The 1st
Russia-ASEAN Youth Summit

Moscow
13-14 May 2013
“Young Russia – Young ASEAN: Dialogue for Connectivity”

The 1st Russia-ASEAN Youth Summit

Moscow, 13-14 May 2013
The 1st Russia–ASEAN Youth Summit was held in Moscow from 13 to 14 May 2013. The theme of the Summit was ‘Young Russia – Young ASEAN: Dialogue for Connectivity’. The Summit was organised by the ASEAN Centre in MGIMO University, in partnership with RIA Novosti Media Holding.

The idea to hold a youth summit was first raised by Indonesian Permanent Representative to ASEAN H.E. I Gede Ngurah Swajaya, when he spoke at a seminar organised by the ASEAN Centre in Moscow in December 2012. This initiative has been strongly supported by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the ASEAN Moscow Committee.

The Summit took place over two days, and was attended by youths from Russia and ASEAN. The first day of the Summit was held in MGIMO, and the second day in the RIA Novosti Press Centre.

During the Summit’s opening ceremony, Russian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Morgulov, MGIMO Rector Anatoly Torkunov and Singaporean Ambassador to Russia Lim Kheng Hua welcomed participants, and wished them a productive summit.

The discussions which took place during the Summit were dynamic and energetic. The Summit’s young participants examined a host of issues, including the current state of Russia-ASEAN relations, and obstacles to further cooperation in politics, economies, business and inter-cultural communication.

During one of the presentations, participants considered the prospects for Russia-ASEAN relations after 2015, a year of special significance for both sides. For Russia, it represents the inauguration of the Eurasian Economic Union, and for ASEAN it represents the start of the ASEAN Community. Moreover, ASEAN and Russia will celebrate 20 years of Dialogue Partnership in 2016.

The discussions during the Summit were lively and informative because of the presence of a group of distinguished guests – Russian and ASEAN diplomats, businessmen, journalists and academics. Among them were a group of prominent figures from ASEAN countries, whom the ASEAN Centre invited to participate not only in the Youth Summit, but also in an Experts’ Seminar, which took place after the Summit.

The distinguished guests offered their opinions, friendly criticism and words of encouragement to the Summit’s young participants. They were joined by several other distinguished guests based in Jakarta during a teleconference with the ASEAN Secretariat on the second day of the Summit.

The Summit’s organisers and participants alike hope to hold more of such events in the future, and to summarise and implement the main ideas for future Russia-ASEAN youth engagement raised during the Summit.
before the summit

preparations for the summit

The Summit was publicised on the ASEAN Centre’s website and Facebook page. Teams of participants, comprising mainly ASEAN students studying in Russia and Russian students studying ASEAN-related subjects, were formed. Some participants worked on presentations, to be delivered during the Summit.

ambassadors' seminars

To equip participants with a better understanding of the issues in Russia-ASEAN relations, two Ambassadors’ Seminars were organised – one featuring H.E. Alexander Ivanov, the Russian Ambassador-at-Large, and the other featuring H.E. Zainol Abidin Omar, the Malaysian Ambassador to Russia.

photography competition

A photography competition with the theme ‘Russia as seen by students from ASEAN countries/ASEAN as seen by Russian students’ was launched.
About 200 young participants attended the Summit. They comprised Russian students studying Southeast Asian languages and ASEAN-related subjects in such institutions as MGIMO, the Institute of Asian and African Studies (Moscow State University), St. Petersburg State University and the Higher School of Economics, as well as students from ASEAN countries studying in various universities across Russia. Three students from the De La Salle-College of St. Benilde in the Philippines also took part in the Summit.

In order to facilitate a dialogue between generations, the following distinguished guests from ASEAN countries were invited to attend the Summit, and share their views with the young participants. They also attended an Experts’ Seminar, held right after the Youth Summit.

- **Ms. Fauziah Talib**, Chair, ASEAN Business Advisory Council (Brunei Darussalam)
- **Mr. Ly Rasmey**, Assistant to the Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia (Cambodia)
- **Prof. Dr. Dewi Fortuna Anwar**, Political Secretary to the Vice-President of Indonesia (Indonesia)
- **H.E. I Gede Ngurah Swajaya**, Permanent Representative of Indonesia to ASEAN (Indonesia)
- **Mr. Ahmad Kusaeni**, Editor-in-Chief, Antara News Agency (Indonesia)
- **Mr. Khalek Awang**, CEO, Global Movement of Moderates Foundation (Malaysia)
- **Ms. Aye Aye Mu**, Deputy Director General, ASEAN Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Myanmar)
- **Prof. Renato Cruz de Castro**, Professor of International Relations, De La Salle University (Philippines)
- **Mr. Kavi Chongkittavorn**, Assistant Group Editor, Nation Multimedia Group (Thailand)
- **Mr. Tran Viet Thai**, Director, Centre for Foreign Policy and Regional Studies, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (Vietnam)
day 1

13 may 2013 (monday)
mgimo university
Not only students, but also young diplomats, academics and journalists from Russia and the ASEAN countries, have gathered here today for this Summit.

