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NACIONALNI INŠTITUT ZA BIOLOGIJO
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY

MORSKA BIOLOŠKA POSTAJA PIRAN
MARINE BIOLOGY STATION PIRAN



POL STOLETJA DELOVANJA MORSKE BIOLOŠKE POSTAJE PIRAN

Četrtek, 10. oktobra 2019, je bil prav posebno slovesen dan. V portoroškem Avditoriju smo prisostvovali uradni svečanosti ob častitljivi obletnici obstoja Morske biološke postaje Piran (MBP), ki deluje v okviru Nacionalnega inštituta za biologijo. Edina slovenska ustanova, ki preučuje morje in spremlja njegovo kakovost, letos praznuje že 50. rojstni dan! Gre za 50 let neprekinjenih raziskav, ki nam pomagajo razumeti slovensko morje, njegove prebivalce, vidne in nevidne, ter številne procese v tej – globalno gledano – skorajda neznatni »lužici«. A vendar je morje z le 213 km² površine, ki je v povprečju globoko okrog 19 m in niti na najgloblji točki ne preseže 40 m, po vsebini zelo veliko in biotsko izjemno pestro. V tem majhnem delu svetovnega morja je bilo namreč opaženih več kot 2.260 različnih vrst živih bitij ali kar 35 % vseh v Jadranskem morju živečih vrst. Raziskovanje

HALF A CENTURY OF THE MARINE BIOLOGY STATION PIRAN

Thursday, October 10, 2019 was a very special day. In the Portorož Auditorium, the official ceremony for the anniversary of Marine Biology Station Piran (MBS), which operates within the National Institute of Biology (NIB), was held. This year, the only Slovenian institution that studies the sea and monitors its quality is celebrating its 50th birthday! 50 years of continuous research, which has helped us understand the Slovenian sea, its inhabitants, visible and invisible ones, and many processes in this - globally - almost insignificant "puddle". However, this sea, with only 213 km² of surface area and an average depth of some 19 m, which never, not even in its deepest spot, exceeds 40 m, is large in content and extremely biodiverse. In this small part of the world, more than 2,260 different species of living creatures or 35% of all living species in the Adriatic



Slavnostni govorniki / Invited speakers: mag. Robert Turk, prof. dr. Tamara Lah Turnšek, mag. Dejan Židan, prof. dr. Alenka Malej, prof. dr. Matjaž Kuntner & prof. dr. Patricija Mozetič (Foto / Photo: Marko Alpner).

ekologije in varovanje morja je osnovno poslanstvo in prvenstvena naloga MBP, a ta se je uveljavila predvsem (ali pa prav zato) kot interdisciplinarna znanstveno-raziskovalna ustanova, kjer se prepletajo biološke, kemijske, fizikalne in mikrobiološke vsebine in pristopi. Dejstvo je, da je severni del Jadrana med najbolj raziskanimi morskimi območji sveta, kar je zasluga (ob predhodnikih, pionirjih raziskav morja pri nas) zlasti zdajšnjih in nekdanjih zaposlenih sodelavcev MBP.

Slovesna prireditev s kulturno-umetniškim navdihom (ob sodelovanju glasbene skupine Pop Outlet), ki jo je odlično povezovala Katja Pišot Maljevac, je bila seveda posvečena slavlencem. Slednji tudi neposredno soustvarjajo in osmišljajo delovanje te ugledne ustanove in s svojim predanim delom postavljajo in nadgrajujejo strokovne temelje za trajnostni razvoj morskega in obmorskega prostora. Pa vendar moramo na tem mestu posebej podčrtati, da MBP presega »zgolj«¹ poslanstvo predstavnikov alme mater. Pomen delovanja MBP je precej širši in večplasten; nikakor ne naslavlja samo tistih, ki z morjem in/ali od morja živimo, temveč – vsaj posredno – vse državljane Republike Slovenije. Saj smo se vsi že v vrtcu učili, da je morje okno in cesta

Sea have been identified. The main mission and priority of MBS is ecology and marine protection research, however (or, perhaps, precisely for that reason), it has established itself mainly as an interdisciplinary scientific and research institution where biological, chemical, physical and microbiological contents and approaches intertwine. In fact, the northern part of the Adriatic is one of the most explored marine areas in the world, and the credit goes to MBS (along with its predecessors, the pioneers of marine exploration in our country), especially to current and former MBS employees.

