

Trends of Development of International cooperation in the Sphere of Higher Specialized Education in the Russian Far East

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1. Introduction

At the end of the 20th century higher education in the Russian far East (RFE) goes through qualitatively new stage of cooperation with international community. right now the task is being solved to join the international academic circles in order not only to obtain new progressive experience accumulated by various Universities of our regions.

On the territory from Baikal lake to Pacific Ocean there are 10 administrative divisions of Russian Federation, in which there are 40 government higher education institutions, with 20 of them having a University status. There are about 120 000 students in those institutions and about 10 000 of skilled lectures and professors.

Economic reforms in Russia and transition to market economy requires new approaches to training of specialist. Along with mastering new equipment and new technologies modern specialist should receive knowledge and skills in the field of business, management of production and social processes, economics and commerce, management and marketing. In this respect development of international cooperation of Universities of the region calls for using the experience of Asia-Pacific Rim countries.

2. Main goals and tasks of international cooperation in the sphere of higher education

- integration of higher education in RFE into educational system of Asia-Pacific Rim countries.
- participation of higher education institutions in the market of science-and-technical and economic-and-management labor, as well as in the market of educational services.
- development of mechanisms that would allow each higher education institution to act as an independent participant of international cooperation.
- uniting efforts of Universities of RFE and Asia Pacific Rim countries on solving the most pressing problems of education and science, and also development and implementation of joint science and educational programs and projects.
- development of proposal and active participation in realization of new approaches in the higher education, in training top skilled science and academic personnel.
- development of new educational technologies in Universities, publicizing advanced science achievements;
- deep learning of languages and cultures of Far East and Asia Pacific countries.

3. Reforms in higher education in Russia as factor that insures broad opportunities of international cooperation of RFE Universities

Starting from 1992 higher education institutions in

Russia went through a reform period in accordance of the Program of Development of Higher Education till 2005, approved by the Russia Government. In general the program stresses common ideas of democratization and humanism, but in particular the program has a system character, contains worked out strategic and technical decisions, including decisions on international cooperation.

Laws "On education " and "On higher and postgraduate professional education" adopted later by the Parliament consolidated legal foundation for Universities' activities.

New system of higher education gives each citizen of Russia an equal opportunity for intellectual, cultural and moral development, for receiving education according to the individuals' abilities and knowledge. It also insures the quality of education, that increases professional mobility and social protection of an individual.

As a result of reforms, Universities received academic freedom, variety of types of higher education with different duration and conditions of training, different diplomas, academic and science degrees.

Introduction of multi-layer system of higher education that incorporates best world experience substantially increased opportunities of Russian Universities for joining the world education system. For instance, four year level of basic higher education oriented to certain professional direction will be completed with a bachelor degree for a student. Educational and professional training of a bachelor is equal in duration and curriculum to training existing in majority of countries of Asia and Pacific (USA, Japan, Republic of Korea, China).

4. Directions for international cooperation

Possibilities and directions of international cooperation in higher education are determined by perspective of social, economic and cultural

development of RFE and based on the federal program "Far East and Tans Baikal area", signed by the President of Russia. Among the directions we can distinguish the following:

- exchange programs between Universities of RFE and Asia Pacific Rim countries concerning students, postgraduate students, professors and scientists;
- implementation of jointly developed educational and professional programs at bachelor and master levels;
- realization of postgraduate professional programs;
- establishing international educational and research centers in cities of RFE in different academic fields;
- participation in international projects in the field of education, science and culture;
- Organizing and participating of Universities in international exhibitions, fares of educational services and scientific achievements;
- participation in creating telecommunication systems for exchange of information resources.

5. Proposals in further development of international cooperation in higher education in Asia Pacific Rim

When analyzing main trends of development of international cooperation in the field of higher education, it seems reasonable to improve organizational background of cooperation.

In this connection it is proposed to establish an Association of Universities of Asia-Pacific Rim area, including Russian Universities.

Such an Association would deal with the following issues:

- establishing of direct international contacts and ties between Universities of the region;
- preparation of prognosis, analytical reports and recommendations on development and integration of science and training process in Universities;
- independent evaluation of international and national programs and projects of education

development:

- participation in creation and development of scientific and technological parks, scientific and educational complexes in the region;
- participation in attestation of University personnel;
- organizing international scientific conferences and seminars.

Association could prepare a project of creation of Asia-Pacific international University, that could become a center for developing and transferring new technologies and could unite the potential of best Universities of the region. This University is viewed as an innovation educational establishment, training specialists for the 21st century.

Within the framework of Association it would be possible to prepare a project on establishing a system of distance learning in new information environment, that would enable students to learn without going abroad and during the whole life. In other words, it is necessary to establish conditions in the region for real functioning of the global system of distance learning.

Another possible aspect of Association activities could be development of a project of international postgraduate education.

Development and implementation of proposed projects will contribute to further mutual respect of peoples in Asia Pacific Rim area and to further civilized development of the society.