

Role of Russia and Japan in Asia Pacific Region

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 - Terrorist Forces in Afghanistan
 - Kashmir issue

2. Cooperation in Energy sphere
 - Possibility of Russian gas importing to Japan

3. Human Resources
 - Japan & Russia exchange programs
 - Partnership in science and technology

4. Multipolarity and Unipolarity
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1. Security issues in the Asia Pacific Region
 - The problem of Weapons of Massive Destruction (WMD) proliferation still hangs as an open question. It fully applies to the Korean Peninsula Nuclear Problem (KPNP) and the Iranian Nuclear Problem (INR). Russia and Japan have quite distant positions concerning KPNP: Japanese side regards it as a permanent threat to the security of their state, while Russia has always had close relationships with the Northern Korea and have more neutral position.

Taking into consideration that Japan and the USA integration in the military sphere, security interaction between Russia and Japan encounters serious complications. But there is a great potential of future mutual military cooperation and solving KPMP between members of the Six – party Talks in which Japan and Russia take active participation and have all the opportunities to take further steps in developing bilateral relations in various spheres including military sector and Northern Korea denuclearization. Concerning Iran, for both countries the situation surrounding the Iran Nuclear Program remains of high concern. Japan and Russia agree on the point that this problem should be resolved in the short run. Both countries approve only diplomatic and political methods of coping with it.

2. Cooperation in energy sphere

- Russia plays an important role in the Asia Pacific Region being abundant with natural resources. Exporting gas to Asian countries Russia is the key actor in the energy sphere, being a guarantor of stability in the APR. On the other hand Japan is the biggest importer of raw materials in this region what makes cooperation in energy sphere highly perspective and mutually beneficial. We propose to pay more attention to the possibility of constructing a direct Russia-Japan gas pipeline branch to avoid intervention of the third countries into bilateral relationships (not to use the territory of China, KR etc).

3. Human resources

- Both Russia and Japan have advanced educational systems with highly developed academic institutions. But despite this fact Russia and Japan lack interaction in science and educational spheres. Being rich with human resources, both countries should put stress on partnership in technology sector and launching exchange programs on all levels of human resource development.

4. Multipolarity and unipolarity

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5. Financial crisis (Pros & Cons)

- The financial crisis has had a profound effect on almost all countries including

APR states. Japan and Russia have encountered unemployment drawback. Russia is dependent on raw material exporting. The crisis has led Russians to the point when we have to decide on the direction of further development: whether to continue basing Russian economy on selling natural resources or to concentrate on technological development. And in this case Japan can become a strategic partner of Russian Federation being the world leader in technological sphere. Japan can gain benefits from investing money into Russian economy through running their business in highly perspective regions of Siberia and Far East. In any way Russia and Japan have all the possibilities to integrate their economies.

6. Regional organizations

- The level of efficiency of UN organization in the form it exists at the moment unfortunately is decreasing. The problems that the world community tackles nowadays sometimes cannot be solved by the methods the UN uses. That is proved by the current situation around KPNP and INP. That has come to this point during the world crisis that has devaluated the unipolar world order concept. In this situation it is especially important to put stress on bilateral interaction between countries and increase of the role of regional organizations. Certainly, the SCO, APEC, ASEAN and the Six-Party Talks represent the example of the effective regional cooperation. Undoubtedly global integration cannot be denied but it definitely should be assessed from a different angle of view.

7. Territorial questions

- During the forum the participants have discussed the question of Kuril islands. Both sides have expressed their opinions on this issue. Japanese side stated that Russian military forces committed an invasion to the territory of Japan. Japan's basic position is that the Northern Territories are an integral part of Japan's sovereign territory that continues to be illegally occupied by Russia. The Russian general position on this question is based on the idea of resolving the problem according to the bilateral agreement of 1956; Russia is highly concerned about fulfilling of international obligations and acting according to the official documents and international laws. Despite all the contradictions between Japanese and Russian sides it was totally accepted that our countries should continue developing the cooperation in different spheres. By keeping further more intensive interaction both sides will be able to find appropriate and mutually satisfactory solution of the issue.