

IAAP Russia: Russia's Relations with the Countries of the Korean Peninsula

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Moscow, Russia -- A UPF webinar explored the possibilities of Russia's relations with its neighbors on the Korean Peninsula.

The online program "Prospects for the Development of Russia's Relations with the Countries of the Korean Peninsula" was held on April 19, 2023, by the Russian chapter of UPF's International Association of Academicians for Peace (IAAP).

The program, which was broadcast in the Russian language on Youtube, VKontakte and Odnoklassniki social networks to the nations of the former Soviet Union, has collected 33,000 views.

The speakers at the webinar were:

Dr. Valery Timoshenko, head of the Department of Russian and World History, Pacific National University, Khabarovsk; director of the Center for the Study of International Relations in the Asia-Pacific Region, Khabarovsk;

Dr. Alexander Ivanov, associate professor of the Department of Oriental Languages of the Pedagogical Institute of Pacific National University, Khabarovsk.

The moderator was **Maria Nazarova**, president of UPF-Russia.

These are some of the questions that were discussed:

- Has the Russian Federation's policy of so-called "pivot to the East" affected the relations between

Russia and the countries of the Korean Peninsula?

- In today's geopolitical realities, how are things going with the prospect of a peaceful reunification of North and South Korea, because this also concerns Russia's security on its eastern borders?
- From the point of view of mentality, which nations are closer to Russia: those of the East or the West?

The screenshot shows a VKontakte post from the page 'Федерация за всеобщий мир' (Federation for World Unity), posted yesterday at 11:30. The text of the post asks: 'Who is closer in mentality for Russians, eastern countries or western countries? Where lies the future of our civilization? Korea, China, Russia – these are countries of culture and their mutual relations are discussed by prominent experts.' Below the text is a video conference with three participants: a woman in a pink top, a man in a dark suit, and a woman in a blue top. The video title is 'Беседа видных корееведов о восточном менталитете и региональн...' and it has 12,425 views. The post also shows engagement metrics: 2 comments, 1 share, and 17 likes. On the right side of the post, there is a 'Photo Contest' section with 5.5M users and a 'Popular topics' section with hashtags like #ФедерацияЗаВсеобщийМир, #ПослыМира, #ШоссеМира, #ГУНК, and #ДетиПротивНаркотиков. Below that is a 'Participants' section with 3/102 users listed, including Константин, Валенти, Галина, Елена, Сергей, and Елена.

- What is happening in relations between Russia and the Republic of Korea?
- The current government of South Korea's president has an unequivocal policy of strengthening ties with the United States and Japan. Does this mean that the country is turning its back on Russia? Or is everything not so clear?
- There is a US-UK-Australian military alliance (AUKUS) and a Quadrilateral Security Dialogue ("The Quad") between Australia, India, the United States and Japan. Is there a possibility of South Korea joining these unions, and to what consequences can this lead in the whole Pacific region?
- If the confrontation between the United States and China over Taiwan enters a hot phase, how will the DPRK and South Korea react?

Have Covid-related restrictions been lifted in the DPRK? What is happening now with the work of the Russian and other embassies in the DPRK?