I am confident that the energy, vigour and creative thinking inherent in our youth will feature in the coming discussions, and enrich Russia-ASEAN relations with new ideas and valuable initiatives.

H.E. IGOR MORGULOV, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

Personal ties, especially those between people who have at some point studied in the same institution, are very important. This was demonstrated at the World Forum of MGIMO Alumni, which was held in Baku this year. [...] The participants of this Summit shall attempt to look into the future. This can only be undertaken by young people.

PROF. ANATOLY TORKUNOV, Rector, MGIMO University

Russia has taken all the necessary steps to increase her presence in various institutions of regional cooperation, but ASEAN-Russia relations still lag behind ASEAN’s relations with her other dialogue partners. Much more will have to be done to strengthen ASEAN-Russia relations. The youth could play an important role.

H.E. LIM KHENG HUA, Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to the Russian Federation
**What does Russia mean to ASEAN?**

**What does ASEAN mean to Russia?**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) consists of several countries in Southeast Asia. Its place in regional fora is significant. The ASEAN-Russia dialogue partnership offers prospects for increased economic cooperation.

**Area:** 17 million sq km

**Population:** 143 million

**GDP:** US$ 2 trillion

**Political cooperation**

A steadily developing relationship.

**Trends in ASEAN-Russia trade**
A presentation on the theme ‘What does Russia mean to ASEAN? What does ASEAN mean to Russia?’ was prepared by a team of five participants:

- Nyoman Rai
- Roman Grishanov
- Aaron Chee
- Andrei Trusov
- Tatiana Andreyeva

The team began by considering the questions ‘What is ASEAN?’ and ‘What is Russia?’. They highlighted ASEAN’s success in regional engagement via its many dialogue partnerships, and its central role in regional fora. They also noted Russia’s re-emergence as a great power in regional and global affairs.

Next, the presenters made the following observations regarding Russia-ASEAN cooperation:

Firstly, political cooperation has been strong, given the similarities of both sides’ political views. In particular, Russia supports ASEAN’s central role in regional security architecture, ASEAN welcomes Russia’s participation in regional cooperation, and both sides support a polycentric regional and international order.

Secondly, while Russia-ASEAN economic ties have been modest, trade and investment levels have been increasing, and there remains plenty of potential for deepening economic cooperation.

Thirdly, Russia and ASEAN have explored and continue to explore many avenues for socio-cultural cooperation.

The presenters concluded by identifying three long-term priorities that were common to both Russia and ASEAN:

- Modernisation,
- Connectivity, and
- Polycentrism in world affairs.

On the whole, they were optimistic about the prospects for the ASEAN-Russia dialogue partnership.
• MR. VICTOR TARUSIN, Executive Director of the Russia-ASEAN Business Council, briefed the Summit’s participants on the work of the Council. In particular, he mentioned that a Russia-ASEAN Business Forum will be held as a guest forum under the auspices of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, on 22 June 2013.

• MS. FAUZIAH TALIB, Chair of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (BAC), gave an update on the BAC’s latest initiatives, including its efforts to encourage more women and young people to be involved in business.

• MR. PHAM QUOC TOAN, Director of Marketing of INCENTRA JSC, spoke about a major project by his company – a Vietnamese cultural and business centre in Moscow, which is currently under construction and scheduled to be completed later this year.
Participants were invited to share their experiences related to education.

- Kirill Baturo, a student from Belarus, talked about his experience learning Vietnamese and a recent trip he made to Hanoi.

- Jiraporn Trewiseesorn, a graduate student from Thailand, spoke about what it was like for her studying in Russia.

- Adris Sinaga, an Indonesian student at the People’s Friendship University of Russia, shared his experience setting up an ASEAN Students’ Association at his university, and plans to expand this association into a Russia-wide ASEAN Students’ Association.

- Sofya Oborskaya and Eng Hleng spoke about their experiences learning Khmer and Russian respectively, while Yevgenia Kukushkina, an Associate Professor at the Institute of Asian and African Studies, shared her thoughts on the study of foreign languages.

