

Sokolovskiy Ya. Alexander,
Ph.D., professor of Far Eastern National
University, Institute of Oriental Studies
(Russian Federation)

Center of Vietnamese Culture in Vladivostok as instrument of cross-cultural relations between Vietnam and Russia

Eight years ago in 2000 in Vladivostok was opened Center of Vietnamese Culture – the first and only one in Russia. It was opened on the base of Far Eastern National University, where more than 25 years students are learning Vietnamese language and Vietnamese culture and professors and scientists are investigating topical problems of Vietnamese culture (language, literature, arts). It is nothing strange that this unique Center was opened at the Far Eastern part of Russia. Historically from the middle of 20 century we have closed ties between Russia and Vietnam. During American aggression in Vietnam Russian sailors from Vladivostok and other Far Eastern sea ports had opened so called « bridge of friendship» - marine line between Russian and Vietnamese ports for delivery necessary cargo. Precisely at this time Vietnam have had material and moral support of Russian people. After American war in Vietnam many Vietnamese regular came to Vladivostok and other cities to work. From this period there is a big community of Vietnamese at Far Eastern part of Russia. Many young Vietnamese were born in Vladivostok, Nakhodka, Ussuriysk, Partizansk and other places. So, the first aim of Center of Vietnamese Culture was to unite all Vietnamese who were living far from motherland and to make them soft moral climate. We (Russians and Vietnamese) celebrate together Russian and Vietnamese holidays (Tet, Ngay Quoc hanh, Russian maslenitsa and so on). Many Vietnamese children who were born beyond Vietnam enter Russian schools. They can speak Vietnamese (actually they are bilinguies), but very often they can not read and write in there mothertongue. So many of them have very good opportunity to enter Vietnamese classes at Center of Vietnamese Culture in Vladivostok. They have good conditions to study Russian language and Culture too. So the Center of Vietnamese Culture in Vladivostok is unique instrument of cross-cultural relations between Vietnam and Russia.