

## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY OF THE UNIVERSITY UNDER INTERNATIONALIZATION

Glazkov, Vladimir N., Moscow State University of Railway Engineering (MIIT), Moscow, Russia.

### ABSTRACT

Two significant dates are celebrated by MIIT, now Moscow State University of Railway Engineering – the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding and the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the beginning of the foreign students' study at the university. The article shows the dynamics of the international activity development of one of the oldest

higher educational institutions of the country, the experience of cooperation with foreign universities, companies, the organization of joint programs for training of students and Ph.D. students, and conduct of research work. A number of recent examples assess the effectiveness and prospects of ongoing processes, partnerships and growing student mobility.

**Keywords:** transport, university, higher education, internationalization of training, cooperation, joint programs, international activity.

**Background.** The internationalization of education is a process that encompasses all activities of higher education institutions and directs them towards international cooperation [4].

In modern universities, the following forms and directions of international activity are successfully developing:

- International academic and student mobility.
- Development and implementation of joint educational and scientific programs with international and foreign organizations.
- Organization of international congresses, symposia, conferences, seminars.
- Participation in international research and scientific and technical projects, etc.

**Objective.** The objective of the author is to consider activity of MIIT in terms of globalization.

**Methods.** The authors uses general scientific methods, scientific description, analytical method.

**Results.** Speaking about the training of personnel in MIIT for foreign countries, it should be noted that the first foreign students began to study at the Institute in 1946. Therefore, celebrating the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MIIT this year, we celebrate one more memorable date – the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the beginning of training of foreign students. During this time more than 4,6 thousand foreign citizens from 96 countries of the world received diplomas of graduates of the university and 460 of them defended candidate and doctoral dissertations, and 22 representatives from ten states were awarded the title of «Honorary Doctor of MIIT». Among the former university students are ministers, heads of state administration bodies, railway transport enterprises, scientists, professors. The MIIT alumni associations operate in Vietnam, Mongolia, China and other countries.

Today, more than 1200 foreign students and Ph.D. students from 30 countries study at MIIT. Long-term agreements on cooperation for training personnel with government bodies, companies and embassies from Indonesia, China, Mongolia, Myanmar, including for the implementation of specific transport projects, have been concluded. The largest number of foreign students in MIIT are from Indonesia, China, Mongolia, Guinea, Vietnam, from the CIS countries – Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan. The university plans to continue the process of internationalization of education, the search for new forms of partnership, the expansion of the geography of countries.

One of the most important elements of training of foreign students in MIIT is the study of the Russian language. This is no exaggeration, it is not an easy task. The center of the Russian language has been established at the university, which implements the development of educational programs and teaches foreign citizens the Russian language at all levels. The Center organizes also scientific, educational, methodological and educational activities, helps to learn a foreign language for foreigners. Among the promising areas for the development of the center is the development of distance courses, taking into account the professional orientation to the technical profile, the introduction of interactive technologies, the holding of summer schools for the study of the Russian language.

International academic and student mobility remains an important international activity of MIIT. In modern conditions, many employers' companies pay serious attention to the experience of studying, living and working abroad when hiring graduates of higher educational institutions, as this indicates the adaptive capabilities of a potential newcomer, the breadth of horizons, the skills of communicating with representatives of different cultures and countries. Within mobility programs, more than 200 MIIT students are trained annually in different countries. In turn, about 130 foreign students come to Moscow in order of exchange. The program of the European Union «Erasmus +», where MIIT participates together with its partners, is of great help here.

The implementation of joint educational programs of double diplomas at different levels of education confirms its effectiveness constantly. Joint bachelor programs lasting four years for foreign students in MIIT can have the following algorithm:

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years – training in one of the foreign higher education institutions-partners of MIIT with in-depth study of the Russian language and involvement of teachers from MIIT.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years – training in MIIT, while the defense of bachelor's work is conducted with the participation of two scientific leaders: from a foreign university and MIIT.

