

Opening Speech

Victor Ishaev

Governor of Khabarovsk Territory, Russia

Dear Governor, distinguished ladies and gentlemen. First of all, on behalf of the Delegation of Russia, we will present here the interests of the Russian Far East. We express our deep appreciation to the organizers of this Sixth Meeting of the Northeast Asia Economic Forum, first of all to the Chairman of the Forum, Lee Jay Cho, as well as to Governor Cayetano for the kind invitation to this conference.

The Russian Far East has very rich resources. But it was for a long time distant from domestic planning as well as the foreign policy of our country. But today the situation has changed and the Russian Far East has turned towards the Pacific Rim countries. Eighty percent of foreign trade as well as 70% of foreign investment in the Far East comes from countries from Asia and the Pacific Rim.

At the same time, the Russian Far East has not been a passive participant in the movement of Russia towards the Pacific. Indeed it is taking advantage of the enhanced relations of Russia with the United States, Japan, China, and Korea. The contact point of these relations is the Russian Far East. Our presentations will reveal our perception of the prospects of regional relations between the Russian Far East and Northeast Asia.

We are sure that the discussions of these relationships in this Forum will be successful and further promote the development of the Forum as well as the prosperity of our countries and our peoples. I wish the Forum and its participants successful work and good results. Thank you for your attention.