



ISSN 1681-1941
№4 (3912), June 15, 2018

Saint Petersburg UNIVERSITY

HIC TUTA PERENNAT

TWO POINTS OF VIEW





Saint Petersburg UNIVERSITY

HIC TUTA PERENNAT

Based on the historical coat of arms of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the double-headed eagle with a book is now the coat of arms of St Petersburg State University. It is the only Russian university with a legal right to use the image of the Russian eagle on its coat of arms.

Hic tuta perennat is the University's motto. It translates from Latin as "Here all in safety lasts".

Chief Editor:
Vera SVIRIDOVA

Deputy Chief Editor:
Iulia SMIRNOVA

Design and layout:
Olga PRIVALOVA

Front page:
Shutterstock.com

Proofreading:
Nadezhda CHEKALEVA

Photo processing:
Olga PRIVALOVA

Circulation: 1000 copies
Free distribution

Contact information:
7-9 Universitetskaya Emb.,
St Petersburg, Russia

Tel.: 328 01 62

E-mail: journal@spbu.ru
URL: <http://journal.spbu.ru>

The mass media registration certificate PI № 2-5219 issued May 18, 2001 by the Northwestern Interregional Territorial Department of the RF Ministry of Press, Broadcasting, and Mass Communications ISSN 1681-1941

Founded by:
St Petersburg University

The opinions of contributors do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial board.

Please mention St Petersburg State University when citing or reprinting the magazine.

Photographs and submissions are non-returnable and no subject to review and are not subject to review.

16+

CONTENTS

FEATURED PHOTO

2 **Good morning, St Petersburg!**

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

4 **Joint Efforts**
Nikolay Kropachev on productive bilateral relations

10 **Dialogue for the Sake of Peace and Prosperity**
Creating communication channels

12 **Finding Points of Contact**
Lee Kyu-hyung on key results

SCIENCE AND PRACTICE

16 **Korean Lessons: How the Language Barrier Was Removed**
Moving closer for 120 years

22 **Nature Without Borders**
What do Russia and South Korea have in common?

24 **A Journey Back in Time Along Printed Lines**
Understanding a country through its literature and vice versa

28 **'It Looks Familiar to a European, but it is Korean on the Inside'**
Modern Korean literature – what is it like?

32 **Pak Kyong-ni Comes to St Petersburg**
A monument to the great Korean writer

EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

34 **Korean Version of Modernity**
SPbU graduates in Hyundai

RESEARCH PARK

40 **SPbU Research Park Today**



2



12



22



34



The Peter and Paul Fortress is the heart of St Petersburg. The fortress was founded on May 27, 1703 by Peter the Great, following his joint plan with a French engineer Joseph-Gaspard Lambert de Guerin. It is considered to be the day St Petersburg was founded.



PHOTO: SPbU ARCHIVE

JOINT EFFORTS

Translator: **Walker TRIMBLE**

Joining efforts is what allows us to achieve truly impressive results in any task undertaken. A good example of this can be seen in the forum 'Korea-Russia Dialogue' (KRD). What sorts of initiatives have already been brought to life? What can we expect from the forum this year? How has the partnership between St Petersburg University and South Korean universities been reflected in the development of educational programmes and in conducting joint research projects? Nikolay Kropachev, Rector of St Petersburg University and chairman of the KRD Coordinating Committee, gives St Petersburg University magazine answers to these questions in greater detail.

What since 2010 do you consider to be the KRD's most significant results?

In my opinion, the most important result of the KRD has been the introduction of visa-free travel between Russia and Korea. It was the KRD Coordinating Committee which introduced this initiative at the 2013 Forum in Seoul, an initiative which the two countries later brought to

light. This has greatly simplified contacts between our countries' citizens.

There is also another significant achievement: the erection of a statue to the poet Alexander Pushkin in the city of Seoul. It was unveiled in 2013 during the Korea-Russia Dialogue by the president of Russia Vladimir Putin. In fact, in June a new landmark will be unveiled here in St Petersburg. It will be a statue to the eminent 20th century Korean writer Pak Kyong-ni. This event is set to occur on the eve of the 'big' KRD forum.

Let me add that the initiator of all these projects has been the forum directorate. As I see it, this is an indication of our work's effectiveness in the promotion of practical, bilateral contacts.

Of course it is impossible not to note the importance of collaboration between our young people. Space for this, in particular, has been given in the Youth Dialogue, an event which takes place within the KRD on a yearly basis.

Finally, the forum has acquired credibility as a channel through which representatives of the two countries' civil societies can significantly expand

SPbU Rector **Nikolay KROPACHEV** (on the right) and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to the Russian Federation **Woo YOON-KEUN** (in the middle) in the hall of the Twelve Colleges building.

cooperation between different public entities. These include the media, universities, business organisations, and the like.

What do you expect from the forum that will take place between the two countries in Moscow this June?

We are expecting new momentum, perhaps even a breakthrough, in our common contacts. In general, new ideas and proposals are wont to occur in discussions between scholars, businessmen and figures in the sphere of culture. Then they are brought together and put on the 'road map'. In order to put that into practise we need joint efforts so as to achieve results every bit as impressive as those which I've just mentioned.

The forum is positioned as a dialogue between two civil societies. What can their representatives tell each other that politicians cannot?

There's no doubt that politicians reflect the sense of the public in their respective countries, but they are also bound by certain restrictions set by their relations with other such political forces, state institutions. Scholars and practitioners, however, have more freedom in their actions. This is especially the case when continuous research and/or work in their respective spheres allows experts to put the situation in perspective. Politicians and civil servants, on the other hand, can put their knowledge and experience to use and thus help define the vector of development between the two countries.



PHOTO: SPbU ARCHIVE

What sorts of developments can we expect in Korean Studies at our university?

Last year St Petersburg University hosted an international conference devoted to the 120th anniversary of Korean language studies here. This is where European study of the Korean language first began, and this date marked a very important event for academia – the start of Korean Studies at St Petersburg University.

This fact speaks volumes. Today the educational process is reaching new levels, and the most relevant question concerns the competencies students acquire before they graduate. In this sense we can say that Korean studies at the University gather together the best from earlier generations of scholars in order to progress in collaboration with other disciplines. We are creating new interdisciplinary methods of teaching and research as well as teaching students with the new demands of society in mind.

A striking example of this can be found in the launch of our new programme in International Management. The students completing this programme will, among other things, master management issues and have the ability to study Korean language, culture, and the important features of that nation's economy. This shapes the direction an individual student takes so that, finishing the programme, he or she will have a unique combination of skills demanded in the workplace.

In this sense the University's aim is to prepare highly-qualified Korean specialists with the broadest selection of abilities of interest to employers.

To achieve these aims, the University is in active collaboration with, for example, both the Korea Foundation and The Academy of Korean Studies. These organisations are bringing to life methods and granting support for projects engaged in the translation and publication

towards the study of Russian language and culture, but they are also interested in other fields: international relations and economics, for example. Note that the medium for many of these programmes is English.

If you take a look at the statistics, you can see stable growth in the number of Korean students coming to us for exchange programmes. Our students are also more and more attracted to the study opportunities in Korea. For example, if in the 2015-16 academic year 11 students participated in the programme, we can say that this year 23 are participating. Recently the interest in study in Korea attracted not only Asian specialists and sociologists but also those engaged in the hard sciences: mathematics and physics, for example.

As for opening St Petersburg University's branch office in Hankuk University, I'm certain it will have its own effects on the development of our partnership. It will raise awareness on the Korean side of our institutional possibilities and the growth of academic mobility as a whole. In 2018, our base there will officially open its doors by hosting open lectures by St Petersburg University scholars as well as roundtable discussions with the participation of both Russian and Korean researchers.

of monographs and course books, the digitisation and partial publication of early Korean manuscripts and woodcuts, as well as conducting research and organising events. The University has founded and successfully put into operation the Institute of Interdisciplinary Korean Studies.

In what fields and with which South Korean universities does the University have academic exchange programmes? Will there be more of them? How will this contribute to the office at Hankuk University?

Collaboration with Korean universities is carried out through mutual academic exchange agreements. Our current key partners in the Republic of Korea are leading universities such as Seoul National University, Korea University and Yonsei University.

Every year more than 25 students from Korean universities come to participate in internships and in our summer school. For the most part students are directed

In recent years the University has been regularly expanding its cooperation with South Korean higher educational institutions. How has this been reflected in the conduct of joint scientific research? Which areas or fields of research do you consider to be the more promising in this respect?

Over the last three years scholars at St Petersburg University have prepared more than 160 joint publications in different branches of science (from physics and astronomy to psychology and sociology) in collaboration with representatives of 29 Korean organisations. Furthermore, this collaboration is not limited

to universities with whom we have collaborative agreements. Most of the publications were prepared with researchers from Pusan National University, Sejong University, Yonsei University, the Korean Institute of Science and Technology Information, Konkuk University and Inha University. It must be noted that more than 80% of the joint publications were in the top quartile (Q1).

Of course, these joint projects were preceded by a great deal of strategic planning work and in prioritising particular areas of research. Additionally, it is essential to establish high-quality horizontal institutional links between research teams. We are now investigating more effective means of drawing these connections together, though I can say that interest in on the part of our colleagues from Korea and our scholars is only growing.

Likewise in 2018 members of the University took part in the Competition for Science Initiatives which was conducted along with Russian Foundation for Basic Research and the National Research Foundation of Korea. They submitted proposals for research in the following areas: chemistry of inorganic functional and nanoscale materials (partnered with the Guangzhou Institute of Science and Technology), geochemistry of sedimentary processes (partnered with Yonsei University), the sociology of culture (partnered with Inha University).

The largest of the projects in which we are now engaged is being implemented together with the Academy of Korean Studies. It involves a team investigating issues of Asian studies, international relations and sociology. The project's goal is to create an interdisciplinary group devoted to the study of Korea. This group will establish a base for further linguistic, cultural and social research. The first stage of the project, competed in 2015, was devoted to expanding the disciplinary boundaries of 'Korean studies' as the University. The second phase, which will last until



PHOTO: SPbU ARCHIVE

Before opening the conference '120th Anniversary of Korean Studies in St Petersburg University' (left to right): Prof. **Hur Seung Chul**, Korea University, Executive Secretary of the Russia - Republic of Korea Dialogue Forum; **Lee Kyu-hyung**, Chairman of the Korean Coordinating Committee for the Russia - Republic of Korea Dialogue Forum; **Inna CHOI**, Head of the Directorate of the Russian Coordinating Committee for the Russia - Republic of Korea Dialogue Forum; **Nikolay Kropachev**, SPbU Rector, Chairman of the Russian Coordinating Committee for the Russia - Republic of Korea Dialogue Forum; **Woo YOON-KEUN**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to the Russian Federation; **Kim Hyun Taek**, Director of SPbU Representative Office at Hankuk University.

