

**BRIEF REPORT ON VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PUGWASH CONFERENCES ON  
SCIENCE AND WORLD AFFAIRS AMB. JAYANTHA DHANAPALA TO THE RUSSIAN  
FEDERATION**

**JUNE 1-4, 2009**

Jayantha Dhanapala, President of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs and former Under-Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs arrived in Russia with a short visit from June 1 to 4. The first city he visited was Krasnodar, where he was for the first time. The meeting with the honorary guest was organized by Kuban State University. A press conference, a seminar for political scientists of the South of Russia and two open lectures delivered by Amb. Dhanapala for teachers and students of Kuban State University (KubSU) were held at the largest higher educational institution in Kuban region.

Jayantha Dhanapala and Deputy Chairman of the Russian Pugwash committee, and member of the Pugwash Executive Committee Professor Alexander Nikitin were welcomed by the KubSU Rector Mikhail Astapov. He thanked Dr. Dhanapala for having chosen Kuban State University for his visit and invited him to read lectures at the University on the permanent basis. Dr. Dhanapala has rich experience that he could share with future specialists: he was heading the Geneva-based United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) as Director, and he gained international recognition chairing the 1995 review and extension conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Trying to get the message about the urgency of disarmament across to the world public, Dr. Dhanapala visited over 70 countries of the world where he met with teachers and students of higher educational institutions. After the visit to Kuban State University Dr. Dhanapala read lectures at the Higher School of Economics, Moscow State Institution of International Relations and Dubna University.

During the press conference Prof. Nikitin, Deputy Chairman of the Russian Pugwash Committee under the auspices of the RAS Presidium, told about the Pugwash Conferences headed by Dr. Dhanapala. The Pugwash Conferences take their name from the location of the first meeting, which was held in the village of Pugwash, Canada. The meeting was aimed to bring together, from around the world, influential scholars concerned with reducing the danger of nuclear weapon. Today 60 countries of the world, including Russia, take part in the Pugwash movement. Prof. Nikitin underlined that the participation of Russia in this initiative is an important step towards the disarmament problem settlement. Dr. Dhanapala added that the negotiations between the USA and Russia are under way in Geneva within the framework of the agreement on elimination of nuclear weapon signed on June 1, 2009. Dhanapala said that international cooperation is vitally important to protect the world against terrorism. He added that to ensure international security it is necessary to bring together scholars from around the world who should take the leading place in the world community and warn the society about the approaching crisis.

Then the questions from the audience followed. Journalists and students were interested in the urgent problems, such as rockets in North Korea, a military reform in Russia, security strategy approved by the President of Russia Dmitry Medvedev, the role of Russian scientists in the Pugwash Conferences, Ukraine and Georgia's entrance to NATO. The guest was also asked about his impressions about the visit to Krasnodar and the University. Dr. Dhanapala, who had already been on a sightseeing excursion in Krasnodar, mentioned that he was impressed by the cleanness of the city and abundance of green planting. The monument to St. Catherine and the history of Krasnodar also aroused his interest. What concerns Kuban State University, Dr. Dhanapala pointed out that he was happy to pay a visit to the best higher educational institution of the Kuban region.

At the end of the meeting M.B. Astapov thanked Dr. Dhanapala and Prof. Nikitin for their interesting and detailed answers and presented the disarmament campaigner with the book "Russia" which, according to the Rector, includes the names of all political figures of our country. "I hope that this book will be a valuable addition to your library," Mikhail Astapov said. Jayantha Dhanapala expressed the hope that the cooperation with Kuban State University would continue and he would get an opportunity to see more sites of Krasnodar.

On June 1, 2009 in Moscow J. Dhanapala gave lecture for professors, teachers and students of State University Higher School of Economics on perspectives of conclusions of new agreements on nuclear disarmaments and current problems on international affairs. President of the Pugwash Conferences had meeting with Gennady Gatilov, Director of Department of International Organizations of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

On June 1, 2009 Pugwash's President Amb. J. Dhanapala also visited International Federation for Peace and Conciliation (IFPC) for informal meeting with Russian Pugwashites, leaders of the IFPC, members of the Russian Student / Young Pugwash, and with students and young professionals from different Moscow universities and institutions. Chairman of the Russian Pugwash Committee and member of the Pugwash Council Academician Yuri Ryzhov gave a welcome speech. IFPC President and member of the Russian Pugwash Committee Dr. Victor Kamyshanov made a report on activities of NGO's in Russia and its role in international affairs, problems of disarmament and nonproliferation. He also informed participants of meeting about 60th anniversary of international peacemaking and anti-war movement, and on special Peace Forum which will be organize by the IFPC in October 2009. Deputy chairmen of the Russian Pugwash Committee professors Alexander Ginzburg (A.M. Obukhov Institute of Atmospheric Physics of the Russian Academy of Sciences) and Alexander Nikitin, Committee's Executive Secretary Mr. Mikhail A. Lebedev (Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences), and Committee's member Professor Kirill Babievsky (A.N. Nesmeyanov Institute of Organolement Compounds of the Russian Academy of Sciences) took part in the meeting.

The President of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs Jayantha Dhanapala visited Joint Institute of Nuclear Research (JINR, Dubna, Moscow Region) on June 4. He was Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament of the United Nations in 1988-2003. Jayantha Dhanapala received a JINR Honor medal.

During the meeting with JINR Director, First deputy chairman of the Russian Pugwash Committee, member of the Presidium of Russian Academy of Sciences Academician Alexei Sissakian the high-ranking guest become acquainted with activity of the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research which is exclusively devoted to a peaceful use of nuclei and particle energy as it was emphasized during the meeting. "The main aim of my visit to Dubna was JINR that has long traditions of close cooperation with Pugwash Conferences on Science. JINR literally made major contribution to science development within the framework of peaceful using of the nuclear energy, - Jayantha Dhanapala said to the weekly newspaper correspondent after the meeting, - In Pugwash Conferences we united our efforts to protect the world from a nuclear war. The Nobel Peace Prize for 1995 was awarded to the Pugwash for that long-term activity to diminish the part played by nuclear arms in international politics of scientists of the USSR, the USA and other countries in the time of the Cold War. We believe that efforts to maintain lasting peace on the planet could be consolidated using a new opportunities of the cooperation between Russia and USA, between President Medvedev and President Obama. Humankind has to use atomic energy only for peaceful uses. I think Joint Institute for Nuclear Research as an international research center is a graphic model of effective cooperation in this area of activity. There is no national science just as there is no national multiplication table, said Anton Chekhov. And that is the exact truth. Science consolidates the nations.

After meeting in JINR Amb. Dhanapala jointly with Deputy Chairman of the Russian Pugwash Committee Prof. Alexander Ginzburg and Dr. Sergey Oznobishchev (Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences, IMEMO) visited Dubna University.

Mikhail A. Lebedev,  
Executive Secretary of the Russian Pugwash Committee,  
Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences