








**ASEAN Centre
2023:
the Year of ASEAN-Russia
Strategic Partnership 5th Anniversary**

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**ASEAN-RUSSIA
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
TURNS FIVE**



ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership turns five in 2023. However, the overall relations between the two parties have been developing throughout more than past three decades. First contacts between ASEAN and Russia took place in 1991. In 1994, Russia joined the ASEAN Regional Forum and in 1996 became ASEAN's Dialogue Partner. Experiencing their own difficulties and challenges, this partnership has matured. Russia and ASEAN defined new directions and avenues for further development of their relations.

By the time when Russia became the Association's Dialogue Partner ASEAN gradually expanded to encompass almost all countries of Southeast Asia thus overcoming regional cleavages of the Cold War period. In 1984, Brunei Darussalam joined the Association. Vietnam followed the suit in 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar in 1997 and Cambodia in 1999. Apart from the expansion, another important process defined the dynamics of ASEAN activities at the turn of the past and present centuries. ASEAN stepped on the path of deeper economic integration in Southeast Asia and at the same time became a platform for wider regional cooperation, thus turning itself into a “driver” of network of regional and even macro regional multilateral institutions.



The regional institutional network “centered” on ASEAN came to comprise several important components. Among them are ASEAN’s dialogue partnerships with key players in and beyond the Asia-Pacific region, the ASEAN Regional Forum set up in 1994, the East Asia summits that have been held since 2005, ASEAN Defense Ministers Meetings with the dialogue partners launched in 2010, Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (in action since 2012). Moreover, over the years ASEAN has developed its unique diplomatic culture focused on consultations and consensus-based decisions coined as the “ASEAN Way”. In 2007, Association adopted its Charter thus formalizing many important regional cooperation practices accumulated within past four decades. Enacting of the ASEAN Community in 2015 became another significant milestone for Southeast Asia and signaled a new stage in the Association’s development.

These important achievements of ASEAN and its inclusive approach to regional cooperation made it a valuable partner for Russia in the Asia Pacific region. Equally, Russian constructive attitude to cooperation with Southeast Asia contributed to ASEAN’s reassessment of Russia’s regional role vis-à-vis the previous historical periods. In 2018, both parties agreed to turn the Dialogue Partnership into Strategic.

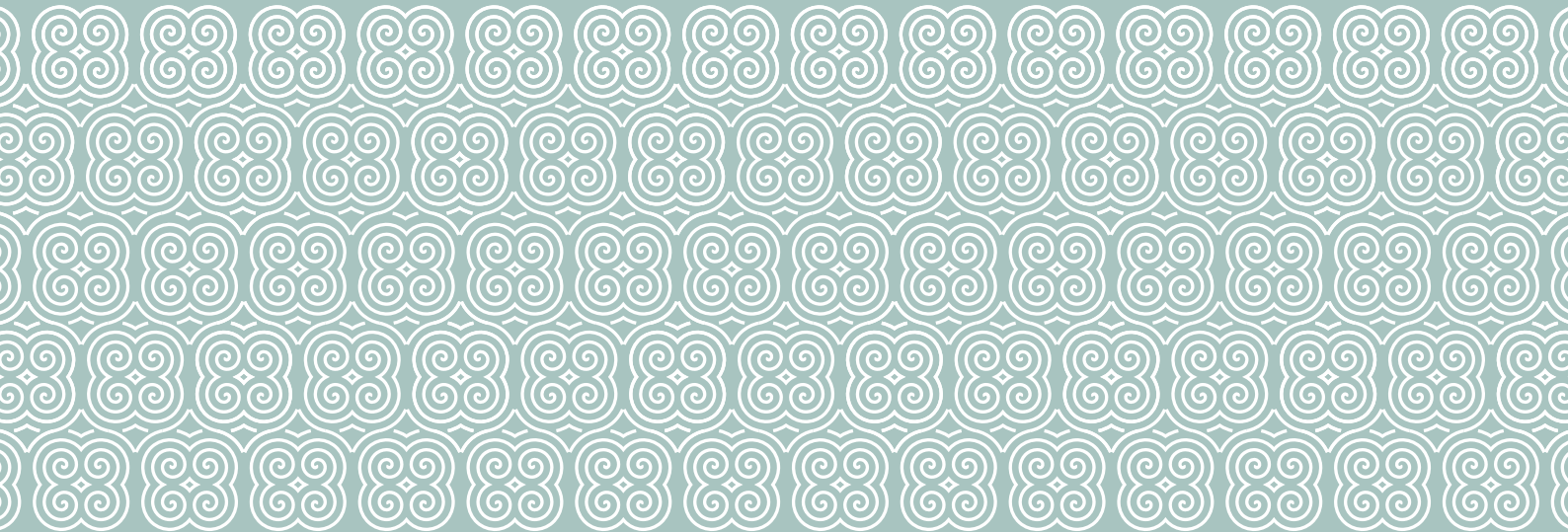




As a Strategic Partner of ASEAN Russia remains strongly committed to the principle of ASEAN centrality in the regional architecture. Multiple new avenues of ASEAN-Russia interaction, including energy cooperation, vaccine production, infrastructure development, IT, digitalization of education, joint responses to emergencies, open up new opportunities for spurring up economic dynamism, technological breakthrough and broader people-to-people contacts, including inter-city cooperation and stronger public diplomacy. Nowadays ASEAN-Russia relations have been acquiring one more dimension embodied in deeper inter-regional connections between the Eurasian Economic Union (the EEU) and ASEAN. Since 2016, the free trade agreement between the EEU and Vietnam has been in action with one more – with Indonesia – being under negotiations since 2023. New interconnections have been emerging between Russia and ASEAN member states thanks to Indonesia's involvement in G20 activities, BRICS Outreach framework, and Shanghai Cooperation Organization's dialogue partnerships.

ASEAN Centre in MGIMO congratulates ASEAN and Russia with the 5th anniversary of their Strategic Partnership and looks forward to contributing new ideas and projects to ASEAN-Russia cooperation!

ASEAN CENTRE: HIGHLIGHTS



Days of Indonesia in Moscow

On **February 2, 2023**, in Gostiny Dvor, the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in the Russian Federation, the Russian Association for International Cooperation (RAIC) and the Society for Friendship with Indonesia, organized an exhibition entitled "Indonesia-Russia Friendship Day", dedicated to the 73rd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Indonesia in 1950.

H.E. Jose Antonio Morato Tavares, Ambassador of Indonesia to Russia, and Mr. Vadim Velikanov, Deputy Director of the Third Department of Asia of the Russian Foreign Ministry delivered their welcoming speeches. The guests watched a documentary film about the history and current state of Russian-Indonesian relations. What is more, a wonderful concert and photo exhibition about the milestones of bilateral relations were also presented to the audience.





The event was attended by a delegation from MGIMO represented by Mr. Egor Andreev, Head of the International Department, Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Director of the ASEAN Centre, Dr. Viktor Sumsy, Senior Expert of the ASEAN Centre, as well as the ASEAN Centre Experts Dr. Valeria Vershinina, Dr. Nikita Kuklin and Ms. Kira Tabunova. Dr. Ksenia Efremova, Associate Professor of the Department of Asian and African Studies also attended the event from the MGIMO side.

Representatives of the University discussed with the Indonesian Embassy the issues of academic cooperation, as well as the establishment of contacts with leading Indonesian universities with the aim of concluding memoranda and agreements, organizing student exchanges, popularisation of the Indonesian language, fostering cooperation in the field of culture and tourism.

Meeting of the ASEAN Centre's Executive Board

The 20th Meeting of the ASEAN Centre Executive Board was held on **February 15, 2023**. Among the participants of the meeting were H.E. Jose Antonio Morato Tavares, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the Russian Federation Co-Chair of the Board, H.E. Pg.Husaini Alauddin, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Russian Federation, H.E. Igor Bailen, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to the Russian Federation, along with a number of diplomats from other ASEAN embassies.



The Russian part of the Executive Board was represented by MGIMO Vice-Rector for Science and Research Dr. Andrey Baykov, Co-Chair of the Board, Mr. Andrey Lyamin, Deputy Director of Asian and Pacific Cooperation Department, the MFA of Russia, Appointed Ambassador of Russia to ASEAN Mr. Evgeniy Zagainov, as well as MGIMO Professor Dr. Nikolai Maletin, and the ASEAN Centre's staff.

Dr. Andrey Baykov welcomed the members of the ASEAN Centre's Executive Board. In his opening remarks, he noted that over the past three-year reporting period, the Centre continued to fulfill its mission despite international political and economic turbulence and the post-pandemic recovery. The Centre organized numerous academic, social and cultural events in order to expand the knowledge of Russia and ASEAN citizens about each other. The Vice-Rector highly appreciated the outcomes of the Centre's work and its role in the development of the Dialogue Partnership between Russia and ASEAN. He also announced a brand new MGIMO Masters Degree Program "Political Economy of ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership", designed specifically for ASEAN and Russian citizens willing to develop ASEAN-Russia relations further.



The meeting's agenda covered the three-year reporting period of the ASEAN Centre's activities, including such documents as the report on the activities of the ASEAN Center for period 2020-2022, Centre's financial report for 2020-2022 and Centre's matrix of implementation of its work program for 2022. Presentations on the above mentioned documents were made by the Director of the ASEAN Centre Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Deputy Director Ms. Ekaterina Tronevskaya as well as Centre's Experts Dr. Valeria Vershinina and Dr. Nikita Kuklin. The meeting participants also got detailed information about the aforementioned Masters Program, which implies equal opportunities for the ASEAN countries and Russia to select potential students within the specified quotas.



During the discussions, the ASEAN partners complemented the Centre on its three-year term activities and made some recommendations and proposals for its future work.

Indonesian Ambassador to Moscow H.E. Jose Antonio Morato Tavares, as Co-Chair this year, noted that the Centre had done significant work in all areas of activity during the reporting period and highly appreciated the analytical and research activity of the Centre's experts.

In turn, Philippine Ambassador H.E. Igor Bailen thanked the Centre for its attention to anniversaries and important events in the life of ASEAN, including the Centre's events dedicated to the Philippine Studies and Philippine History.

The representative of the Vietnamese side, the third secretary of the Embassy Mr. Nguyen Viet Linh, on behalf of the Ambassador of Vietnam to Russia, H.E. Dang Minh Khoi, thanked the ASEAN Centre for the work done during the reporting period.

As the meeting came to a close, the sides agreed to submit the reviewed documents for the final approval to the Russia-ASEAN Joint Cooperation Committee to be convened soon in Jakarta.



Indonesia Day in MGIMO

On **March 31, 2023** MGIMO hosted Indonesia Day jointly organized by the ASEAN Centre and the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Moscow.



A series of events within the framework of the Indonesia Day started with the round table "Russia – Indonesia: the Way Towards a Better Future", during which Indonesian Embassy diplomats, Indonesian experts from the National Resilience Institute of the Republic of Indonesia and leading Russian Indonesianist scholars focused on the key issues of Russian-Indonesian relations. The discussion touched upon the subjects of the two countries' interaction in the new international context, the prospects for establishing Indonesia-Russia strategic partnership, the possibilities of multi-level cooperation between Russia and the states of the region and the Southeast Asia development dynamics. The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Indonesia H.E. Lyudmila Vorobyeva welcomed the conference participants via the pre-recorded message and wished them a productive discussion and expressed her hope for the further progressive development of Russia-Indonesia diplomatic relations. Among the discussants were representatives from the leading Moscow universities and research institutions such as MGIMO, Institute of Asian and African Studies of Moscow State University, People's Friendship University and the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences.





Dr. Andrey Baykov, MGIMO Vice-Rector for Science and Research delivered his welcoming remarks to the round table participants and noted that relations between Indonesia and Russia have a long history and have always been distinguished by warmth, mutual respect and recognition of each other's interests. He emphasized that in the current situation two countries remain reliable partners and jointly implement many significant initiatives. The Vice-Rector also drew attention to the fact that MGIMO has always been and remains a significant center of Indonesian studies in Russia, acting as an alma mater for many prominent Soviet and Russian students of Indonesia who devoted their professional life to teaching and carrying out Indonesian studies at MGIMO. Moreover, he added that MGIMO continues to teach the Indonesian language and train those professionally specializing in the Indonesian studies.

The Director of the ASEAN Centre Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova emphasized that the Indonesia Day continues the tradition of the Indonesian studies events of the Centre, which have been held since its foundation, and thanked the Indonesian Embassy for supporting the idea of holding such an event in MGIMO University.

From the Indonesian side, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to the Russian Federation H.E. Jose Antonio Morato Tavares welcomed the guests of the Indonesia Day. He noted that, despite the ups and downs in the history of bilateral relations, the two nations were able to maintain the spirit of friendship and cooperation, and today our relations are consistently developing in all areas, even amidst geopolitical turmoil. His Excellency also wished to the round table participants a productive discussion and thanked MGIMO University for cooperation.



The round table was followed by the presentation of the book *Conceptual Foundations of Indonesia's Foreign Policy* by the Expert of the ASEAN Centre Dr. Nikita Kuklin, during which the author and his two discussants – Deputy Chief of Mission of the Republic of Indonesia Mr. Berlian Helmy and Senior Expert of the ASEAN Centre, Director of the ASEAN Centre in 2010-2021 Dr. Victor Sumsy discussed the content of the book, its theoretical and practical basis, as well as the possibilities for developing further research on this topic.

The cultural evening at the end of the Indonesia Day begun with a musical performance by the Russian music group “Gamelan Dadali”, the only representative of Indonesian gamelan art in Russia, and was accompanied by the colorful Indonesian dances by Kirana Nusantara Dance Studio. Young and talented lyric performer from Indonesia Mr. John Silver Soplanit sang to the audience as a special guest.



Among the guests were the representatives of the Embassy of Indonesia in Moscow, students, staff and lecturers from MGIMO and other institutions, such as the Institute of Asian and African Countries of Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow State Linguistic University, Moscow State Pedagogical University, Higher School of Economics, Russian State Social University, Russian State University for the Humanities, People’s Friendship University, Institute of Oriental Studies, Institute of China and Contemporary Asia and others. From the Indonesian side, colleagues from the Indonesian National Defense Institute (Lemhannas) and Pajajaran University took part in the event remotely.

ASEAN Centre expresses its deep gratitude to the Embassy of Indonesia in Moscow, the Gamelan Dadali music group and the Kirana Nusantara Dance studio for their assistance in organizing and holding Indonesia Day at MGIMO.



VIII Vietnam Day

On **April 28, 2023** MGIMO hosted its traditional, large-scale celebration of the Vietnamese culture - the 8th Vietnam Day, which was jointly organized by the ASEAN Centre in MGIMO and the Vietnamese Students' community.

The 8th Vietnam Day in MGIMO was attended by more than 500 people, which is unprecedented and speaks about the growing popularity of this annual celebration among the students and the general public. This year, among the guests were representatives of state institutions, diplomatic missions and business of Russia and Vietnam, as well as famous Vietnamese studies experts, lecturers and students from the leading Russian universities. The event was broadly covered by Russian and Vietnamese media.



Dr. Andrey Baykov, MGIMO Vice-Rector for Science and Research delivered his welcoming remarks at the opening ceremony of the conference. He noted that Vietnam Day has already become a traditional event of the University and one of the most important annual events in its academic and cultural life. Vietnam Day, according to the Vice-Rector, is not only evidence of the long-term friendship between Russia and Vietnam, but also an indicator of the growing interest of the public in the culture of Vietnam and the ASEAN countries. Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, the ASEAN Centre's Director spoke about the Day of Vietnam program and welcomed the guests.



This year the keynote speaker of the conference session was Mr. Alexander Boldyrev, Head of the Corporate Communications Department of Zarubezhneft company. He spoke about the history of company's work in Vietnam and the ongoing projects.

A series of the 8th Vietnam Day events started with the academic conference "Vietnam in the world turbulence circumstances: politics, economy and society", which consisted of four sessions: "Dynamically developing Vietnam: results, challenges and prospects", "Vietnam in international organizations: history of interaction and current state", "Foreign Policy of Vietnam: Partners and Areas of Cooperation", as well as "Socio-Economic Processes in Vietnam before and after the COVID-19 Pandemic". For the first time the Vietnam Day's conference included a joint session of the ASEAN Centre and the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam.

In total, more than 23 papers were presented at the conference. Annually, the conference brings together both leading Vietnam studies scholars and emerging experts who are ready to present their research in various fields, from politics and economics to cultural, religious and social studies.





Following the conference, ASEAN Centre's Expert Dr. Valeria Vershinina presented her book *Regional Organizations in Vietnam's Foreign Policy: a Middle Powers Concept Perspective*, published by Aspect Press. As a part of the book discussion, Dr. Vladimir Kolotov, Head of the Department of History of the Far East, Director of the Ho Chi Minh Institute of Saint Petersburg State University, Dr. Evgeny Kanaev, Deputy Head of the School of Regional Studies, School of World Economy and International Affairs, HSE University and Dr. Viktor Sumsy Senior Expert of the ASEAN Centre welcomed the monograph's publication and praised the author's contribution to the contemporary Vietnamese studies.

