



The Best of ASEAN Centre 2010–2018



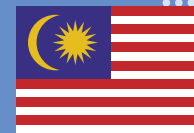
ASEAN Centre
in MGIMO University,
MFA of Russia
Moscow, 2018



GENERAL INFORMATION

The Centre's Mission

ASEAN Centre in MGIMO University, MFA of Russia has been in operation since its official launching in June 2010. Its mission and primary tasks are stipulated in the Memorandum on the establishment of the Centre. According to this document signed in July 2009 by the ASEAN Secretary General Dr. Surin Pitsuwan and the Rector of MGIMO Prof. Anatoly Torkunov, the Centre's mission is to spread information about the ASEAN-Russia dialogue partnership; to facilitate development of economic linkages, cultural, academic and educational exchanges as well as people-to-people contacts between Russia and the ASEAN member countries; to carry out and support research on problems of ASEAN and its individual members. Contributing to the ASEAN-Russia Track 2 dialogue through professional contacts with ASEAN-ISIS network and other Southeast Asian think tanks is another important task. Thus, the Centre is given the opportunity to operate in all the three major areas of ASEAN-Russia dialogue, namely political and security cooperation, development of economic relations and socio-cultural interactions.



The Team



The position of the Centre's Director has been held since June 2010 by Dr. Victor Sumsky, a specialist on the current history of Southeast Asian countries and international relations in the Asia-Pacific. A graduate of MGIMO's School of International Journalism and a speaker of Indonesian, Dr. Sumsky previously worked for the Soviet Foreign Ministry and had done research and analysis at the Russian Academy of Sciences.

A number of Senior Experts including Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Dr. Evgeny Kanaev and Dr. Ilya Dyachkov have been actively working alongside the Director since the opening of the Centre. Deputy Director Ekaterina Tronevskaya is handling protocol and budgetary matters. Day-to-day office management is in the hands of Valeria Vershinina.

While formally not a member of the Centre's staff, MGIMO Professor Nikolai Maletin – a life-long observer of ASEAN's progress and a primary Russian authority on the subject – has been a source of invaluable advice and inspiration to the Centre's team.



The Executive Board

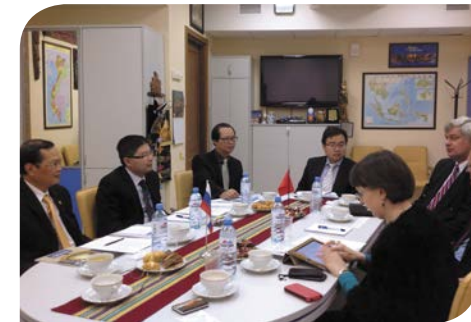


ASEAN Centre's activities are supervised by its Executive Board, consisting of Russian and ASEAN representatives. At present the Russian part of the Board includes MGIMO Vice-Rector Artem Malgin, Prof. Nikolai Maletin and Andrey Lyamin, Deputy Director, Department of Asia and Pacific Cooperation, MFA of Russia. Three more positions on the Board, occupied on the rotation basis, belong to Ambassadors of ASEAN member states in Moscow.



PROMOTING AWARENESS ABOUT ASEAN-RUSSIA DIALOGUE

In order to bridge the ASEAN-Russia information gap, the Centre, in close cooperation with the ASEAN Moscow Committee, has hosted numerous visits of ASEAN delegations to MGIMO. The University rostrum has been offered to lecturers with first-hand knowledge about various aspects of ASEAN-Russia relations, the foreign policies of Russia and its ASEAN partners. Conferences, seminars and round table discussions involving local and international experts have been organized, resulting in academic publications both in Russia and abroad, as well as many commentaries in electronic and printed media.

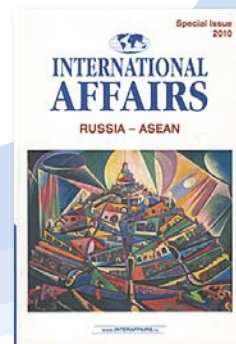


Hosting ASEAN Delegations and Dignitaries

Among the ASEAN dignitaries whose recent visits to MGIMO have been especially memorable due to their lively public and informal dialogues with the students, faculty and experts are the ASEAN Secretary General Le Luong Minh (2014), the 4th Prime Minister of Malaysia Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad (2011), the former Foreign Minister and current Prime Minister of Lao PDR Thongloun Sisoulith (2015), and Dr. Rathchavy Soeung, MGIMO graduate and Secretary of State at the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (2016).

