

Working Papers

АЗИАТСКО-ТИХООКЕАНСКОЕ СИМПОЗИУМ

Interests, Roles and Prospects



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

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АЗИАТСКО-ТИХООКЕАНСКОЕ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОЕ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВО:
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Фокус Симпозиума направлен на исследование, обсуждение и освещение политико-экономических действий Японии и России в рамках Азиатско-Тихоокеанского экономического сотрудничества (АТЭС). В формате организации АТЭС национальные интересы и перспективы взаимодействия двух стран, как на двустороннем уровне, так и многостороннем, чрезвычайно широки, что представляется крайне интересным для анализа. Исследование таких сфер сотрудничества в блок-процессе АТЭС, как борьба с финансовым кризисом, транспорт, энергетика, безопасность и экология, является одной из задач настоящего Симпозиума. В результате планируется публикация сборника докладов, проведение ряда просветительских мероприятий по популяризации деятельности АТЭС среди российского населения в средствах массовой информации, а также подготовить комплекс рекомендаций для Правительства Российской Федерации, организации АТЭС и для его Саммита во Владивостоке в 2012 г. В целях формирования имиджа г. Владивостока как российской Восточной столицы международных отношений на Симпозиум приглашены представители академических и правительственных кругов из Японии, Кореи, Китая, США, Австралии.

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Sergey SEVASTIYANOV,

VSUE, professor



MULTILATERAL ENERGY COOPERATION IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC AND RUSSIAN ROLE IN IT

Several Northeast Asia (NEA) energy and transportation infrastructure development projects starting from Russian territories had been discussed for many years, but the critical issue had always been unsolved: *who would pay to start and to implement them?* An idea to form a multilateral framework for cooperation in the energy sector in NEA had been gaining momentum in the region for more than 15 years. However, in reality in 2004 the Russian Prime Minister Medvedev ordered to start construction of the Eastern Siberia - Pacific Ocean (ESPO) oil pipeline *using state budget money and not seeking any foreign investments to start this project.*

That decision and some other events demonstrated that the Russian Government's obligation to support a sizable part of the RFE multibillion infrastructure development projects with its own budget money was becoming a reality. However starting from 2006, Moscow began more actively to implement its **New Energy Policy (NEP)** regulating foreign investors' access to a lucrative Russian natural resources sector, while trying to redirect foreign investments flows to other sectors of the Russian economy.

Two public companies (Gazprom and Rosneft) are clear Kremlin favorites. In 2007 Putin signed a decree allowing Gazprom and Rosneft to get equal share of all Russian continental shelf to extract oil and gas. That decision blocks foreign and other Russian companies from getting major share in these projects, and leaving them with a role of not owners but contractors/subcontractors.

During a meeting with the international discussion club "Valdai" members in 2007 Putin made critical remarks on energy policy of Russia. Firstly, he confirmed that Russia would expand extraction of oil and gas but at the same time balance volumes of our foreign supplies with our state interests and production potential. Taking into account the urgent need in developing the RFE territories, we may suggest that *local consumers of oil and gas will get clear priority over their foreign counterparts.*