Following the conference, the students specializing in the Vietnamese Language from MGIMO University, Institute of Asian and African Countries (Lomonosov Moscow State University), National Research University Higher School of Economics and Moscow State Linguistic University, took part in the Quiz on Vietnamese culture, language and contemporary society.

The Vietnam Day culminated in a large-scale cultural evening held in the MGIMO conference hall. The evening titled “The Land of a Flying Up Dragon” was opened by the Chairman of the Vietnamese Students’ community of MGIMO Nguyen Vu Minh Hoang, the guests were also greeted by the Director of the ASEAN Centre Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova. The concert program included traditional and modern dances, songs, theatrical performances and opera compositions by MGIMO students and other universities’ representatives as well as by the invited Vietnamese professional artists from Moscow and St. Petersburg, After the concert all the guest were offered a try of some Vietnamese traditional dishes.



Throughout the day, a colorful fair of Vietnamese souvenirs and food products, as well as a unique exhibition of Vietnamese paintings and artworks, were also held in the MGIMO new building's atrium.



II Eurasian Economic Forum

On **May 24-25, 2023**, the delegation of the ASEAN Centre represented by Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Director of the ASEAN Centre, Dr. Viktor Sumsky, Senior Expert of the ASEAN Centre, Ms. Ekaterina Tronevskaya, Deputy Director of the ASEAN Centre as well as the ASEAN Centre Experts Dr. Valeria Vershinina, Dr. Nikita Kuklin and Ms. Kira Tabunova attended the II Eurasian Economic Forum as participants.



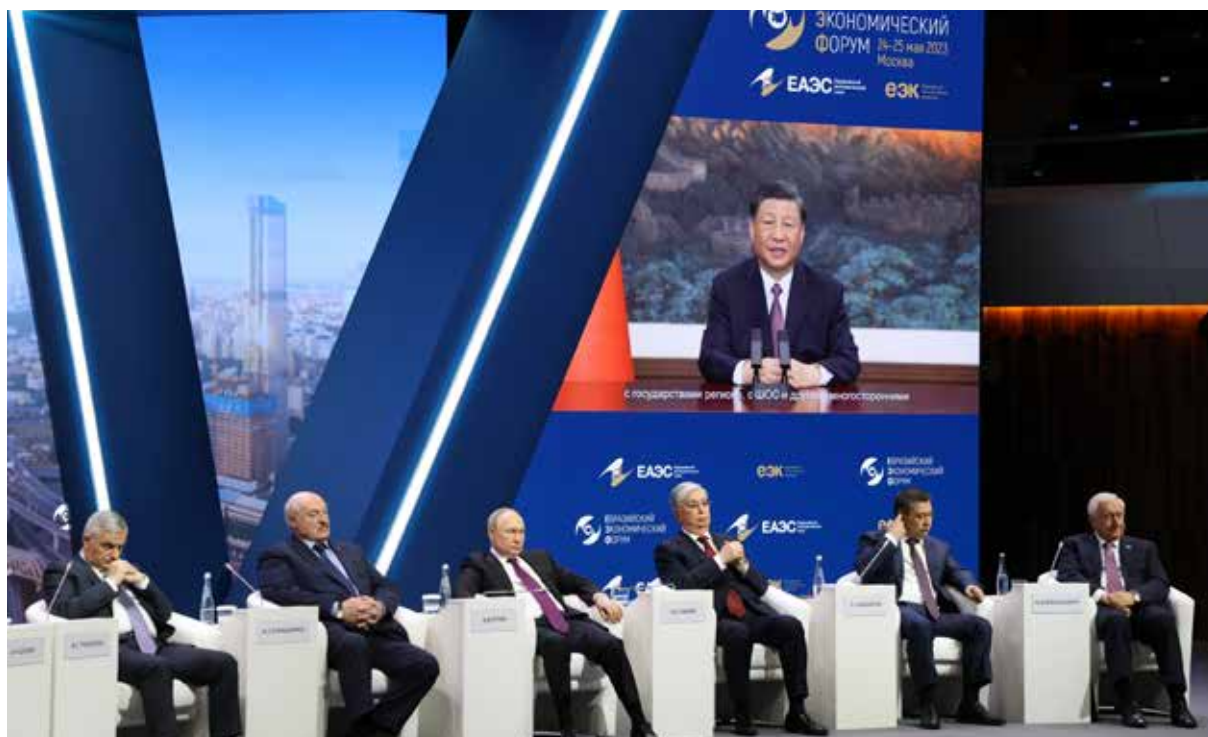


On the first day of the Forum, ASEAN Centre staff joined the two sessions namely "Digital Transformation of the EAEU" and "EAEU-SCO-BRICS: Open Integration Dialogue". The first session discussed the formation of a single digital space, infrastructures and ecosystems of the Eurasian Economic Union, as well as the development of the "data economy" and the implementation of projects within the framework of the common digital agenda. The speakers of the session were represented by relevant institutions senior officials at the deputy ministers' level.

In the framework of the second session "EAEU-SCO-BRICS: Open integration dialogue", the parties discussed the development of partnerships between the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS, which, according to the participants, should help to increase national economies' resilience and withstand external pressure. MGIMO Rector, Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences Dr. Anatoly Torkunov moderated the session. The speakers of the session were also distinguished guests at the level of deputy ministers, as well as CICA Secretary General Kairat Sarybay, SCO Deputy Secretary General Nuran Niyazaliev and Chairman of the EEC Board Mikhail Myasnikovich. Apart from cooperation between the EAEU, SCO and BRICS the speakers emphasized the idea of these organizations' cooperation with ASEAN.



On the second day of the forum, the Centre's team attended the "EAEU-Indonesia" session, business breakfast of the "EAEU-Indonesia Business Dialogue" and the networking business session. The EAEU and the Indonesian parties touched upon issues of political and economic cooperation promising areas and opportunities for developing business contacts, including between the regions of the Union members and Indonesia. The Indonesian delegation included both officials, diplomats owners of large and medium-sized Indonesian businesses, among them – the Governor of North Sulawesi Province Olly Dondokambey, Special Adviser to the Coordinating Minister of the Republic of Indonesia on Economic Affairs Rizal Affandi Lukman and Deputy Minister for Food and Agribusiness of the Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Musdhalifah Machmud and others. A colorful exhibition of Indonesian small businesses was working during all days of the Forum.



In addition to the Indonesian events, the Centre's experts also attended the session "Science and education without borders", which was moderated by Dr. Anatoly Torkunov. During the session, the EAEU universities rectors addressed the issues of academic mobility, unification and internationalization of educational standards, as well as attracting young people to science and joint research initiatives.



H.E. Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro visits MGIMO

On **August 22, 2023** H.E. Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro, the Director General for ASEAN Cooperation (Deputy Minister) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia visited MGIMO. He participated in the round table discussion organized by the ASEAN Centre and met with the experts from the Department of Diplomacy at MGIMO and Russian Academy of Sciences' institutions specializing in Southeast Asia.

The distinguished guest received a warm welcome from the First Vice-Rector of MGIMO Professor Gennadii Tolstopyatenko. Professor Tolstopyatenko emphasized that MGIMO, a university with a rich history of Southeast Asian studies, feels privileged to be a platform for intellectual exchange between diplomats and prominent Russian specialists in the region. He expressed his high evaluation of the strategic partnership between Russia and ASEAN and mentioned the unique position of Indonesia as a powerful regional player with global diplomatic outreach.



He also mentioned that MGIMO has been a widely known center for Indonesian studies in Russia since its inception. Furthermore, the Vice-Rector mentioned the recent Master's Program "Political Economy of the ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership", which will have four students from Indonesia enrolling this year.

The Director of the ASEAN Center Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, in turn, noted the professionalism of Indonesian diplomacy in its approaches to the current ASEAN chairmanship and the country's overall activities in ASEAN. Today Indonesia is getting increasingly important for Russian foreign policy thanks to Indonesia's growing global role, Indonesia's participation in G20, its interest to cooperation with BRICS and Eurasian Economic Union.

H.E. Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro warmly welcomed the participants of the meeting, and thanked MGIMO and the ASEAN Centre for organizing an excellent opportunity to exchange views with experts and diplomats regarding the current regional problems and Russian-Indonesian cooperation.



Addressing the round table participants Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Russian Federation H.E. Jose Antonio Morato Tavares noted that today relations between Indonesia and Russia are consistently developing in all areas. He wished a productive discussion to the round table participants and thanked MGIMO for cooperation on behalf of the Indonesian delegation.

Within the framework of the round table, leading Russian experts on Indonesia and Southeast Asia discussed with the Indonesian counterparts the recent trends of security and multilateral cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as promising areas for the development of Russian-Indonesian relations. The Department of Diplomacy's Head and Professor Kirill Barsky, Professor Yury Raikov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Russia in ASEAN in 2017-2023 Alexander Ivanov, Chief Research Fellow of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences Alexei Drugov and Expert of the ASEAN Centre Nikita Kuklin presented their comments and observations. Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova moderated the discussion.



Among the guests were the representatives of the Embassy of Indonesia in Moscow, professors and research fellows from MGIMO and other institutions, such as the People's Friendship University named after Patrice Lumumba, Institute of Oriental Studies, Institute of China and Contemporary Asia.



H.E. Vilavanh Yiapoher visits MGIMO

On **August 28, 2023** MGIMO Rector, Academician Anatoly Torkunov met the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Lao PDR H.E. Vilavanh Yiapoher.

Ambassador Vilavanh Yiapoher, MGIMO graduate of 1987, congratulated Rector with his birthday and expressed her warm feelings about studying in the university. Rector Torkunov told the Ambassador about MGIMO's ongoing projects in terms of expanding relations with Laos and ASEAN in the spheres of education, research and socio-cultural communication. This year six students from the Lao PDR were admitted to the BA programs and one – to the brand new MA Degree Program “Political Economy of ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership”.





Ambassador noted that MGIMO continues to be the centre of excellence in terms of training international-level professionals. She has specifically emphasized that the University continues to develop and progress in many spheres. Next year the Lao PDR will be chairing ASEAN. In this regards, MGIMO will be hosting a number of activities dedicated to the Lao language studies and research collaborations with Laos.

Minister Counselor Vongvilay Thiphalangsy, Third Secretary Khamnang Vilayvan, Vice Rector for Students' Development and International Affairs Dr. Stanislav Surovtsev and the Director of the ASEAN Centre Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova joined the meeting. Embassy's delegation also visited the ASEAN Centre.

Students of the New Master Degree Programme “Political Economy of the ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership” Start their Studies at MGIMO

On **September 7, 2023** the MGIMO Master’s Training office organised a welcoming meeting with the first year MA students of the Master Degree Programme “Political Economy of the ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership” designed by the ASEAN Centre and implemented with the support of the “Priority 2030” national educational programme.



Discover our Unique and Brand-New Masters Program in Economics

“Political Economy of ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership”

You will

- learn to analyze Russia and ASEAN’s role in the world economy, global and regional politics
- explore the avenues of political and economic development of Russia and ASEAN, regional integration processes with their participation
- comprehend international political, trade and investment, legal, digital, and technological dimensions of ASEAN-Russia relations
- know how to apply this knowledge and analytical skills in the real life situations during internships in the leading Russian and ASEAN think tanks, companies, state agencies and NGOs
- be able to professionally organize political, economic, business, media and intercultural communication between ASEAN and Russia



Advantages of the program:

- Education through socialization in the international student group representing all ASEAN member states and Russia
- Full-time program in MGIMO main campus
- Program entirely taught in English
- Opportunities to take part in all international activities of the ASEAN Centre in MGIMO

ASEAN Centre in MGIMO

- Has been operating in MGIMO since 2010 as a joint ASEAN-Russia project
- Its mission is to spread information about ASEAN-Russia strategic partnership
- The Centre carries out research on issues related to ASEAN members, forges closer economic ties as well as promotes cultural awareness and strengthens educational opportunities for ASEAN and Russia

Application starts: March 1, 2024
Application’s deadline: July 20, 2024
Apply via masters.mgimo.ru

Get any questions?
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MGIMO Vice-Rector for Science and Research Dr. Andrey Baykov, academic co-supervisor of the Programme, the Director of the ASEAN Centre, Associate Professor at the Department of Asian and African Studies Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova and Deputy Head of the Master's Training Office Dr. Maria Apanovich welcomed the students.

Dr. Andrey Baykov told the MA students from Russia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Laos and Vietnam about the history of the University, its educational traditions and the specifics of the Master Programme that combines the best teaching and research practices of MGIMO University in Economics and ASEAN Studies. Dr. Baykov wished the students to achieve success in their education. Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova also welcomed the first year MA students, wished them success and diligence in studying, searching for supervisors and writing their Master Degree theses. Dr. Maria Apanovich told the students about the organizational issues of the educational process and the specifics of the Master Degree Programmes taught in English.



During the meeting the MA students asked questions about communication with Professors, preparation for the courses and exam sessions, searching for supervisors, working on Master Degree theses and opportunities of participation in the academic life of the University. At the end of the meeting the MA students from the ASEAN countries got acquainted with their Russian colleagues learning Indonesian, Thai and Vietnamese languages in informal and friendly atmosphere.

On September 8, the ASEAN Centre organized several integration events for foreign students from the ASEAN countries, including guide tour around the University campus, visits to the Museum of the History of MGIMO, the Rare Book Museum and a welcoming dinner.

First enrolment of a unique Master Degree Programme “Political Economy of the ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership” and the launch of the programme itself in MGIMO is dedicated to the 5th anniversary of the establishment of strategic partnership between Russia and ASEAN, which is commemorated in 2023.



October 9-10

On October 9-10, 2023, MGIMO hosted the 5th Meeting of the Network of ASEAN-Russia Think Tanks (NARTT). The event was dedicated to the 5th anniversary of the ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership.

From MGIMO side the NARTT Meeting was attended by Dr. Andrey Baykov, Vice-Rector for Research Affairs, Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Director of the ASEAN Centre, Dr. Valeria Vershinina, Deputy Director of the Centre, Dr. Igbal Adil Ogly Guliev, Deputy Director of the International Institute of Energy Policy and Diplomacy, and Dr. Nikita Kuklin, Ms. Kira Tabunova, Ms. Olesya Pokusaeva, ASEAN Centre's Experts.





The Russian side was represented by H.E. Mr. Evgeny Zagaynov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to ASEAN, Dr. Alexander Ivanov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Russia, and Mr. Daniyar Akkaziev, Executive Director of the Russia-ASEAN Business Council. This year, the meeting program included a discussion of four areas of cooperation between Russia and ASEAN - digital economy, politics and security issues, ASEAN-Russia city-to-city cooperation, and energy sphere. A separate on-site session was scheduled as part of the “Territory of Energy Dialogue”-a Conference, organized by the Russian Energy Agency of the Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation.

This year, the NARTT Meeting was held in offline format for the first time since anti-Covid restrictions. MGIMO was visited by a delegation of leaders and experts from ASEAN leading think tanks and research institutes.

The meeting participants were welcomed by H.E. Mr. Evgeny Zagaynov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to ASEAN, H.E. Dr. Mai Sayavongs, Director General of the Institute of Foreign Affairs, MFA of the Lao PDR, and Dr. Andrey Baykov, MGIMO Vice-Rector for Research Affairs. In his welcoming remarks H.E. Mr. Evgeny Zagaynov expressed his hope that this event will facilitate ASEAN-Russia relations and will serve as a platform for delivering effective practical ideas from both sides. H.E. Dr. Mai Sayavongs congratulated the audience on such a significant date - the 5th anniversary of ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership - and emphasized that at the current stage ASEAN-Russia cooperation can be characterized as an example of a coordinated response to new challenges and threats, taking into account the importance of ASEAN Centrality.

Dr. Andrey Baykov noted that during the last five years MGIMO has served as a coordinator from Russia's side that stands ready to promote and improve that significant consultation mechanism.

As a result of the discussion the participants expressed their interest in continuing the dialogue and provided a number of suggestions to develop ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership, that will be submitted to the Russia and ASEAN senior officials. The coordinator of the next meeting will be the Institute of Foreign Affairs, the MFA of the Lao PDR.



October 12-14

On October 12-14, 2023, within the framework of the XV RISA Convention, the annual academic conference “Russia and ASEAN in the Asia-Pacific Region: Dynamics of Cooperation, Regional Processes and Global Context” was held. This year the conference was dedicated to the 5th anniversary of the ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership.



The opening ceremony of the conference took place on October 12. Such distinguished guests as H.E. Mr. Sergei Glazyev, Member of the Board - Minister in Charge of Integration and Macroeconomics of the Eurasian Economic Commission, H.E. Mr. Andrey Rudenko, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Evgeny Zagaynov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to ASEAN, H.E. Dr. Mai Sayavongs, Director General of the Institute of Foreign Affairs, the MFA of the Lao PDR, Dr. Fajar Hirawan, Head of the Department of Economics, Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Mr. Boris Michel, Head of the Regional Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, Mr. Ivan Polyakov, Chairman of the Russia-ASEAN Business Council, and Dr. Andrey Baykov, MGIMO Vice-Rector for Research Affairs, were keynote speakers at the opening ceremony. The session was moderated by Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Director of the ASEAN Centre, Associate Professor of the Department of Asian and African Studies, MGIMO.