2021, involves strengthening interdisciplinary approaches to the organisation of our activities as well as the creation of a network of universities focused on the study of Korea in Northern and Eastern Europe.

We have made a whole range of new contacts thanks to the visit the SPbU Vice Rector for Research and the Director of the St Petersburg University Research Park, Sergei Mikushev, paid to Hankuk in April of this year representing our University. We have also settled on the course of partnership with three large institutions. Korea University, Hankuk University of Foreign Languages, and Sungkyunkwan University have all identified shared topics of scientific research. Now work is under way to establish horizontal links between university research teams.

Among the most promising areas of joint research are nanotechnology, materials science, chemistry, linguistics, philosophy and cultural history, Russian as a foreign language, international relations, and political science.

You yourself have been to South Korea several times. What has, personally, been your greatest impression of the country?

Each time I go to Korea I note how dynamically this country is developing. The first thing you notice is the attention devoted to the surroundings and the skilful use of urban space, its combination of the 'natural' and the urban.

During the last trip I was able to do what I usually don't have time for: taking a walk through Seoul. And this was to discover a completely different Korea. For example, when I stepped into one of the palace complexes in the city centre, there was the impression that I was standing at the foot of a mountain.

I stood and admired the curvature of a traditional Korean roof. Around me there was silence, just the rustling of willow branches. Yet beyond the palace gates were skyscrapers, ultra-modern buildings, the tumult of a major city.

Of course the greatest impression comes from Koreans themselves, their energy and zest for life.

The Far East is Actually Close

SPbU has various agreements with 16 universities and organizations from the Republic of Korea.

SPbU teachers and researchers co-authored **231** unique publications with their colleagues from 37 Korean research centres and universities from 2012 to 2017.

More than **100**

works have been published in collaboration with teachers and researchers from Pusan National University, Sejong University, Yonsei University and the Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KISTI).



Academy of Korean Studies



Sookmyung Women's University



Chungbuk National University



Seoul National University



Chung-Ang University



Korea University



Anyang University



Sunlin College



Yonsei University, Institute for East-West Studies



Hankuk University of Foreign Studies



National Assembly of the Republic of Korea



Kangnung National University



Sungkyunkwan University



Incheon University



Chongju University



Keimyung University

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AT SPbU

Dialogue for the Sake of Peace and Prosperity

The distance between St Petersburg and Seoul did not hinder the launch of the Russia – Republic of Korea Dialogue Forum. Its goal is to create effective communication channels for representatives of academic and education institutions, public organizations, businessmen and cultural figures. The Forum's stakeholders have been continuously working for

eight years now. The results of their work include new connections, exchange of best practices and joint projects, but the most important one is the intensified cooperation between the civil societies of both countries, which is reflected in this year's mission statement of the Forum: 'Russia–Korea cooperation for the sake of peace and prosperity'.



Chairman of the Russian Coordinating Committee

Nikolay KROPACHEV, Rector of SPbU



Chairman of the Korean Coordinating Committee

Lee KYU-HYUNG, consultant at the Samsung Economic Research Institute

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES:

Russian (러시아어)
한국 (Korean)



YOUTH DIALOGUE (YD)

LEADERS:
Vladimir FILIPPOV, Rector of the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia

Kho CHAN, Professor, Vice President of the Columbia college (U.S.A.), Vice President of The Society of Convergence Technology & Knowledge, Director of The Society of Digital Contents

OBJECTIVE: cultural exchange between Russian and Korean students and discussion of relevant issues.

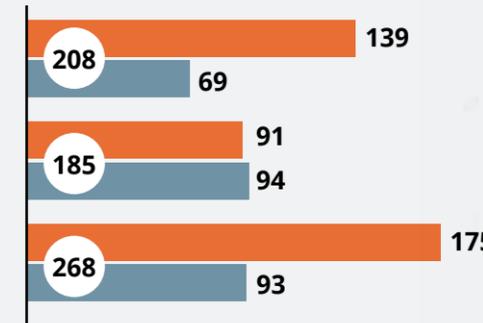


LARGE-SCALE FORUMS VISITED BY PRESIDENTS OF RUSSIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

2010, Seoul: 'The knowledge society in the 21st century: A new partnership between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Korea'

2011, St Petersburg: 'Russia–South Korea alliance for the sake of modernization and innovation'

2013, Seoul: 'Cooperation between Russia and the Republic of Korea for the future of Eurasia'



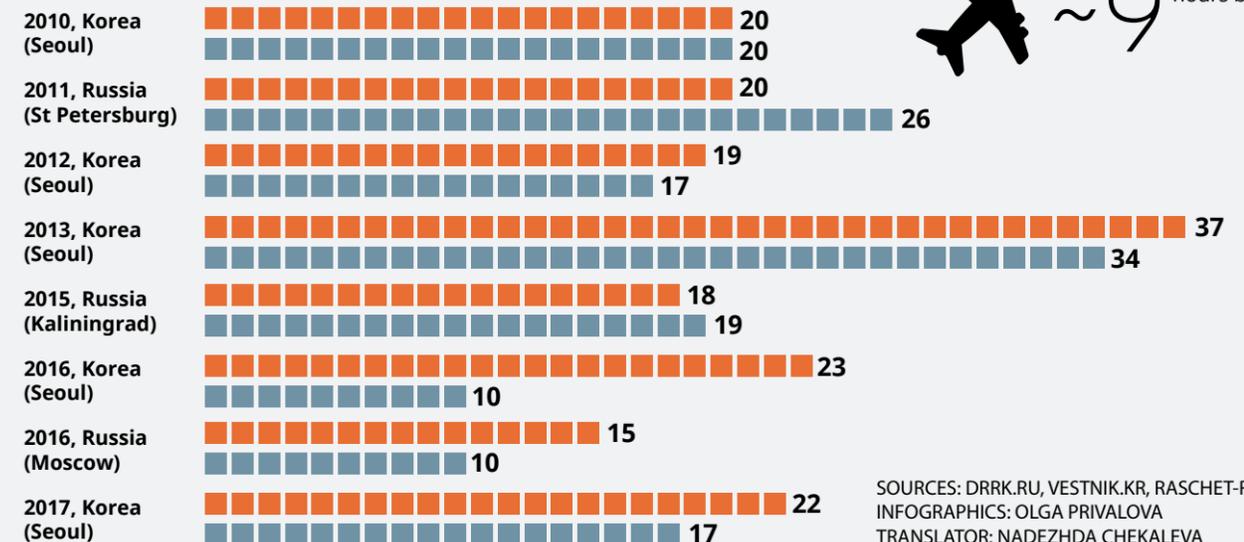
number of participants from the Republic of Korea
number of participants from the Russian Federation



It took 70 days for the first Korean diplomatic mission to reach St Petersburg in 1896



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS AND GEOGRAPHY OF THE YD



Finding Points of Contact



PHOTO: SPBU ARCHIVE

Translator: **Nadezhda CHEKALEVA**

This is the main goal of the Russia - Republic of Korea Dialogue Forum. What have we achieved in the eight years of the Forum? What are its participants going to focus on this year? Lee Kyu-hyung, Chairman of the Korean Coordinating Committee of the Russia - Republic of Korea Dialogue Forum, consultant at the Samsung Economic Research Institute (SERI) and former Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in the Russian Federation and China (April 2007–February 2010), has shared his answers to these questions and more in an interview with St Petersburg University Journal.

What do you believe to be the most important outcome of the Forum, starting with 2010?

I believe that the most important outcome is a greater rapport and the development of relations between Korean and Russian experts, scientists, journalists, entrepreneurs, and also between young leaders of the new generation. We send the results of discussions held at numerous meetings to politicians responsible for making decisions in the government, and in doing so we have made considerable efforts to further develop Russia–South Korea relations.

After the unveiling of a monument to Alexander Pushkin in the centre of Seoul in November 2013, we launched an annual Russian Music Festival, attracting more attention of the Korean population to Russian culture and art. The Russian side organized research seminars, held exhibitions of documents and conducted special lectures dedicated to the work of a Korean writer Pak Kyong-ni, which has all contributed to increasing the focus on Korean art and culture in Russia and helped Russian people to understand it better. The result was the unveiling of the Pak Kyong-ni monument at St Petersburg University.

There is also another event, the Forum for University Rectors of the two countries, which has been held five times already. It promotes the strengthening of friendship and cooperation between universities, finding common solutions in the course of interaction between enterprises and universities and, among other things, addresses the internationalization of education.

What are your expectations of the 4th Forum, which is to take place in Moscow this June?

First of all, I consider it a great honour that for the first time in five years I will be able to report the results of the Forum's activities to the leaders of the two states.

As decided by the two parties, the mission statement of the forum is 'Russia–Korea

In 2017, **Lee Kyu-hyung** (in the middle) took part in a conference commemorating the 120th anniversary of Korean studies at SPbU and expressed the hope that the event would help the countries find new avenues of cooperation.

cooperation for the sake of peace and prosperity'. This topic will be discussed at meetings of six working groups, where experts will go over development trends in Russia–Korea relations. As a result, we will present action-oriented proposals to the governments of the two countries.

This year, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Korea celebrate their 28th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, and it has been 10 years since the two countries started their strategic partnership. We expect to see more reciprocal visits and we anticipate that the Forum will become a regular event. We hope that the Forum participants will contribute to the processes of denuclearization and peacemaking on the Korean peninsula, and will also define specific steps for the development of economic cooperation.

Are you going to personally take part in working groups' meetings or special sessions? Do you believe that it is necessary?

The programme might be changed by our Russian partners, but as of now, I plan on attending the meeting of the Working Group on Politics and International Relations so that I can express my opinion on denuclearization and peace on the Korean Peninsula and help develop result-oriented proposals.

I am also planning to participate in other meetings,



PHOTO: SPbU ARCHIVE

for instance, that of the Working Group on Economy, Trade and Resources, in order to directly observe the down-to-earth and constructive discussions of issues on our agenda and, if necessary, to share my own views.

I want to make every effort to ensure that the content of the report I will be preparing for our countries' leaders is as specific and sincere as possible.

Working Groups on Politics and International Relations and on Economy, Trade and Resources each have two meetings scheduled. What issues are they going to touch upon?

The two Working Groups are tasked with developing proposals on peace and prosperity, which are the key points in the mission statement of the Forum. Therefore, both sides have agreed that these working groups should have two meetings each, before and after lunch.