Delegations of the ministries and departments of foreign affairs from Indonesia, the Philippines, Myanmar and Vietnam have also paid visits to the Centre (some of them more than once), just like delegations representing top educational institutions in ASEAN member states and the ASEAN delegation comprising senior officials from the ministries of science and technology. Frequent working visits by diplomats from ASEAN Embassies in Moscow and events jointly organized with the latter add to the perception that since 2010 the Centre has indeed emerged as a focal point for all those in Russia who care about ASEAN and ASEAN-Russia relations.

Research and Publishing Projects in Russia



In 2010 and 2016, the staff of ASEAN Centre joined forces with the editors of International Affairs monthly to produce two special issues of this respected journal. The first of these issues was dedicated to the 15th anniversary of ASEAN-Russia dialogue partnership. The second one evaluated the results of the 20 years of ASEAN-Russia cooperation.

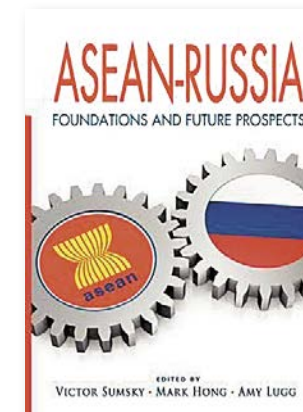


In 2012 and 2013, the Centre produced two reports for the Russian International Affairs Council. Both reports assessed Russia's interests in the Asia Pacific and put forward suggestions on Russia's strategy in the region where ASEAN is determined to play a central role.

In 2011-2013, ASEAN Centre in cooperation with Russian PIR Center hosted round table discussions about Myanmar's role in ASEAN and Myanmar-Russia relations, Sino-American contradictions in the Asia-Pacific, and common interests of Russia and ASEAN in the sphere of cyber security. Lengthy records of all three discussions appeared later in Security Index, the PIR Center journal.



"ASEAN-Russia: Foundations and Future Prospects"



In 2011, ASEAN Centre in cooperation with the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore (ISEAS) organized a conference devoted to the comprehensive analysis of ASEAN-Russia relations. The conference discussions resulted in a fundamental monograph entitled "ASEAN-Russia: Foundations and Future Prospects". The first edition of the book was published by ISEAS in 2012.

Assisting ASEAN-Russia Eminent Persons Group



In 2015-2016, the Centre's staff assisted in drafting the Report of ASEAN-Russia Eminent Persons Group (AREPG) and contributed to the preparations for its three meetings (especially the final one that took place in April 2016 at MGIMO). The AREPG Report was presented to the ASEAN and Russia Leaders at the Commemorative Summit in Sochi in May 2016.



Providing Information Support to the Sochi Summit

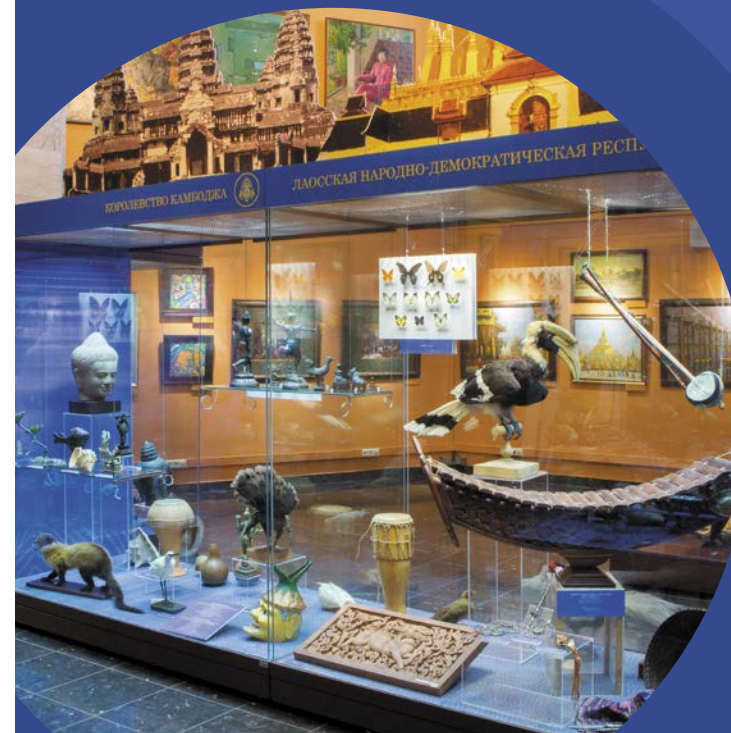
In January-May 2016, the Centre's Director and experts were busy providing information support to the Russia-ASEAN Commemorative Summit held in Sochi, Russia on 19-20 May 2016. They contributed to a string of round table discussions organized by RT and TASS information agencies, were interviewed by Russian and international radio and TV broadcasters (such as Radio Sputnik, Radio Mayak and Radio Australia, several Russian federal and local TV Channels, plus Channel NewsAsia of Singapore). Their articles appeared in Russia beyond the Headlines, the publications of the Habibie Center (Thinking ASEAN, Indonesia) and ISEAS (ASEAN Focus, Singapore), plus Asian Survey and Asia Policy (United States) and other periodicals.