During the three days of the conference, about 100 participants presented their papers. Apart from that presentations and announcements of new publications on ASEAN took place, ten Russian-language and three English-language sessions were held. As a part of the collective monograph “ASEAN on the Way of Integration: Achievements, Challenges, Dilemmas” presentation Mr. Nikita Kondratiev, Director of the Department of Multilateral Economic Cooperation and Special Projects, Ministry of Economic Development of Russia, addressed the conference participants. For the first time since Covid-19 restrictions, the majority of foreign speakers participated in the conference in offline format. Representatives of all ten countries of the Association, researchers from Moscow and regional universities and research institutes, as well as representatives of international organizations attended the conference.

In the framework of the first day of the conference the discussion was focused on the ASEAN's role in the international arena, its achievements and challenges, threats that the region faces today. The conference participants also discussed the problems of military and technical cooperation and Russia-ASEAN relations on security issues and maintaining regional stability.

On the second day of the conference participants focused on discussing current problems and trends and promising areas of Russia-ASEAN cooperation, such as digital transformation, humanitarian issues and energy. During the second day sessions various issues were raised: bilateral and multilateral cooperation, Russia-ASEAN Strategic Partnership, the cooperation development between ASEAN and other Dialogue Partners of the Association, including their joint economic and other promising integration projects.

The third day of the conference was traditionally devoted to the youth sessions. BA and MA students presented their research results that led to the fruitful discussion and facilitated the establishment of new contacts between universities and their students' communities. In their speeches, young scholars touched upon such topics as the best practices exchange by the example of Russia-ASEAN cooperation, discussed current political and socio-economic processes in Southeast Asia, and provided detailed analysis of Russia-ASEAN relations as well as the Association's relation with other Dialogue Partners in the field of energy and mining.



The conference also included an announcement and presentation of new books on ASEAN issues and Russian-ASEAN cooperation. On October 12, the conference audience was presented with the fundamental collective monograph “ASEAN on the Way of Integration: Achievements, Challenges, Dilemmas”, published by the Aspect Press publishing house, edited by Dr. Vladimir Mazyrin and Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova. The collective monograph is the result of long-term research work and a series of conferences held at MGIMO and the Institute of China and Contemporary Asia of RAS. Today, this is the most comprehensive publication in the Russian academic field, dedicated to the study of a wide range of issues devoted to ASEAN. Dr. Andrey Baykov, MGIMO Vice-Rector for Science and Research, Dr. Vladimir Mazyrin and Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova took part in the presentation as key speakers.

On October 13, the conference featured the announcement of the Russian-language translation of the book by a famous Singaporean diplomat Mr. Bilahari Kausikan “Dealing with an Ambiguous World”, edited by Dr. Victor Sumsy, Senior Expert of the ASEAN Centre. The announcement of the Russian edition of the book was accompanied by an interview with Mr. Bilahari Kausikan, the book’s author, prepared by Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, the Director of the ASEAN Centre. The author shared with the audience his thoughts on the relevance of the conclusions of his book in the new international realities and thanked his colleagues from MGIMO for their attention to his work and the desire to make it accessible to the Russian audience.

About thirty volunteers from different schools of the University took part in preparing the conference. During these three days they helped the ASEAN Centre’s staff with the event organization.

The ASEAN Centre expresses its gratitude to the interns, volunteers, interpreters and administrative services of the MGIMO University for their assistance in conference organization, as well as to all guests, partners and speakers of the conference for their cooperation and contribution to the productive discussion.

The conference received wide coverage in the media (TASS, Vietnamplus, Vnews, AK&M, Sputnik Armenia).

October 25

On October 25, 2023 in the framework of the 2nd Digital International Relations Conference, the ASEAN Center held a session dedicated to the current state of ICT industry development in Southeast Asia and progress in the field of digitalization in ASEAN.

The session focused on the current trends in digital transformation in ASEAN member states, as well as on the various digital aspects of regional integration in Southeast Asia. The session's central element was the presentation of the report "Microelectronics and the ICT sector in ASEAN countries: trends and implications for Russia" prepared by the experts from EACP and the ASEAN Centre of MGIMO.



Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Director of the ASEAN Centre in MGIMO University, Associate Professor of the Department of Asian and African Studies and Mr. Maxim Mitrokhin, Advisor to the Director General of Escape Tech welcomed the conference participants. The speakers emphasized the significance of the session's agenda, particularly in light of the ongoing modernization and digitalization in the ASEAN countries. These governments are actively pursuing opportunities to integrate new technologies and enhance the global competitiveness of their electronic products in the international value chains. Dr. Koldunova presented the report titled "Digital Dimension of ASEAN Integration".



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Among the session speakers were representatives of Russian government agencies, public and academic institutions, as well as large companies with experience of working in the countries of Southeast Asia. Mr. Evgeny Mitrokhin, Head of the Escape Tech project office, Ph.D. Candidate at the Research Center of the Russian MFA and the aforementioned Mr. Maxim Mitrokhin spoke about the general idea, goals and objectives of the report "Microelectronics and the ICT sector in ASEAN countries: trends and implications for Russia". The report is currently the sole comprehensive review of the ICT in ASEAN countries in Russian. The report became a result of collaboration between professionals from the ICT sector and country studies experts from the ASEAN Centre. This collaboration allowed the authors not only to review the technical aspects of the ICT sector development, but to conduct a thorough analysis of the political and economic factors influencing the development of the ICT sector in the countries under study. The report can become a valuable resource for government and business communities seeking insights into the ICT situation in the ASEAN countries.

Following that, the session featured a series of presentations focusing on the country-specific issues of the report. Mr. Alexey Pronichkin, the Representative of St. Petersburg for international IT projects spoke about the advancements in microelectronics and ICT in Vietnam. Mr. Vladimir Pedanov, General Director of Transport Safety Technologies LLC and co-founder of PT IRA Engineering Technologies, along with Dr. Nikita Kuklin, Expert of the ASEAN Centre, conducted a presentation on the topics of digital transformation, microelectronics development, and ICT advancements in Indonesia. Ms. Kira Tabunova, Expert of the ASEAN Centre presented the findings of a study on digital transformation in Malaysia.

Special attention was given to the practical aspects of the agenda being discussed. Specifically, Mr. Dmitry Kamynin, Member of the Public Chamber of the Samara Region, evaluated the potential for interregional collaboration with ASEAN countries in the realm of digital technologies. Mr. Egor Sigauri-Gorsky, a PhD Candidate from the Department of International Law at MGIMO University, delivered a comprehensive analysis of the legal aspects of the ASEAN Smart Cities Network.

October 27

On October 27, 2023, ceremony of signing cooperation agreement between MGIMO and the New Era University (Philippines) was held.

The event was attended by H.E. Igor Bailen, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to the Russian Federation, Mr. Jose Carlo Morales, Consul of the Embassy, Dr. Carlos Tabunda, Dean of the Faculty of International Relations and Director of Russian Studies Centre, New Era University. MGIMO side was represented by Dr. Andrey Baykov, Vice-Rector for Science and Research, and Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Director of the ASEAN Centre. Participants of the meeting also were representatives of International Relations Department of MGIMO, representatives of the Embassy of the Russian Federation to the Philippines and New Era University.



The event's participants joined a discussion devoted to the previous five-year lasting cooperation between MGIMO and the New Era University. Vice Rector for Science and Research Dr. Andrey Baykov emphasized the importance and fruitfulness of the inter-university cooperation and expressed his gratitude to Dr. Carlos Tabunda for his personal participation in many of the ASEAN Centre's projects as well as his input to the development of the Russian Studies in the Philippines. H.E. Igor Bailen, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to Russia, highly appreciated the results of the work done by MGIMO and the ASEAN Centre aimed at strengthening relations between Russia and the Philippines in academic and educational areas. Dr. Franklin Bunag, Vice President for Administrative Affairs of New Era University mentioned the commitment of both sides to proceed with the cooperation further. Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Director of the ASEAN Centre, told the audience about many projects that were implemented within the framework of the memorandum of cooperation that was signed in 2018 during the visit of the President of the Republic of the Philippines Rodrigo Duterte (2016-2022) to MGIMO. She also highlighted the importance of maintaining cooperation between the universities. Dr. Carlos Tabunda, in turn, expressed his gratitude to the ASEAN Centre for the opportunity to attend the ceremony in person and mentioned the MGIMO BA and MA students' interest in such topics as the Russia-Philippines relations.



Dr. Igor Okunev, Director of the Center for Spatial Analysis of International Relations, also took part in the discussion. He shared his impressions of his recent visit to the Philippines, during which he delivered lectures' course for New Era University students and expressed his hope to continued inter-university cooperation.

Following the meeting, MGIMO and New Era University signed a cooperation agreement for the following five years. The parties agreed to enhance students' and academic exchanges.

During the current visit Dean Tabunda delivered a course of lecturers about the foreign policy of the Philippines to the students of the MA Program "Political Economy of ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership" and an open lecture for the Southeast Asian Students Club of Scientific Students Society of MGIMO.



October 23-29

During October 23-29, 2023 the ASEAN Centre's delegation, which included Deputy Director Dr. Valeria Vershinina and Senior Expert Dr. Victor Sumsky, paid a visit to Cambodia to participate in the 2nd International Phnom Penh Forum. The event was hosted by the International Relations Institute of Cambodia (IRIC) at the Royal Academy of Cambodia.

ASEAN Centre's experts participated in two forum's sessions. Dr. Valeria Vershinina was a speaker at the session dedicated to the Chinese initiatives and presented Russia's perspective on the SCO and BRICS. Dr. Victor Sumsky participated in the session on the Ukraine crisis and NATO's advancement in Asia. The presentations by ASEAN Centre's experts aroused great interest and received a positive feedback from the audience. The forum's outcomes were widely covered in the local media.



During their visit to Cambodia Dr. Valeria Vershinina and Dr. Victor Sumsky held a series of working meetings with the representatives of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Academy of Sciences, leading universities and research centers of Cambodia.

On October 25, MGIMO delegates had a meeting with H.E. Sok Touch, President of the Royal Academy of Cambodia. Both sides discussed promising areas of cooperation including exchange of experience, conducting joint events and research activities. The meeting was also attended by the diplomats from the Russian Embassy in Phnom Penh – Minister-Counselor Mr. Igor Karavayev and Third Secretary Mr. Andrey Kapustin.



On October 26, the Director General of the Department of Higher Education Mr. Mak Ngoy welcomed the MGIMO delegation at the Ministry. At the meeting Dr. Valeria Vershinina and Dr. Victor Sumsky told about recently launched Master Program “Political Economy of ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership” and about the ASEAN Centre’s activities. Mr. Mak Ngoy welcomed the Program and expressed his support in promoting it among Cambodian applicants. On the same day the delegation paid a visit to the Royal University of Phnom Penh and had meetings with the representatives of the Institute for International Studies and Public Policy, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities and Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Parties outlined possible areas of cooperation and expressed interest in conducting joint events. Above that the delegation held a number of working meetings with the staff of the Asian Vision Institute and Cambodian Center for Regional Studies.



The visit's program also included a meeting with H.E. Anatoly Borovik, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Kingdom of Cambodia. The ASEAN Centre expresses its gratitude to the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Cambodia for the support provided to the Centre's staff during this working trip.



October 31

In October 2023, on the invitation from the ASEAN Centre Dean of the International Relations School and the Director of Russia Studies Centre at the New Era University of the Philippines Dr. Carlos Tabunda delivered a course of lectures.

The lectures covered the most recent developments in the foreign policy of the Philippines and the role of the Philippines in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The audience were the MA students of the Master's Degree Program "Political Economy of ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership". All the participants received certificates at the end of the course.



Besides the course of lectures for the MA students, Dr. Tabunda also delivered an open lecture to the participants of MGIMO Southeast Asia Students' Club and all interested BA students.

All these events took part under the program of MGIMO-New Era University cooperation. This year the two universities extended the cooperation agreement for the next five years.



November 8

On November 8, 2023 MGIMO and Yangon University of Foreign Languages (Myanmar) signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

The signing ceremony was attended by Mr. Zaw Lynn Myint, Charge d'Affaires of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Russian Federation, Mr. Pavel Klabukov, Deputy Chief of the Russian Diplomatic Mission to Myanmar, and Dr. Kyi Shwin, Rector of Yangon University of Foreign Languages. MGIMO side was represented by Dr. Vladimir Morozov, Vice-Rector for Human Resources, and Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Director of the ASEAN Centre. Participants of the meeting also were representatives of MGIMO International Relations Department, representatives of the Embassy of Myanmar in Moscow and Yangon University of Foreign Languages, and MGIMO 1st year BA students, majoring in the Burmese language studies.



During the meeting both sides welcomed the signing of this Memorandum that will give a start to a new chapter of inter-university cooperation and create new opportunities for students and academic exchange. Mr. Zaw Lynn Myint, Charge d'Affaires of the Republic of Union of Myanmar to the Russian Federation, stressed that Myanmar highly appreciated the Russian education and especially the quality of training in MGIMO. In return, Mr. Pavel Klabukov noted that education is one of the most important and perspective areas of bilateral cooperation.



Dr. Kyi Shwin, Rector of Yangon University of Foreign Languages, emphasized the importance of signing of this Memorandum and expressed hope for fruitful and mutually beneficially cooperation. Dr. Vladimir Morozov, Vice-Rector for Human Recourses, told about MGIMO contacts with Myanmar partners and about the outcomes of joint events, especially of a Russia-Myanmar conference hosted in MGIMO in April this year. Dr. Chaw Chaw Sein, Pro-Rector of Yangon University of Foreign Languages and Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, ASEAN Centre's Director, in their remarks, gave an overview of mutual contacts that eventually made it possible to sign a Memorandum of Understanding. Namely, representatives from Yangon University of Foreign Languages on many occasions participated in the annual conference "Russia and ASEAN in the Asia-Pacific Region", the Russia-ASEAN University forums and in other Centre's events.

Following the meeting, MGIMO and Yangon University of Foreign Languages signed a Memorandum of Understanding.



November 9

On November 9, 2023, the opening ceremony of the exhibition “Expedition Diary” took place at the museum and exhibition complex of the Russian Academy of Arts. The ASEAN Centre provides informational support to this exhibition.



The exhibition visitors were introduced to the paintings, graphic works and the works of applied art made by academicians of the Russian Academy of Arts Mr. Rustam Yaushev, Mr. Vladimir Anisimov and RAS corresponding member Ms. Olga Yausheva during their expeditions to ASEAN countries.

At the opening ceremony the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Russian Federation H.E. Sasivat Wongsinsawat, Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore H.E. Mark Neo, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam H.E. H.E. Pengiran Husaini Alauddin, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Republic of Indonesia Mr. Berlian Helmy and other ASEAN diplomats welcomed the event's guests. They expressed their gratitude to the academicians of the Russian Academy of Arts who took part in this project for their contribution in developing cultural dialogue between Russia and ASEAN countries. Mr. Vladimir Anisimov, in turn, emphasized the distinguished guests' and the ASEAN Centre's assistance during the creation of this unique masterpieces' collection, that captures the diversity of life and nature in Southeast Asia.

The exhibition's opening ceremony was attended by the Director of the ASEAN Center Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Deputy Director Dr. Valeria Vershinina, Senior Expert Dr. Victor Sumsy, ASEAN Centre's Expert Ms. Kira Tabunova as well as MGIMO students studying Southeast Asian languages.



November 27

On November 27, 2023 the opening of the annual ASEAN Week took place. The ASEAN Week comprises a series of academic, educational and cultural events. The ASEAN Week is traditionally co-organized by the Southeast Asia Student Club of MGIMO and the ASEAN Center. The ASEAN Week aims to disseminate information about culture, politics and economy of the Association Member States, the ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership and main regional trends among students, staff and guests of the university.



Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to Russia H.E. Mr. Jose Antonio Morato Tavares presented a keynote speech on the outcomes of the Indonesia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2023. Permanent representative of the Russian Federation to ASEAN H.E. Mr. Evgeny Zagaynov spoke about the 5th anniversary of ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership. The opening ceremony was moderated by Ekaterina Koldunova, Director of the ASEAN Center at MGIMO. Also present at the opening ceremony of ASEAN Week were Russian diplomats, ambassadors and staff of diplomatic missions of the ASEAN countries, MGIMO BA and MA students, professors, lecturers and staff.

The first event within the framework of the ASEAN Week was the opening of the photo exhibition "Generations Dialogue: Southeast Asian countries", which presented more than 50 photographs taken by Russian diplomats, lecturers and students during their stay in the countries of the region. As a part of the opening ceremony of the photo exhibition, the authors of the photographs explained what inspired them to take the photographs presented.



December 4-5

On December 4-5, 2023 the Valdai Club organized its 14th Asian Conference. Director of the ASEAN Centre, Associate Professor at the Department of Asian and African Studies Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova participated in the conference.