The ceremony, enriched by an artistic input by the *Pop Outlet* band and excellently moderated by Katja Pišot Maljevac, was, of course, dedicated to the many 'guests of honour'. Those who directly co-create and design the activities of this eminent institution and through their dedicated work provide professional foundations for the sustainable development of marine and maritime spaces. Nevertheless, it is important to emphasize that the mission of MBS goes beyond being a "mere" alma mater representative. Its importance is much broader and more complex; it addresses not only those who live by and/or from the sea, but - at least indirectly - all citizens



Mag. Robert Turk je navdušil z izjemnim predavanjem: "Pod plaščem navidezne nespremenljivosti" / Robert Turk, MSc, impressed the audience with a remarkable lecture: "Under the mantle of virtual immutability" (Foto / Photo: Marko Alpner).

v svet, in država z morjem je zato še kako v prednosti. Da je morje državotvorni element posebnega pomena, se vedno bolj zavedajo tudi predstavniki oblasti, kar je s svojo prisotnostjo in slavnostnim nagovorom potrdil tudi predsednik Državnega zbora RS, mag. Dejan Židan.

Nadejali smo se morda še kakšnega visokega državnega gosta, a bolj moteča je bila nepričakovana odsotnost povabljenih županov (oziroma zastopnikov) dveh od štirih obmorskih občin. Vpetost MBP v regijo in njeno povezovanje z lokalnim okoljem je namreč vsaj tako pomembno, kot je v državnem merilu. To je v uvodnem pozdravnem nagovoru izpostavil tudi dr. Matjaž Kuntner, direktor Nacionalnega inštituta za biologijo, ki je sicer »naravno« in edino logično lokacijo MBP ob morju, torej izven Ljubljane, označil kot prispevek k decentralizaciji slovenske znanosti. Hkrati je delovanje programske raziskovalne skupine MBP opisal kot izrazito mednarodno, večkrat potrjeno tako skozi partnerstva v evropskih projektih kot tudi v dvostranskih raziskovalnih izmenjavah. Slednje še najbolj živahno potekajo s sosednjimi partnerskimi ustanovami v Trstu in Rovinju. Vodja MBP, dr. Patricija Mozetič, je v svojem nagovoru, slikovitem orisu razvoja MBP, izpostavila ključne akterje, ki so pripravili teren za širok spekter delovanja ustanove s temeljnimi

of the Republic of Slovenia. We have been taught since kindergarten that the sea is a window and a pathway into the world, and that a country with a sea is therefore geographically advantaged. There is a growing awareness among the representatives of state authorities that the sea is a state-building element of special importance, as it was confirmed by the speech of the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, MSc Dejan Židan.

One might have expected the presence of several high-ranking statesmen, but more disappointing was the unexpected absence of invited mayors (or their representatives) of two of the four coastal municipalities. The engagement of MBS at the regional level and its integration with the local environment is at least as important as its value at a national level. This was stressed in the introductory address of Dr Matjaž Kuntner, director of the National Institute of Biology, who saw the "natural" and only logical location of MBS by the sea, outside Ljubljana, as a contribution to the decentralization of Slovenian science. He outlined the work of the MBS program research group as distinctly international, repeatedly validated both through partnerships in European projects and through bilateral research exchanges. The latter are the most vibrant in relation to the neighbouring partner