- Regina Mayorova and Ekaterina Koldunova gave an update on the issue of Russian studies in ASEAN countries, and the work of such institutions as the Russian Studies Centre at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand.

- Three students from the Philippines, John Paul Mondejar, Reanne Apostol and Jhaline Marie Villapando, gave a presentation about their school, the De La Salle-College of St. Benilde, where they are currently pursuing their degrees in Consular and Diplomatic Affairs.

- Marina Frolova, a lecturer at the Institute of Asian and African Studies, spoke about her experiences on two exchange programmes in Indonesia.

- Ekaterina Arafova and Yan Vaslavsky introduced the international Bachelors’ and Masters’ programmes at MGIMO.

- Ivan Timofeev talked about the Russian International Affairs Council’s educational programmes.
After I received my Bachelor’s degree in Russian Studies in Thailand, I decided to come to Russia to improve my knowledge of the country and my command of the Russian language. It also helped that I received a scholarship from the Russian government.

I have lived in Russia for six years, and from my experience, Russians and Thais are not that different. But if I had to mention a difference, it would be that Russians are very open to learning about other cultures, and have a passion for theatre and the arts.

JIRAPORN TREWISIESSORN
(Thailand),
Graduate Student, Ural Federal University

People in Vietnam simply did not know anything about Belarus, and when I told them about my country, they were very surprised.

My trip to Hanoi has been the highlight of my two years in MGIMO.

When the time comes, I will go back to Vietnam – either as a diplomat or a businessman – and I will do my best to live up to the expectations of my passionate, dedicated Vietnamese teachers.

KIRILL BATUROV (Belarus),
Student, MGIMO

I have been studying Khmer for about a year already. At my university, there are five other students who are learning Khmer. We have two teachers, one of whom is a native speaker.

Nowadays there is a growing demand for Khmer specialists in the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Moreover, in Cambodia, where tourism is booming, people who speak Khmer and Russian are highly sought after too.

SOFYA OBORSKAYA
(Russia),
Student, Institute of Asian and African Studies
When choosing their field of specialisation, today’s students generally prefer such applied subjects as economics, politics and finance. But all international agreements are written in the languages spoken by the sides involved. And the more you know about the other side – their way of thinking, their worldview – the better your chances of success. Language holds the key to such vital information.

YEVGENIA KUKUSHKINA, Associate Professor, Institute of Asian and African Studies

Southeast Asian studies in Russia and Russian studies in Southeast Asia generally reflect the level of our relationship. Sometimes, only the enthusiasm of lecturers and researchers fuel these studies.

However, academic interest must be based on solid economic, political and business ties. Only the combination of all these factors will result in a growing knowledge of Russia in Southeast Asia, and of ASEAN countries in Russia.

EKATERINA KOLDUNOVA, Associate Professor, MGIMO

Russian studies in Southeast Asia is not so well-developed. The problem is one of both a lack of demand – interest in studying about Russia – and a lack of supply – resources or experts available in Southeast Asia.

Russia and Southeast Asian countries should work together to build up academic resources and experts on Russia in Southeast Asia, and promote exchanges of students and academics. Russia has many potential tools of soft power at its disposal. It should use them to promote further people-to-people contacts.

PARADORN RANGISMAPORN, First Secretary, Royal Thai Embassy and Permanent Mission in Vienna
I took part in two educational programmes in Indonesia. During my course on Indonesian for non-native speakers, I learned about the finer points of communication in Bahasa Indonesia. Then, I immersed myself in Balinese culture, thanks to the Indonesian Arts and Culture Scholarship. So, now, when I enter the classroom, I can tell my students more about the charms of Indonesia.

MARINA FROLOVA,
Lecturer, Institute of Asian and African Studies

Russia is becoming an attractive labour market for Asia-Pacific graduates of Russian universities, as more Russian firms are going international, and Asia-Pacific markets are booming. Such companies need young workers who understand both Russia and the Asia-Pacific region.

IVAN TIMOFEEV,
Programme Director, Russian International Affairs Council
The first day of the Summit ended on a light-hearted but nonetheless culturally enriching note.

Students from the Indonesian School in Moscow performed two dance items. The first was a Balinese dance, in which the performers imitated the delicate movements of the cendrawasih bird. The second was a saman dance – the dance of a thousand hands.