This year the conference's discussions focused on the transformation of globalization and regionalization, as well as the opportunities for defusing international tensions via cooperation between Russia and Asia. The conference participants from Russia, India, Malaysia, Vietnam, Pakistan, Thailand, Mongolia and Japan also discussed the most important trends of regional development and Russia's cooperation with particular Asian states. Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova participated in the third session "Globalisation and Regionalisation: Approaches and Possibilities of Interaction".



VISITS & EVENTS



February 9

On February 9, the Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation held a meeting on the energy cooperation development between Russia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2023. The meeting was moderated by the Deputy Minister of Energy Mr. Sergey Mochalnikov.

The event was attended by representatives of the Russian Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Russian Energy Agency, "Rosneft", "Transneft", "Zarubezhneft", "Rosseti", "Gazprom", "Gazprom Neft", "Gazprom Energoholding", "Rosatom", "TATNEFT", "RusHyd", "SUEK", etc.

Among the meeting's participants were Dr. Iqbal Adil ogly Guliev, Deputy Director of the International Institute of Energy Policy and Diplomacy and Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Director of the ASEAN Centre.



The priorities for energy cooperation between Russia and ASEAN, the concept of Indonesia's ASEAN chairmanship in 2023, interaction with the ASEAN Energy Centre, preparations for the meetings of ASEAN and EAS Energy Ministers and for the ASEAN Energy Business Forum in September 2023 were discussed during the meeting.

Today, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations is becoming an indispensable global partner. Energy has traditionally been one of the most important areas of cooperation between Russia and ASEAN member states.

Considering the key ASEAN policy documents in the energy field (ASEAN Energy Outlook 2050, ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation 2016-2025), it was noted that the key energy development priorities of the region are nuclear energy, development and application of advanced clean coal technologies, the expansion of natural gas use, including the creation of a common gas market. In accordance with the Action Plan, ASEAN member countries expect to implement a set of activities in these areas by 2025, including research and specialized conferences.



February 14

On February 14, 2023 MGIMO Rector Anatoly Torkunov met with a group of MA students-representatives of the ASEAN countries.

From the ASEAN side, the meeting was attended by the MA students of the International Relations MA Program from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr. Aung Hlein Pyu, Mr. Khant Win, Mr. Kyaw Maung Maung Thwin and Mr. Yar Zar Aung, as well as a student from Vietnam Mr. Trinh Quoc Vinh and a student from Indonesia Ms. Hunto Yohanna Dvitriaprila. On the part of the University administration, Vice-Rector for Research Affairs Dr. Andrey Baykov and Director of the ASEAN Centre in MGIMO Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova also joined the meeting.



Welcoming the students Prof. Anatoly Torkunov noted that MGIMO has been always developing and maintaining strong relations with the universities and think tanks from ASEAN countries. Rector emphasized that at the moment the University has official agreements with partners from Brunei, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore and the Philippines, and also seeks to establish broader contacts with other ASEAN countries. He also especially noted that among the graduates of MGIMO from the ASEAN countries there are many well-known diplomats and politicians. One of the recent developments in terms of expanding the network of MGIMO's partnerships in Southeast Asia was a visit of Vice Rector Stanislav Surovtsev to Myanmar. During this visit several cooperation agreements and MoUs were signed.

The Rector also informed the students that since 2010, MGIMO has been the home of the ASEAN Centre, a think tank with the analytical and educational functions established by Russia and ASEAN, which has been consistently popularizing and promoting the ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership through joint research, cultural activities and public diplomacy for many years. The participants of the meeting also noted that MGIMO acts as the coordinator for the Network of ASEAN and Russia think tanks and annually holds events on this track.



The Rector and University representatives also announced a brand-new Master's Program "Political Economy of ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership", which was developed specifically for the joint study of Russian-ASEAN interaction by students from both sides. Particular emphasis was placed on the fact that the program is open for the applications from the citizens of ASEAN countries.

Prof. Torkunov highly evaluated the active involvement of ASEAN students in student everyday life, noting the colorful annual event "Day of Vietnam" organized by the Vietnamese community in MGIMO. In this regard Anatoly Vasilyevich expressed his hope that the number of such communities of Southeast Asian countries in MGIMO will grow faster every year.

The guests of the meeting, in turn, shared with the Rector their impressions of their current study programs and expressed a number of considerations for further improving the educational process for the ASEAN students.

At the end of the meeting, students from the ASEAN countries once again thanked Dr. Anatoly Torkunov for the learning and self-fulfillment opportunities in MGIMO. The rector, for his part, assured the students that MGIMO would continue to provide comprehensive assistance in attracting students from ASEAN countries to MGIMO programs and expanding cooperation with the Association member-states.



March 1

On March 1, 2023, the Eurasian Economic Commission and ASEAN hosted a joint seminar on digital transformation processes. Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Director of the ASEAN Centre, attended the seminar.

The seminar's discussion was focused on several issues related to the current trends of the EAEU and ASEAN digitalization. The Eurasian Economic Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat representatives provided an outlook on the digital agenda of the two integration blocs. The speakers also outlined the today's challenges to the EAEU and ASEAN connected to the information security and digital support of economic processes.

The results of the seminar were summarized by Dr. Sergey Glazyev, Minister of Integration and Macroeconomics of the Eurasian Economic Commission.



March 11

On March 11, 2023, MGIMO hosted the Second All-Russian Contest of Translation in the field of professional communication (social and political translation) in Vietnamese language.

The event was aimed to improve the students' knowledge and practical skills in the field of Vietnamese language and socio-political translation. The contest is also intended to promote information about Vietnam, its foreign policy and Russia-Vietnam relations, as well as to encourage contacts between Russian universities, where Vietnamese language is taught. The event traditionally consisted of two parts: tests for the participants and the round table titled "Diplomatic History of Russia - Vietnam relations".





At the opening ceremony Dr. Olga Maslovet, the Head of the Department of Chinese, Vietnamese, Lao and Thai Languages, Associate Professor, welcomed the contest participants and told them about the traditions of teaching Vietnamese language at the Department. She also emphasized the importance of Vietnam as Russia's strategic partner and announced that there were two new student groups studying Vietnamese at MGIMO School of International relations and School of International Economic relations. H.E. Andrey Tatarinov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (2001-2004), welcomed the guests and noted that holding the competition for the second time becomes a good tradition that demonstrates the importance of Russia-Vietnam relations. Ms. Mai Nguyen Tuyet Hoa, First Secretary of the Embassy of Vietnam in Russia, expressed the Embassy's support and stressed the significance of holding this event. Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Director of the ASEAN Centre, Dr. Petr Tsvetov, First Deputy Chairman of the Central Board of the Russian-Vietnamese Friendship Society, and Mr. Nguyen Quoc Hung, Director of the Traditions and Friendship Fund also delivered their welcoming remarks.



The contest was attended by such distinguished guests as Ms. Mai Nguyen Tuyet Hoa, the First Secretary of the Embassy of Vietnam in Russia, and Ms. Nguyen Bic Hanh, the Second Secretary of the Embassy.

The expert jury was represented by Mr. Alexey Popov, Deputy Director of the Human Resources Department of the MFA of Russia, Ms. Ekaterina Bakeeva, Minister-Counselor of the Russian Federation Embassy in Vietnam, Dr. Elena Tyumeneva, Professor at the Department of Oriental Languages of Higher Language Training Courses of the MFA of Russia, Mr. Nguyen Quoc Hung, Director of Traditions and Friendship Fund, Mr. Pham Thanh Xuan, member of the Vietnamese Citizens Association in Russia, interpreter. H.E. Andrey Tatarinov chaired the jury.

Students from MGIMO, Moscow State Linguistic University, IAAS Moscow State University, National Research University Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg State University and Kazan Federal University took part in the first (written) round of the contest. Sixteen BA and five MA students participated in the second (oral) part of the contest.

The winners among BA students were:

1st place – Mr. Evgeny Moiseev (Moscow, School of Humanities, National Research University Higher School of Economics);

2nd place – Ms. Naina Taibova
(Moscow, Translation Department of Moscow State Linguistic University);

3rd place – Mr. Ilya Trukhin
(Moscow, School of International Relations, MGIMO University).

The winners among MA students were:

1st place – Ms. Anastasia Bobylkina
(St. Petersburg, School of Oriental Studies, Saint Petersburg State University);

2nd place – Mr. Konstantin Chudaykin
(Moscow, Translation Department of Moscow State Linguistic University);

3rd place – Mr. Alexander Serdyukov (Moscow, Translation Department of MSLU).

Individual contestants were awarded in the following categories:

"Best Pronunciation" – Ms. Anastasia Mirgorodova (Moscow, Faculty of Humanities, National Research University Higher School of Economics),

"Best Tempo of Translation" – Ms. Polina Vershinina (Moscow, Translation Department, Moscow State Linguistic University),

"Most Accurate Translation" – Mr. Daniil Medvedev (Moscow, School of International Relations, MGIMO MFA of Russia).

Separately, the winner of "Best Pace of Interpretation" nomination, Ms. Polina Vershinina (Moscow, Translation Department, Moscow State Linguistic University of Linguistics) was awarded the Audience Favorite Prize.

Among the round table speakers on "Diplomatic History of the Russian-Vietnamese Relations" were H.E. Alexei Tatarinov, Ambassador of Russia in Vietnam (2001-2004), Dr. Petr Tsvetov, First Deputy Chairman of the Central Board of the Russian-Vietnamese Friendship Association and Ms. Ekaterina Bakeeva, Minister-Counselor of the Russian Embassy in Vietnam. The speakers told about the history of diplomatic relations between Russia (USSR) and Vietnam, shared their experience of working in Vietnam in diplomatic and translation fields, gave valuable advice to the young specialists and answered the questions.



In addition, a photo exhibition dedicated to the history of friendship and cooperation between Russia and Vietnam was organized on the sidelines of the event. The materials were kindly provided by the contest partners - the Russian-Vietnamese Friendship Society, as well as by the jury members – H.E. Andrey Tatarinov and Ms. Ekaterina Bakeeva.

ASEAN Centre, Russian-Vietnamese Friendship Society (VRS), “Traditions and Friendship” Fund were the contest partners. “Traditions and Friendship” Fund was also the contest’s sponsor.

The Contest Organizing Committee included: Dr. Olga Maslovets, Head of the Department of Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai and Lao Languages, Ms. Svetlana Glazunova, Senior Lecturer of the Department, Ms. Daria Borisova, Lecturer of the Department, Dr. Valeria Vershinina and Ms. Kira Tabunova, Experts of the ASEAN Centre. The contest was moderated by Ms. Nguyen Thao Mi, a 2nd year student of the School of International Economic Relations, and Mr. Alexander Chursin, a 1st year student of the School of International Relations.

The contest received a wide coverage in the Vietnamese media. Newspapers such as Nhan Dan newspaper, Voice of Vietnam, Vietnam Plus and others published news items about the contest: Nhan dan, Vov, Vietnam+, Bao Tin Tuc, Bao Quoc Te, Sputnik.

○ Congratulations to the winners and all participants of the contest!

April 26-28

On April 26-28, 2023 Saint-Petersburg State University held a Congress in Source Studies and Historiography of Asia and Africa. Annually the event brings together leading Russian specialists on Asia and Africa, academicians and young researchers, whose research interests include Asian and African studies.



This year the Congress was dedicated to the 300th anniversary of Saint-Petersburg State University. The ASEAN Centre's Director Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova and Expert Dr. Valeria Vershinina participated in the sessions.

On April 27, Dr. Valeria Vershinina, Expert of the ASEAN Centre participated in the session on “Source Studies and Historiography of Southeast Asia” and presented her research on “Vietnam-ASEAN Relations in Vietnamese Historiography”. She explained the logic of evolution of the Vietnamese approaches towards ASEAN and integration studies, as well as the assessment of the Vietnam’s reasons for joining the Association. She also presented the latest Vietnamese publications on this topic and highlighted the key issues that are in focus of the Vietnamese studies today.

On April 28, Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Director of the ASEAN Centre participated in the round table “Russia and the East: the Current State of Arcs of Instability”. Her presentation focused on the rival regional projects in Asia and current issues of ASEAN-Russia strategic partnership. She noted that with the new Indo-Pacific concepts introduced by the US, Japan, Australia, the EU, the UK and others, the importance of ASEAN to Russia has increased. One of the reasons is that the Association formulated its own non-confrontational vision of Indo-Pacific.

May 17-18

On May 17-18, 2023 the Center for Vietnam and ASEAN Studies of the Institute of China and Contemporary Asia, Russian Academy of Sciences held an international conference “Mainland ASEAN Countries in Regional Integration Processes: Challenges and Prospects of Development”. The Director of the ASEAN Centre, Associate Professor of Asian and African Studies Department Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova and Centre’s Experts Dr. Valeria Vershinina, Dr. Nikita Kuklin and Ms. Kira Tabunova presented their papers at the event.

Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova assessed Thailand’s position on the current political situation in Myanmar in the context of integration processes. Dr. Valeria Vershinina and Dr. Nikita Kuklin analyzed the interaction between Vietnam and Indonesia within ASEAN and the phenomena of regional leadership. Ms. Kira Tabunova focused her presentation on Malaysia’s digital agenda and its cooperation in this area with the countries of Indochina.

Among the conference participants were researchers from leading Russian research institutions, experts from ASEAN countries, representatives from diplomatic missions of ASEAN countries and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia.

May 27

On May 27, 2023 Dr. Nikita Kuklin, Expert of the ASEAN Centre delivered an open lecture "Discovering Indonesia: culture and history" as a part of the Indonesia Days in the Hermitage Garden Moscow, organized by the KBRI Moscow and the Friendship Society with Indonesia on May 27-28, 2023.



The lecture was devoted to the history of Indonesian nation, foundations of its foreign and domestic policy, as well as the key features of the current development of the Indonesian society in terms of culture, economy and politics.

The visitors, representatives of various professions and interests, highly appreciated the speaker's presentation and raised a lot of interesting questions during the Q&A session and beyond. Dr. Valeria Vershinina, Expert of the ASEAN Centre also joined the presentation.

The program of the Indonesia Days also included such events as traditional Indonesian music and dance performances, traditional puppet shadow theatre *wayang kulit*, fashion show and various master classes.



June 15

On June 15, 2023 the International Conference “Greater Eurasian Partnership: new paradigms of the macro-regional development” took place in the Russian State Library and Institute of Asian and African Studies. Director of the ASEAN Centre, Associate Professor of Asian and African Studies Department Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova presented a paper.

The conference participants discussed a wide range of issues of political, economic and socio-cultural development of Eurasia as a macro-region. Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova spoke about the key problems of ASEAN development and the process of Greater Eurasia partnership formation.

June 22-23

On June 22-23, 2023, within the framework of the Universitas Indonesia Faculty mobility program Dr. Nikita Kuklin, Expert of the ASEAN Centre in MGIMO, at the invitation of the Faculty of Humanities of the Universitas Indonesia (FIB UI), delivered a series of lectures on the conceptual foundations of Indonesian foreign policy and Russian-Indonesian relations.

Over 70 attendees comprising of FIB UI and FISIP UI students and lecturers, Diponegoro University students, Russian diplomats from the Embassy and Russian Mission to ASEAN, and representatives of Jakarta Regional People’s Representative Council (DPRD DKI Jakarta) attended the two-day lecture series.

The raised topics sparked public interest and a wide-ranging discussion on the issues related to contemporary international relations and the Asia-Pacific region. The event participants were also able to learn about the ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership, as well as the challenges that the Association faces in the today’s world of political turbulence.



In addition to the academic events, Dr. Nikita Kuklin held a number of meetings with the Faculty of Humanities management, namely with the Dean Dr. Bondan Kanumoyoso, the Vice Dean for academic, research and student affairs Dr. Untung Yuwono and the General manager of the educational programs of the Faculty Dr. Hendra Kaprisma.

The parties agreed in the near future to launch negotiations on the signing of a MoU, which implies student and faculty exchanges as well as the implementation of joint research projects. The Indonesian side invited Russian authors for joint publications in the Scopus-indexed journal of the Faculty named *Wacana*. Dr. Nikita Kuklin, in turn, gifted to the Faculty library a number of new publications of the ASEAN Centre, namely the monographs *ASEAN Way to Integration: Achievements, Challenges, Dilemmas* and *The Conceptual Foundations of Indonesia's Foreign Policy*.



The faculty management highly appreciated the results of the academic program, its content and popularity among students. The Faculty of Humanities (one of the two institutions in the country) provides a program of Russian studies in language, history, and literature. According to the Indonesian side, contacts with Russian universities are especially necessary for high-quality training of specialists on Russia. Dr. Nikita Kuklin emphasized the value of establishing connections with Indonesia, as it provides opportunities for Russian Indonesian studies specialists to visit and engage in educational programs. All this opens up a significant field for educational cooperation between the two countries.

June 27

On June 27, 2023 MGIMO welcomed a high school delegation from Thailand. The visit was organized by the ASEAN Centre, the Embassy of the Kingdom of Thailand in Moscow and Bangkok Metropolitan Administration.

