

## **Integration process in North-Eastern Asia: The role of Universities**

Vladimir Antonov  
Far Eastern National University

It was not long ago that we spoke about the so-called "Pacific Miracle". And ASEAN countries were thought to be sub regional center of the Asian-Pacific economic cooperation. But financial crisis undermined the South-Asian economy. As a result today we focus our attention on the Northeastern where a number of promising projects have been suggested.

Although there are several the cultural and institutional obstacles, in particular, the so-called "colonial injuries". Besides, unlike South-Eastern Asia in this region exist the necessity to develop the extensive network of informal relationship as the main integrating factor.

That is why we need a mechanism to organize common intercultural area of communication in North-Eastern Asia; to strengthen interdependency and reach mutual understanding; to create an appropriate infrastructure of human resources development; to pave the way for the fruitful actions of Russia in the geoeconomic and sociocultural spheres.

The decisive role in it belong to the Universities that take a special position in the economic and political life of the states of the Far East. It is well known that universities development marked the so-called "Asian tigers" coming-to-be financial and industrial centers. For example, The Republic of Korea, being in total shambles in 1950s first of all started establishing Universities.

Far Eastern National University, holding the traditions of The Institute of Oriental Studies, founded in Vladivostok in 1899 by decree of Russian emperor Nikolay the 2nd and possessing an extensive network of international cooperation is called upon to be the connecting link between educational areas of Siberia, North-Eastern Asia and Asia Pacific Region. FENU provides successive advance of the Russian principle of "civilization openness, symphonic dialogue and cultural synthesis". To my opinion with the potential accumulated by FENU it is possible to exercise positive influence on multilateral economic and cultural cooperation in North-Eastern Asia.

More than 10 years ago when Vladivostok was the closed city FENU proclaimed the international cooperation and internationalization of education as the main priorities. We

always tried to consider integration to be mutually beneficial process, strengthening the prestige of Russian education in Asia Pacific Region and on the other hand it broadens our awareness for the experience accumulated in APR.

FENU is the regional information center in the sphere of University education of oriental and regional studies and we successfully develop international cooperation in the field of academic exchange between the Universities of Japan, China, Republic of Korea, USA, Australia, Western Europe etc. During 10 years we concluded treaties of cooperation between with 62 Universities and Institutes located in Asia Pacific Region. Without budgetary financing FENU enrolled 608 foreign students and 208 teachers. About 550 Russian students and 320 teachers studied abroad.

Annually University accept about 60 foreign delegations. On this background we deal with challenges of FENU development. As result our University is acknowledged as an important platform for the international cooperation.

On behalf of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Russia FENU hosted ASEAN in 1999 regional forum on the subject of security and cooperation in Asia Pacific Region. FENU is a member of Association of Asia Pacific Region Universities, which acts as an adviser to APEC on the matters of human resource development.

Being a federal university, FENU always hold the responsibility to promote Russian national interests in Asia Pacific Region. That is why; we declared the popularization of Russian language and Russian culture in the countries of the region.

In 10 years Russian Language College of FENU graduated about 4 thousands students and postgraduates, universities faculty members, businessmen, foreign companies officials from China, Japan, Republic of Korea, USA etc.

With FENU backing there were established the faculties and departments of Russian language in 14 Universities of Japan, Korea and China. In the year of 1994 first in the Japan-Russia relations history we inaugurated FENU branch in Japan. Currently Japanese graduates successfully work in the sphere of Japanese economy holding Russian diploma. On the basis of the branch we launched the training program for the custom, police and other state institutions personnel dealing with Russian businessmen. This activity meets the approval from Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Hokkaido prefecture government and Hakodate city administration.

In 1995 we established The Center of Russian Culture in Alaska Pacific University, in 1999 in Dalian Institute and Heluzian University of China there had been launched joint educational programs where the graduates are awarded with both Chinese and Russian diplomas. Today FENU is willing to establish its branch in one of the leading Universities of The Republic of Korea.

Lately, the modern systems of communication are getting more important in international cooperation. FENU possess the largest in Far East Federal signal office center between Russian Universities and Internet center that let us develop new opportunities in education and information exchange. We set going the system of distance education with Maryland University and we hold joint meetings with Waseda

University (Japan) and Kyonghi University (Korea) every week.

Another important direction of integration is the intellectual potential and financial infusion attracting to develop University material resources. It is more than 10 years that joint Russian-American educational program in the sphere of world economics and management has been functioning in FENU. This program was established together with Maryland University. The graduates receive two diplomas: bachelor's degree of Maryland University and specialist of FENU. Annually, more than 50 foreign teachers and specialists participate in curriculum composing for the Institutes and faculties of FENU. The active efforts we make not only on the field of University education but also in international business and politics let us allure considerable investments.

For instance, with the assistance of South Korean company KOHAP-Group there was built and equipped the new building of High School of Korean studies the volume of investment was equal to 2 million US dollars. This project allowed FENU to create the biggest school of Korean studies in Russia. In the year of 1999 together with Korean foundation the Institute of Korean studies was established. Institute deals with wide range of economic, historical and socio-cultural issues.

Conjointly with Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan the Japanese Center was established in FENU. The Japan contribution was 4 million US dollars.

During 5 years Japanese Center in Vladivostok train specialist for the small and medium business, it makes an evident contribution to the Russian transition of Primorskiy region to market economy.

On the agreement with Ministry of education of The Republic of Korea there had been established Korean Educational Center in FENU and Center of Chinese language studies on the agreement with Ministry of education of China. Also together with Consulate General in Vladivostok we inaugurated cultural centers of India and Vietnam. Annually, FENU library stocks receive about 50 thousand books from other Universities and foreign funds.

Hence, Far Eastern National University possessing the extensive network of international relations in the sphere of education can become an important component to develop human resources in the region. Among other measures aimed to strengthen FENU potential that can positively contribute to multilateral economic cooperation in North-Eastern Asia, it is necessary to mention the creation on the basis of FENU "Interuniversity center of international cooperation and academic mobility". With its help we are going to provide the link of educational areas of Siberia, North-Eastern and Asia Pacific regions.