Following that, the Daniel Kramer Trio – consisting of Sergey Vasiliev, Pavel Timofeev and Daniel Kramer, the internationally acclaimed Russian pianist – had the crowd tapping to the beat as they performed numbers of different styles, and impressed with their imaginative improvisation.
The second day of the Summit began with a video address from the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta. This was delivered by H.E. Alicia Dela Rosa Bala, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, on behalf of H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.
Around 60 per cent of ASEAN’s population today comprises those under 35 years old. They are the region’s greatest assets. It is therefore essential for young people to have an awareness of the region, and an understanding of our cultural diversity, so as to contribute to the realisation of our Leaders’ aspirations and dreams of building an ASEAN Community by 2015.

The First ASEAN-Russia Youth Summit presents an avenue to enhance ASEAN’s profile, and motivates the younger generation of Russia and ASEAN to foster closer ties. ASEAN and Russia must continuously engage the youth sector as it is essential that their potential and leadership be fully tapped to shape the future of ASEAN-Russia cooperation.

H.E. ALICIA DELA ROSA BALA, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community
A panel discussion, featuring the following distinguished guests:

- **MR. VALERY LEVCHEŃKO**, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, RIA Novosti
- **MR. KAVI CHONGKITTAVORN**, Assistant Group Editor, Nation Multimedia Group
- **MR. AHMAD KUSAENI**, Editor-in-Chief, Antara News Agency
- **MR. EUGENE ABOV**, Deputy CEO (Int’l), Rossiyskaya Gazeta
- **MR. DMITRY KOŠYREV**, Political Commentator, RIA Novosti

touched on the theme ‘the role of the mass media in bridging the information gap’.

Members of the panel spoke of their efforts to bring news about Russia to Southeast Asia, and vice versa, and the difficulties that they encountered in doing so.

The panel concluded that Southeast Asia still relies too heavily upon Western media for information about Russia, and that it needs its own pool of journalists who can provide their own perspectives on Russia.

Some members of the panel suggested that Russian news agencies should invite journalists from ASEAN for short stints in Russia, so as to enable them to familiarise themselves with Russian developments.
Moe Wai Yan Oo (Myanmar), In the Kremlin's embrace
[1st prize in the category 'Cities and people']

Regina Mayorova (Russia), Vietnamese Traditional Wedding, Da Lat, May 2012
[1st prize in the category 'Traditions and modernity']
The results of the photography competition held in conjunction with the Summit were announced by two members of the jury, SERGEY KOVALCHUK and NATALIA MEDVEDEVA.

The winners were:

**Category: ‘Cities and people’**
- Moe Wai Yan Oo (1st place)
- Soe Soe Thaw Oo (2nd place)
- Elena Korchagina (3rd place)
- Irina Dikushina (Encouragement)

**Category: ‘Traditions and modernity’**
- Regina Mayorova (1st place)
- Nyoman Rai (2nd place)
- Jiraporn Trewiseesorn (3rd place)

**Category: ‘The amazing and improbable in everyday life’**
- Moe Wai Yan Oo (1st place)
- Sofya Ivanka (2nd place)
- Adul Kamlaithong (3rd place)
- Aye Chan Oo (Encouragement)
- Julia Lukashina (Encouragement)

**Category: Open**
- Eng Hleng (Encouragement)

The winning entries were displayed during the Summit, and later at an exhibition at the Gostiny Dvor.
projects, as well as ASEAN’s Master Plan on Connectivity. They noted that Russia is pursuing a somewhat similar project on a national level, and questioned if ASEAN and Russia could support each other’s efforts in this regard.

They also identified some common spheres for Russia-ASEAN cooperation in the near future. These included energy, food security, space technology, military technology and infrastructure.

Finally, the presenters put forward the following questions and suggestions:

- What would be the impact of an ASEAN-Russia Free Trade Agreement if it were concluded?
- What might a Master Plan on ASEAN-Russia Connectivity look like?
- What would the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership imply for Russia?
- Would it be a good idea to set up a Russia-ASEAN Eminent Persons Group, and what role could the ASEAN Centre in MGIMO play in this regard?

Five Summit participants:
- EKATERINA KOLDUNOVA
- NGUYEN TRUNG ANH
- KANAWAT SUWANNIN
- ANATOLY MATEIKO
- VALERIYA NIKOLAYUK

shared their views on the future of Russia-ASEAN Cooperation. Their presentation was entitled ‘Russia and ASEAN after 2015’.

The presenters highlighted that 2015 was an important year for both ASEAN and Russia. 2015 marks the start of two ambitious regional projects: the ASEAN Community, and the Eurasian Economic Union.

