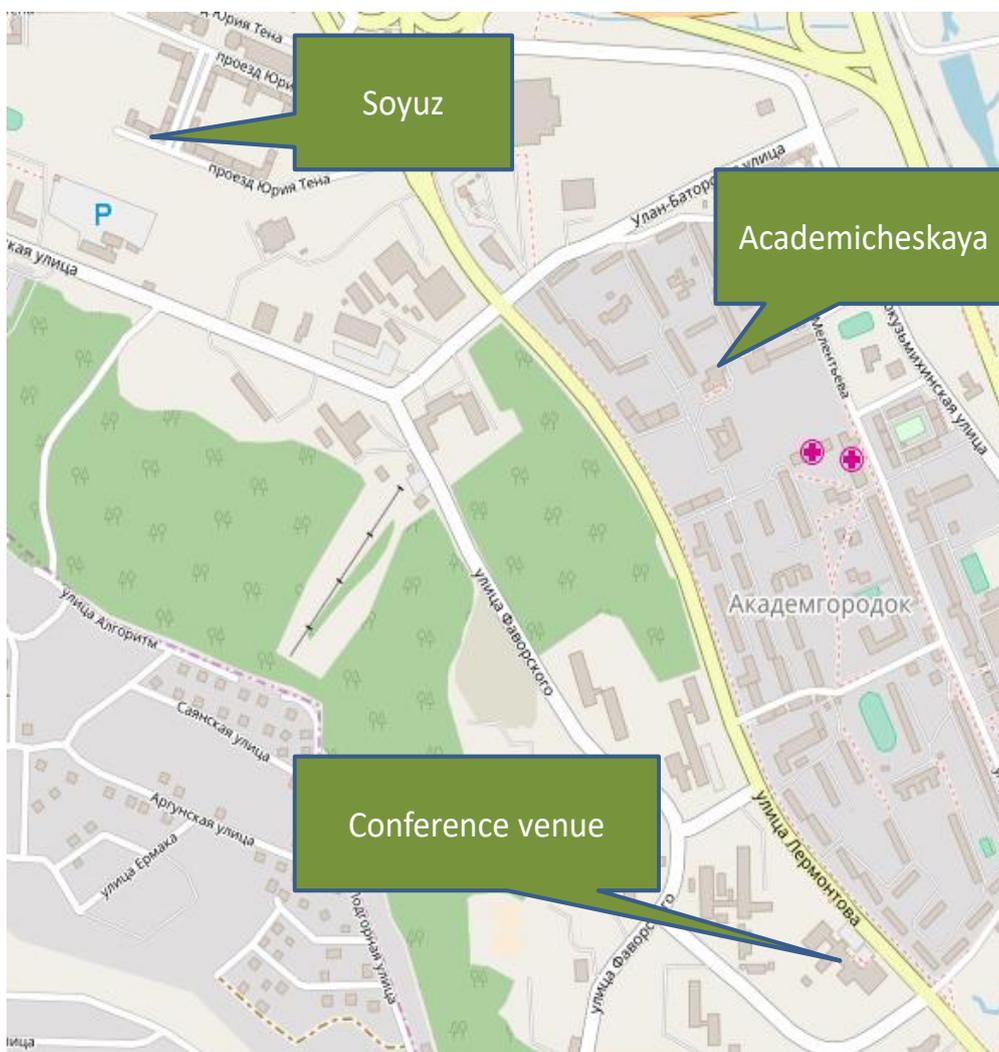
The organizers plan to publish conference proceedings in a separate collection indexed in the RSCI database.

Cultural program

Following the scientific program on September 11–13, excursion is planned on September 14 to Listvyanka, near at Lake Baikal, with a visit to the Baikal Museum of the Irkutsk Scientific Center SB RAS http://www.bm.isc.irk.ru.

Accommodation

You can choose accommodation options using the Internet resources www.booking.com and komandirovka.ru. Relatively near the Conference venue there are 2 hotels: *Academicheskaya* (http://academichotel.ru) and *Soyuz* (http://hotelsoyuz38.ru/). The Hotel Soyuz provides offers Conference participants a 15% discount on the promo code *nauka38* subject to booking by May 31, 2018.

Location map of Conference venue and hotels

Organizing Committee - contact information

Address: Matrosov Institute for System Dynamics and Control Theory, SB RAS, 134, Lermontov Str., Irkutsk, 664033, Russia
Tel.: +7 3952 453108
E-mail: bit@icc.ru
Website of the conference: http://bit.icc.ru
Instant messengers and Facebook groups will quickly help you get the necessary information.
Telegram: https://t.me/ITBR2018
WhatsApp: https://chat.whatsapp.com/LXDMsDe3aAwGhf8Hq1cAwE
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/events/280752839125407/

We hope to see you at the Conference!
The Organizing Committee requests your help in distributing this letter to other interested colleagues.