The Working Group on Politics will mainly discuss the potential of Russian–Korean cooperation in the context of unstable world order. The Working Group on Economy will be looking for common ground between the New Northern Policy pursued by the Government of the Republic of Korea and the New Eastern Policy of the Russian Federation.

The Forum is supposed to be a dialogue between the civil societies of the two countries. What is it that civil society representatives can say to each other and politicians cannot?

It is hard to say, but I think that ordinary people who do not hold official posts find it much easier to frankly share their views on domestic politics or pressing international issues.

What areas do you think are the most promising in terms of the development of cooperation

in science and technology between Russia and the Republic of Korea?

There are many examples of successful transfers of Russian fundamental technologies to Korea. In addition, the two states have already had experience in technological cooperation in the defence industry.

I believe that Russia is a leader in aerospace and energy sectors, and the Republic of Korea possesses advanced technologies and holds a leading position in electronics and shipbuilding. These are the potential avenues of cooperation.

St Petersburg University is creating new educational programmes for Korean studies. Is the interest in learning the Russian language and culture growing in the Republic of Korea?

The Republic of Korea has a long-standing interest in studying

the Russian culture, language and art. We have trained many outstanding scholars and experts.

I was very much impressed by the fact that St Petersburg University was the first in the world to teach the Korean language and is currently paying great attention to Korean studies and the spread of knowledge about our country.

This will make a significant contribution to the development of Russia–Korea bilateral relations.

You used to be the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Russia. What impressed you most in this country?

The way Russian people love and take pride in their culture and art – and I speak from personal experience.

I was also impressed by the depth of Russians' feelings and emotions. There is something Asian about it.



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Korea is famous for rapid technological development, which is accompanied by a **tradition of preserving the country's rich cultural heritage.**

Korean Lessons: How the Language Barrier Was Removed

Author: **Iulia SMIRNOVA,**
Translator: **Irina LEKOMTSEVA**

The history of the Korean studies at SPbU is a classic example of how politics influences research.

Russia', said Professor and Head of the Department of Korean Studies at SPbU Sergei Kurbanov.

Korea had a long history of self-imposed isolation. Yet it opened door to the world in the late 19th century. In 1876, Korea signed the Treaty of Amity and Friendship with Japan (commonly called the Kanghwa Treaty that established unequal commercial terms favoring Japan) and in 1882 started its diplomatic relations with the USA, Great Britain, Germany, and other countries in Europe. In 1884, Korea and Russia negotiated the Russia-Korea Treaty of 1884, while in 1886 Seoul opened the Russian diplomatic representative office, which Gojong of Korea, following the Empress's assassination, fled for refuge to. 'From February 1896 to February 1897, Gojong of Korea lived in the Russian legislation in Seoul. It definitely contributed to stronger ties between Korea and

TOWARDS WEST
In 1896, Nikolay II ascended the throne in Russia. The event was also visited by the Korean delegation. 'It was the first trip abroad and a travel around the

BY THE WAY

In autumn 2017, SPbU held a conference 'The 120th anniversary of Korean studies and Russia-Korea research at SPbU'. The event was visited by the representatives from the University, KRDI, politicians, diplomats, and scholars.

PHOTO: ALEKSEY LOSHCHEV



Sergei KURBANOV

Doctor of History, Professor, Head of the Department of Korean Studies at SPbU, Director of the Institute of Interdisciplinary Research of Korea at SPbU, Director of the Centre for Korean Language and Culture at SPbU.

Sergey Kurbanov graduated from the University in 1986. In 1992, he defended his candidate's dissertation 'Historiographical aspects of land relations in Korea in 10th–14th centuries' at the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences. In 2005, he defended his doctoral thesis 'Korean Confucian texts on the universal category of filial piety: 12th century to the beginning of the 20th century' at St Petersburg University. Sergey Kurbanov is the author of more than 120 works on Korean history, social thought, culture, ethnography, politics, and economy, as well as works on the theory of history, including 6 monographs. Since 2008, he has been giving lectures at the University of Turku (Finland), the University of Oslo (Norway), and the University of Stockholm (Sweden). He is a permanent participant of the Russia – Republic of Korea Dialogue Forum.

world for Korea. The travelling notes and poems are considered to be the first account of the non-Eastern, strange world', said Kim Chinyoung, Yonsei University in Seoul, in the Korean newspaper in Russian Seoul Herald dated February 10, 2004.

In other words, historically the West has just recently discovered Korea and vice versa.

Following the coronation, the delegation visited St Petersburg to negotiate how Russia could help Korea to drive out Japanese influence. The negotiations were quite successful, and Russia deployed military forces there and even suggested financial support to pay off the debt to Japan.

These events therefore triggered the need for the experts in the Korean studies. In August 1896, we discussed how to send a person to St Petersburg to teach Korean in Russia. A year after, a relative of the murdered Empress Myeongseong visited St Petersburg for the second time to issue the letters of credence and act as a head of the Russian legislation. He was accompanied by an interpreter Kim Penyouk, who we still know little about. When the Korean diplomats left for Europe, he stayed in Russia and

in 1897 started to teach Korean in St Petersburg Imperial University (now St Petersburg University). Two years later, in 1899 he published the first-ever study guide on the Korean language. The guide focused on language instructions, Korean culture, and history. Later, he became a Christian, had the Russian name (Evgenii Nikolaevich) and married a Russian woman. Where and how he lived after the October Revolution is little, if any, known.

AT THE EASTERN BORDER

In early 20th century, we started to teach Korean in Vladivostok. In 1900, the Oriental Institute opened the first in Russia Department of Korean Language that was headed by a graduate of the Faculty of Oriental Studies of St Petersburg Imperial University Grigorii Podstavin. Although he studied Mongolian at the University, he learnt Korean during two years he spent in Korea. In 1920, the Oriental Institute became the State Far East University, and its first Rector was Professor Grigorii Podstavin.

The history of the Korean studies in Petersburg and Far East

PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



also knows Nikolay Kuner. At the University, he studied Mongolian, but it was his enquiring mind that made him study recently discovered Korean. Korean was so mesmerizing that in 1899, when he was graduating from the University, he was one of the authors of the three-volume edition 'Describing Korea' that was published by the Ministry of Finance in 1900. He also wrote an essay on the history of Korea from the ancient time to the late 19th century by referring to the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean sources. This three-volume edition was re-published in 1960 and is still popular in academic community.

After graduating from the University, he travelled across Asia and then got a position in the Oriental Institute as Professor to study history, ethnography, geography of Korea and other oriental countries. In 1925, he returned to Leningrad where he continued to teach and make research up to the mid-50s.

LANGUAGE IN EXILE

In Korea, meanwhile, it was a time of hardship for the Korean language. 'Up to the late 19th century, the language of legislation in Korea was Old Chinese. Just when the Korean

language started to penetrate into the life in Korea after the reforms of 1880-1890s, in 1910 Japanese troops occupied Korea. The

“Sergei KURBANOV told us through how he started to study Korea: 'It all depends on the circumstances, your potential, and traits of character. In 1982, the-then Head of the Department of History of Far East, Professor Georgii Smolin told us (me and another student Andrei Lankov who now works in Seoul) that we had to initiate the historical study of Korea and we had to study more subjects than other students did and learn Korean, along with Chinese. Figuratively, I always take roads that nobody has ever taken. It was a chance for me to be the first to explore the history of Korea. I read some books about Korea and instantly realized that I was fascinated by Korea.'

Korean language was therefore officially prohibited. It triggered a massive decline in interest in the Korean language and Korean studies abroad', said Sergei Kurbanov.

The interest to the Korean language in the academic community was revived by Aleksandr Kholodovich who worked at Leningrad State University. He was a scholar in Japanese studies, learnt Korean



In 2017, St Petersburg University and Consulate General of the Republic of Korea signed an agreement to grant the right to hold the TOPIK (Test of Proficiency in Korean) that is a written test to measure the language proficiency and is accepted worldwide. The University is the first institution where you can take a TOPIK test in St Petersburg.

In May 2017, St Petersburg University opened its **representative office in the Hankyong University of Foreign Studies in Seoul**. It is primarily responsible for propelling collaboration between the University and Korean partner-universities and popularize the Russian language and culture in South Korea.



PHOTO: SYDKOREA.UH.DK

himself, began to teach it and even published a book *Structure of the Korean Language* in 1938 that was a course of lectures he read at the University. In 1930s, to make life of the Korean people in the USSR easier, he tried to use the Latin scripts to introduce the romanisation of the Korean language. The Soviet establishment found it difficult to cope with the Korean language. However, the initiative failed.

Aleksandr Kholodovich began to compile the first Russian-Korean dictionary and develop the transliteration rules that were later referred to as the 'Kholodovich's system'. Then it was modified by Lev Kontsevich who was a scholar in Korean studies in Moscow.

In 1945, politics also made some adjustments to the course of development of the Korean studies. When the surrender of

Imperial Japan was announced, Korea fulfilled its wish for freedom. Yet shortly after it was divided into two mutually antagonistic states. With the end of the Japanese colonial rule, the Japanese language conceded to the Korean language, and it started to develop in its own way, be more precise in two ways: south and north. 'In South Korea, the language is influenced by the Seoul and South dialects, Russian

and Chinese languages. The phrases in the ideologically biased texts were greatly influenced by the Russian, or 'Soviet', language. Some phrases were the exact copies from the Russian language. As a result, the Korean language, especially in its written form, is significantly different from the Korean language under the Japanese rule: although the grammar remains the same, there are many new words, especially in science and engineering', said Sergei Kurbanov.

NEW HISTORY

Building relationships with North Korea means that we needed experts in the Korean language, history, and culture. 'In 1947, Leningrad State University opened the Department of Korean Studies to educate and prepare students in Korean studies. They enrolled about 20 students, perhaps 21 students, mostly half of them are Koreans who came to study from the Central Asia', said Adelaida Trotsevich in her article *My teacher Aleksandr Kholodovich* published on the web-site *Koryo-Saram*.

Later the Korean studies was incorporated into the circular of other universities: Moscow State University, MGIMO. In 1970s, the Far East University restored the Faculty of Oriental Studies to study Korea. Among those who thought Korean were Koreans from the Soviet Union. 'In early 1950s, an incredibly interesting person came to our University, said Sergei Kurbanov, He was a teacher of the spoken Korean language. His name was Lim Su and he was a Korean from the Soviet Union. He studied arts in Uzbekistan and came to Leningrad to enter the Academy of Arts. As he was strolling along the University Embankment, he met Aleksandr Kholodovich.

- Are you Korean?
- I am.
- Do you speak Korean?
- I do.
- We need a Korean teacher. Would you join us?'

This is how Lim Su didn't enter the Academy of Arts and started a teaching career. He

worked at the University for over 50 years. Yet there is another account of how he came to Leningrad: the University revived teaching Korean.

