

ОБЗОР НАУЧНОГО МЕРОПРИЯТИЯ

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Conference: Cooperation Through the Centuries: Chinese-Russian Relations from the 18th to the 21st Century

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This article is dedicated to the symposium “Cooperation Through the Ages: Chinese-Russian Relations from the 18th to the 21st Century,” which took place on October 9, 2025, in St Petersburg at the St Petersburg Branch of S.I. Vavilov Institute for the History of Science and Technology, Russian Academy of Sciences. Representatives of the historical and scientific communities from Russia and China presented papers.

Keywords: Chinese-Russian collaboration, history of science in Russia, history of science in China, international relations, science diplomacy.

The conference “Cooperation Through the Centuries: Chinese-Russian Relations from the 18th to the 21st Century” was held in St Petersburg on October 9, 2025, for the second time. The first conference took place on October 22, 2024, and was held online. As last time, the conference was organized by St Petersburg Branch of S.I. Vavilov Institute for the History of Science and Technology of the Russian Academy of Sciences (SPbB IHST RAS) and Institute for the History of Natural Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Science (IHNS CAS). This time conference was included not only scholars from two academies of sciences, but also researchers from different institutions. The conference focused on the development relations between the two countries from the 18th till the 21st century, as well as the current situation and future prospects of Chinese-Russian scientific collaboration. The official language of the conference was English. There were three sessions included discussions after each presentation.

The first session began with greetings from Nadezhda Asheulova, Director of SPbB IHST RAS, and Guan Xiaowu, Director of IHNS CAS. In her speech, N. Asheulova emphasized the importance of good-neighborly relations between the two countries and cooperation in various fields. The main event of the first session was the signing of a scientific cooperation agreement between SPbB IHST RAS and IHNS CAS. After the signing ceremony, several reports were made.



Fig. 1. Guan Xiaowu, Director of IHNS CAS, and Nadezhda Asheulova, Director of SPbB IHST RAS

The key milestones in the collaboration between SPbB IHST RAS and IHNS CAS were highlighted in N. Asheulova's (SPbB IHST RAS) presentation. This collaboration began in the early 21st century and has included joint scientific events in Russia and China, research projects, the publication of books and collections of articles, and internships for research fellows. Next presenter, professor Guan Xiaowu (IHNS CAS) gave a survey of the Soviet scientific school on the development of the Harbin Institute of Technology. In the third presentation by Natalia Kolpakova (Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences) described current collaboration with libraries in the People's Republic of China.

The second session featured researches on the history of Chinese-Russian scientific collaboration in the 19–20th centuries. Ren Xiaolin's (IHNS CAS) paper focused on Soviet-Chinese cooperation in geology in the 1950s, based on the diary of renowned Chinese climatologist and physical geographer Zhu Ke-Zhen. The presentation by Elena Sinelnikova (SPbB IHST RAS) examined, in a historical and conceptual context, how the Bulletin of the USSR Academy of Sciences covered the visit of Chinese scientists to the USSR in 1953, and also analyzed articles by famous Chinese scientists on the history of Chinese sci-

ence, also published in the Bulletin in 1953. Next, Wang Gong (IHNS CAS), in his paper described the large-scale training campaign for Chinese scientific and technical personnel in the early 1950s, which included studying Chinese students in the Soviet Union. Tatyana Feklova's (SPbB IHST RAS) paper aim was to present the activities of the Magnetometeorological observatory of the Russian Academy of Sciences and its stations in China from 1848 to 1915. The last paper on the session was given by Chen Wei (IHNS CAS) who showed a century-long history of Przewalski's horse research and conservation in Russia and China.

The third session featured three papers on problems of training and exchange of personnel between the two countries. Alina Steblyanskaya (Harbin Engineering University, the Russian Club in Harbin) highlighted the activities of Soviet specialists in northeastern China. The challenges and successes of technological exchanges between Russia and China in the space program from 1969 to 1981 were presented in a paper by Zheyi Wang (Shanghai University). The last paper of the conference by Innokenty Aktamov (the Center for Translation from Oriental Languages) examined the specifics of scientific personnel training in China.

The conference concluded with a general discussion on prospects for cooperation in the field of the history of scientific collaboration between the two countries and the history of science in China and Russia.



Fig. 2. Conference participants

The cultural program of the conference included visits to the Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Kunstkamera), the Mariinsky Theater, the Empress Catherine II St. Petersburg Mining University, the Ice-breaker "Krasin," the ROSPHOTO Exhibition Center, the State Hermitage Museum, the Russian Ethnographic Museum, and St. Isaac's Cathedral.

SPbB IHST RAS expresses its deep gratitude to all partners and colleagues who participated in organizing the Chinese delegation visit: the State Hermitage Museum, the Empress

Catherine II St. Petersburg Mining University, the Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (Kunstkamera) of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Mariinsky Theatre, the Russian Ethnographic Museum, the ROSPHOTO Exhibition Center, and the Icebreaker “Krasin”. Special thanks to SPbB IHST RAN staff (Elena Sinelnikova, Anna Fedorova, Tatyana Feklova, Valeria Shaidarova), and especially Nadezhda Asheulova, Director of SPbB IHST RAN, for organization of the conference and accompanying the Chinese delegation.

Конференция: Сотрудничество сквозь века: китайско- российские взаимоотношения с XVIII по XXI век

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Ключевые слова: российско-китайское сотрудничество, история науки в России, история науки в Китае, международные отношения, научная дипломатия.