If we talk about joint master's programs of double diplomas with a training term of two years, then the following scheme of implementation is possible:

- 1<sup>st</sup> year – training in one of the foreign partner universities of MIIT.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year – training in MIIT with the defense of the master's work with the participation of scientific leaders from two universities.

Students who successfully completed the curriculum and completed their studies receive two diplomas: of MIIT and a foreign university.

Such a scheme of organization of joint programs is fully suitable for students of MIIT, if they will study abroad.

Joint educational programs for training in Ph.D. studies and defense of dissertations are also possible. Here, individual plans of study can be applied to a greater extent, joint scientific research related to the thesis topic [5] can be conducted.

Undoubtedly, for realization of joint educational programs, a large and very painstaking work is needed to draw up joint curricula, since they must be mutually agreed upon, take into account the requirements of the Federal State Standards and the educational standards of MIIT foreign partners.

Here there are some examples of joint educational programs in MIIT. Starting from 2012, the bachelor program of a double diploma in logistics with the Dalian University of Informatics «Neusoft» in China is being implemented. The program is designed for four years: the first year students study in MIIT and intensively study Chinese. Then, after the first course, students who successfully passed the session and mastered the Chinese language at a sufficient level leave for China and continue their education in Chinese during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> courses. The last 4<sup>th</sup> year of training is completed in MIIT with the defense of a diploma with the participation of two scientific leaders: from MIIT and Dalian University.

It should be noted that a benevolent loyal approach to students prevails on the part of Chinese teachers, and additional individual consultations are given. Of course, studying the Chinese language is a complicated process, but within a year students who have good motivation to continue their studies in China master it and reach the necessary level, which allows them to continue their education in Chinese. Now more than 70 people are engaged in this program in our university. In June of this year, the first graduating class of 13 students was held. All young specialists received two diplomas – of MIIT and Dalian University – and worthy proposals for future work.

In turn, in the last academic year a joint bachelor program of double diplomas with the participation of Dalian University and MIIT in the direction of «Linguistics», the profile «Russian language» was launched. In Moscow, 26 Chinese students study in this program. Classes are organized in a similar scheme: two years of study in China with in-depth study of the Russian language – two years of education in Moscow with the defense of a diploma with the participation of two scientific leaders from Dalian University and MIIT.

MIIT implements joint educational programs with universities in Finland, Germany, France, and Kazakhstan. A large program of cooperation in this direction is planned with the educational institutions of China. There is a certainty that joint educational programs will contribute to the further internationalization of higher education, the development of academic exchanges, the formation of professional competencies taking into account international experience.

As part of the development of international activities, MIIT cooperates with 145 universities and partner companies from 45 countries around the world. Along with the leading foreign universities, the largest partners of MIIT are Spanish, Chinese, German, French railways, Alstom, Bombardier, Siemens, International Union of Railways, the Organization for the Cooperation of Railways, the Coordinating Council for Trans-Siberian Transportation and others.

In order to increase the participation of foreign companies in the educational process, great attention is paid to lecturing at MIIT by leading foreign scientists, managers and specialists of various profiles, conducting study visits of students and teachers to foreign companies, and doing internship by university students.

Beginning in 2013, the president of Siemens in Russia and Central Asia, Dietrich Meller, awarded the title of «Honorary Doctor of MIIT» in the framework of the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MIIT, reads a series of lectures for students on high-speed traffic. All the lectures contain the most up-to-date, professionally prepared information saturated with practical examples. Certainly, holding such lectures significantly enriches the educational process, allows students to receive knowledge at the highest professional level. According to Mr. Meller, the task of the companies participating in the training process is to establish a closer relationship between the real transportation sphere and the knowledge obtained at the university.

With Mr. Meller's consent, his lectures are posted on the MIIT website, and the number of appeals indicates a great interest in the lecture materials not only of students, but also of teachers and scientists from many other universities. Similar experience of lecturing in MIIT is available to the companies «Alstom», «Bombardier» and other our partners.