In 1952, Aleksandr Kholodovich opened the Department of Korean Philology. It existed only 10 years, when its founder was working at the University. When he started to work in the Linguistics Institute and the USSR-DPRK relationships were far from being on the rise, the Korean studies at the University was on the background again. Again – the politics had its say.

'The USSR-DPRK relationships were not intensive and we didn't have to prepare specialists in the Korean language. We didn't have any diplomatic relations with South Korea. We enrolled students on the Korean Philology every five years, even rarely to the History of Korea. Graduates

“ **Sergei KURBANOV:**
'Since 2008,

SPbU has become a centre of the Russia-Korea Forum "Dialogue of Russia – Republic of Korea". How we can develop the Korean studies at SPbU is a high priority with the Chairpersons of the Russian and Korean Coordination Committees of the Forum Nikolay Kropachev and Lee Ku-Hen who is an advisor of the Samsung Economic Research Institute (SERI), Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Russia (April 2007 – February 2010). The scholars in the Korean studies have become therefore the regular visitors of the forums and members of the working groups of the KRDC. It means that the Korean studies is important not only in classroom but also in politics and culture'.

couldn't find a job, apart from in the Institute of Oriental Studies where they translated Korean literature, teach the Korean language, and make research on the Korean literature', said Sergei Kurbanov. Although the Korean studies were not on the rise, Petersburg school of the Korean studies had no equals or rivals. 'What makes us strong is our funds and ability to work with the classical sources, to connect long-established traditions and current trends, and see the roots of the imbalances we encounter today in the traditional culture. These are our strengths. If you teach Korean, you should know both contemporary Korean and Hieroglyphic writing that the Koreans used up to the mid-20th century', said Professor Kurbanov.

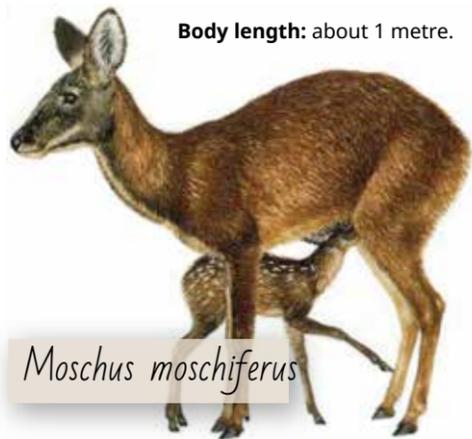
ON THE 'KOREAN WAVE'

We discovered South Korea only in September in 1990 and established diplomatic relationships, even before the Soviet Union collapsed. 'We opened a new Korea with its democracy, culture, cinema, and so on. It was long before the Korean wave started. We started academic exchange and tried to cement our economic ties. We started to teach subjects related to Korea. In the late 1980s, we enrolled the first group on the History of Korea. In 1995, we opened the Centre for Korean Language and Culture at SPbU with support of the Korean entrepreneurs and Korean Foundation. We enroll more and more students. In 1997, I started from scratch to develop the disciplines on the History of Korea. At the turn of the century, we had new teachers and opened the Department. It was quite natural. Earlier our colleagues who worked at the Department of Chinese Philology and South-East Asia also taught Korean, while the historians were the members of the Department of History of Far East. Today we are all the member of one Department and enroll students each year', said Sergei Kurbanov.

Nature Without Borders

The Far East is an amazing region where the subtropics meet the temperate climate zone. Fortunately, the nature does not observe state borders, so there are many species that are common both in South Korea and in Russia, which provides experts from the two countries with great opportunities for cooperation. Here are just some of the great number of plant and animal species that our countries share.

SIBERIAN MUSK DEER (*Moschus moschiferus*)
A small even-toed ungulate found in a large part of East Asia. Their extremely valuable musk gland is used in pharmaceutical manufacturing and perfume production.



Body length: about 1 metre.

Moschus moschiferus

ASIAN BLACK BEAR (*Ursus thibetanus*)
Asian black bears are found in mountain forests from Iran to Japan. They are smaller than their brown siblings and have a crescent-like white spot on their chest. Asian black bears are mainly herbivorous and spend half their lives in trees.



Males' body length can reach 170 cm.

Ursus thibetanus

HIBISCUS (*Hibiscus syriacus*)
A deciduous shrub found in East Asia, whose flower is the symbol of South Korea. Its Korean name is mugunghwa, which means 'an eternal blossom'. It is widely used in Russia for decorative purposes.

Can grow up to 6 metres high.

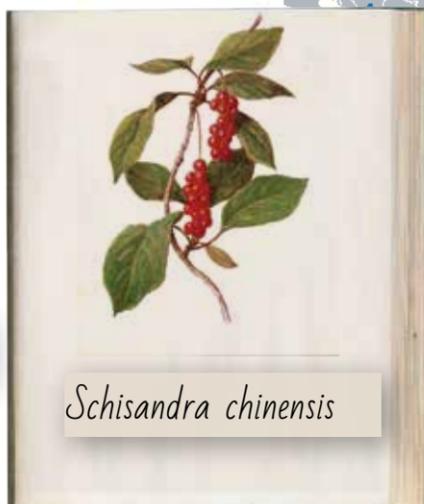


Hibiscus syriacus

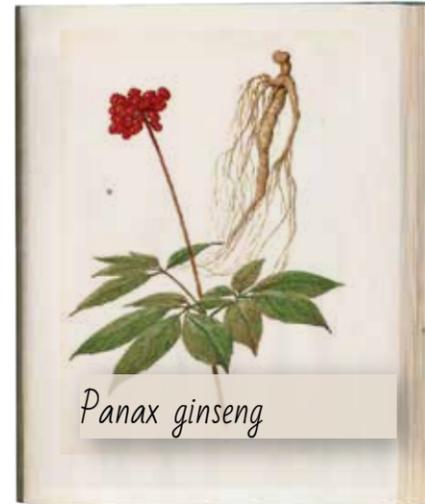
LANGUAGES
Most contemporary researchers include the Korean language in the Altaic family, which comprises three language groups: Turkic, Mongolic and Manchu-Tungus, including the Korean branch. Languages that belong to the Altaic family are spoken by more than 200 million people, including peoples living in the Russian Federation: the Chuvash people, the Evenks, the Nanais, the Tatars, the Bashkirs and others.

CHINESE MAGNOLIA-VINE (*Schisandra chinensis*)
A deciduous vine native to the Far East, China and the Korean Peninsula, whose berries, leaves and bark are used in food industry and pharmaceutical manufacturing.

It can grow 15 metres long.



Schisandra chinensis



Panax ginseng

GINSENG (*Panax ginseng*)
A perennial herbaceous plant whose root resembles a human body. Ginseng is a valuable medicinal plant, and it is widely used in traditional oriental medicine as an energy booster. The root can 'hibernate' and remain inactive for decades, so the plant can live for up to 120 years. Ginseng is widely cultivated.

The aerial part of the plant can grow up to 60 cm high.

MANDARIN DUCK (*Aix galericulata*).
A small duck species whose males have a remarkable bright breeding plumage. The mandarin duck is native to the Far East, China, Japan, and the Korean Peninsula, and it has been successfully introduced to Europe and North America. It nests in cavities in trees. Mandarin ducks mate for life and are therefore considered symbols of loyalty and marriage.



Weight: up to 700 grams.

Aix galericulata

Body length of a male Amur tiger from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail is 2.7-3.8 metres.



Panthera tigris altaica

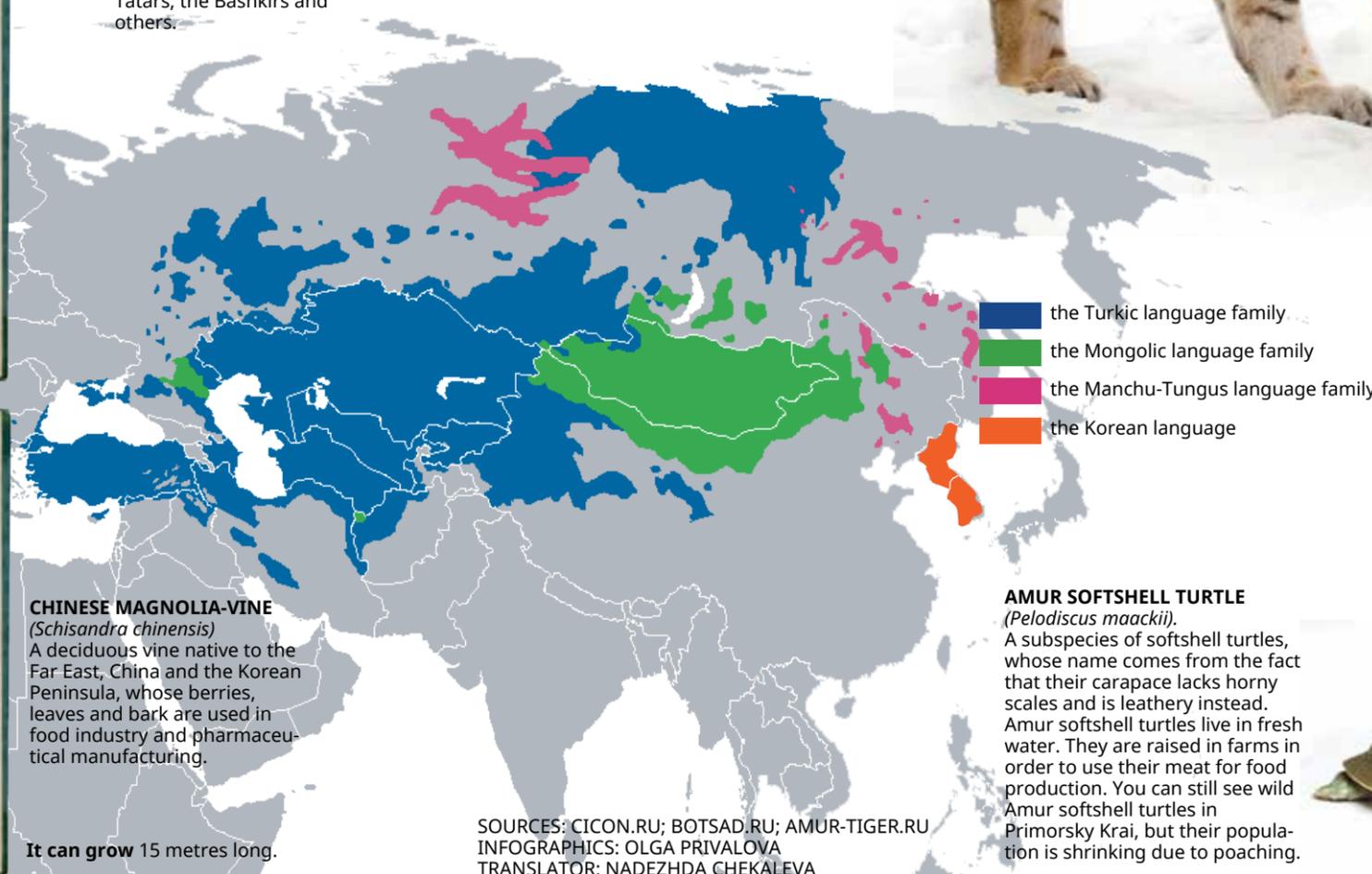
AMUR TIGER (*Panthera tigris altaica*)
The largest of the tiger subspecies with the lowest population. 95% of Amur tigers live in the Russian Far East. One tiger can eat up to 35 kg of meat in one go. The last wild tiger was seen in South Korea in 1946.