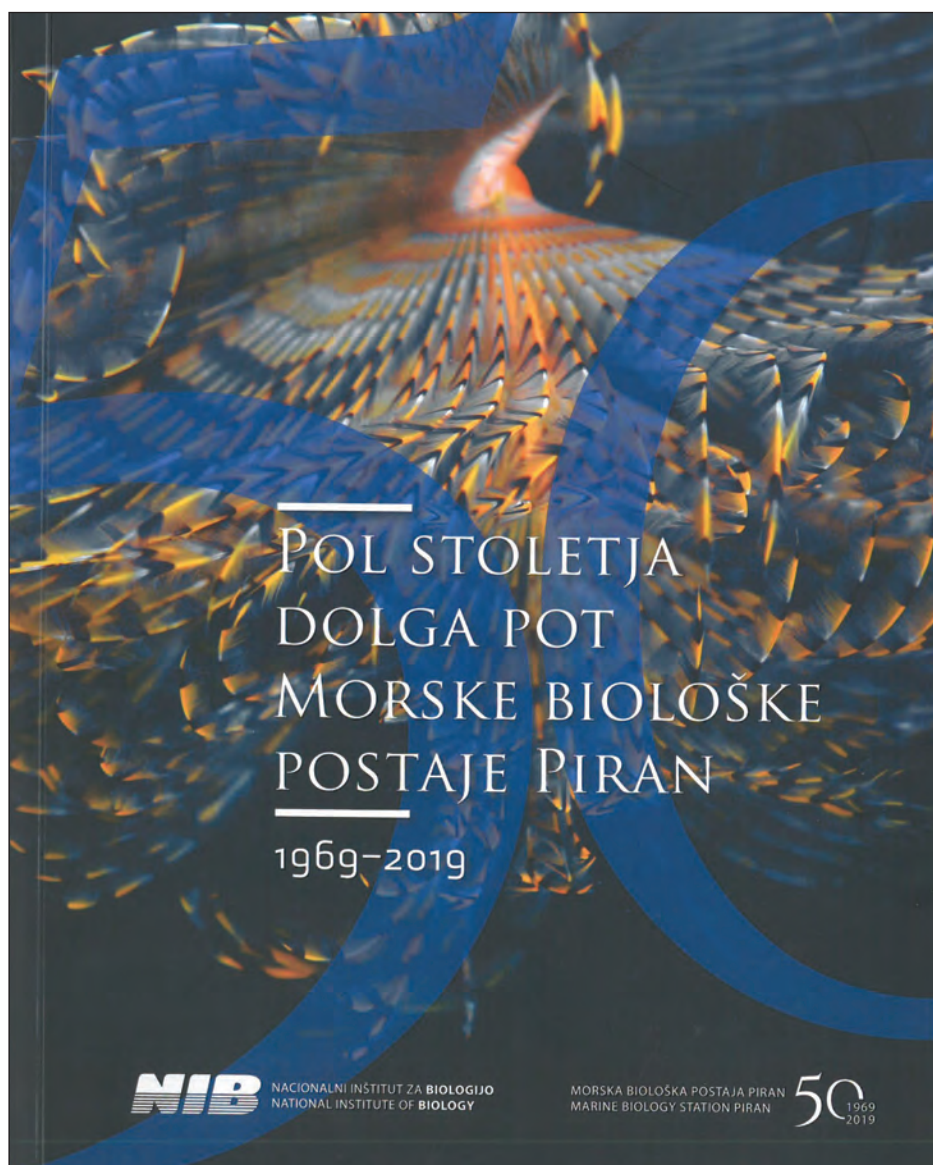


Dogodek je pritegnil veliko množico udeležencev. / The event attracted a large crowd of attendees (Foto / Photo: Marko Alpner).

in aplikativnimi raziskavami, številnimi objavami strokovnih in znanstvenih publikacij ter s posledično popularizacijo in posredovanjem znanja širši javnosti, zlasti šolajoči se mladini in študentom (sodelavci MBP poučujejo na vseh slovenskih univerzah). V tem kontekstu bi lahko posebej omenili še koga od izstopajočih raziskovalcev, ki so se na svečanosti znašli nekoliko v ozadju dogajanja, toda fokus je bil vendarle na kolektivu, na odgovornih in povabljenih nastopajočih.