ASEAN at 50



Throughout the whole of 2017 the Centre was spreading out information related the 50th anniversary of ASEAN and provided analysis of the Association's achievements, as well as the challenges it faces. The staff of ASEAN Centre prepared thematic issues of International Trends and Znaniye-Sila dedicated to the 50th anniversary of ASEAN in cooperation with the editorial boards of these journals.

The program of the 11th Convention of the Russian International Studies Association included the international conference "Russia and ASEAN in the Asia-Pacific Region: The Dynamics of Interaction, Regional Processes and Global Context". The conference participants recorded in the papers they presented the milestones of ASEAN's history, assessed the current situation in Southeast Asia and the prospects for ASEAN-Russia cooperation.



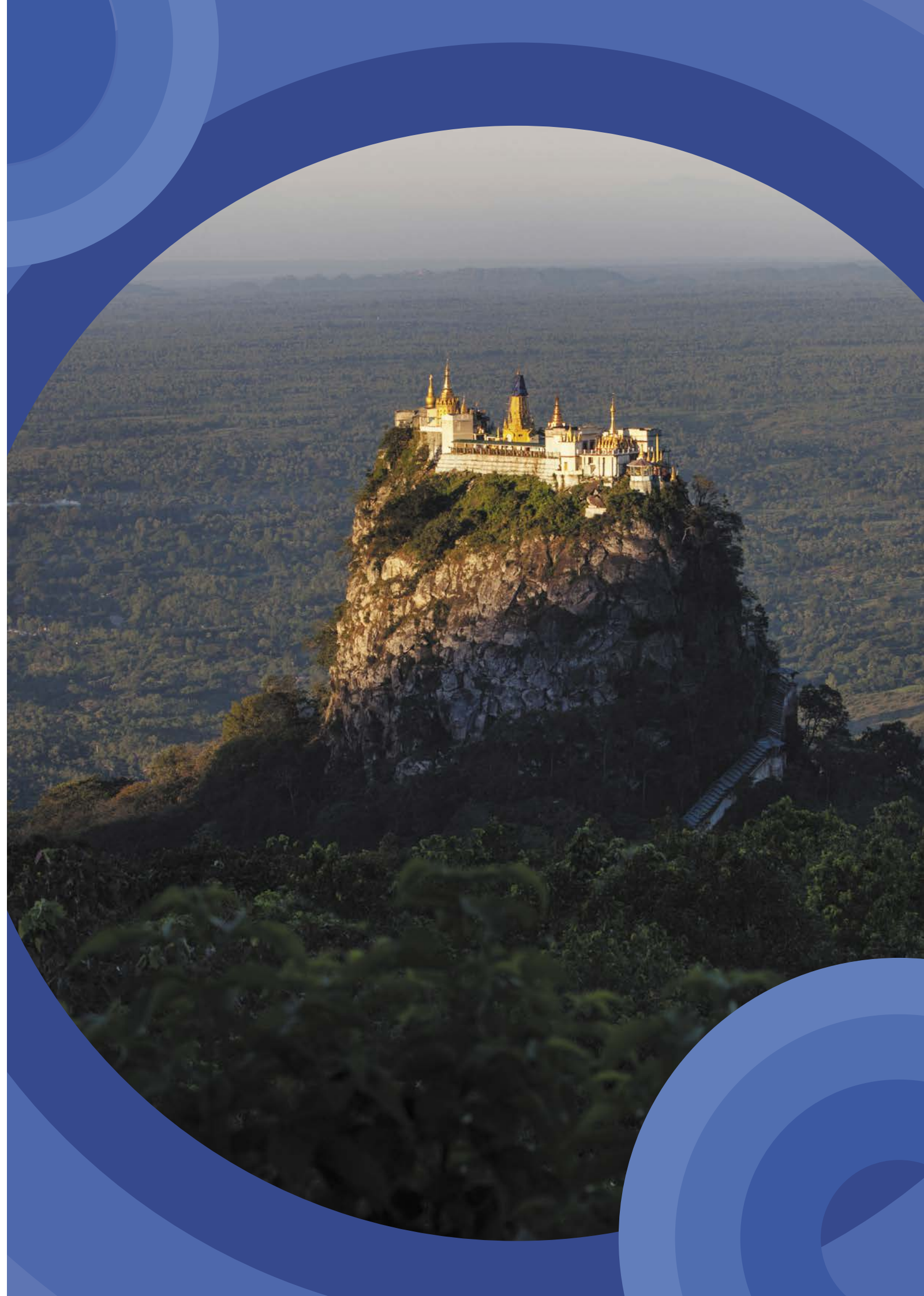
DIALOGUE ON POLITICAL AND SECURITY ISSUES

