SamSTU delegation visited Madagascar: developing partnership with the Russian House and humanitarian initiatives

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A delegation of Samara State Technical University (SamSTU) — an active member of the RAFU consortium — made a working trip to Antananarivo (Madagascar). The delegation included Rector Dmitry Evgenyevich Bykov and First Vice-Rector, Vice-Rector for Educational Work and Human Resource Development Evgeny Vladimirovich Frank.



The central point of the program was a visit to the Russian House in Madagascar, where the guests were welcomed by its head, Ilya Kontanistov. The meeting was also attended by official representatives of the Malagasy side: Nirina Suzette Randriamiarisoa (Deputy Director for Communications of the Administration of the President of the Republic of Madagascar), Botoale Kezia (Director for Communications of the Ministry of National Education) and Razafiarivelo Yanisia (Commissioner for Special Assignments of the General Directorate for Youth Affairs).



The university representatives got acquainted with the work of the cultural and humanitarian centre, its educational and outreach projects, and also discussed prospects for further cooperation in the field of science, education and the popularization of the Russian language. A festive concert was organized for the guests with demonstration performances in taekwondo, Russian songs and dances. The event was blessed and honoured by the presence of Archpriest Dimitri Matienko, rector of the Church of the Image of Christ the Saviour Not Made by Hands in Antananarivo.



«The Russian House began its work a little more than two months ago, yet already today it is clear that substantive, in-demand and truly professional work has been built here. I would like to note separately the high level of the institution's organization: the space is conducive to communication, learning and the implementation of joint initiatives,» — emphasized Rector of SamSTU Dmitry Bykov.



As part of the trip, a meeting was also held at the Russian House in Madagascar with representatives of the Namana Hafakely association, which provides assistance to children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The discussion was attended by the head of the Russian House Ilya Kontanistov, Rector of SamSTU Dmitry Bykov, First Vice-Rector Evgeny Frank, the head of the association Natacha Rasamuly, as well as Andriamamanihaga Mirana — the wife of the current Prime Minister of Madagascar.

The parties discussed the development of humanitarian cooperation and further support for children with ASD and their families. Following the meeting, the association was presented with a monetary certificate for the purchase of necessary supplies for the children. In addition, a date was agreed for a joint practical training session for Namana Hafakely teachers with Russian specialists. The preparation and conduct of the trainings and seminars will be ensured by Irina Nesterova, Head of the Medical Service of SamSTU, and representatives of the Regional Centre for Psychological, Pedagogical, Medical and Social Assistance. Russian specialists will share practical methods of organizing classes, accompanying children with ASD and supporting their families, which the association's teachers will be able to adapt to the conditions of Madagascar.



The trip became another step in the development of the partnership between Samara Polytech and the Russian House in Madagascar. The presence of official representatives of Malagasy state bodies underlined the significance of this interaction. SamSTU's participation in such initiatives confirms the university's active role as a member of the RAFU consortium in promoting Russian education, science and humanitarian projects abroad.