By the initiative of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Thailand in Russia and Bangkok Metropolitan Administration Thai delegation of high school students visited Saint Petersburg and Moscow. During their stay in Saint Petersburg the delegates took part in the Scarlet Sails festival. The event was intended to strengthen cultural dialogue between Russia and Thailand and promote bilateral cultural exchange.





In MGIMO the Thai delegation got acquainted with BA and MA students studying Thai language. The event was attended by Ms. Waraphanee Damrongmanee, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Thailand, Ms. Kanokphan Chinsawananon, First Secretary of the Embassy, Ms. Pimpicha Kerdmanee, International Affairs Officer of BMA, Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Director of the ASEAN Centre and Associate Professor of the Department of Asian and African Studies, Dr. Valeria Vershinina and Ms. Kira Tabunova, Experts of the ASEAN Centre, and Ms. Daria Borisova, Lecturer of Thai language, Department of Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai and Lao languages.



Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova welcomed the Thai guests and highlighted the event's significance for strengthening educational and cultural ties between Russia and Thailand. The representatives of the Embassy of Thailand in Moscow expressed their gratitude to the ASEAN Centre for its help in organizing the delegation's visit. The Thai students told about rich and diverse culture of their motherland and Russian students told about their country's biggest cities. The delegation also had the opportunity to learn more about the activities of the ASEAN Centre and visit the Rare Book and MGIMO History Museums.

August 14

On August 14, 2023, Professor Ruhanas binti Harun from the National Defense University of Malaysia (UPNM) paid a visit to the ASEAN Centre.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Victor Sumsky, the Senior Expert of the ASEAN Centre, along with Experts Dr. Nikita Kuklin, Ms. Kira Tabunova, and Ms. Olesia Pokusaeva. Professor Ruhanas' visit aimed to discuss the current issues of Southeast Asian region's development, interaction between ASEAN countries and Russia, and the bilateral cooperation of Russia and Malaysia.

During the meeting, the Malaysian guest presented her perspective on the regional issues, elaborated on her research endeavors, and shed light on the main activities of her university.



Senior expert of the ASEAN Centre Dr. Victor Sumsky, in turn, presented to the Malaysian colleague the main areas of ASEAN Centre's activity and shared his vision of the topics being discussed. ASEAN Centre's experts also joined the discussion. Professor Ruhanas highly appreciated both the analytical approaches of the Centre's staff and their linguistic skills in Malay, Indonesian and other languages noting that today these are important qualities for a modern-day ASEAN studies expert.

Both sides discussed plans for preparing joint publications and holding academic and educational events aimed at strengthening cooperation between Russia and Malaysia.

August 29



On August 29, 2023 a delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam headed by Dr. Le Dinh Tinh, Director General of the Policy Planning Department, paid a visit to the ASEAN Centre. Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, the Centre's Director and the Associate Professor at the Department of Asian and African Studies welcomed guests.

At the meeting both sides discussed promising areas for cooperation and current issues of international relations including the future role of ASEAN, ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership and Russian-Vietnamese bilateral relations. Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova informed Vietnamese diplomats about the first group of foreign students (including one representative of Vietnam) who will study at the Master's Degree Program "Political Economy of ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership". The annual "Vietnam Day" and the Centre's publications dedicated to the Vietnamese studies were also on the table for discussion.

In September 2021 within the framework of "ASEAN Academic Days" Dr. Le Dinh Tinh delivered an online-lecture to MGIMO audience devoted to "ASEAN in the Global Spotlight: Geostrategic Opportunities and Challenges". The lecture' recording is available on the MGIMO YouTube channel.



Both sides expressed hope for future cooperation in research and inter-university cooperation.

August 31

On August 31, 2023 the President of the Russian Academy of Arts, UNESCO goodwill ambassador Zurab Tsereteli presented a master class for a group of schoolchildren from Thailand.

The schoolchildren's delegation visited the famous "Apple" Hall and observed Zurab Tsereteli's technic of painting. After introductory part of the master class everyone had a chance to create a masterpiece of one's own. Ambassador of Thailand to Russia Sasiwat Wongsinsawat, President of the Creative Expeditions Bureau Vladimir Anisimov, Director of the ASEAN Centre Ekaterina Koldunova and the ASEAN Centre's staff also joined the event.



Фото: Виктор Берёзкин,
пресс-служба РАХ.

The master class became a continuation of a long-term cooperation between the Embassy of Thailand, Creative Expeditions Bureau and the ASEAN Centre and artistic project “In the Land of the Emerald Buddha”.



Фото: Виктор Берёзкин,
пресс-служба РАХ.



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пресс-служба РАХ.



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Фото: Виктор Берёзкин,
пресс-служба РАХ.

July 11 — August 1

ASEAN Centre's Expert Kira Tabunova Visited Center for Southeast Asian Social Studies of Gadjah Mada University

The MMAT 2023 Summer Course Program is an educational platform designed to promote knowledge exchange and better understanding of the geopolitical situation in the Indo-Pacific. The course's mission is to unite lecturers and researchers from different countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Russia, Germany, Finland, Australia, and the UK), and facilitate the experience and research outcomes' exchange. The Program's participants have unique opportunity to communicate with various experts and receive valuable information about the current problems and challenges that region is facing today. During the three weeks course 18 thematic lectures were held. They covered a wide range of issues related to political, economic, social, historical and cultural discourse. Within the framework of this program, Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Director of the ASEAN Centre, Associate Professor of the Department of Asian and African Studies, delivered a lecture titled "Southeast Asia in Russian Perspective".

On July 24, 2023 Ms. Kira Tabunova visited the Center for Southeast Asian Social Studies. As a part of the visit program she met with Dr. Muhadi Sugiono, Head of Research, Journal and Cooperation Division, and Dr. Vissia Ita Yulianto, Head of the Publication, Program and Workshop Division. Dr. Muhadi Sugiono told about the Center activities, the MMAT Summer Courses that have been successfully held since 2016, as well as about the publications issued by the Center. Ms. Kira Tabunova, in turn, presented the activities of the ASEAN Centre, its core mission, annual events organized by the Centre as well as the MA program "Political Economy of the ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership". The ASEAN Centre Expert also gifted to the Center's library the Russian edition of Dr. Marty Natalegawa's book "Does ASEAN Matter? A view from within". Russian translation was edited by Dr. Victor Sumsy, Senior Expert of the ASEAN Centre and published as a part of the Centre's translation projects.

During the meeting, the parties also discussed the prospects for further cooperation between the Centers, as well as between Gadjah Mada University and MGIMO. Both sides agreed in the near future to complete the signing of the MoU, that will imply students and lecturers exchanges, organization of joint seminars and conferences devoted to the current trends and changes related to ASEAN, the Asia-Pacific Region and their cooperation with Russia.



September 2

On September 2, 2023, a delegation of Young Ambassadors of Thailand visited MGIMO. Young Ambassadors is a group of Thai schoolchildren travelling to Moscow and Saint Petersburg under the program of the MFA of Thailand.

MGIMO students majoring in Thai language, MGIMO's lecturers and ASEAN Centre's staff welcomed warmly the Thai schoolchildren. The meeting started with an interactive introduction. ASEAN Centre's Director Ekaterina Koldunova told the delegation about MGIMO University, its traditions of Thai studies and Thai language teaching. Waraphanee Damrongmanee, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Thailand presented the delegation and explained that their mission was to establish friendly contacts with the Russian youth, disseminate information about Thai culture and study the history of diplomatic relations between Russia and Thailand.



The second year students of School of International Relations told the Thai delegation about customs and traditions of various peoples living in Russia and presented a short quiz. The material for presentation were prepared under the guidance of Lecturer of the Department of Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai and Lao Languages Daria Borisova.

Thai schoolchildren told about Young Ambassadors program, their country and the provinces they were coming from, Thailand's customs and culture. They also performed several Thai songs and traditional dances as well as an element of Thai boxing show.

The meeting was organized by the ASEAN Centre and was conducted in Thai language. The previous group of Young Ambassadors of Thailand visited MGIMO in June this year.



September 11

Eastern Economic Forum 2023: MGIMO's Session “New World’s Political and Economic Model”

On September 11, 2023, the Eastern Economic Forum held an expert session “New World’s Political and Economic Model”. The session was organized by MGIMO in cooperation with the ASEAN Centre.

As a result of the pandemic COVID-19, new conflicts, long-term socioeconomic trends the new international order is emerging. It has not yet taken its full shape, it is full of internal contradictions, unstable and immature, but radically differs from the international order of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. The geographic drivers of the new world model are the Asia-Pacific region, Eurasia, including Russia, and African countries. Grasping the features of this new model in the making is the key priority for politicians and the academic community.



Dr. Artem Malgin, MGIMO Vice-Rector for Strategic Development moderated the discussion at the session. In his welcoming remarks he expressed his gratitude to the ASEAN Centre for its contribution to the session's organization. Dr. Artem Malgin pointed out that the ASEAN Centre has been operating for more than a decade, developing and strengthening cooperation with colleagues from the Asia-Pacific region. This year the ASEAN Centre has launched its brand new MA Programme "Political Economy of ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership".

Dr. Kirill Babaev, Director of the Institute of China and Contemporary Asia, Russian Academy of Sciences, said that today we are witnessing a unique period when the system of international relations is changing. "This period is both tragic and significant. A new system of international relations is forming today. We have a chance to reshape the new system of international relations so it could take a more promising, understandable and stable form," Dr. Kirill Babaev noted.

Dr. Ulugbek Khasanov, Head of the Department of International Relations, University of World Economy and Diplomacy (Uzbekistan), mentioned that today's international dynamic is shifting towards the regional level. "The regions now are the drivers of the ongoing processes. The investment, technological, industrial, transport and logistical partners and markets of Central Asia are Russia and China," noted Dr. Ulugbek Khasanov.



Dr. Andrey Keller, the Operator of the state university support program “Priority 2030”, Director of the Sociocenter, stated that, despite the geopolitical changes, science and education have no limitations. “The interaction between researchers and educators from the Asia-Pacific countries and Russia is a potentially powerful tool for jointly solving global economic and technological challenges. As a part of “Priority 2030”, participating universities are significantly strengthening the international cooperation with the Asia-Pacific countries. The cooperation between Russian and foreign universities is visible in the scientific and technological spheres. We are talking about many areas, including agro-biotechnology, transport infrastructure, transport and logistics complex development... This cooperation allows partner countries to form technological sovereignty and enrich themselves with new knowledge that is necessary for their development,” Dr. Andrey Keller emphasized.

Dr. Pornchai Danvivathana, Secretary General of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue, Thailand, presented his vision of the world’s new political and economic model. He noted that after the Second World War, a number of Asian countries experienced significant economic growth, which became possible thanks to technological innovation, infrastructure development and education. Investment and trade have played and continue to play a crucial role in the region’s economic development.

“The Far East countries have become successful export economies and established trade partnerships with many other states. These outcomes resulted in the world’s model reshaping. Moreover, some countries of the region joined the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The new political model, as for me, is a model where the economy becomes the driving force for achieving the sustainable development goals and political stability. Due to this concept politics and economy complement each other and Asia can be considered as the world’s economic driver,” Dr. Pornchai Danvivathana said.

Dr. Carlos Tabunda, Dean of the Faculty of International Relations at the New Era University (Philippines), outlined that the Philippines now carefully examine what is happening in the international arena. “The Western civilization perspective, that considers itself as the defining one, contributes to the world’s polarization today while such integrational groupings as BRICS facilitate the civilizations’ rapprochement. If we join BRICS, it can open up new opportunities for us, since the BRICS members are the future economic leaders. BRICS membership will provide the Philippines with low prices for energy sources and trade with its member-states. And this move will assist us in fighting such a pressing problem as inflation,” Dr. Carlos Tabunda emphasized.

Dr. Khamsen Sisavong, Vice President of Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, highlighted that in the region the Lao PDR is now dealing with neighbors with politically different systems: capitalist in Thailand, communist in some other neighboring countries. “Today the Laos PDR’s government is trying to facilitate investment from China and other Asian countries, and ten years ago we were trying to attract investors from Europe. Currently we continue to promote Russian investment here, since Russia and Laos had strong relations in past years. Now we have a great opportunity to restore them,” Dr. Khamsen Sisavong said.

Mr. Sergey Krasilnikov, Vice President-Managing Director of the Department of International Bilateral Cooperation of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, in turn, mentioned that today the world community must redevelop international regulations. “We should not abandon some of the old ones that form the basis for world’s trade and economy, but the others demand creative approach. How should we redevelop these new international regulations? The discussion on this issue is not over yet. We are all different, but we have a lot in common: trade, mutual economic ties, mutual benefit. Let’s do not forget about his,” Mr. Sergey Krasilnikov noted.

September 11

On September 11, 2023 the ASEAN Centre's staff met with Dr. Jiraporn Ruampongpattana, Lecturer at Srinakharinwirot University (Bangkok, Thailand).

The parties discussed joint research and educational projects, including upcoming annual conference of the ASEAN Centre within the framework of Russian International Studies Association's Convention, the Day of Thailand and educational exchanged within the framework of MA Program "Political Economy of ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership".



September 15

On September 15, 2023 Captain Sunsearn Sadod, Thai Naval Attaché to Moscow paid a visit to the ASEAN Centre. Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Centre's Director, Dr. Valeria Vershinina, Deputy Director and Experts Dr. Nikita Kuklin and Ms. Kira Tabunova welcomed the guest.

The visit's purpose was to present to the ASEAN Centre's library a book "King of Thailand, King Bhumibhol" in Thai language, dedicated to the biography of H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great and the history of Thai monarchy. Captain Sunsearn Sadod expressed his sincere hope that this book will be helpful for students, majoring in Thai studies and interested in the Kingdom's history.



Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova thanked the guest for such a valuable gift to the Centre's book library and stressed that this album will be useful for the study of contemporary Thailand and Thai language classes. Director also introduced to naval attaché new educational programs focused on Russia and ASEAN relations, and presented new opportunities for Thai students to study in MGIMO, including the MA Program "Political Economy of ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership".



Donated books are now available at the ASEAN Centre for those who wish to understand the history of monarchy in Thailand and the role of King Rama IX in the countries' development.

September 21

On September 21, 2023 the Christian University of Indonesia (UKI) and the Indonesian Institute of Advanced International Studies (INADIS) held an online seminar on the topic “ASEAN-Russia Relations in the Current Multipolar Geopolitical Landscape”. Director of the ASEAN Centre, Associate Professor of the MGIMO Department of Asian and African Studies Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova and ASEAN Centre Expert Dr. Nikita Kuklin were invited as keynote speakers.

At the seminar, the participants evaluated the current regional situation, examined Russian and Indonesian approaches to interaction within the ASEAN platform, analyzed the conceptual foundations of the foreign policies of both countries, discussed ways to develop Russian-Indonesian relations, and explored Russia's international role in Southeast Asia.

The poster features three circular portraits of the participants: Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova (Speaker), Dr. Nikita Kuklin (Speaker), and Darynaul Mulyaman, S.S., M.Si. (Moderator). Logos for UKI, ASEAN Centre MGIMO, and INADIS are displayed at the top right. The text on the poster reads: "IR STUDY PROGRAM, AREA STUDIES (CLASS C) PRESENTS Webinar: ASEAN-Russia Relations in the Current Multipolar Geopolitical Landscape". The date and time are "SEPTEMBER 21 | 12 PM GMT+7". The location is "HYBRID CLASSROOM FISIPOL UKI, JAKARTA / MICROSOFT TEAMS".

CONTACT PERSON: ZICO (+628129137406)

Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova shared her outlook on significant geopolitical challenges in the Asia-Pacific region and their impact on ASEAN and Russia. Dr. Nikita Kuklin, in turn, presented his view of the current state of cooperation between Russia and Indonesia on the ASEAN platform from the position of value and normative based approach towards international relations. Deputy Director of the ASEAN Centre Dr. Valeria Vershinina and Centre's Expert Ms. Kira Tabunova also joined the event as audience members.

The discussion was followed by a Q&A session.



October 4

On October 4, 2023 Experts from the ASEAN Center took part in the panel discussion “Southeast and East Asia in the international arena” which was a part of the II All-Russian Forum of International Relations Students.

From October 2 to October 6, the II All-Russian Forum of International Relations Students was held in Moscow, organized by the Gorchakov Public Diplomacy Fund and the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia. As a part of this event, IR students from all over Russia come to Moscow to take part in the discussions on strategies for creating abroad a socially and politically favorable climate for Russia, as well as promote business interactions.

The panel discussion “Southeast and East Asia in the international arena” was attended by Deputy Director of the Third Department of Asia of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sergey Tolchenov, Associate Professor of the Department of International Relations of the Diplomatic Academy of the MFA of Russia Dr. Peter Tsvetov, Deputy Director of the ASEAN Centre in MGIMO Dr. Valeria Vershinina and Experts from the ASEAN Center Ms. Kira Tabunova and Ms. Olesia Pokusaeva. The participants discussed the functioning of ASEAN, the ASEAN centrality concept and the formats within which the Association cooperates with extra-regional actors. The experts also spoke on the main areas of bilateral interaction between Russia and ASEAN member-states, as well as answered questions from the audience.