Networking with ASEAN-ISIS and other Think Tanks



During the six years of its operation the Centre continually tried to establish good working contacts with the institutes belonging to the ASEAN-ISIS network and other regional think tanks. In November 2012, the Russian scholars brought to Hanoi by ASEAN Centre got together with their colleagues from the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam for a conference on Russo-Vietnamese comprehensive strategic partnership. In May 2015, panelists from ASEAN Centre and ISIS-Thailand had a lively exchange of views on Russia's Asian policy followed by an open forum. In September 2016, ASEAN Centre's delegation came to Myanmar for a round table discussion with MISIS experts on Myanmar-Russia bilateral relations and the substance of ASEAN-Russia dialogue. Two months later Dr. Sumsky, Dr. Koldunova and Dr. Kanaev spoke in Bangkok at a seminar focused on the present state and the future prospects of Thailand-Russia and ASEAN-Russia relations in the context of East Asian strategic uncertainty. The meeting's venue was Chulalongkorn University. Once it was over, Dr. Sumsky and Dr. Koldunova proceeded from Bangkok to Manila to join a conference at the Development Academy of the Philippines on Filipino-Russian relations and Russian policy towards ASEAN.

The Centre's involvement in Track 2 exchanges with the ASEAN counterparts is also sustained through regular participation of the staff members in such important forums as the annual Asia-Pacific Round Table in Kuala Lumpur; Shangri-la Dialogue in Singapore; ARF Expert Meetings; CSCAP General Conferences and Meetings of CSCAP Study Groups.



NARTT Inaugural Meeting

In August 2017 the foreign ministers of ASEAN nations and Russia agreed to establish the Network of ASEAN-Russia Think Tanks (NARTT) – a 1.5 dialogue track for academics, expected to add value to ASEAN-Russia interactions and thus help to bring them to the level of strategic partnership. As the NARTT Coordinator for the Russian Federation, MGIMO was designated to organize the inaugural meeting, and much of the preparatory work was entrusted to its ASEAN Centre.

The Meeting attended by 19 participants from the NARTT Coordinators for ASEAN Member States and 5 participants from the Russian Federation, plus the representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat, took place in Moscow on MGIMO premises on April 20-21, 2018. The Plenary Session was addressed by two distinguished keynote speakers – Dr. Marty M. Natalegawa, former Foreign Minister of Indonesia, and Prof. Aleksandr Panov, former Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia. Both emphasized that the ASEAN-Russia relationship is evolving in a rapidly changing external environment. This calls for regular interactions at the level of experts with the aim to work for a common understanding of the changes and a greater opportunity for coordinated proactive behavior.

The observations made by the keynote speakers were later discussed at a string of round table sessions. On the basis of these discussions the NARTT participants adopted a set of recommendations for presentation to the ASEAN-Russia Senior Officials' Meeting (Moscow, May 17-18, 2018). Terms of Reference that would be guiding NARTT in its future activities were also adopted.

It was agreed that NARTT meetings should be alternately hosted by ASEAN Member States and the Russian Federation. The next NARTT meeting will be held in Indonesia in 2019 under Indonesian and Russian co-chairmanship.



Track 2 Discussions at the Youth Summits and the University Forum

From their very start in 2013 the ASEAN-Russia Youth Summits were attended by senior diplomats, prominent businessmen, journalists and scholars invited to share and discuss their views with the young people. The presence of these honorary guests provided obvious opportunities for Track 2 dialogues between themselves. With this in view the Centre had made it a point to organize informal sessions on regional security issues on the margins of the first four Youth Summits. In 2016, during the first ASEAN-Russia University Forum two of its panels focused on the role of academics in the ASEAN-Russia political and security dialogue.



Master Classes by Ambassador Ivanov

Ever since Alexander Ivanov returned in 2012 to Moscow from Jakarta where he served not just as Russian Ambassador to Indonesia but also as Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to ASEAN, he never rejected the Centre's invitations to do master classes on the problems of Asia Pacific security for the Russian and Southeast Asian delegates of the ASEAN-Russia Youth Summits. His unique insights help the young ones to deepen their understanding of the ASEAN phenomenon, the ASEAN-Russia relations and the latest developments in the regional security realm.



