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**Foreword**

Due to their geographical neighborhood Russia and China have long-standing ties rooted in their mutual history. They have been studied thoroughly enough in many aspects by both Russian and Chinese historians. The last twenty years have seen growing attention to the issues of relationship between two countries which is caused by a dramatic change in the geopolitical situation and the nature of international links including those between Russia and China. Their main imperative is desire of friendly neighborhood and cooperation in various fields.

At this background it looks strange that until quite recently the history of scientific contacts and cooperation between the two countries has been ignored or treated in Russian books as the Soviet Union's unselfish aid to the young People's Republic of China in the 1950s to early 1960s. China saw a different situation when starting from the mid 1980s scientific works were published devoted to the results of the policy "learn from the USSR" and its significance for Chinese science. Conclusions and assessment made by Chinese colleagues differed sometimes greatly from the dominant views in the Russian scientific community. From the start of the new millennium the situation began to change and today various scientific links have been established. Several shared projects on the history and sociology of science have been completed.

In his foreword, director of the Institute for the History of Natural Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Professor Baichun Zhang looks in detail at the events in recent years from a perspective of cooperation between his Institute and the Institute for the History of Science and Technology, Russian Academy of Sciences. I would like to note that the origin of this close cooperation dates back to the first years of the XXI century when the exchange of visits took place between heads of our institutions: Liu Dun and Baichun Zhang from the Chinese side and V. M. Orel and E. I. Kolchinsky from the Russian side. We established friendly relationship from the very beginning which helped to quickly build further fruitful cooperation. At first it was reports and papers that introduced work of their foreign colleagues to scholars in the both countries. Historians, philosophers and sociologists from the Center for Science, Technology and Society of Tsinghua University took an active part in these efforts. In 2005, in Beijing the International Congress of History of Science was held, as well as the international forum *Reforms of Science in China and Russia: Theory and Practice* which raised our relationship to a higher level and enabled us to launch long-term mutual projects. One of them was publication of books — both in Chinese and Russian — dealing with various aspects of science reorganization in the two countries over the last decades. It became clear, thanks to that project, that it was time Russia learned from China how to reform science in order to get positive rather than negative results, and instead of destruction of Russia's scientific potential to increase it quickly and integrate closely into the world scientific community.

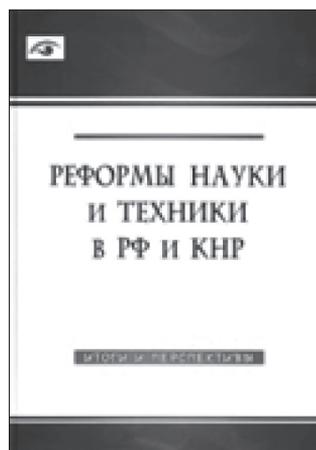


Participants of the international forum “Reforms of Science and Technology in China and Russia: Theory and Practice”, 2005, Beijing

So, all this led the two institutes — the Institute for the History of Natural Science, CAS, and the St Petersburg Branch of the Institute for the History of Science and Technology, RAS, to take obligation of assistance in translating books — into Russian and publishing in Russia — on the history of Chinese science produced by the Shandong Education Press.

At that time we published in Russian the collection of papers “Reforms of Science and Technology in Russia and China: Results and Perspectives” as well as a book by Baichun Zhang, Fang Yao, Juchun Zhang, Long Jiang “Technology Transfer from the Soviet Union to China in 1949–1966”. The latter one, based on archive materials, reveals, honestly and without prejudice, complicated but really brotherly relations between two giants of the socialist bloc in the 1950s.

By 2010 the Russian-Chinese cooperation in history and sociology of science had become quite various and differentiated. Numerous visits were paid by Chinese scholars to Moscow and St Petersburg, as well as by Russian scholars to Beijing, Shanghai, Nanking, Changsha, and so on.



Reforms of Science and Technology in Russia and China: Results and Perspectives / eds. N. Asheulova, O. Bao, E. Kolchinsky. St Petersburg: Nestor-History, 2009



Formal signature of agreement on science cooperation (2010), Baichun Zhang, Eduard Kolchinsky

In 2010, while E. I. Kolchinsky and T. I. Yusupova took part in the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on History of Science in China held by the Chinese Society for the History of Science and Technology, agreements were concluded on cooperation between the Institute for the History of Science and Technology, St Petersburg Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences and the Institute for the History of Natural Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, as well as the Center for Science, Technology and Society, Tsinghua University.

I think it was a unique experience of this multifaceted cooperation when Professor Baichun Zhang organized a Chinese-Russian meeting in Beijing, in October, 2011 at the Institute for the History of Natural Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Thanks to a thoroughly



Participants of the Chinese-Russian meeting at the Institute for the History of Natural Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, 2011

thought-over program it was possible during three days to look closely at the issues like Soviet experts in the Chinese Academy of Sciences; Sino-Soviet cooperation in natural resources surveys; distinctive features of academic mobility in today's Russia; pharmaceutical hunger and medicinal plants: mobilization of the botanists during World War One; the Russian Academy of Sciences' expedition and exploration of China in the first half of the XIX century, and so on.

The following contributors — among others — were of outmost importance for Russian participants: Jiuchen Zhang, Wang Yangzong, Zhang Li, Guo Jinhai, Wang Lina, and Professor Shu Miao as interpreter helped a lot to discuss in detail each paper in lengthy debates. No doubt that not only did that meeting strengthen our cooperation but also raised it to a new level. Thanks to hospitality of the conference organizers, and first of all Professor Baichun Zhang, Russian historians and sociologists of science were able to familiarize themselves with a unique culture, to appreciate generosity and friendliness of the Chinese hosts. But the main thing was that once again we saw that the Chinese case of science reforms, which enabled China to become one of the leading scientific powers in a very short time, could be invaluable for Russia.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Professor Baichun Zhang, his wonderful staff, especially Wang Fang who took care of us in Beijing and helped us solve various problems. We will do our best to make the conference *Traditions and Innovations* planned for October, 2013 fruitful and useful as well.

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## **The History and Institutional Characteristics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences: a Sketchy Account**

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) was founded on November 1, 1949. Over the past six decades, CAS, as China's most important scientific research center, has embarked on a unique road of development with distinctive features. Its history and system are rarely seen in the world history of science and technology.

**Keywords:** The Chinese Academy of Sciences(CAS), historical sketch institutional features, unit system.

### **I. A Brief Introduction to the History of CAS**

The development course of CAS falls into the following six stages.

The first one, from 1949 to 1955, is a pioneering stage. In 1950, CAS set up its first research institutions on the basis of former institutes of Academia Sinica, the former National Academy of Peiping and other research institutions in China's mainland. After