

# РОССИЙСКО-КИТАЙСКИЙ СЕМИНАР ПО ИСТОРИИ НАУКИ

## Russian-Chinese Seminar on History of Science

*BAICHUN ZHANG*

Professor  
Director of Institute for the History of Natural Sciences  
Chinese Academy of Sciences  
Beijing, China  
e-mail: zhang-office@ihns.ac.cn



### Introduction

Since the 17th century, the number of people participating in scientific activities has risen increasingly. Such scientific institutions and societies, as Accademia del Lincei founded in Roma in 1603 and Académie Royale des Sciences supported by the French government, came into being. In 1724, Russia established the Royal Academy of Science (Императорская Академия наук и художеств) in St Petersburg, which substantiated the Academy a more scientific research institution. Over more than four hundred years, this kind of scientific system has been changing with the development of science and technology, and has been developed under different cultural environment and countries. Therefore, it formed different structures and development models, which is of vital importance to the innovation and application of knowledge as well as cultural prosperity in history.

Both Russian Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Sciences have established professional research institutions for the history of science and technology, namely the Vavilov Institute for the History of Science and Technology (Moscow and St Petersburg) and the Institute for the History of Natural Sciences (Beijing). The two institutes took the lead in realizing national institutionalization of research on the history of science and technology in the respective countries and professionalization of historians of science and technology. The two institutions started Sino-Russian academic communication ever since the 1950s, after the 80s, the exchanges continued to deepen. In April 2007, St. Petersburg branch of the Vavilov Institute for the History of Science and Technology, Institute for the History of Natural Sciences, and Shandong Education Press made an agreement to cooperate in translating and publishing some volumes of the book series on the history of science

and technology in modern China into Russian, which has been supported by the General Administration of Press and Publication of the People's Republic of China.

In recent two years, exchanges and cooperation between Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Russian Academy of Sciences in the history of science and technology have further deepened. The two Russian directors, prof. Eduard Kolchinsky and prof. Yury Baturin, have paid visits to Beijing successively, the partnership between the VIHST and IHNS has been established in the form of an agreement, various forms of cooperation, including Bilateral conferences, symposiums, workshops, joint postgraduate training, etc. have been initiated. In 2010 July, the IHNS and the St Petersburg branch of the VIHST, signed a cooperation agreements, which determined that the theme of exchanges and cooperation include comparative studies of the development of science and technology and the transmission of knowledge between China and Russia, and so on. In March 2011, the IHNS and the VIHST signed a cooperation agreement, which aimed to promote the bilateral academic exchanges between the two institutes, to carry out scientific research projects, exchange of scientific researchers and graduate students, etc.

The comparative study helps us identify the nature of things. Both Russian Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Sciences are typical national research institutions, which played leading roles in their countries. Furthermore, these two Academies have gone through wide communication and cooperation in the past. They are ideal cases to the comparative study, to which great importance has been attached by both Chinese and Russian scholars. In order to implement the bilateral cooperation agreements, the director, prof. Eduard Kolchinsky, visited Beijing with five experts in October 2011, during which, in October 12–15, they carried out “Conference on Comparative Studies of Chinese Academy of Sciences and Russian Academy of Sciences” in collaboration with the IHNS. In this conference, historians from both institutes discussed the history of two academies and their cooperation in the past, which helps us have a deep understanding of the development and reform of scientific institutions that keep pace with the times. We will publish the papers, which contribute to the conference, in *Sociology of Science Technology*, in order that more scholars and readers, who are interested in the issue, may conveniently share Sino-Russian scholars.’

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to scholars from both countries who contributed papers for this conference and the journal. They are Nadia Asheulova (Ащеулова Н. А.), Tatiana Feklova (Феклова Т. Ю.), Valentina Lomovitskaya (Ломовицкая В. М.), Anna Samokish (Самокиш А. В.), Anastasia Fedotova (Федотова А. А.), Yangzong Wang, Li Zhang, Jiuchen Zhang, Jinhai Guo and Lina Wang. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to those scholars edited these papers. I'm looking forward to obtaining more fruitful achievements through cooperation and to contributing more new knowledge to the international colleagues.