Moscow Lectures by ASEAN Pundits

ASEAN Centre never misses an opportunity to set up public lectures by prominent researchers and practitioners who come to Moscow from Southeast Asia. In the recent past it hosted such competent and impressive speakers as Carlos D. Sorreta, Director of the Foreign Service Institute of the Philippines at the time of his first visit and now his country's Ambassador to Russia; Teoh Seng Lee, Russia's long-time Honorary Consul in Penang, Malaysia and a tireless promoter of ASEAN-Russia educational exchanges; Ian Storey who is a Senior Fellow at ISEAS and Editor-in-Chief of Contemporary Southeast Asia; Oudet Souvannavong, President of Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and a recent co-Chair of ASEAN Business Advisory Council; Salim Said, a seasoned journalist and political analyst from Indonesia; and Mely Caballero-Anthony, former Director of External Relations at the ASEAN Secretariat and now an Associate Professor at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies and Head of the RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies.

The list of distinguished guests whose lectures at MGIMO covered a wide range of topics related to Russia-ASEAN cooperation and the present situation in Asia would not be complete without the names of Saleumxay Kommasith, a MGIMO graduate and now Lao PDR Foreign Minister (2017), Indonesia's Foreign Minister in 2009-2014 Marty Natalegawa (2018) and Alan Peter Cayetano, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines (2018).



Vladimir Putin's Speeches in English, Malay, Indonesian and Thai



To contribute to a better understanding of Russia's foreign policy by ASEAN public, the Centre initiated in 2014, in cooperation with the Malaysian Institute of Translation and Books and with support from A Just World Institute of Russia, the publication of landmark speeches by President Vladimir Putin in English, Malay and Indonesian languages. The Thai edition of the book, the latest one in this series, was launched in late 2017 at Thammasat University.

"Russia and ASEAN in the Asia Pacific"

In December 2016 at MGIMO, in the framework of the 10th Convention of the Russian International Studies Association, the Centre held a one-day international conference "Russia and ASEAN in the Asia Pacific: the Dynamics of Interaction, Regional Trends and Global Context". Panelists from Russia and Southeast Asia talked about the results of interactions between the dialogue partners in 2016; exchanged views on the possibilities of introducing free trade regimes between Russia and some ASEAN member states; discussed the nature and direction of current geopolitical changes and their potential impact on the Asia Pacific. Young scholars and students were given a chance to formulate their positions on these and other relevant subjects during the two special sessions of the conference.



ECONOMIC COOPERATION

The importance of enhancing the quality and dynamics of ASEAN-Russia economic cooperation motivates the Centre to work more consistently and creatively for greater connectivity between the dialogue partners in this particular area. Disseminating knowledge about the business opportunities in ASEAN among the Russian producers of goods and services and introducing Russia to the ASEAN businesses as a worthy and attractive partner is a long-term, complicated task that has to be approached in a variety of ways. This is what the Centre has been trying to do in the process of developing contacts and partnerships, both in Russia and ASEAN, with the relevant government agencies, business associations and individual companies.

Advising on the Strategy of Trade and Investment Cooperation



Prior to the APEC Summit in Vladivostok the Russian Ministry of Economic Development commissioned the Centre to prepare a report on the strategy of Russia-ASEAN cooperation in trade and investment. The Centre's team of experts was to identify the main impediments to a livelier relationship in this field, to suggest how to overcome such impediments, and to assess the expediency of creating the Russia-ASEAN free trade area. Before the end of 2012 this detailed report was completed and presented to the Ministry.

Working with the Russian Business Associations



The Centre's regular participation in various business forums organized by the Russian Chamber of Trade and Commerce, the Russia-ASEAN Business Council, the Russian Business Councils that facilitate cooperation with individual ASEAN member states, the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs et al. has been quite helpful. It has allowed the Centre to become engaged in information exchanges with the Russian business community and to accumulate new knowledge about those entities that might be ready for productive engagements with Southeast Asia.



Focus on ASEAN-Russia Economic Relations at the State Duma



On 17 June 2014, while moderating a round table discussion on relations with ASEAN at the State Duma, its Deputy Chair Nikolai Levichev emphasized the need for stronger economic ties between Russia and its Southeast Asian partners. This theme was further developed by the representatives of the private sector, including Victor Tarusin, the Executive Director of the Russia-ASEAN Business Council. He reminded the audience that the government incentives were a powerful tool of stimulating business activity and export drive, and this tool had to be fully applied for the sake of improving Russia's position on ASEAN markets. Jointly prepared by Mr. Levichev's staff, ASEAN Centre and the Russia-ASEAN Business Council, this discussion opened new channels of communication on ASEAN-Russia issues between the legislators and the businessmen.