Carapace length: up to 40 cm.

Pelodiscus maackii



AMUR SOFTSHELL TURTLE (*Pelodiscus maackii*).
A subspecies of softshell turtles, whose name comes from the fact that their carapace lacks horny scales and is leathery instead. Amur softshell turtles live in fresh water. They are raised in farms in order to use their meat for food production. You can still see wild Amur softshell turtles in Primorsky Krai, but their population is shrinking due to poaching.



SOURCES: CICON.RU; BOTSAD.RU; AMUR-TIGER.RU
INFOGRAPHICS: OLGA PRIVALOVA
TRANSLATOR: NADEZHDA CHEKALEVA

A Journey Back in Time Along Printed Lines

Author: Vera SVIRIDOVA
Translator: Nadezhda CHEKALEVA



PHOTO: VERA SVIRIDOVA

It is mostly thanks to the work of SPbU teachers and students that Russian readers could acquaint themselves with traditional Korean literature. They did not only translate and popularize Korean literature, but they have also come up with a unique research methodology.

Since mastering the Korean language at St Petersburg Imperial University (now St Petersburg University) was based on studying texts, an extensive collection of Korean manuscripts and early printed

books in the University's collection played an important part in this process. According to Anastasia Guryeva, Associate Professor at St Petersburg State University (Department of Korean Studies), this collection was gathered by Russian diplomats who worked in Korea in the late 19th century – for instance, Karl Ivanovich Weber and Pavel Andreyevich Dmitrevsky. Not unlike other diplomats, they were tasked by the government with gathering information about another country, a country that had long pursued a policy of seclusion and was just beginning to open to the outside world. In order to fulfill this task, they acquired books on every aspect of life in Korea. Subsequently, a significant part of these collections was given to St Petersburg State University. Texts from this collection formed the basis for the first teaching experiments.

The methodology of learning a language by reading and analyzing texts allowed students to get acquainted with the culture and worldview of Koreans. This is why students at the Department of Korean Studies not only do research but are also engaged in translation. 'For example, Aleksandr Kholodovich, a famous linguist and Head of the Korean philology department founded in 1947 at Leningrad State University, made word-for-word translations of Korean poetic works, which were subsequently versified by the poet Anna Akhmatova,' says Anastasia Guryeva. 'In 1956 the book Korean Classical Poetry was published in 35 thousand copies. Having learned about the role of the famous poet in the popularization of Korean poetry, Consul General of the Republic of Korea in St Petersburg Lee Jin Hyun set his mind on republishing this collection. It was reprinted last year with financial support from Literature Translation Institute of Korea.'

UNIQUE METHODOLOGY

Aleksandr Kholodovich's students continued his work. Marianna Nikitina and Adelaida Trotsevich

developed the first course on the history of Korean literature. 'Before that, the University did not have it as an independent course. Thanks to them, it was officially included in the curriculum. Back then, the emphasis was on traditional literature,' Anastasia Guryeva explains. They developed a unique methodology for studying traditional Korean literature, which allowed to bring its research to a new level and even get ahead of scholars. According to Anastasia Guryeva, this approach suggests perceiving a text as a phenomenon of the studied culture in all its complexity. Thanks to this, Korean literature has become a fundamental discipline in terms of understanding Korea and its culture. 'On the one hand, when a researcher studies a particular text, they ask themselves: "Why is this text written like that? What determines its features?" The text is analyzed both in the context of Korean culture and Far Eastern culture as a whole,' Anastasia Guryeva clarifies. 'On the other hand, every single text helps to learn something new about the country's culture. Its features allow us to understand the culture and mentality of the country's population.'

Marianna Nikitina mainly studied poetry in the original (in Korean, as Koreans also wrote in Old Chinese – Ed.). She made an invaluable contribution to the development of the research approach described above as she turned to deeper layers of meaning when working with texts. 'Through the discovery of hidden meanings that stem from the archaic layer of culture, she studied Korean rituals and then moved on to the level of Korean mentality and sociocultural models. By working with various cultural artifacts, she reconstructed some Korean myths that had been long gone. Bit by bit, she pieced together the cultural landscape of ancient Koreans. For example, she used texts of the Unified Silla era (a state that existed on the Korean peninsula in the 7th–10th centuries – Ed.) to reconstruct



PHOTO: ALEKSEY LOSHCHILOV

Anastasia GURYEVA

SPbU graduate, Candidate of Philology, research topic: 'Namhun Taepyeong-ga' ('Songs of the Great Peace at South Wind'): A Block-print from the Manuscript Collection of St Petersburg Branch of the Institute for Oriental Studies, RAS.

Anastasia Guryeva has been teaching courses in various aspects of the Korean language and lecture courses on Korean literature since 2003. She has more than 85 publications in Russian, English and Korean, including translations of Korean literature, multi-author monographs and textbooks.

Anastasia Guryeva has given guest lectures at Yonsei and Korea Universities (Seoul), School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London), Stockholm University, Comenius University (Bratislava), Vienna University and Charles University (Prague).

Research interests: traditional Korean poetry in the original; text and book in Korean culture; Korean manuscripts and early printed books; ties between traditional and contemporary Korean culture.

TRADITIONS CARRY ON

The next generation of University's Korean studies scholars continued the tradition. Larisa Zhdanova explored Korean poetry in Chinese; works of the 9th century poet Choe Chiwon in particular. 'Through the work of this poet, she showed the unique features of the phenomenon as a whole; she pointed out a number of features that illustrate the culture and the society of that era,' says Anastasia Guryeva. 'For instance, she showed that, while being a part of the Chinese

a certain worldview, which she called an 'appearance system'. Marianna Nikitina's description of worldview features typical of past centuries helps to explain various aspects of contemporary literature and culture in general, since a number of them are still relevant,' Anastasia Guryeva elucidates.

Adelaida Trotsevich mainly works with traditional prose, and her doctoral thesis deals with a Korean novel. In her analysis of A Nine Cloud Dream by Gim Manjung (17th century) she showed the work's ties with the calendar- and ritual-based aspects of life and singled out its Buddhist and mythological layers. 'In studying this and other texts, Adelaida Trotsevich has demonstrated profound behavioural and mental features of the Korean culture. She has shown that harmony, peace and the birth of a new life are important for the Korean worldview. If there is any conflict or confrontation in the text, it is always resolved by defusing it,' Anastasia Guryeva explains. 'This is generally typical of Korean culture, and today in

particular.' Adelaida Trotskevich has also translated A Nine Cloud Dream, which has made it available to the general public. The translation came out in 1985 in 50,000 copies.

The opportunity to use original texts in research has ultimately served well. 'Back then (in the second half of the 20th century, up until the 1990s – Ed.) our scientists had limited access to the research of North Korean scientists and had basically no contact with those from South Korea. They used contemporary academic achievements in studying texts and extracting the maximum amount of information from them. It even helped them to some extent because they were free from clichés,' says Anastasia Guryeva.

It should be noted that other University employees were also involved in translating Korean literature for the general public: University lecturers and linguists Gennady Rachkov, Anatoly Vasilyev and Lim Su, and also an employee of the Leningrad branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences Dmitry Eliseev.

ecumene, Koreans had always kept their authenticity, added something of their own to the Chinese culture and skillfully adjusted whatever they borrowed to fit theirs.'

Sonja Häussler was a German student at LSU, and now she is a professor at Stockholm University and a leading European expert in Korean studies. She mainly deals with traditional literature in the context of culture. 'She has revealed certain unique features of Koreans' worldview, which helped her to explain a lot of what was going on in later periods of the country's history and even today,' says Anastasia Guryeva.

Today there are two scholars at the University who are actively working on teaching, research and popularization of Korean literature – Inna Choi and Anastasia Guryeva herself. Inna Choi studies modern literature, while Anastasia Guryeva is a specialist in traditional literature. She has been researching a classic Korean poetic masterpiece – an anthology that includes the most popular texts in Korean from the 14th century onwards. At the moment, she is working on its poetic translation, which may be published this very year.

Her research interests include the continuity between tradition and modernity in Korean literature, and primarily in poetry. 'Using the approach of our teachers as a starting point, I try to show the important role of traditional worldview models in the contemporary culture. Until recently, it was believed that traditional and modern literature are independent phenomena, but now Korean scholars are trying to build bridges between them,' Anastasia Guryeva explains. In addition, the researcher pays great attention to the popularization of the works and findings of her teachers; she considers this to be of fundamental importance. 'I am a part of my school,' the scholar states.



PHOTO: VERA SVIRIDOVA

She continues to work with her teacher Adelaida Trotsevich. In 2000, Adelaida Trotsevich tasked her with cataloguing the collection of manuscripts and early printed books in Korean and Old Chinese, both at St Petersburg University and the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Many years of painstaking work resulted in a two-volume Description of Manuscripts and Block-prints of Korean Traditional Culture. 'This is not a catalogue but a systematic description that shows you what each essay in the collection is,' Anastasia Guryeva underscores. Now she teaches a specialized course called Book in the Far East that she has developed herself, inspired by the joint work on cataloguing that she did with her teacher.

Professor Sergey Kurbanov, now Head of the Department of Korean Studies at St Petersburg University, has initiated a unique project aimed at reprinting translations of Korean literature made in the Soviet era, which have become hard to come by due to their rarity. Adelaida Trotsevich is the editor-in-chief of the series published by the Hyperion Publishing House with the support of Literature Translation Institute of Korea. Ten books that include the best translations have already come out. Ink Drawings, one of the books from this series, is a collection that had never been published before.

Our country is witnessing a growing interest in Korean literature, which is evident from the demand for reprinted translations. And of course, there are also translations of books by modern Korean authors. 'Anyone can see for themselves what these books are about if they visit the Republic of Korea. However, since we have not yet invented a time machine, traditional literature remains the only opportunity to travel to the past of this country' Anastasia Guryeva concludes.