The productive direction of international cooperation of universities was the conduct of joint scientific research. For this it is necessary to create scientific centers, joint laboratories, general teams of researchers of Russian and foreign universities in the priority areas of science and technology development. The result of activities in this

direction should be the practical application of scientific developments in various fields of the economy, the introduction of innovative technologies in production. Speaking about the prospects for cooperation between MIIT and foreign universities in the field of scientific research, it is worthwhile to think about the formation of joint consortia to participate in the largest framework program of the European Union «HORIZON2020», designed to expand cooperation in the field of innovation.

The presentation of the results of scientific research can and does occur at various international conferences. The largest scientific, practical and student forums are held annually at MIIT. It is necessary to think, nevertheless, of expanding the use of network videoconferences for creative contacts and discussions. This relatively new resource of on-line communication is still clearly undeserved in the university environment.

Another form of cooperation is the exchange of scientific publications in university journals, the joint work of scientists in the editorial boards of scientific journals, and mutual subscription to specialized periodicals. This, of course, will enrich the scientific potential of the academic press, will allow to get acquainted with foreign experience and scientific developments in various fields of science and technology.

**Conclusion.** The modern internationalization of higher education unites efforts to integrate higher education institutions into the world educational and scientific community, opens new prospects for cooperation between universities in the field of educational, scientific and innovative activities.

## REFERENCES

1. Transport strategy of the Russian Federation for the period until 2030 (Approved by the decree of the Government of the Russian Federation of November 22, 2008 No. 1734-r) [Transportnaja strategija Rossijskoj Federacii na period do 2030 goda (Urv. rasporyazheniem pravitel'stva RF ot 22 nojabrja 2008 g. No. 1734-r)]. [Electronic resource]: <http://www.garant.ru/products/ipo/prime/doc/94460/#ixzz3nJ9muyR2>. Last accessed 20.07.2016.
2. Federal Law of December 29, 2012 No. 273-FZ «On Education in the Russian Federation» [Federal'nyj zakon ot 29 dekabrja 2012g. No. 273-FZ «Ob obrazovanii v Rossijskoj Federacii»]. [Electronic resource]: <https://rg.ru/2012/12/30/obrazovanie-dok.html>. Last accessed 20.07.2016.
3. The concept of development of research and innovation activities in the institutions of higher professional education of the Russian Federation for the period until 2015 [Koncepcija razvitiya nauchno-issledovatel'skoj i innovacionnoj dejatel'nosti v uchrezhdenijah vysshego professional'nogo obrazovanija Rossijskoj Federacii na period do 2015 goda]. [Electronic resource]: <http://rii-vuz.extech.ru/doc/concept.pdf>. Last accessed 20.07.2016.
4. Saginova, O. V. Internationalization of higher education as a factor of competitiveness (on the example of Plekhanov Russian Academy of Economics) [Internacionalizacija vysshego obrazovanija kak faktor konkurentosposobnosti (na primere Rossijskoj ekonomicheskaj akademii im. G. V. Plehanova)]. [Electronic resource]: <http://www.marketologi.ru/publikatsii/stati/internatsionalizatsija-vysshego-obrazovanija-kak-faktor-konkurentosposobnosti/>. Last accessed 20.07.2016.
5. Glazkov, V. N. Joint Programs of Transport Higher Schools as a Factor of Education Internationalization. *World of Transport and Transportation*, Vol. 13, 2015, Iss. 6, pp. 244–249.

Information about the author:

**Glazkov, Vladimir N.** – Ph.D. (Eng.), associate professor, vice-rector for International Relations of Moscow State University of Railway Engineering (MIIT), Moscow, Russia, [glazkovn@mail.ru](mailto:glazkovn@mail.ru).

Article received 20.07.2016, accepted 14.10.2016.