October 19-20

On October 19–20, 2023, the IX International Academic Conference “Asian and African Readings. Religion, Culture, Literature” was held at the Institute of World Literature of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IWL RAS). The conference was organized by the Department of Asian and African Literature of IWL RAS and Lecturers of the Department of Iranian Philology and the Department of Philology of Southeast Asia, Korea and Mongolia of the Institute of Asian and African Studies of the Moscow State University. Ms. Kira Tabunova, ASEAN Centre Expert, presented her research at the conference.

As a part of the conference program speakers delivered their presentations on the literature and culture of the Middle East, Far East, Africa, and Southeast Asia region. During the first day of the conference a separate session devoted to South Asia and Southeast Asia literature was held. Such prominent researchers as Dr. Evgenia Kukushkina and Dr. Vera Saengnatesvang, Senior Research Fellows of IWL RAS, Dr. Anatoly Sokolov, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Oriental Studies RAS, Dr. Marina Frolova and Ms. Yulia Ershova, Senior Lecturers of the Department of Philology of Southeast Asia, Korea and Mongolia IAAS MSU, as well as Ms. Kira Tabunova, ASEAN Centre’s Expert, participated in the session’s discussion. The ASEAN Centre Expert presented her research results on the topic: “Scene Types in Malay Theatre: from Traditional Theatre till Modern Drama”.

The session’s participants highly appreciated Ms. Kira Tabunova’s presentation and emphasized the importance of maintaining Malay literature studies as well as studies devoted to the modern drama.

November 3

On November 3, 2023 the exhibition “In the Shadow of the Angkorian Towers. The Art of Cambodia” dedicated to the artistic crafts and arts of Cambodia opened in the main building of the State Museum of Oriental Art. MGIMO BA students majoring in Khmer and Thai language took part in the opening ceremony.



The exhibition features more than 150 artistic objects from the collection of the State Museum of Oriental Art, including ceremonial vessels, religious objects, Buddhist sculpture and much more. The exhibition will be working until January 14, 2024.

The museum's official website notes that in 20 years this is the first exhibition dedicated exclusively to the art of Cambodia. Remarkably, in 2023 the Kingdom of Cambodia celebrates the 70th anniversary of its independence. On November 9, 1953, the French colonial administration officially withdrew from Cambodia.

November 13

On November 13, 2023 Director of the ASEAN Centre, Associate Professor of the Department of Asian and African Studies Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova conducted a methodological workshop for the participants of the InteRussia program in MGIMO.

Every participant got a chance to discuss one's own research project and methodological solutions to it. Participants highly appreciated individual approach and the interactive organization of the workshop. The ASEAN Centre traditionally supports the InteRussia program. Young researchers and professionals from the ASEAN member states regularly take part in the program.



November 15

On November 15, 2023 at the invitation of H.E. Faizal bin Shani, Charge d'Affaires of Malaysia to the Russian Federation, the ASEAN Centre staff visited the Embassy of Malaysia in Moscow and took part in a working meeting.



The meeting was devoted to the discussion of the promising areas for academic and educational cooperation between the Embassy and the ASEAN Centre. The parties presented their vision of events and programs that could be jointly developed in order to expand knowledge about Malaysia's culture, economy, politics and history in Russia and discussed the exchange of experience between diplomats, academicians and students of both countries.

At the meeting, the ASEAN Centre was represented by a delegation consisting of Director of the ASEAN Centre Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Deputy Director Dr. Valeria Vershinina, and Centre's Experts Dr. Nikita Kuklin and Ms. Kira Tabunova.



November 21

On November 21, 2023 the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta hosted an expert round table titled “EAEU and ASEAN Economic Agenda: Overlapping Interests” organized by the ASEAN Centre and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) within the framework of the EAEU Days in Jakarta.

Member of the Board, Minister for Integration and Macroeconomics of the Eurasian Economic Commission H.E. Sergey Glaziev presented an overview of the EAEU Economic Agenda, Assistant Director/Head of Analysis & Monitoring on Trade, Industry & Emerging Issues Division, ASEAN Economic Community Department (AEC Department) Mr. Alexander Chandra, Vice-Secretary of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Mr. Fedor Chernitsyn delivered welcoming remarks and keynote speeches.



Director of the ASEAN Centre, Associate Professor of the Asian and African Department Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova spoke about the ways to enhance the track 2 dialogue between the representatives of the EEU and ASEAN. ASEAN Centre's Expert Dr. Nikita Kuklin moderated the round table discussion. Participants exchanged opinions of the EAEU and ASEAN economic strategies beyond 2025, two organizations' integrational experience and their points of convergence.

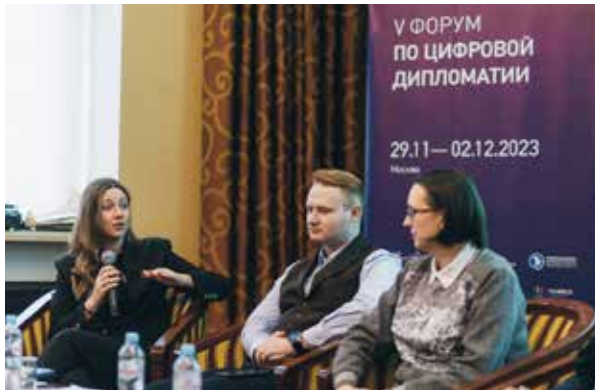
Among the round table participants were prominent Russian and foreign experts from Indonesia, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan, Russia's permanent mission to ASEAN staff and the representatives of the EEC and ASEAN Secretariat. The round table took place within the framework of the EAEU's Days in the ASEAN Secretariat.



December 1

On December 1, 2023, the ASEAN Centre organized a panel within the V Digital Diplomacy Forum. The panel discussion focused on the most recent digitalization trends in the Asia Pacific and Southeast Asia.

Director of the ASEAN Centre, Associate Professor at the Department of Asian and African Studies Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova presented a paper titled “Integration processes in ASEAN: digitalization and digital trends in the new era”. President of the B2B Vostok Mr. Amerigo Tatel spoke about the process of smart cities creation in the Philippines against the background of economic challenges the county has been facing nowadays.





Deputy Director of the ASEAN Centre Dr. Valeria Vershinina focused her presentation on the current trends of digitalization in Vietnam. Head of the Department for International Development of the Association of Lawyers of Russia Ms. Chami Vu told the forum's participants about such relatively new phenomena as online dispute settlement in the Asia Pacific states. Expert of the ASEAN Centre Dr. Nikita Kuklin concluded the series of presentations with a talk about digital transformation and ICT sector development in Indonesia. The Russian International Affairs Council Program Manager Ms. Yuliya Melnikova moderated the discussion.

December 3-9

From December 3 until December 9, 2023 the Gorchakov Fund conducted its flagship educational program – “Dialogue for the Future”. This year one of its sessions was dedicated to the B2B and humanitarian cooperation of Russia and ASEAN. The session was organized with the support of the MGIMO’s ASEAN Centre.



Russia and ASEAN are long-standing partners whose contacts over the past quarter century, however, have been largely limited to high official and grassroots levels of humanitarian ties (primarily tourism). More comprehensive forms of scientific, educational, cultural cooperation, and business ties have lagged behind political dynamics. Now, thanks to and in spite of various international restrictions, Russia and ASEAN have a unique chance to expand and make more significant the humanitarian and business components of cooperation. What is the first thing we should pay attention to? What are the visible points of common interest between Russia and ASEAN in the area of business communication? What areas of humanitarian relations are becoming the most relevant today?

These and other questions were raised and discussed by the participants of the session. Among them were Director of the ASEAN Centre, Associate Professor at the Department of Asian and African Studies Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Chairman of the Lao State Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mr. Udet Suvannavong, Director of Russia-ASEAN Business Council Mr. Daniyar Akkaziev and Deputy Director of the Cambodian Centre for Regional Studies Mr. Him Rotha. The questions and answers session followed the presentations.

ZOOM & BEYOND



February 8

ASEAN Centre at the Chiang Mai University Comparative Regionalism Workshop

On February 8, 2023 Director of the ASEAN Centre, Associate Professor of the Department of Asian and African Studies Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova and ASEAN Centre's Expert Dr. Nikita Kuklin participated as speakers in the comparative regionalism workshop organized by the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration of Chiang Mai University in Thailand.





Within the framework of the session "Theories and Methodology" Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova delivered a presentation on the topic "Towards Non-Western Regionalism: What does the regional level of analysis explain about contemporary IR?". Dr. Nikita Kuklin in the "Case Studies" session, introduced his analysis of "Globalization and regionalization through the lens of Indonesian traditional political culture".

The ASEAN Centre's presentations sparked a lively discussion among the regional studies scholars from Bangladesh, Germany, India, Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka. The workshop attendees expressed special interest in the possibilities of Russian participation in the regional development projects, in particular in the Mekong River area of Indochina.

The workshop participants discussed in detail the development of different conceptual approaches to regionalism, the current geopolitical situation, the possibility of linking regional integration projects in South and Southeast Asia, as well as many other important issues of regional studies' methodology. As a workshop outcome, it is planned to publish a collective monograph.

The ASEAN Centre expresses its gratitude to the colleagues from Chiang Mai University in Thailand for the opportunity to participate in this research event as a partner of the research workshop.

February 17

On February 17, 2023 the School of Regional and International Studies of the Far Eastern Federal University held a roundtable on the problems and prospects of the Russia-Myanmar relations. The event was dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The roundtable was attended by Dr. Ksenia Efremova, Associate Professor of the Department of Asian and African Studies and Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Director of the ASEAN Centre.

The roundtable session was opened by welcoming remarks by Dr. Evgeny Vlasov, the FEFU Vice-Rector for International Relations, Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies, H.E. Lwin Oo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Myanmar to Russia, H.E. Nikolay Listopadov Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Russia to Myanmar, Mr. Sai Kyaw Nain Oo, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology of Myanmar, and Mr. Aung Ko, Director General of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar.

Dr. Ksenia Efremova in her presentation focused on the achievements, prospects and problems of contemporary Russia-Myanmar relations. She stressed the invariably friendly nature of Russia-Myanmar relations, which are built on the solid foundation of bilateral cooperation laid back in the Soviet times.

Among the characteristic of Russia-Myanmar interaction, the participants noted a common understanding of key political issues of our time (in particular, Russia's special military operation in Ukraine), shared traditional cultural and religious values, mutual interest in learning each other's language and history, and the practice of providing grant assistance in emergency situations (cyclone Nargiz, coronavirus pandemic, etc.) and close economic cooperation under Western sanctions.



Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova in her commentary noted the need to stop the disinformation campaigns against Russia and Myanmar by the Western media and not to succumb to provocations.

MGIMO is actively developing cooperation with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. On November 22–27, 2022, a delegation of the University headed by Dr. Stanislav Surovtsev, Vice-Rector for Youth Policy, Social Work and International Relations visited Myanmar. The delegation included Dr. Ksenia Efremova, Associate Professor of the Department of Asian and African Studies and Dr. Denis Degterev, Professor of the Department of World Economy.

March 14

On March 14, 2023 international workshop “Understanding Security Communities and Security Dilemmas in the 2000s” took place in the hybrid form.

Director of the ASEAN Centre, Associate Professor of Department of Asian and African Studies Ekaterina Koldunova presented a paper focused on the Political and Security Community of ASEAN in the context of security community theories.



March 21

On March 21, 2023, Institute of Economics of the Russian Academy of Sciences organized research seminar titled “East Asia and the New International Order in the Making”. The seminar was held in memory of Dr. Marina Trigubenko.

Director of the ASEAN Centre, Associate Professor at the Department of Asian and African Studies Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova presented a paper “Geopolitical and geoeconomic risks to the ASEAN Economic Community”.

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. The main window displays a PowerPoint slide titled "Intentions to study abroad". The slide features a pie chart and a list of restraining factors. The pie chart is divided into four segments: a large purple segment (72.9%), a green segment (29.3%), a small blue segment (27.6%), and a very small red segment (20.4%). The list of restraining factors includes:

- comfort of living in a familiar environment, close to family and friends (72.9%);
- poor knowledge of foreign languages (29.3%);
- financial aspect (27.6%);
- high demand for national diplomas (20.4%);
- Negative experience, including from friends/relatives (1.4%)

On the right side of the Zoom window, there is a vertical list of participant names: Ekaterina Kol..., Georgy Tolora..., Александр К..., and Do Huong La... (highlighted with a green border). Above the names are small profile pictures, including one of a man in a suit and another of a woman with a red heart icon.

March 20-22

On March 20-22, 2023, the Society for friendship and cooperation with Russia organized a conference titled “Russia-Indonesia: trade, investments, cooperation”.

Ambassador of Russia to Indonesia H. E. Liudmila Vorobieva and Ambassador of Indonesia to Russia H. E. Jose Antonio Morato Tavares presented their welcoming remarks.

Director of the ASEAN Centre, Associate Professor of Asian and African Studies Department Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova and ASEAN Centre’s Expert Dr. Nikita Kuklin presented their papers at the conference.



July 18

On July 18, 2023 Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Director of the ASEAN Centre and Associate Professor at the Department of Asian and African Studies, delivered a lecture within a framework of summer course of one of Indonesia's leading universities — Gadjah Mada.

During her lecture Dr. Koldunova spoke about historical and contemporary aspects of Russia's relations with Southeast Asia. The audience raised a number of questions after the lecture. Gadjah Mada University's summer courses traditionally gather together lecturers and students from Indonesia and many other countries. They presuppose an extensive lecture program devoted to different aspects of Southeast Asia's development in the macro-regional context.

This year MGIMO students majoring in Indonesia joined the course. ASEAN Centre's Expert Kira Tabunova became an offline participant of the course.

Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova continued a series of collaborative efforts between the ASEAN Centre and Gadjah Mada University. Both parties aim for joint research and educational activities.



MMAT 2023 SUMMER COURSE PROGRAM
Southeast Asia in the Dynamic of Indo-Pacific
 Organized by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies Universitas Gadjah Mada
 Supported by Department of Education and Future Design Tamkang University

Tuesday, July 18th
13.00 - 14.30 (GMT+7)



Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova
 Moscow State Institute of International Relations
 (Russia)

Topic:
Southeast Asia in the Russian Perspective

Online via Zoom Meeting
 Meeting ID: 633 436 6153
 Passcode: MMAT2023
 Link: <http://ugm.id/ZoomMMAT2023>


asean@ugm.ac.id
<http://www.ugm.ac.id>
 +62 852 7627 9196 (Medan)
 @aseanugm

August 8

On August 8, 2023 a memorandum of cooperation between MGIMO University and Asia Pacific University (APU), Malaysia, was signed in an online format.

At the ceremony, MGIMO University was represented by Dr. Andrey Baykov, Vice-Rector for Science and Research, and Ms. Olga Khotyashева, Director of the Institute of Marketing and Entrepreneurship, while APU was represented by Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Ho Chin Kuan and Manager of International Relations Mr. Adrian Chan.

The memorandum gave the students doing their Master's Degree in Industrial Marketing of Goods and Services an opportunity to spend their second year studying Global Marketing in Kuala Lumpur.

Dr. Andrey Baykov stressed that this agreement laid the foundation for the cooperation between the universities both in joint double degree programs and in other strategically important MGIMO development areas, including the ASEAN Centre, which is developing economic and humanitarian ties between Russia and the countries of Southeast Asia that are ASEAN Member States.



Thus, the agreement between MGIMO University and APU marks the beginning of large-scale cooperation between the largest universities of Russia and Malaysia both in terms of education and academic, technical and cultural exchanges.

Earlier in May, representatives of the MGIMO Institute of Marketing and Entrepreneurship visited a number of major universities in Malaysia in order to establish long-term partnerships through the Master's Program "Industrial Marketing of Goods and Services" and the Business Incubator, a center for start-up entrepreneurship.

Asia Pacific University (APU) was founded in 1993 and currently offers training in a wide range of areas, including business, information technology, engineering, design, etc. APU is the only university in Malaysia that has received a QS 5 Star+ rating and at the same time is in the QS World Ranking 2024 and in 2.2% of the best universities in the world.

MGIMO IME and APU have a lot in common: industry practices are an important part of the training, many subjects are taught in modules, graduation papers are practical projects, and educational programs are well compatible in terms of content and volume.

The possibility of completing the second year of study abroad has been one of the important advantages of the "Industrial Marketing of Goods and Services" program since its very foundation. For eight years, dozens of IMGS graduates have become holders of a double diploma from MGIMO University and leading foreign universities, including Henley Business School (Great Britain), Dublin Institute of Technology (Ireland), ESC Rennes School of Business (France), Glion Institute of Higher Education and Les Roches International School of Hotel Management (Switzerland).

In the near future, memoranda of cooperation are to be signed with a number of foreign universities in Malaysia and Turkey.

September 11-13

On September 11-13, 2023 the Far Eastern Federal University hosted the 12th APEC Conference on Cooperation in Higher Education within the framework of the Eastern Economic Forum. Director of the ASEAN Centre, Associate Professor of the Department of Asian and African Studies Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova presented her report at the conference.