‘It Looks Familiar to a European, but it is Korean on the Inside’

This publication was supported by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea and the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS-2016-OLU-2250002)

Open library at COEX, one of the largest trade and exhibition centres in Seoul. Anyone can come and read there. The library's collection of books is truly impressive – more than 50,000 titles.



PHOTO: INNA CHOI

Author: **Inna CHOI**, Candidate of Philology, Associate Professor at SPbU (Department of Korean Studies)
Translator: **Nadezhda CHEKALEVA**

The academic interest in modern Korean prose emerged in Russia in the second half of the previous century. However, in a relatively short period that followed, Russian Koreans studies experts have published a great number of works on 20th century Korean literature and popular literary translations.

At first, Russian literary scholars mainly studied classical, traditional Korean literature, achieving significant results in this field. However, there are not so many academic works and papers on modern Korean prose. This has to do with the fact that prior to the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Republic of Korea, access to South Korean prose was very limited in Russia, and in most cases, the work of literary scholars mainly focused on North Korean novels and stories, which, as a rule, largely resembled Soviet social realism and had little variety in terms of plots. When the borders with the Republic of Korea opened in 1990, our researchers got access to an enormous amount of new material. For example, thanks to the efforts of Russian translators assisted by the Literature Translation Institute of Korea in Russia, South Korean contemporary prose and poetry saw a rise in popularity. Teachers were then able to add works written at the end of the previous century to the curriculum, literary scholars began to study individual stages in the history of Korean literature, and modern writers and poets began to come to Russia with readings. Another important feature of this period was the publication of a significant number of monographs and academic works on the Korean literature of the 20th century, thanks to the efforts of Korean studies experts in Russia. Korean studies experts at SPbU use the invaluable knowledge passed on to them from their teachers and mentors – St Petersburg University professors Adelaida Trotsevich, Marianna Nikitina and Gennady Rachkov – and consistently teach courses on traditional and modern Korean literature. We can say that the SPbU school of Korean philology is rightfully proud of its academic traditions and developments in teaching

FACT



As a rule, modern Korean literature is divided into two large periods: new literature (first half of the 20th century) and modern literature (second half of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century). Each of these periods is, in turn, divided into smaller ones, for example, decades. This division is based on the fact that the history of the development of Korean literature is described from the point of view of certain historical events that occurred in a certain period of time. In other words, the main theme of Korean literary works of a chosen period is usually determined by a certain moment in history.

Korean prose and poetry, and its graduates become professional translators who work with contemporary Korean prose.

Lee San Youn is one of them. Being a specialist in contemporary women's prose, she has become a well-known translator. Her Russian translation of the novel *The Vegetarian* by Han Kang (Booker Prize winner) came out last year.

Nadezhda Belova, a Korean department graduate, is the translator of *World's End Girlfriend*, a collection of short stories by a modern Korean writer Kim Yeonsu, as well as Choi In-ho's novel *The City of Familiar Strangers*, with the translations published in 2014 and 2016.

University teachers Gennady Rachkov and Viktor Atknin and graduates of the SPbU Korean Studies Department Vladimir Tikhonov, Sergey Sukhachev and Nina Zaslavskaya have translated



PHOTO: INNA CHOI'S PERSONAL ARCHIVE

Inna CHOI

SPbU graduate, Candidate of Philology, research topic: 'Korean prose of the 1920s–1930s: The new and the traditional in Kim Dong-in's short stories (1900–1951)'. Inna Choi has been teaching at St Petersburg University since 1998. Her research interests include contemporary Korean literature, culture and linguistic culturology; practical phonetics, speaking skills practice, news-writing and scientific writing style, literary text, and modern literary trends of the 20th century in Korea. 35 academic publications in Russian, English and Korean.

While one of the features of traditional Korean literature was its bilingual nature (a number of authors wrote in hanmun, the classical Chinese language, and such works often contained allusions to Chinese prose and poetry), due to certain historical events and a change in the political and social focus, Korean writers of the 20th century used their native language hangul. Moreover, many authors got the opportunity to experiment with their native language and find new ways of expressing thoughts. That shift produced new artistic forms: writers developed new structural and architectonic, spatio-temporal, rhythmic and intonational relations, and they introduced a new take on conflict development. The old tradition gradually faded into the background, although it can still be seen in a deeper layer of many literary works.

NATIONAL FLAVOUR

Some common features that characterize the Korean artistic tradition are still worth noting, as, normally, readers who have had no previous experience with Korean literature involuntarily perceive it from the point of view of the European literary tradition,

pieces of modern Korean prose for such collections as Golden Bird Garuda and Rainy Season, published in 1994 and 1995.

In addition, my translations of Korean literary works and those done by SPbU Associate Professor Anastasia Guryeva have been published in such well-known journals as Neva (special issue of 2010) and Foreign Literature (special issue of 2016).

THE AGE OF EXPERIMENTS

There are more reasons for scholars and translators' interest in Korean literature of the 20th century than the open borders and the discovery of a new field of study. Korean literature of the 20th century is one of the most interesting phenomena in the history of the development of Korean prose and poetry. This period introduced Korea's most

famous authors – the writers and poets who would determine the development of the contemporary Korean literature. On the one hand, this period inherited and preserved the best classical traditions, and on the other, it took European literary ideas and seamlessly assimilated them into the general context of the Korean artistic tradition. The 20th century marked the blossoming of short story as a genre in Korean literature. This period also introduces multivolume epic novels, for example, the famous historical novel of the outstanding Korean writer Pak Kyong-ni (1926-2008) The Land published in twenty volumes and translated into several European languages.

This was also the era of various experiments in poetry, namely with poetic genres.



PHOTO: SPbU ARCHIVE

At the end of 2017, Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in St Petersburg gave SPbU a **collection of books as a gift**. They can now be used by both teachers and students who study the Korean language and culture.

since they have read books by European authors at school and are much more familiar with this culture's prose and poetry. However, when reading and studying Korean literature, it is more appropriate to employ a different methodological apparatus and terminology, which is not the same as the familiar terminology that we customarily use when studying European literature. Of course, this does not mean that we should study Korean literature in isolation — on the contrary, comparing Eastern and European literatures could be the next step that a curious reader can take. After all, the concept of 'literature' has different meanings for Europeans and Koreans, as Koreans believe that the written word is especially important. What Koreans call 'fiction' might not produce the same aesthetic reaction in Europeans, and vice versa. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the written word has a sacred meaning for Koreans – words seem to 'materialize' for them. On the other hand, in order to understand Korean literature, you need to be familiar with Korean history and culture. The

political and social history of the country has greatly influenced the development of its literary tradition, and that is why SPbU teachers pay special attention to it.

The cultural influence that China, Japan, Russia, and,

later on, America have had on Koreans' spiritual views has also significantly changed their literary preferences. Scholars and researchers from other countries recognize the ability of Koreans to take the most vivid features and ideas from the kaleidoscope of the European literary tradition and to transform them into Korean ones. As a result, you get something that looks familiar to a European but is Korean on the inside. In other words, Koreans are very good at singling out certain basic features and replacing the European cultural content with their distinctive national features. The underlying idea of almost every modern Korean work is the dual nature of a character's behaviour, an idea that can be either plain to see or implied. On the one hand, characters are limited by rigid social rules (which appears to be a manifestation of Confucian behaviour), and on the other, there is behaviour that goes beyond the norms of the society – Taoist behaviour, inner freedom, freedom from social norms and dogmas. This is particularly evident in the literature of modern and postmodern Korean writers.

BY THE WAY

han	한
jung	정
haehak	해학

There are three cultural features (or aesthetic categories) that are often manifested in modern Korean works: han – 'longing, disappointment, sadness, regret about the inevitability of an event', jung – 'a sense of affection, endearment, kinship, intimacy', and haehak – 'humour, irony'. These three categories convey the special mood and the emotional flavour that are the hallmark of Korean literature.

Pak Kyong-ni Comes to St Petersburg

Author: **Iulia SMIRNOVA**

Translator: **Nadezhda CHEKALEVA**

The idea of erecting a monument to a Korean cultural figure in St Petersburg was suggested by members of the Russian Coordination Committee for the Russia – Republic of Korea Dialogue Forum. Their Korean counterparts welcomed the idea and suggested that the monument should be dedicated to Pak Kyong-ni, whose image inspired the sculptor, Prof. Kwon Tae Hyun at Seoul National University.

Pak Kyong-ni is often referred to as a ‘pearl of Korean literature’ – a comparison that clearly indicates the author’s prominence. One of the most famous literary figures in Korea, she left behind a rich heritage: more than 20 novels and short novels, as well as three books of poems. The publication of the first part of *The Land* in 1969 made Pak Kyong-ni well-known across the whole country. It took the writer a quarter of a century to finish this 20-volume epic novel. The story takes place during a period from 1897 to 1945; it begins in a small Korean village and continues in Japan and Russia.

Pak Kyong-ni (1926–2008), South Korean writer. Pak Kyong-ni’s most famous work is *The Land*, a five-part novel published in twenty volumes. The novel paints a picture of the problematic reality of the Korean people, from the Peasant Revolt and Japanese colonial rule to the liberation of Korea in 1945.



PHOTO: HANSANNEWS.COM

Pak Kyong-ni was born in South Gyeongsang Province in 1926. The young woman lost her husband and son early in her life and, in order to make ends meet while raising a daughter, she had to move to Seoul, where she took up a job in a bank. In 1955 her first short story was published in the *Modern Literature* journal, and her first novel *The Daughters of Pharmacist Kim* came out in 1962. Those familiar with the writer’s life story can see similarities between Pak Kyong-ni and her characters. They are people who

had to overcome challenges and endure losses; nevertheless, they manage to keep their dignity and stay true to their principles. You do not have to be fluent in Korean in order to read Pak Kyong-ni’s books, as her novel *The Daughters of Pharmacist Kim* and the first volume of the epic novel *The Land* have been translated into Russian. We expect to see the translation of the second volume in bookstores this year.

The statue was erected in response to the unveiling of a monument to the outstanding

Russian poet and writer Alexander Pushkin, which took place in Seoul in November 2013. The event was timed to coincide with Vladimir Putin’s visit to South Korea. It was the first monument to a foreigner in the country. The project was conceived by Russian Centre for Culture and Education ‘Pushkin House’ and the Russia – Republic of Korea Dialogue Forum, whose representatives submitted a proposal to the Union of Russian Writers. The project was financed by donations from the Russian public, and the sculpture was created by Nikolay Kuznetsov-Muromsky.

