

This year two students of RSHU Vinnitskaiia Nastya and Pichmanov Nikita of MA475 group at first time had an opportunity to participate in aviation meteorology workshop which was held by Qatar Aeronautical College in association with WMO & ETR(World Meteorological Organisation & Education and Training) and also to have practice at Doha International Airport's meteorological department.



Main Entrance to the College



Qatar is a county in south-western Asia situated on Qatar Peninsula in north-eastern part of Arabian Peninsula. It is washed by the waters of Persian Gulf on every side. The capital of this little country is the city of Doha. The climate is continental tropical, dry. Temperatures at summer time can reach to +50 C. Relatively cold season lasts from December till the beginning of March. It is the most comfortable for native citizens and tourists.

It should be noted that the capital of the country is pretty young and was founded in 1850 year. Now Doha is dynamic and developing city in which is home to 80% of the population of the whole country.



Embankment near the Museum of the Islamic Art

On the first week we took participation in workshop which was held in order to enhance performance of workers on the sphere of aviation meteorology. The lectures were given by: Dr. Herbert Puempel (WMO), Ms. Kathy-Ann Cesar (CIMH-Caribbean Institute for Meteorology & Hydrology), Prof. Ross Reynolds (Reading University UK). Participants of the workshop were not only the college graduates but the workers of meteorological departments form other countries. The main questions of our lectures were: «Quality Management System», «Competency Requirement», «role of TAF & SIGMET Warnings», «Volcanic Ash Warning Techniques», «Met Information for Intl. Air Navigation & Flight Planning».

With a great pleasure and interest we attended to lectures and worked in groups, discussing main issues. For the workshop participants our performances were the most unusual because the climate of our country is completely different. And often we had to consider such meteorological parameters as snow, snowstorm, icing, which they almost never encountered.



With our teachers after college classes

In order to get acquainted with our teachers, participants and organizers of the conference more closely on the first evening there was a dinner held in the restaurant in which we were able to talk about abstract topics, and have a great time.

In the evening excursions were organized for the participants. So on the first day we visited the Museum of Islamic Art which contains a large collection of Islamic art, research institute and library. Museum made a great impression on us not only for its extraordinary design, but also for amazing views from its waterfront.



Museum of Islamic Art

Our next excursion took place directly in the city center, where everyone feels like a midget - among the skyscrapers. A sea of people, machines, lights-that's what first strikes the eye. I must say, the feeling that we are in New York, did not leave us until the end of the tour.



Doha Center

Of course we returned there many more times during our practice to explore the city more and enjoy its incredible views.

One day we had an excursion to one of the meteorological departments. We got acquainted with the weather forecaster job, learned about the nuances that may arise on the job, but the most memorable for us was a small museum inside the building directly organized by the department. There were presented instruments with which measurements are taken and a small mock of their own mobile weather station, which caused great interest of all the members of our group. And finally, the most interesting thing was that we saw the station with our own eyes.



Instruments for meteorological observations and layout of mobile weather station in the meteorological department

On the last day of our studies there was a "closing ceremony" in which all participants were congratulated with the successful completion of the workshop, were presented with certificates, shared their contacts and made memorable photos with each other.

On our second week we had practice at Doha International Airport's meteorological department. We studied the software complexes for numerical weather prediction (for example, "Aladin" NWP system and "Synergie" workstation) and models with which a forecast for Doha and nearby areas is made, analyzed maps, took readings from instruments measurements and put them into observation log. By the end of the week we became confident users of these programs and made three or five day forecasts by ourselves not only for Doha, but for St. Petersburg too.

These two weeks spent in Doha will long remain in our memory for sure. We were able to communicate with the world meteorological community, discuss topical issues in the field of aeronautical meteorology and adopt foreign experience. And the best part is that at the same time you can learn about a new country, its culture and people. We are incredibly pleased to participate in such events, and we would definitely go back there again.

We want to thank the organizers of our trip, especially Najim Al Barazanchi. Throughout our stay in Doha we were treated with great care and attention, and we were granted help and assist in any of our question. The trip itself was organized at the highest level. We are incredibly pleased to participate in such events, and we would definitely go back there again.

Done by:

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