Posebno vlogo na slovesni prireditvi je imel mag. Robert Turk, vodja Zavoda RS za varstvo narave - Ob-

institutions in Trieste and Rovinj. The Head of MBS, Dr. Patricija Mozetič, in her address (a picturesque overview of MBS's development), highlighted the key players who prepared the ground for a wide range of the institution's activities through basic and applied research, numerous editions of professional and scientific publications, as well as through popularisation of knowledge and its dissemination to the public, especially to school youth and university students (MBS staff teach at all Slovenian universities). In this context, one could have pointed out some of the outstanding researchers who found them-



Ob jubileju petdesete obletnice Morske biološke postaje Piran so izdali tudi zajetno publikacijo o ustanovi in njeni dejavnosti od prvih začetkov do danes. / On the occasion of the jubilee of the fiftieth anniversary of the Marine Biology Station Piran, they also published a comprehensive publication about the institution and its activities from its beginnings to the present day.

močne enote Piran. S predavanjem, ki ga je naslovil »Pod plaščem navidezne nespremenljivosti«, je prisotne opozoril na (sicer večini znan) privid oz. varljiv občutek nespremenljivosti morja, ki ga v resnici vse bolj izčrpavamo, morsko dno pa je marsikje degradirano v svojevrstno puščavo.

Prireditelj je zaokrožil nekoliko bolj sproščen, a zato nič manj svečan zaključek, ko sta bili na oder povabljeni prof. dr. Alenka Malej, nekdanja sodelavka in dolgoletna vodja MBP, ter prof. dr. Tamara Lah Turnšek, nekdanja dolgoletna direktorica Nacionalnega inštituta za biologijo. S svojim znanjem in delom sta delovanju in razvoju MBP vtisnili neizbrisen pečat in za svoj dragoceni prispevek prejeli posebno zahvalo.

Slavnostnemu dogodku je sledil ustrezen epilog, ko smo se udeleženci zadržali v preddverju Avditorija Portorož ob prijetnem druženju. Vsi, ki smo kakorkoli povezani z MBP, smo nazdravili na naslednjih 50 uspešnih let. Ta bodo zagotovo vznemirljiva, a hkrati tudi zelo nepredvidljiva. Obiskovalci smo ob odhodu domov prejeli priložnostno publikacijo »Pol stoletja dolga pot Morske biološke postaje Piran: 1969–2019«. Prežema jo tako razmislek o preteklosti in sedanjosti kot tudi o prihodnosti MBP, kar v svojih prispevkih reflektirajo zaposleni. Vsekakor zelo pohvalno.

Simon Kerma

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selves somewhat out of the limelight at the ceremony, but the focus was nevertheless on the collectivity, on the 'point men' and on invited speakers.

A special role was given to MSc Robert Turk, Head of the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation - Regional Unit Piran. In his lecture titled "Under the Coat of Apparent Invariability" (Pod plaščem navidezne nespremenljivosti), he reminded the audience of the illusion or deceptive sense of immutability of the sea, which is, in reality, increasingly depleted, and has in many cases already degraded into a sea desert.

At the end of the ceremony, Prof Alenka Malej, a former associate and longtime head of MBS, and Prof Tamara Lah Turnšek, a former longtime director of NIB, were invited to the stage. With their knowledge and work they left an indelible mark on the development of MBS Piran and received special thanks for their invaluable contribution.

The formal event ended with a proper epilogue, when the participants and guests lingered in the lobby of the Portorož Auditorium and toasted to another 50 successful years. These will certainly be exciting, but also very unpredictable. On departure, the participants received an extremely informative publication entitled "Half a Century Long Path of the Marine Biology Station Piran: 1969-2019" (*Pol stoletja dolga pot Morske biološke postaje Piran: 1969-2019*). The book gives us an insight into the past and the present as well as the future of MBS, which is reflected in the contributions of its employees. Highly commendable indeed.

Simon Kerma

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