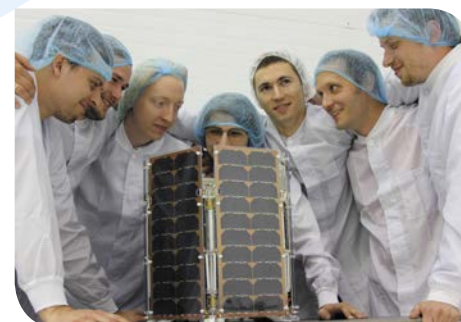


Tyumen Region Presents its Potential to the ASEAN Diplomats



Since the demand for information about possible business partnerships with the ASEAN counterparts is steadily growing in the regions of the Russian Federation, the Centre tries its best to respond to it. Recently the administration of the Tyumen region asked for advice in organizing a presentation of this territory's trade and investment potential to the ASEAN diplomats in Moscow, and the Centre provided it. In December 2016 its representatives took part in the presentation of this type at Tyumen region's Moscow office.

Russian Companies as ASEAN Centre's Partners



A number of Russian companies with plans to promote their products and technologies on the ASEAN markets or to expand their presence there repeatedly approached the Centre for advice. Among those with whom the Centre has developed good working contacts are

- Engineering Technologies Group of Companies (Moscow, design, production and export of ICT applications for industrial and agricultural enterprises);
- Kurganstalmost (Kurgan, infrastructure, bridge construction and engineering design);
- SOPOT (Saint-Petersburg, firefighting technologies and machinery);
- ISB.A (Saint-Petersburg, cargo inspection systems, high-tech security controls);
- Transkor-K (Moscow, magnetic tomography technology for offshore pipelines inspection);
- RECOD (Moscow, geographic information systems, space research products and services);
- Kostroma Marine Engineering Factory (Kostroma, design and production of steel and aluminum speed boats).

The representatives of some of these and other companies participated in the business mission to the Philippines, organized by the Centre in March 2017. In February 2018 the Centre was invited to join a much bigger project – a business mission to Thailand organized by the Russian Ministry of Economic Development and the Russian Export Centre.

The ASEAN BAC Connection



To give the ASEAN-watchers of Russia, both veterans and young students, a better understanding of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN BAC) as a promoter of Southeast Asian integration, the Centre invited two of its prominent members and recent co-chairs to speak at MGIMO. Fauziah Talib of Brunei Darussalam took the floor in May 2013 at the 1st ASEAN-Russia Youth Summit. Oudet Souvannavong of Lao PDR visited the University and the Centre three years later, on the eve of the Commemorative Summit in Sochi. Both initiatives helped to strengthen connections between the ASEAN BAC and the Russia-ASEAN Business Council.

SOCIO-CULTURAL AND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE PROJECTS

The cultural riches of Russia and ASEAN nations present unlimited opportunities for humanitarian exchanges – just like the enterprising and innovative spirit of the young on both sides of the equation. The opportunity to reinforce the foundations of the dialogue partnership through promotion of new friendships, new works of art, new knowledge about the heritage and modern day accomplishments of our countries is duly appreciated and continually explored by ASEAN Centre.

ASEAN-Russia Youth Summits



The proposal to start an ASEAN-Russia youth forum came from I Gede Ngurah Swajaya, Indonesia's Ambassador to ASEAN, during his visit to MGIMO in December 2012. The Russian Foreign Ministry, the ASEAN Moscow Committee and the Russia-ASEAN Business Council fully endorsed the idea.

The 1st ASEAN-Russia Youth Summit took place in Moscow in May 2013, with ASEAN Centre and Novosti Information Agency as its primary organizers. The Summit's theme was "Young Russia – Young ASEAN: Dialogue for Connectivity". For two days about 200 delegates, mostly Russian students mastering Southeast Asian languages and ASEAN students from various universities across Russia posed their questions to each other, reacted to the answers, compared the notes and had fun together.