The square where the statue stands is now called Pushkin Square. ‘Unveiling a monument to Alexander Pushkin is yet another acknowledgment of the great, enormous contribution that Russia has made to the global culture. I hope that the statue will encourage Koreans and tourists that visit the capital of this country to learn the Russian language and familiarize themselves with Russian culture and literature,’ Vladimir Putin said at the unveiling ceremony.



PHOTO: KR.D.RU

Monument to Alexander Pushkin in Seoul There are monuments to the poet in 46 different countries.

Korean Version of Modernity

Authors: **Vera SVIRIDOVA, Iulia SMIRNOVA**
 Translator: **Nadezhda CHEKALEVA**

St Petersburg Imperial University (now SPbU) was the first one in Russia to offer courses in Korean in 1897. 113 year later, a Korean company Hyundai Motor, one of the most well-known car manufacturers in the world, opened its first Russian factory in St Petersburg. Today it produces

over 200,000 of the most popular cars in Russia per year, and it shows just how fruitful economic cooperation between South Korea and Russia can be.

The company and its suppliers of large car parts provide 8000 jobs. Some of the company's employees are St Petersburg University graduates, and a

number of them came to Hyundai when the factory had not yet been built and only existed in drawings.

What do Korean studies graduates do at Hyundai? Surprisingly, much more than just translating and interpreting. Let us hear what they have to say. (see pp. 34–37).

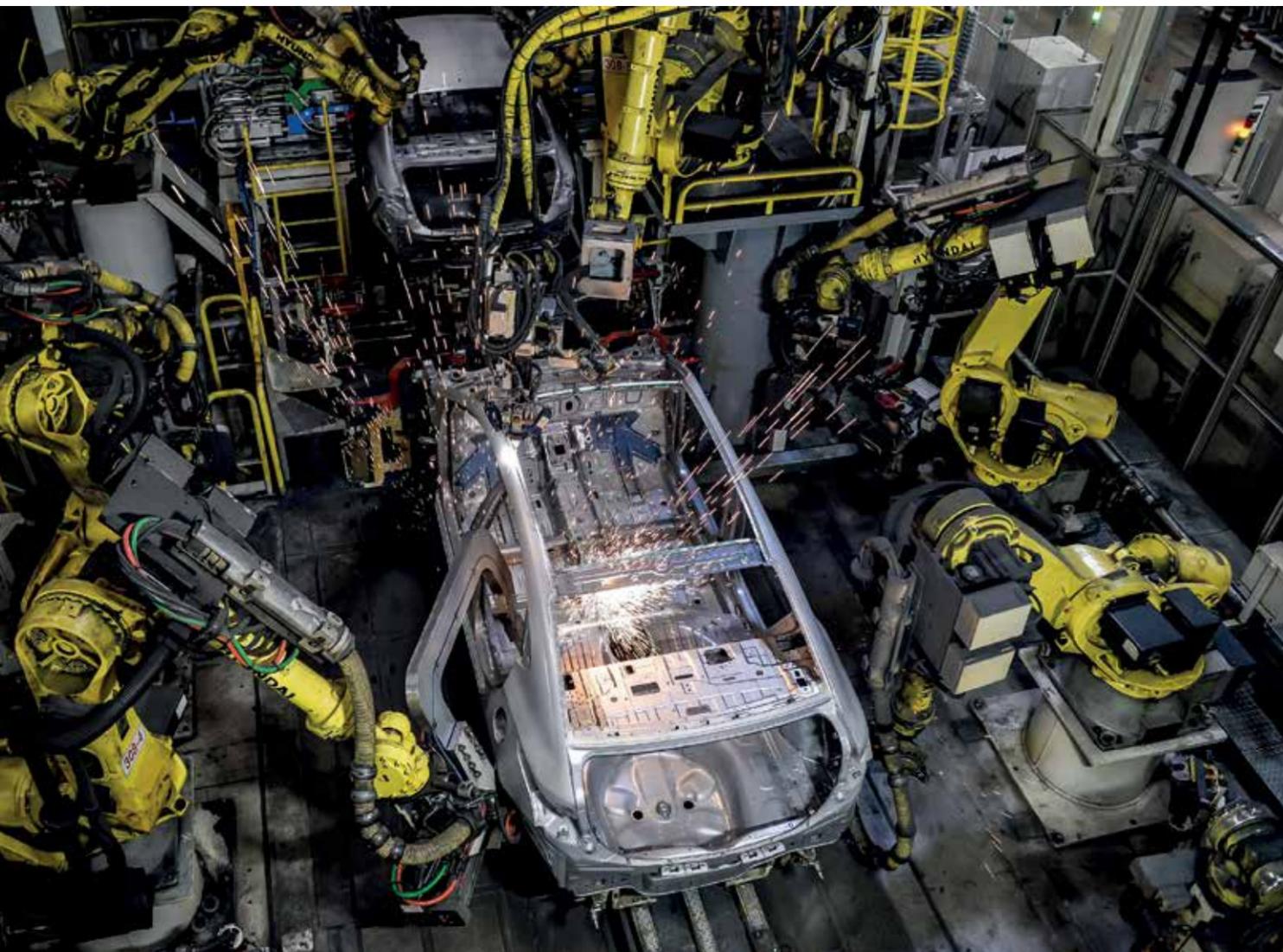
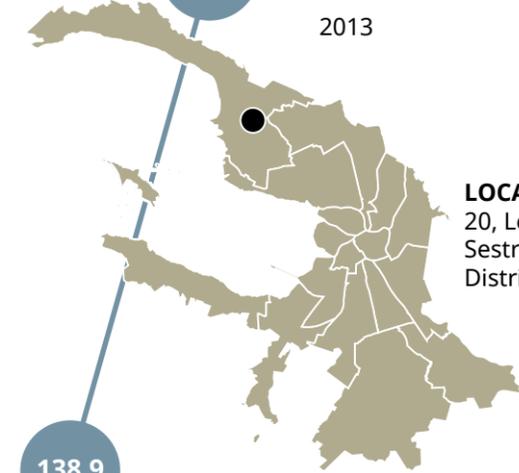
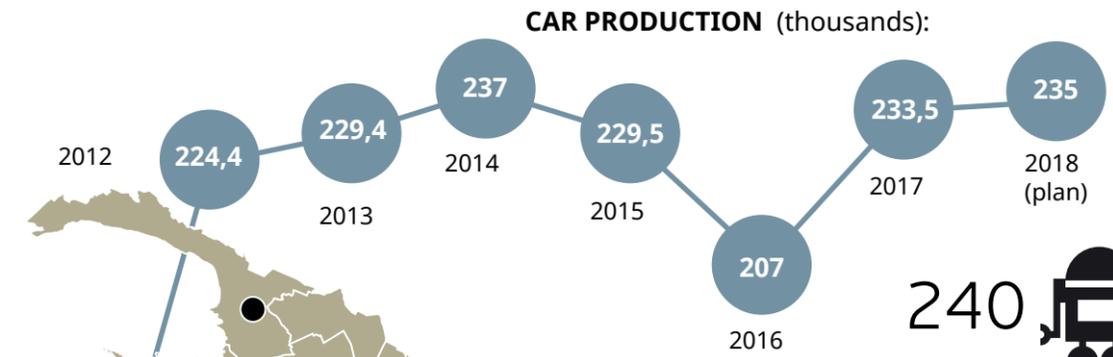


PHOTO: HMMR

Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Rus

It is the biggest automobile factory in Northwestern Federal District, operating 24 hours a day from Monday to Friday. The total investment allocated by Hyundai for opening a factory in St Petersburg is \$1 bln.

HYUNDAI
 means 'modernity' in Korean.



LOCATION:
 20, Levashovskoye highway,
 Sestroretsk, Kurortny
 District, St Petersburg

2011

The factory makes 900 cars every day, 43 cars per hour.

240

240 robots work at the factory. 180 of them are in the welding shop.

2200

The factory employs 2200 people. 350 Hyundai employees have office jobs, and 32 of them are experts from South Korea

Kia Rio was the top-selling car in Russia in 2017.



The factory makes three out of five top-selling cars in Russia:



Kia Rio



Hyundai Solaris



Hyundai Creta

SOURCE: HMMR
 INFOGRAPHIC: OLGA PRIVALOVA
 TRANSLATOR: NADEZHDA CHEKALEVA



PHOTO: HMMR

Rentso KANTOV,

Head of the Engineering Department for the body welding shop at Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Rus:

The East has played an important part in my life since childhood – I studied Chinese at a gymnasium for 10 years, and practiced martial arts and Chinese painting. After learning six thousand hieroglyphs, the decision to apply to Oriental and African Studies at St Petersburg University came naturally. At first, I was going to continue studying the Chinese language. However, I realized that there were few specialists in the Korean language in St Petersburg, so I decided to go into Korean philology.

Before joining Hyundai, I worked as an interpreter for various Korean companies in St Petersburg. Almost all of them had something to do with the construction of the Hyundai plant. By the time I got my bachelor's degree, I was invited to Hyundai to work as an interpreter in their welding shop. I participated in its construction and in negotiations;

“If someone manages to learn a language as difficult as Korean and can speak it fluently, they can learn anything.”

I worked as an interpreter and communicated a lot with Korean suppliers.

As a result, the company suggested that I should study industrial and automobile engineering. I studied in South Korea and America, and then started working as a production line engineer. Since I had always been interested in cars and engineering in general, this ‘transformation’ from an interpreter into an engineer proved to be straightforward and interesting. Three years ago I became head of a department. I have been working for Hyundai for almost eight years now,

and I feel completely in my element.

Of course, I have an advantage of speaking Korean and, what is also important, being familiar with Korean culture, traditions and history. University education was of great help. I see that those colleagues of mine who have not studied Korean culture sometimes experience problems because the mentality and traditions of Koreans are very different from ours. For example, Koreans are very demanding when it comes to work, and they take hierarchy very seriously. The senior-junior relationship is very important for them.



PHOTO: HMMR

Yulia KHZYZ

Senior Specialist at the Assembly Shop Quality Control Department at Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Rus:

I figured out what I wanted to study early on in my life. When I finished 9th grade, I knew that I would apply to Oriental and African Studies at St Petersburg University. I also began to prepare in advance and took a pre-entry course, which offered lectures on various countries of the Far and Middle East. One of these lectures on South Korea was read by Sergey Kurbanov, and it really piqued my interest. My main focus at the time was on the Far East, and I was choosing from three countries. In the end, I picked Korea.

The biggest challenge for me when I was studying at St Petersburg University was to change my way of thinking.

Korean grammar is very different from European languages. I studied English and Spanish at school, and they came to me naturally; Korean, on the other hand, required a lot of

“If someone has enough intrinsic motivation, clear objectives and perseverance to learn it [the Korean language], we may safely conclude that they can master anything else just as successfully.”

effort. When I got my bachelor's degree at St Petersburg University, I continued my studies in South Korea. I got enrolled in a master's program at Ewha Womans University, where I studied sociology of culture.

