

**Baltic Floating University cruise - 2008
(2- 11 July 2008)**

SUMMARY REPORT

The BFU-2008 cruise marked the 15th Anniversary of the programme (started in 1993). It was carried out by the Russian State Hydrometeorological University (RSHU) onboard the sailing catamaran *Centaurus-II* in the Eastern part of the Gulf of Finland (Baltic Sea).

The participants came from diverse backgrounds and different countries. Five resource persons and thirteen students from Russia, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Colombia were involved. The scientific and educational program on board included measurements of hydrological, hydrochemical and hydrobiological parameters, assessment of meteorological situation as well as lectures and seminars on environmental problems of the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Finland in particular. Complex oceanographic surveys were carried out in the Neva and Vyborg Bays, Luga and Koporye regions. During the cruise the students were trained in pre-processing and preliminary analysis of field data. They could visit new oil terminals of cities of Vysotsk and Primorsk and discuss the related environment protection measures. At a Mid-cruise seminar they presented their projects being developed at home universities. Through the combination of the research, education and training efforts the TTR-approach was successfully fulfilled.

After the cruise, the students presented preliminary cruise results at a Post-Cruise seminar held in St. Petersburg and shared their field experiences with some other RSHU students. The BFU activity in 2008 also included cultural programs in St. Petersburg, cities of Kronshtadt and Vyborg where the students went sightseeing and visited many historical places, famous museums and cathedrals.

The data collected during the BFU-2008 cruise will be used by the students in their research in home universities; they are encouraged to publish the results in the next annual issue of the BFU Research Bulletin. The database of cruise participants was created in the OceanExpert system (www.oceanexpert.org) and the cruise summary report can be found at the BFU web-site (www.rshu.ru/eng/bfu/cruises).



1. BFU-2008 cruise: students and staff onboard the sailing catamaran “Centaurus-II“



2. Field meteorological observations (Dr.S.Gordeeva and portugese student Renato Mendes)

3. Prof.Dr.S.Golubkov giving lecture on environmental problems of the Baltic Sea



4. Hydrochemical work onboard – dissolved oxygen sampling

5. Lecturing onboard



6. Students presenting the results of their work at sea on the Post-cruise seminar in St.Petersburg

7. Cultural program – sightseeing in St.Petersburg