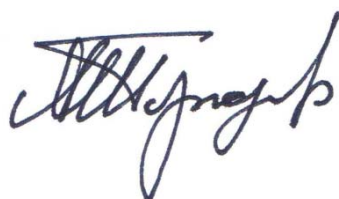


Dear colleagues and friends!

In September 2017 Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) in Vladivostok will host the Russia-ASEAN University Forum organized for the second time within the framework of Russia-ASEAN dialogue partnership to gather representatives from our country and ten nations comprising the Association. Once again MGIMO University supports FEFU as an equal partner in preparing and conducting this important event. MGIMO is a major Russian university with decades-long tradition of studying South East Asia; since 2010 it is also home to the ASEAN Center.

Last year witnessed the first University Forum. The discussions demonstrated the parties' intense interest to maintain dialogue and cooperation and laid the foundation for further cooperation via this channel. Proceeding from the first Forum's success, this year we plan to discuss the most promising avenues for our countries' cooperation. This includes economic ties, in particular, exchanging expertise on creating advanced development zones, and also contacts in such areas as culture, science and education, which play a crucial role in forming a country's image abroad and set the tone for further cooperation. A discussion of these issues that includes both government officials and the broad expert community, a meeting of the "first" and the "second" tracks, will help us create a favorable environment for achieving and implementing future agreements between Russia and ASEAN.

I am sure that the University Forum, a meaningful addition to the Eastern Economic Forum, will once again give momentum to our countries' mutually beneficial ties and become a foundry of new ideas and innovative solutions. Let me wish us all productivity and success in our work, and a pleasant stay in Russia's Far East!



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