However, I never considered staying in Korea forever. I had always planned to return to Russia. My city, my native language, my family – they are all here. I can be of service here, too. It might sound pretentious, but I really do think so.

Having returned to St Petersburg, I began to look for a job. Thanks to my fellow University graduates, I learned about Hyundai and thought that a large Korean company would be just right for me. When I was offered a place in the quality control department, I had no idea what kind of work it was and what it involved. However, my colleagues taught me all the ins and outs of the process step by step. I have been working here for more than five years. We answer to coordinators from Korea, and we need to communicate with them all the time.

If you speak Korean, you can understand them better than your colleagues do, and it gives you an advantage. Such qualities as learning aptitude, perseverance and diligence are also of great help. It is all very important for mastering the language, and it is important here in Hyundai as well.



PHOTO: HMMR

Elizaveta FEDOSEEVA, General Manager's Assistant at Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Rus:

I came to St Petersburg University by coincidence. We had an elective course in the Korean language at school; I liked it very much, and in my senior year I realized that I wanted to continue studying it. The year I applied to the University, there was no admission to the Korean department, so I spent a year studying Sinology, and only then did I get transferred – it was a long journey. After getting my master's degree, I began to look for a job. I signed up to HeadHunter, where I found an opening for General Manager's assistant at Hyundai factory. I got the job, and I have been working here since October 2012. This is my first job. Despite the fact that I was familiar with the Korean mentality, could speak Korean and so on, my knowledge was academic and of little

“I believe that if you have mastered Korean at St Petersburg University, nothing is impossible for you.”

practical use – and there I was in the middle of a Korean factory, where you had to solve a great variety of tasks every day. My job is still a terrific challenge for me; having spent five years with Hyundai, I never get bored. The most awesome thing is creating something new from scratch, rising to a challenge, and being able to do something that used to be impossible for you. You never get tired of it; you actually get a kick out of it.

The hardest thing about this job turned out to be quite mundane – getting used to waking up at 5:50 a.m. Back in the days I

used to hope that I would slowly become an early bird, but it has been 10 years now, and I am still a night owl, feeling just as grumpy in the mornings. This is definitely hard, but the rest of the job is not.

I believe that if you have mastered Korean at St Petersburg University, nothing is impossible for you. The training, which is six-odd years on average, transforms your way of thinking.

Studying the East changes us Westerners because, when studying, we are constantly immersed in a different mentality, a different culture – different everything. Koreans are great, but they seem a bit alien to us, Europeans – well, it actually goes both ways.

Our Korean colleagues also find it difficult to overcome cultural barriers – we see the world from completely different perspectives. Working with Koreans does not make you a fundamentally different person, but it does change you. For example, now I bow even when I talk on the phone. I pass things with both hands – in Korea it is considered rude to do it with just one. And – anyone who has tried to learn hieroglyphics will probably understand this – I draw a square with three lines. There is a character that looks exactly like a square, but according to the rules, it consists of three lines and not four: a vertical line, a side hook and a horizontal line. I might not be able to ever bring myself to draw it any other way now. I would like to advise students to take all they can from their training, but to do that, you have to really love what you are studying – to feel the drive and the desire to learn more and more, so as not to get tired of moving forward. You can never know which of the things you have failed to learn will turn out to be essential in the future. When you graduate, you begin to do real work, where you cannot listen to a lecture once again, retake an exam or re-read a textbook. If you miss something, it is gone. Every good student I know has become successful later on in life. Good learners are capable of anything.



PHOTO: HMMR

Maria MALTSEVA, Head of PR at Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Rus:

I came to St Petersburg from the city of Perm, where I had already completed two years at a university as a socio-economic geography major. I wanted to study filmmaking and television directing, but I quickly realized that they give classical education here, and I will only learn theatre directing. But I was in love with the city, and I realized that I wanted to live here. Walking through the halls of the Hermitage and the Kunstkamera,

I realized that I was drawn to everything about the Far East. It was all the same for me back then; I did not see any difference between Korea, Japan and China. But I could feel that it was right for me. I decided to apply to Oriental Studies at the University. At first, I could not make up my mind

“Anyone brave enough to learn Korean can master any humanitarian major.”

about the country I wanted to study – it seemed to me that the Japanese are too by-the-book, and the Chinese are the opposite. Koreans seemed to be somewhere in the middle, but I knew very little about them. When I came to the admission committee to file my application, there were Korean Studies students sitting there, and they told me that their department was like a small but a very friendly and interesting family, and it would be great if I could join it.

My future was in no small way determined by a question

from Sergey Kurbanov, which he asked us during our first class on the history of Korea. He asked each of us why we had come there, and it made us think about our vision of the future and what we could achieve in Korean studies. It was a moment of truth for all of us, and, much to my own surprise, I determined my own goal as building a bridge between Korea and Russia. And it is pretty much what I do now. I am Hyundai's representative, and I communicate with the whole world on its behalf.

At first, I had to constantly explain to people why Koreans act in the ways they do and how we can find common ground. I still have to give advice from time to time. For example, written communication is much more important for Koreans than talking. So, if some issues or misunderstandings arise, it is much better to write about them to your Korean colleagues. Then they will definitely understand that your message is important.

My knowledge of Korean culture has proved to be very valuable here in Hyundai, but I am especially grateful to the University for helping us build relationships with other people. Working as our company's representative, when I meet orientalists – SPbU graduates – at some events, it is easier for me to establish contact with them. We have the same background. Anyone brave enough to learn Korean can master any humanitarian major. St Petersburg University education gives you an opportunity to lay a foundation and then choose what you want to build on it.

If you want to work for Hyundai, you need discipline and responsibility. We start at 7:50 a.m., and we cannot be as much as 10 seconds late. However, it would be hard for me to work for a Russian company now, as I understand all the rules at Hyundai very clearly, and I like them. I believe that they are consistent, fair, just and, most importantly, they are effective.

Research Park Today

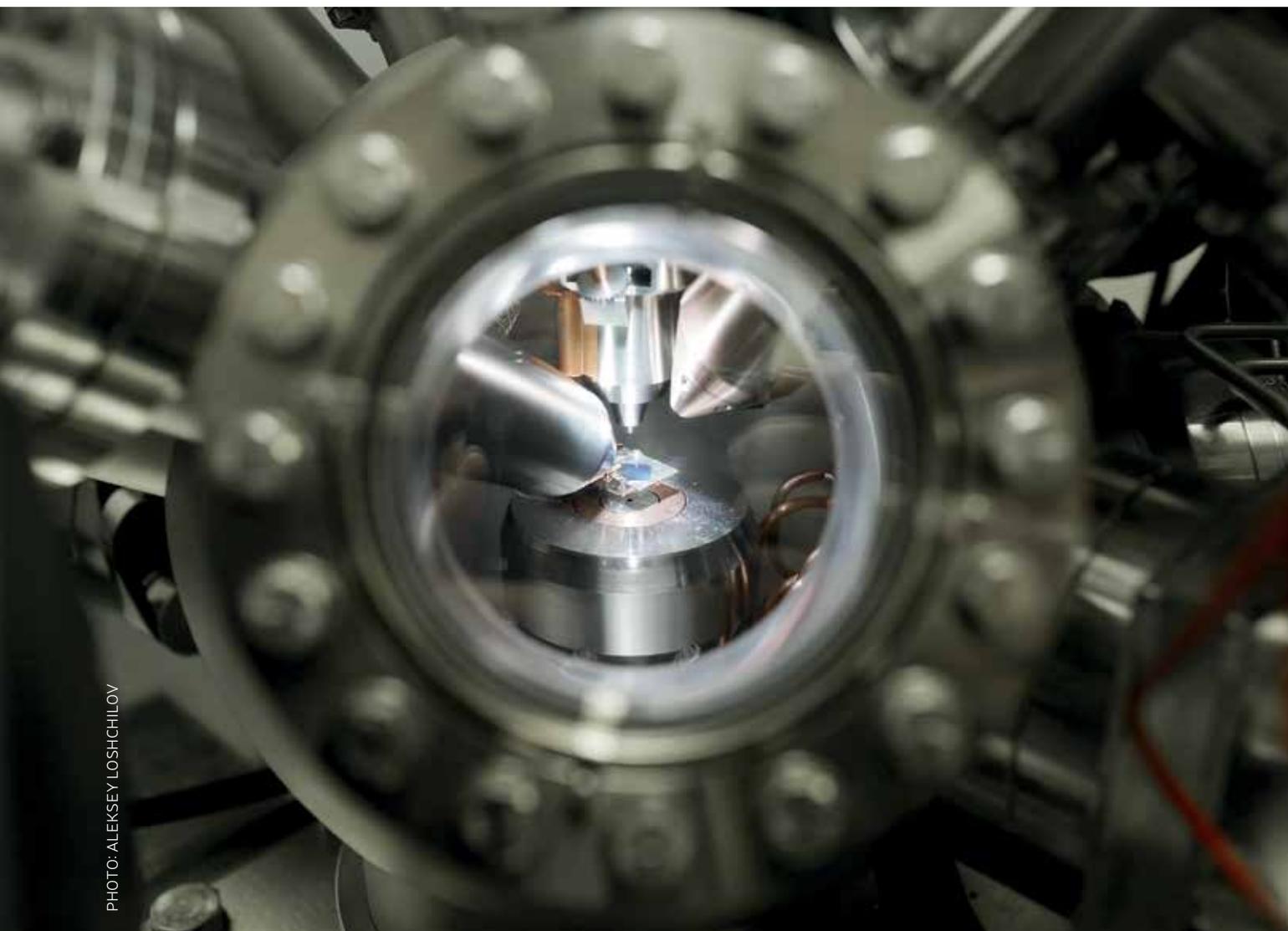


PHOTO: ALEKSEY LOSHCHEV

The SPbU Research Park provides access to advanced research equipment and comprises teams of resource centres conducting research within priority areas set in the SPbU Development Programme.

To solve their tasks, teams may work in several resource centres simultaneously or in succession. It is not unusual to conduct interdisciplinary research – at the intersection

Digital state-of-the-art **X-ray photoelectron spectrometer Thermo Fisher Scientific Escalab 250Xi** at the SPbU Research Park.

of several fields of knowledge – within one centre only.

The SPbU Research Park is a free access research environment – anyone showing interest can use its facilities regardless of the University affiliation.

BY THE
WAY

RESEARCH
PARK TODAY:

27 resource centres

7+bln. Rub equipment

*~160 numbers of users
requests processed daily*

307 staff members