

Dear colleagues and friends,

September 2016 marks a new era in the history of ASEAN - Russia dialogue partnership: the Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) will host the 1st University Forum that will bring to Vladivostok the representatives of the Russian Federation and all ten countries that comprise the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). A full-fledged partner of FEFU in organizing this crucial event is MGIMO, one of the leading Russian universities with long-standing traditions of comprehensive Southeast Asian studies, and the ASEAN Centre is successfully functioning under the aegis of MGIMO since 2010.

In the era of knowledge-based economy the role of universities in generating and disseminating new ideas and technologies in various spheres of life is second to none. Thus, it is essential to forge creative cooperation between universities of various countries and beneficiaries of their intellectual products.

One of the major aims of the ASEAN - Russia University Forum is to give an impetus to cooperation in the academic sphere. Hopefully, in Vladivostok we will manage to take the first steps in this direction. Let me wish all of us successful and fruitful work and a pleasant sky in the Russian Far East!

Best regards,

Anatoly Torkunov

Rector of MGIMO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Анатолий Торкунов', written in a cursive style.