Dr. Koldunova's presentation titled "Get it all: multi-skills in the contemporary higher education model" focused on the multi-skill training in the contemporary higher education institutions and on the development of individual educational tracks. Other topics of discussion covered IT, the use of neural networks and AI in the education process.

The conference participants included representatives of the leading higher education institutions of Russia, China, Myanmar, India, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia and India. The working language of discussions was English.

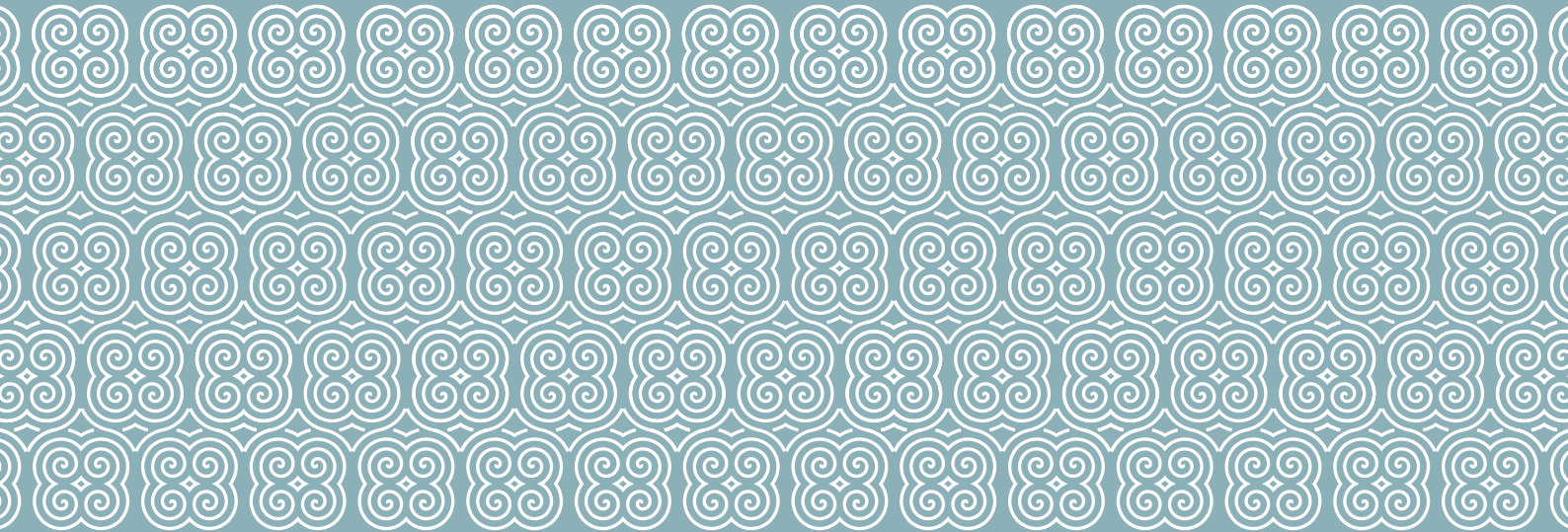


Get it all: multi- skills in the contemporary higher education model

**Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Director, ASEAN Centre
Associate Professor, Department of Asian and African
Studies
Moscow State Institute of International Relations**

**APEC Conference on Cooperation in Higher
Education in Asia-Pacific Region, FEFU, Vladivostok,
September 2023**

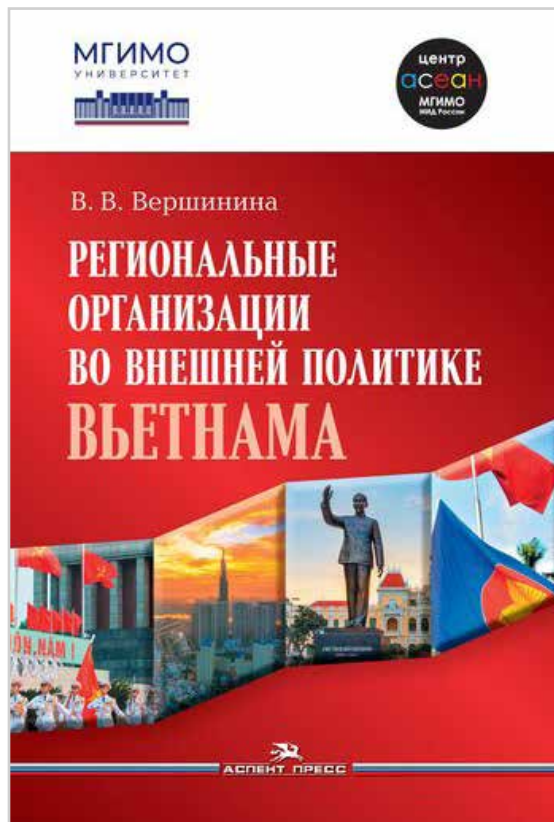
PUBLICATIONS & COMMENTS



• **Regional Organizations in Vietnam's Foreign Policy: a Middle Powers Concept Perspective - a monograph by Dr. Valeria Vershinina**

The monograph presents the results of a profound research dedicated to the role of regional organizations in Vietnam's foreign policy from a middle powers concept perspective. The monograph reviews the key theoretical approaches to middle powers, highlights the main stages of the concept's development, and analyzes the role of regional organizations in the foreign policy of middle powers. Considerable attention is paid to Vietnam's relations with three regional organizations, namely with ASEAN, APEC and ADMM+. The author also studies Vietnam's foreign policy strategy, its principles, development and transformation.

The book is originally designed for the students of IR, Asian and African studies scholars, historians, lecturers, graduate and postgraduate students.



The book is available on the publisher's website

• **ASEAN on the Way of Integration:
Achievements, Challenges, Dilemmas**

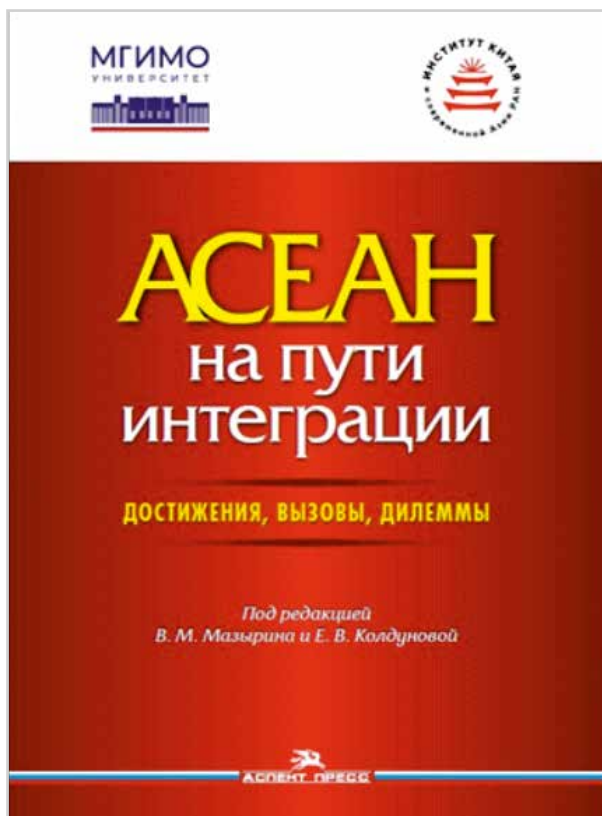
Aspect Press Publishing House published a comprehensive collective monograph *ASEAN on the Way of Integration: Achievements, Challenges, Dilemmas* edited by Vladimir Mazyrin and Ekaterina Koldunova. The monograph starts with the foreword by the MGIMO Rector, Academician Anatoly Torkunov.

In the contemporary world ASEAN presents not only an example of a successful regional integration, but also an organizing force behind a wide-spread network of macro-regional multilateral institutions in the Asia Pacific. At the same time, the growing turbulence in the international relations, political, economic and socio-cultural transformations of the world pose a number of challenges to ASEAN. The authors undertook an effort to present a systemic analysis of these challenges and subsequent dilemmas.

The collective monograph contains chapters from the authors belonging to a wide range of research institutions, including Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Institute of China and Contemporary Asia, Higher School of Economics, Diplomatic Academy of the MFA of Russia, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Institute for Demographic Research, Military University, and Valdai Discussion Club.

The monograph results from a long-term research work and a number of research seminars and conferences held in MGIMO and the Institute of China and Contemporary Asia. It will be interesting for students, IR and Regional Studies scholars as well as for everyone interested in the present day of ASEAN's development.

In November 2023, the book received the first prize in the all-Russia book contest of the Russian Political Science Association as the best interdisciplinary study.



The book is
available on
the publisher's
website



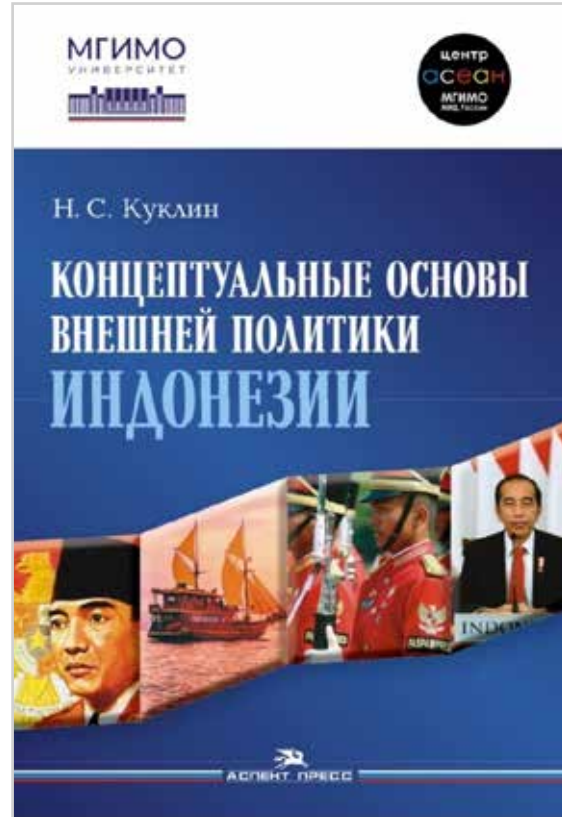
• **Nikita Kuklin**
**Conceptual Foundations
of Indonesian Foreign Policy**

The book is devoted to the issue of ideological, practical, and philosophical foundations of Indonesia's foreign policy formation from 1945 to 2022.

The author analyzes the change of key historical periods within the Indonesian foreign policy doctrine development and its relationship with the domestic and foreign policy landmarks relevant for each period.

Considerable attention is also paid to the origins of the Indonesian statehood formation and the Indonesia Pancasila state ideology-philosophy, its particular influence on the Indonesian political culture.

The book also focuses on the foreign policy continuity at each of the historical stages of Indonesia's independent development. At the same time, the author considers several key conceptual provisions and doctrines' transformation, which have an impact on the contemporary Indonesian foreign policy toolkit.



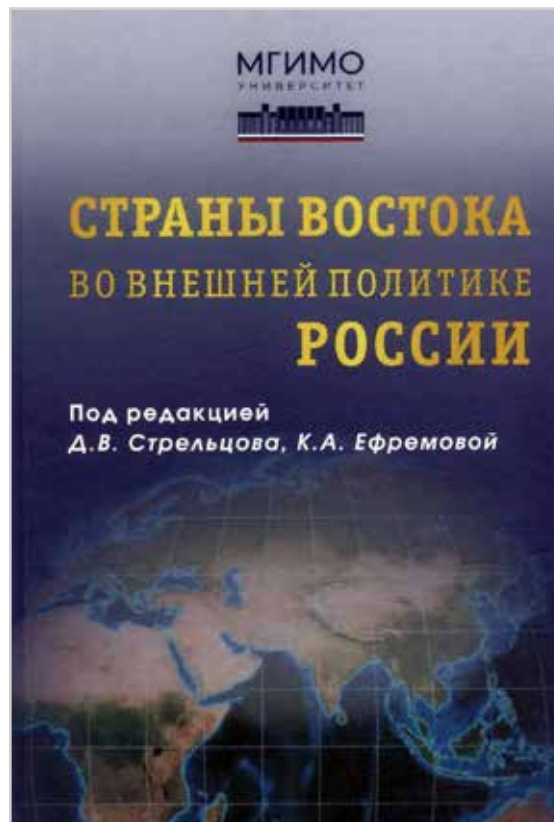
The book is available on
the publisher's website

• **Handbook *Asian and African States in Russia's Foreign Policy* (edited by Dmitry Streltsov and Ksenia Efremova).**

Director of the ASEAN Centre, Associate Professor Ekaterina Koldunova contributed to the chapter about relations between Russia and ASEAN.

The handbook speaks about the role of Asia and Africa in Russia's foreign policy in the post-bipolar period and focuses on the most recent developments. The chapter "Russia and ASEAN Member States" explores the dynamics of Russia's relations with the Association and Russia's relations with individual Southeast Asian states. Authors of the chapter are Ekaterina Koldunova, Ksenia Efremova, Nikolay Maletin, Natalia Khokhlova and Maxim Sunnerberg.

The handbook will be helpful for the students majoring in International Relations and World Regional Studies as well as to the broader readership interested in Russia's foreign policy and international relations in Asia.



The ASEAN Centre Staff has actively contributed to academic publications:

• **Lao language for future diplomats: textbook by Sergey Lizogub edited by Liudmila Larionova;**

MGIMO University,
Department of Chinese, Vietnamese,
Laotian and Thai Languages.
– Moscow: MGIMO University,
2022. – 167 p.
ISBN 978-5-9228-2575-7

The textbook was published to deepen language knowledge of the vocabulary of politics and international relations for students studying Lao language as their second or third foreign language. The textbook includes such topics as diplomatic activity, international relations, ASEAN inter-regional cooperation, international organisations, military cooperation, human rights protection etc. Units' materials will significantly increase the vocabulary on the main aspects of diplomatic practice and a wide range of international relations issues. The textbook also contains multimedia educational materials (audio files), that allow to train audio perception of Lao texts.

Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Director of the ASEAN Centre, was one of the reviewers of the textbooks.



• A research by ASEAN Centre's Director Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova and ASEAN Centre's Experts Dr. Valeria Vershinina and Dr. Nikita Kuklin was published in one of the leading Russian academic journals *Vestnik RUDN. International Relations* dedicated to the analysis of non-Western approaches towards peacekeeping.

The paper explores Southeast Asian States' approaches to peacekeeping and conflict resolution based on the comparison of three cases, namely Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. It became a result of authors' participation in a series of People Friendship University's research seminars dedicated to the non-Western peacekeeping.

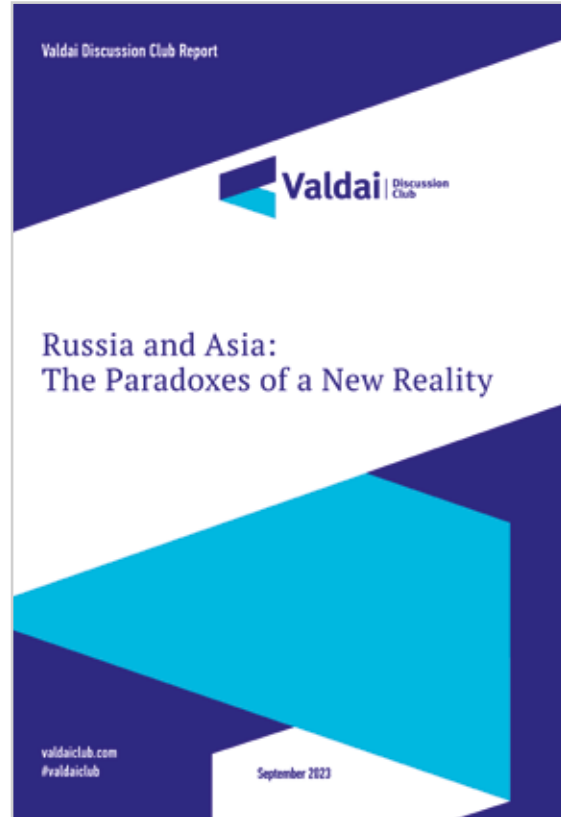
Vestnik RUDN. International Relations is indexed in RSCI, Scopus, Ulrich's Periodicals Directory and a number of other international indexing systems.



To read the article in Russian and English please follow the link.

• **Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova,
Dr. Victor Sumsky**
***Valdai Discussion Club Report:
Russia and Asia:
The Paradoxes of a New reality***

Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova and Dr. Victor Sumsky contributed to the collective report of Valdai Discussion club.