This inspiring experience prompted the decision to hold such forums annually – once in two years in Russia and on alternative years in an ASEAN country. Before long the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation (GMMF, Malaysia) and the ASEAN Centre agreed to cooperate in setting up the 2nd Youth Summit in Kuala Lumpur in October 2014. A year later it moved to Russia's Pacific Coast – namely, to Vladivostok where it was co-hosted by Model United Nations of the Russian Far East, ASEAN Centre and the Far Eastern Federal University. And then the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia offered Siem Reap as the venue for the next youth forum. Held in late October 2016 and, like before, supported by the Centre, the 4th ASEAN-Russia Youth Summit was in many ways an example of how to do it right. The group tour of Angkor Wat and the subsequent night of spirited cultural presentations by the participants will not be easy to forget.



MGIMO Students Launch the Southeast Asian Club



Soon after the 3rd ASEAN-Russia Youth Summit a group of MGIMO students approached the Centre with the idea of setting up the Southeast Asian Club. They sought to create a spot for discussions about the current trends in the region. The Centre responded positively, and in December 2015 the Club organized its first conference. It has been active ever since, accepting new members from Moscow State University and the Higher School of Economics.



ASEAN-Russia University Forums



The 1st ASEAN-Russia University Forum took place in September 2016 on the campus of the Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU). Co-organized by MGIMO and its ASEAN Centre, FEFU and Roskongress Foundation, it was the first meeting of this type in the 20-year old history of the dialogue partnership. More than 140 academics, university administrators and top officials of education ministries brought together on this occasion exchanged their views on the best practices in their respective fields and the need to energize ASEAN-Russia interactions. Since this groundbreaking event was held back-to-back with the 2nd Eastern Economic Forum, the ASEAN guests could also attend its sessions to learn more about Russia's growing business presence and economic priorities in Asia. The 2nd ASEAN-Russia University Forum was organized along the similar lines on the same venue in September 2017.



ASEAN-Russia Cooperation in Education



Exploring opportunities for livelier educational exchanges between ASEAN and Russia stands high on the list of the Centre's priorities. Whenever its staff members are in Southeast Asia, they are likely to visit a local university – to do a lecture or a seminar, to meet the faculty and administration, and to learn more about that particular institution as a potential partner for MGIMO or another Russian university. While much is still to be done, the links between Russia and ASEAN in the educational sphere are gradually becoming stronger and more diverse.



Student Essays on ASEAN-Russia Dialogue partnership



The competition of student essays on ASEAN-Russian dialogue partnership was a project jointly initiated in 2015 by ASEAN Centre and the ASEAN Moscow Committee. The organizers' purpose was to increase young people's awareness about the ASEAN Community-building efforts and their potentially positive implications for ASEAN-Russia cooperation. The total number of essays submitted to the Centre by the young authors from Russia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, the Philippines, Brunei and Vietnam exceeded one hundred. In late 2015 Lilia Ganeyeva of Moscow State University and Somphospeak Heang of the Royal University of Phnom Penh were proclaimed the winners. A few months later the Centre sponsored Ms Ganeeva's one-week trip to Jakarta where she was warmly welcomed at the ASEAN Secretariat. As for Ms Somphospeak, she was invited to Moscow and hosted by the Centre for one week as its intern.



A follow-up project – that is, the competition of essays by students and young professionals to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN – was jointly launched and successfully completed by the ASEAN Centre and the ASEAN Moscow Committee in 2016. This time the Russian winners were Ekaterina Kuznetsova, Nina Prakupovich and Nikolai Shiryaev, who were offered free trips to Jakarta. On the ASEAN side, the prizes in the form of similar trips to Moscow were won by Janine Baral and Norhani L. Lucman of the Philippines and Ilham Arfakhsandz Putera (Indonesia).

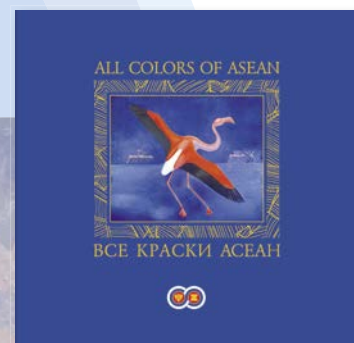
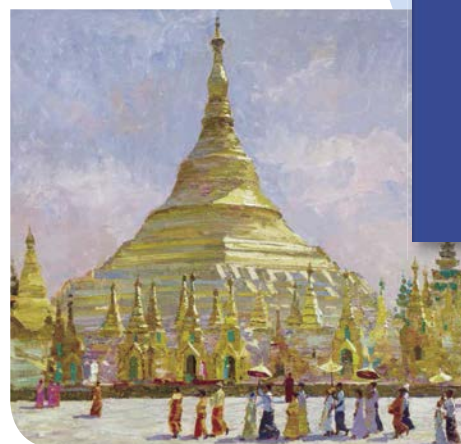
“A Doctor in the House”: Translated into Russian



Originally published in 2011, “A Doctor in the House” is an autobiography of Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, the 4th Prime Minister of Malaysia, and a story of his country’s progress. When in 2012 ASEAN Centre initiated translation into Russian of this voluminous book, no one could imagine the difficulties that the team of student translators, academic editors and proof-readers led by the Centre’s Director would encounter. It took them almost three years to accomplish the job by producing a two-volume Russian edition of Dr. Mahathir’s remarkable work. This publication of MGIMO University Press was launched in December 2015 at Biblio-Globus, a legendary bookstore in downtown Moscow. The author’s daughter Marina Mahathir contributed to the event through a video address.