ASEAN and Russia will also need a new framework for their partnership in 2015, for the Joint Declaration and Comprehensive Plan of Action adopted in 2005 are due to expire by that time.

Moreover, in 2016, ASEAN and Russia will celebrate the 20th anniversary of their dialogue partnership.

The presenters discussed Russia and ASEAN’s upcoming regional
A teleconference, featuring following distinguished guests based in Jakarta:

- H.E. MIKHAIL GALUZIN, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Indonesia and Permanent Representative to ASEAN
- MR. OLEG KOPYLOV, Counselor, Embassy of the Russian Federation in Jakarta
- MR. LARRY MARAMIS, Director for Cross-Sectional Cooperation) ASEAN Secretariat

their counterparts in Moscow:

- H.E. ALEXANDER IVANOV, Ambassador-at-Large of the Russian Federation
- H.E. ZAINOL ABIDIN OMAR, Ambassador of Malaysia to the Russian Federation
- H.E. I GEDE NGURAH SWAJAYA, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to ASEAN

and a few organisers and participants wrapped up the second day of the Summit.

The distinguished guests congratulated the participants of the Summit for a successful Summit. They revealed that they were impressed by the atmosphere and lively dialogue which took place during the Summit.

They also encouraged participants to organise more of such events in the future, keep in touch with each other, and build more people-to-people ties through the use of social media.
The 1st Russia-ASEAN Youth Summit ended on a fittingly delectable note: The ASEAN Moscow Committee hosted a dinner reception, featuring the national dishes of all ten ASEAN countries, on the grounds of the Malaysian embassy.

The reception was an opportunity for the guests and participants of the Summit to relax and unwind, dig into sumptuous Southeast Asian fare, and capture sweet memories with their new friends on film.
conclusions

THE 1st RUSSIA-ASEAN YOUTH SUMMIT has left its organisers and participants with many fond memories, as well as the following ideas for the future:

- Russia-ASEAN Youth Summits shall be held on a regular basis, in both Russia and ASEAN countries
- An ASEAN Students’ Association shall be set up in Russia to provide support for ASEAN students and strengthen their community
- The ASEAN Centre proposes to establish an Eminent Persons’ Group to make recommendations on how to enhance post-2015 Russia-ASEAN cooperation, and to support its activities
- The ASEAN Centre shall try to encourage overseas exchange and full-time academic programmes (including M.A. programmes in MGIMO involving ASEAN students) to promote further Russia-ASEAN understanding
- The Russian and ASEAN youth shall continue to reach out to each other through such social media as the ASEAN Centre’s website and Facebook page
The 1st Russia-ASEAN Youth Summit has been featured on:

- Channel One Russia
- Philstar.com Campus
- TalkVietnam
- The Nation
- The People’s Army Newspaper Online
- The website of the Philippine Information Agency
- The President Post
- The website of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Indonesia
- The website of the Royal Thai Embassy in Moscow
- The website of the Russian International Affairs Council
The ASEAN Centre in MGIMO University would like to express its heartfelt thanks to all individuals and organisations in Russia and in ASEAN countries, without whom this Summit would not have been possible. In particular, we are grateful to:

- RIA Novosti Media Holding
- The ASEAN Moscow Committee
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
- The Russia-ASEAN Business Council
- The Russian International Affairs Council
- Russia Beyond the Headlines
- The rASIA.com Cultural Festival
- Mr. Sergey Kovalchuk and Fotolab
- Distinguished guests from Russia and ASEAN countries
- Participants from Russia and ASEAN countries
- Presenters, moderators and student volunteers
- Everyone else who has contributed to the Summit in one way or another
Credits

Text: Ekaterina Koldunova, Aaron Chee
Photographs: Aaron Chee, Tatiana Andreyeva, Moe Wai Yan Goo, Victor Sunsky, Anatoly Matlko, Ekaterina Kubryshina, Olga Polnova, Sergey Kovashchuk, INCENTRA JSC, RIA Novosti, Reanne Apostol, Raenichka Anggraeni, Pham Tien Manh
Produced by: Aaron Chee, the ASEAN Centre in MGIMO University (2013)
The ASEAN Centre in MGIMO University
76 Prospekt Vernadskogo
MGIMO University, Rooms 501-502
Moscow, Russia 119454

Tel.  +7 499 431 4791
      +7 499 431 4795
Fax   +7 495 433 2175

www.asean.mgimo.ru
www.facebook.com/aseancentremgimo