• **Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific has published its annual Regional Security Outlook.**

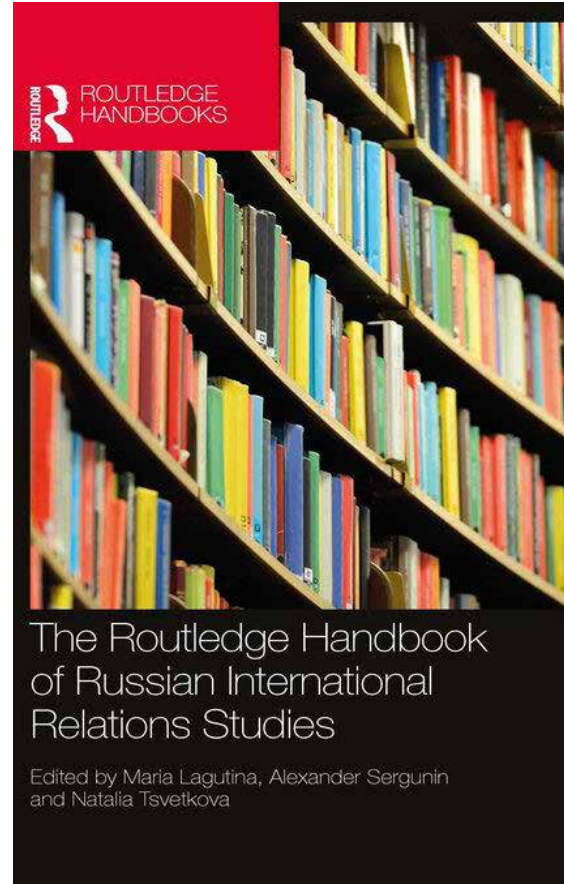
The Outlook presents an overview of the regional trends in the political and strategic domain and contains country-focused chapters. This year Director of the ASEAN Centre, Associate Professor at the Department of Asian and African Studies Ekaterina Koldunova contributed the chapter dedicated to Russia.



The full text of the
CSCAP Regional
Security Outlook 2024
can be downloaded
here.

• ***The Routledge Handbook of Russian International Relations Studies***
**Edited by Dr. Maria Lagutina,
Dr. Natalia Tsvetkova
and Dr. Alexander Sergunin.**

One of the Handbook's chapters co-authored by the Director of the ASEAN Centre Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Head of the Asian and African Studies Department Prof. Dr. Dmitry Streltsov and Professor of Higher School of Economics Dr. Sergey Sevastianov focuses on Russian studies of the Asia Pacific Region. The part of the chapter written by Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova speaks in detail about the main directions of Russian Southeast Asian studies.



Selected comments, interviews and articles for Russian and Southeast Asian mass media in 2023:

• Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova

Koldunova Ekaterina. Comment to Vietnamese Newspaper Thanh Nien, January, 2023,
<https://asean.mgimo.ru/news/2023/koldunova-thanhvien-01-23>

Koldunova Ekaterina. Comment to the Vietnamese VTV4 News Program, February, 2023,
<https://asean.mgimo.ru/en/news/2023/koldunova-vtv4-02-23>

Koldunova Ekaterina. Comment to Vietnamese Newspaper Thanh Nien, March, 2023,
<https://asean.mgimo.ru/en/news/2023/koldunova-thanhvien-03-23>

Koldunova Ekaterina. Elections in Thailand: why the opposition has won? A comment for the Russian International Affairs Council. June 5, 2023.
<https://russiancouncil.ru/analytics-and-comments/analytics/vybory-v-tailande-pochemu-oppozitsiya-pobedila/> (in Russian)

Koldunova Ekaterina. Comment to Vietnamese Newspaper Thanh Nien, June, 2023,
<https://asean.mgimo.ru/news/2023/koldunova-thanh-nien-06-23>

Koldunova Ekaterina. Comment to Russian newspaper Kommersant (in Russian), July, 2023,
<https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/6098512>

Koldunova Ekaterina. Comment to Russian newspaper Vedomosti (in Russian), September, 2023, <https://www.vedomosti.ru/politics/articles/2023/09/15/995311-rossiya-i-myanmar-namereni-ukrepit-svyazi-v-ekonomike>

Koldunova Ekaterina. Comment to Russian newspaper Vedomosti (in Russian), September, 2023,
<https://www.vedomosti.ru/society/articles/2023/09/26/997081-rossiiskie-studenti-stali-chasche-vibirat-yuar-singapur-i-yuzhnuyu-koreyu>

Koldunova Ekaterina. Comment to Russian newspaper Vedomosti (in Russian), September, 2023,
<https://www.vedomosti.ru/politics/articles/2023/09/08/994061-lavrov-obsudil-s-ministrom-inostrannih-del-indii-problemu-rossiiskih-rupii>

Koldunova Ekaterina. Comment to Russian newspaper Vedomosti (in Russian), September, 2023,
<https://www.vedomosti.ru/politics/articles/2023/09/04/993236-eksperti-valdaya-nazvali-treh-samih-perspektivnih-dlya-rossii-partnerov-v-asean>

Koldunova Ekaterina, Sumsy Viktor et al. “Russia and Asia: The Paradoxes of a New Reality” Valdai Club Report, September, 2023,
<https://valdaiclub.com/a/reports/russia-and-asia-the-paradoxes-of-a-new-reality/>

Koldunova Ekaterina. Comment to Russian newspaper Vedomosti (in Russian), November, 2023,
<https://www.vedomosti.ru/politics/articles/2023/11/17/1006463-ssha-filippinami-atomnoi>

Dấu ấn ngoại giao VN khi thách thức bao trùm thế giới

NGŨ MINH TRÍ

Trà lời *Thanh Niên* nhân dịp kết thúc năm 2022, các chuyên gia quốc tế đã đề cao hoạt động ngoại giao của VN trong năm qua, giữa bối cảnh thế giới có nhiều diễn biến phức tạp.

NAM BẢN RÕN TRONG CHÍNH SÁCH ĐỐI NGOẠI

2022 là một năm rất bất ổn trong chính sách đối ngoại của VN khi đại dịch đường như đã qua đi, Tổng Bí thư Nguyễn Phú Trọng đã thăm Trung Quốc, Thủ tướng Phạm Minh Chính thị công du Mỹ. Chủ tịch nước Nguyễn Xuân Phúc và Chủ tịch Quốc hội Vương Đình Huệ cũng đi thăm nhiều cường quốc tầm trung như Nhật Bản, Úc. Tất cả thể hiện khi VN tiếp tục cân bằng các mối quan hệ để không rơi vào thế "chọn phe" trong cuộc cạnh tranh giữa các cường quốc.



ANH NVCC

Vấn đề tiếp tục hoạt động tích cực trong ASEAN và tại Liên Hợp Quốc. **Chuyên gia Murray Hibbert** (Chương trình Đông Nam Á, Trung tâm nghiên cứu chiến lược và quốc tế - CSIS, Mỹ)



Tổng Bí thư, Chủ tịch nước Trung Quốc Tập Cận Bình đón Tổng Bí thư Nguyễn Phú Trọng tại Đại lễ Đương nhân dân ở Bắc Kinh vào chiều 31.10.2022

NHIỀU CHUYẾN CÔNG DU Ý NGHĨA

Năm 2022, VN tiếp tục thực hiện chính sách đối ngoại chủ động đa phương. Trong nỗ lực cân bằng chính sách đối ngoại, các lãnh đạo VN đã thực hiện một số chuyến công du nước ngoài có ý nghĩa rất quan trọng. Như đầu tháng 11.2022, Tổng Bí thư Nguyễn Phú Trọng đã có chuyến thăm Trung Quốc, bởi liên Chủ tịch Trung Quốc Tập Cận Bình.

tham du hội nghị cấp cao đặc biệt ASEAN - Mỹ vào tháng 5. Hội nghị cấp cao ASEAN tại Campuchia, thăm Hà Lan, Bỉ và dự Hội nghị cấp cao ASEAN - EU tại Brussels vào tháng 11. Tháng 11, Chủ tịch Quốc hội Vương Đình Huệ tham dự Đại hội đồng Liên Hợp quốc các nước ASEAN, Úc và New Zealand.

Hoạt động đối ngoại cũng thể của VN trong năm 2022 đã được khôi phục ở mức cao sau những năm dài dịch và hướng tới tiếp cận với nhiều đất nước khác.



ANH NVCC

PGS Esterina Koldanova (Khoa Nghiên cứu châu Á - châu Phi, Học viện Quan hệ quốc tế Moscow - MGIRU, Nga)

Đó với cả hai cuộc gặp này đều có ý nghĩa quan trọng. Tổng Bí thư Nguyễn Phú Trọng là nhà lãnh đạo nước ngoài đầu tiên gặp Chủ tịch nước Tập Cận Bình sau Đại hội đại biểu toàn quốc lần thứ 20 của Đảng Cộng sản Trung Quốc. Đây cũng là chuyến công du nước ngoài đầu tiên của Tổng Bí thư Nguyễn Phú Trọng sau Đại hội đại biểu toàn quốc lần thứ XII của Đảng Cộng sản VN.

Thủ tướng Phạm Minh Chính cũng hoạt động rất tích cực trên trường quốc tế trong năm 2022 khi đến Mỹ để



Thủ tướng Phạm Minh Chính tại Hội nghị cấp cao đặc biệt ASEAN - Mỹ diễn ra tại thủ đô Washington D.C (Mỹ) vào ngày 13.5.2022

Năm 2022, tình hình đại dịch Covid-19 tuy vẫn còn nhiều diễn biến phức tạp nhưng đã được kiểm soát hiệu quả, nên các sự kiện ngoại giao cấp cao cũng được tiến hành nhiều hơn. Bên cạnh đó, vấn đề tăng cường ngoại

giao còn trở nên quan trọng hơn trong năm qua vì chiến sự ở Ukraine.

Thứ nhất, xung đột ở Ukraine đã làm thay đổi nhận thức của người dân thế giới. Trước khi xung đột xảy ra, nhiều người vẫn phớt lờ cảnh báo từ các chuyên

gia an ninh về rủi ro chiến tranh. Dù lâu lâu nổ, chiến tranh giữa các nước lớn đã không xảy ra. Tuy nhiên, kể từ khi bùng nổ chiến sự ở Ukraine, nhiều người bắt đầu lo lắng về khả năng xảy ra chiến tranh ở quy mô lớn. Cùng với thế, các chính phủ trên thế giới quyết định cử phái đoàn cấp cao của họ tham dự các hội nghị quốc tế. Đây là thời đại của ngoại giao. Thứ hai, khi mọi người nhận ra tình hình an ninh nghiêm trọng như thế này thì cuộc cạnh tranh Mỹ - Trung càng leo thang. Năm nay, Trung Quốc đã nhiều lần vượt qua ranh giới giữa Trung Quốc đại lục và Đài Loan và tiến vào Vung biển Đông phía nam (ADIZ) ở

Đài Loan. Đáp trả lại Bân và các nước nhiều lần có phủ trong đó có 47 Mỹ Nancy Pelosi chuyến lượt của Mỹ đến 10.2022. Tranh Mỹ Giữa bộ nào để cạnh sự p cừ

Tăng cường để đáp ứng

Đài Loan. Đáp trả lại Bân và các nước nhiều lần có phủ trong đó có 47 Mỹ Nancy Pelosi chuyến lượt của Mỹ đến 10.2022. Tranh Mỹ Giữa bộ nào để cạnh sự p cừ

QUAN HỆ VIỆT - MỸ TIẾP TỤC TÍCH CỰC

Nhìn chung quan hệ Việt - Mỹ tiếp tục phát triển theo chiều hướng tích cực. Trong khi đó, thái độ chính trị ở Mỹ về Trung Quốc lại có chiều hướng ngược lại. Vì thế một trọng tâm trong mối quan tâm của Bân và đồng minh và đối tác Mỹ ở châu Á là làm thế nào để trở lại vào cuộc cạnh tranh Mỹ - Tr.

Nhưng vấn đề không phải vấn đề ở thế là không chỉ bên cạnh đã chính trị hơn

TS John Hanmer (Giáo sư

học tại đại học Indiana của Mỹ)

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học tại đại học Indiana của Mỹ)

học tại đại học Indiana của Mỹ)

Ông Tập Cận Bình đến Moscow, củng cố quan hệ Nga - Trung

VI THÂN

Hôm qua (20.11), Chủ tịch Trung Quốc Tập Cận Bình đã thăm cấp nhà nước lần đầu tiên tại Moskva của Tổng thống Nga Vladimir Putin.

Hành TASS đã được báo chí quốc tế đưa tin về chuyến thăm cấp nhà nước của ông Tập Cận Bình tới Moskva. Ông Tập Cận Bình đã có cuộc gặp riêng với Tổng thống Putin và các thành viên của Hội đồng An ninh quốc gia của Nga.

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Triển vọng I giữa khó khăn



Kinh tế VN được kỳ vọng sẽ tiếp tục d

NGŨ MINH TRÍ (thực hiện)

Chuyên gia từ các tập đoàn, định chế tài chính và Đại học Harvard (Mỹ) đã chia sẻ những nhận định về triển vọng kinh tế VN trong bối cảnh kinh tế khu vực chịu nhiều khó khăn.

Các chuyên gia trả lời phỏng vấn Thanh Niên gồm: ông Nguyễn Xuân Phúc và Chủ tịch Quốc hội Vương Đình Huệ

thoạt, nhưng khiến tăng trưởng GDP của các nền kinh tế chậm lại, thậm chí là suy thoái kinh tế. Các chuyên gia cũng cho rằng, kinh tế VN được kỳ vọng sẽ tiếp tục d

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An - Nhặt nhất tri duy tri trật tự dựa trên luật lệ

Tại một hội thảo chuyên đề về luật pháp và kinh tế, ông Nguyễn Xuân Phúc đã chia sẻ những nhận định về triển vọng kinh tế VN trong bối cảnh kinh tế khu vực chịu nhiều khó khăn.

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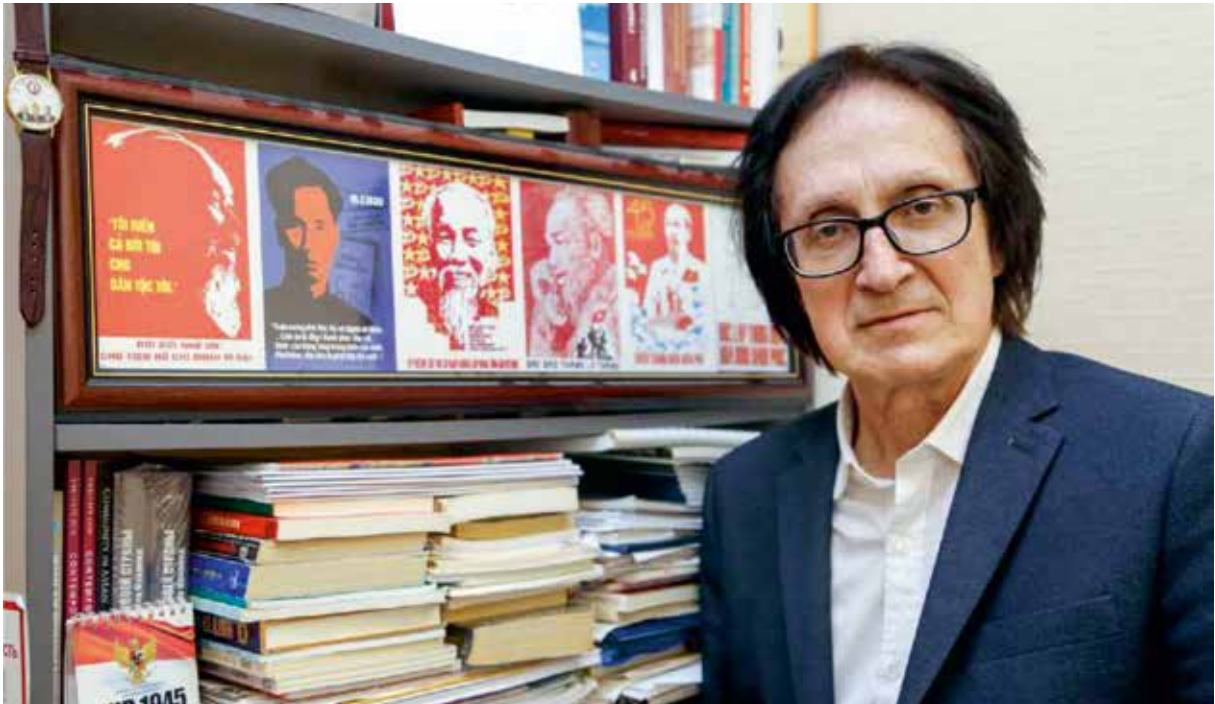
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- **Film about the ASEAN Centre Participates in “Our ASEAN on Screen” Program**

During its ASEAN Chairmanship in 2023, Indonesia initiated a program “Our ASEAN on Screen”. The program envisions the broadcasting of films devoted to ASEAN and its external cultural ties on the Indonesiana.tv channel.

To commemorate the 5th anniversary of the ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership and on the request of the Indonesian side the ASEAN Centre prepared and submitted to the ASEAN Chair the film about Centre’s activities over the past ten years. The film speaks about the ASEAN Centre’s history, its main activities and work focused on disseminating knowledge about ASEAN in Russia and about Russia in the ASEAN Member States.

The film features short interviews with the MGIMO Vice-Rector for Science and Research Dr. Andrey Baykov, founding Director of the ASEAN Centre Dr. Victor Sumsy, the Centre’s current Director Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova and the Centre’s experts, as well as MGIMO’s students from ASEAN and Russia majoring in Southeast Asian studies.

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