“All Colors of ASEAN” at the Darwinian Museum

An exhibition of paintings and drawings under this title was dedicated to the 20th Anniversary of ASEAN-Russia dialogue partnership and put on display at the Darwinian Museum of Moscow from 26 August to 6 November 2016. This unique collection had been created by a group of Russian masters after visiting all the ASEAN countries. The project was jointly initiated by ASEAN Centre and the Bureau of Creative Expeditions headed by Moscow artist Vladimir Anisimov. Among the project supporters were the MFA of Russia and the Russian Ministry of Culture. The opening of the exhibition attracted much attention and was widely covered in the media. A catalogue of works created during more than 5 years of project implementation was published prior to the Sochi Summit and presented to the Leaders of ASEAN and Russia. The reprint of the album on the eve of the exhibition’s opening was sponsored by ASEAN Centre.



Impressions of ASEAN by a Russian Photographer

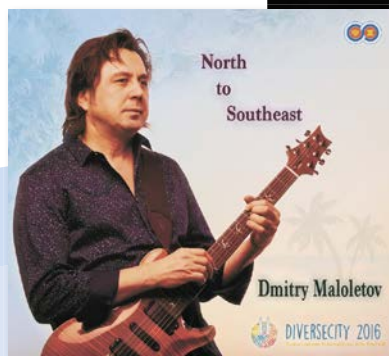


Sergey Kovalchuk’s reputation as a sensitive and sophisticated traveler-photographer with a penchant for Southeast Asia is well-established by a string of albums and exhibitions dedicated to the countries of the region. A true friend of the Centre, Sergey almost single-handedly ran two photography contests (“Russia as seen by students from ASEAN countries / ASEAN as seen by Russian students”) during the 1st and 2nd Youth Summits. Each time his new exhibition on an ASEAN country is opened at MGIMO’s Atrium, students are there to express admiration by taking snapshots of his pictures. Sergey’s latest project is the album entitled “The ASEAN Nations: A Russian Vision”. The book was presented to the participants and guests of the Sochi Summit. An outdoor exhibition of the same name was held there simultaneously. The project was supported by the Russian Ministry of Culture and ASEAN Centre.



Guitar Concertos in Malaysia

Considered to be one of Russia's top guitarists, Dmitry Maloletov is a renowned master of two-handed tapping. It is an exquisite style of guitar playing that leaves a listener with an impression of not just one but two or three musicians playing together. In September 2015 he was invited to present his solo program called Guitar Concerto at the DiverseCity Festival in Kuala Lumpur. Dmitry's performances at Aswara Arts Academy followed by a master class for the students of music were a great success. Same can be said about his concert at the Russian Cultural Centre and a guest appearance with Indro Hardjodikoro, Indonesia's top bass player and his group at No Black Tie jazz club. Mr. Maloletov's Malaysian tour and production of his new CD "North to Southeast" with compositions created for this special occasion were supported by the Russian Ministry of Culture and sponsored by ASEAN Centre.



Days of ASEAN Countries in MGIMO

Since March 2011 when the first ASEAN Country Day – and that was Indonesia's Day – had taken place in MGIMO these joyful events have become a kind of University tradition. Another way to describe these Days is to say that they are joint ventures between ASEAN Centre and the ASEAN Embassies in Moscow. A typical program of an ASEAN Country Day includes an Ambassador's lecture focused on his country's progress and foreign policy; songs and dances performed by the nationals of a particular country or the Russian students who study its language, history and culture; photo exhibitions, culinary presentations, souvenir bazaars and other similar elements. The sum of these 'agenda items' would give the whole event an unmistakable Southeast Asian flavor and create a sense of fulfilled expectations.

In December 2017, when the year of ASEAN's Golden Jubilee was coming to its end, the Southeast Asian Club of students bade a cheerful farewell to it by organizing the first ever ASEAN Week in MGIMO.



“The Best of ASEAN Centre, 2010–2016”

is produced by
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