

**RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
FAR EASTERN BRANCH
ECONOMIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

**Boris KRASNOPOLSKI, Ph.D., Tenured Professor
Deputy Director, Chief of Special Department in Moscow
Professor, Russian Academy of Public Administration under President of the Russian
Federation**

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

**International Conference on Technological Readiness for Innovation-based
Competitiveness: Promoting an Enabling Information and Communication
Technology (ICT) Policy and Regulatory Framework**

(June 29-30, 2009 at Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland)

Panel two of the Session one on June 29, 2009

Presentation:

**"Information Infrastructure as a Generator of Innovation-Based
Regional Development (on Example of the Russian Far East)"**

Moscow-Khabarovsk, 2009



I. Introduction: The main idea of presentation

1. Taking into account the growing political, economic and social role of the Northeast Asia (including Russian Far East) in the current century it is necessary to intensify different kinds of its cooperation with Europe. The summit “Russia – European Union” in Khabarovsk in May 21-22, 2009 gives the real impulse to activate this cooperation.
2. It is necessary also to attract for consultation the professional specialists of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI) for preparation and implementation of the sub-regional program directed for creation of joint information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure as a generator of innovation-based development in Northeastern Asia. CECI promotes a policy, financial and regulatory environment conducive to economic growth, innovative-based development and higher competitiveness. This organization has also a huge experience in the world taking into account useful and effective realization of SPECA – the UN Special Program for the Economies of Central Asia.



3. A process of formation of the Northeast Asia (NEA) as an integral part of the Asian-Pacific Region (APR) has started in 80-ies. This region traditionally includes Japan, Korean peninsula, Russian Far East, China and Mongolia although South Eastern China often refers to South East Asia and Chinese Shin Jan as well as Western Mongolia said to be belong to Central Asia. The more broadening interpretations of this region exist but we keep to the traditional approach to classification of this spatial formation.

4. This phenomenon of different relations includes also cooperation in creation of infrastructure for information-communication technology. At this base the different sub-regional contacts will work much more effective between, on the one hand, developed industrialized superpowers with nuclear weapon, and on the other hand, developing regions of countries with transitional economy.

5. In reality, the Northeast Asia is a potential center of accelerated political and economic development not only for Asia but for the whole world. This region is also very important for the European community.



II. ICT Infrastructure

1. By our opinion the infrastructure of information and communication technology (ICT Infrastructure) includes mainly the following kinds of activities and their institutions:

- technical-technological systems of creation and support information and communication contacts between the different economic subjects (Internet and other systems);
- data bases in the different fields of activities;
- scientific units that develop and support the technology and appropriated activities;
- educational organizations that develop and support the training models for specialists in ICT areas;
- small, medium and large enterprises that implement the scientific applied ideas;
- financial units that extend credits for the economic activities of the ICT institutions;
- government units that provide with the special legislation and other support for the ICT activities.



All these ICT infrastructure elements should be presented in each country and large enough regional formation. If not – this spatial formation cannot to support for long time the innovative-based development and competitiveness.



III. Russian Far East

The Russian Far East (RFE) is an integral part of Northeastern Asia and Asian-Pacific Region on the whole. To the present time the RFE has much more close economic relations with countries and regions of these formations in comparison with the European, Ural and Siberian parts of Russia (see table 1 – Share in % of regional groups of countries in the international trade of Russia and RFE);

source – Ishaev V.I. Infrastructure projects as a factor of social-economic development of the RFE. Khabarovsk, 2004, p. 9.

	Russia	Russian Far East
Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation	17.1	85.7
European Union	34.4	6.8
Commonwealth of Independent States	18.7	1.9
Other countries	29.8	5.6



It means that the future of the Russian Far East mainly depends on economic cooperation with the Northeast Asia/Asian-Pacific Region.

Its innovative-based development for one's part depends on creation of joint ICT infrastructure in this huge spatial formation of the world.



IV. The role of ICT Infrastructure for Northeastern Asia cooperation

The regions of the NEA try to create at the present time the mutually beneficial cooperation in the economic area. They have for this the real sources (see table 2 – Distribution the factors of economic cooperation and natural resources in the NEA);

source – Minakir P.A. Economy of Regions: the Russian Far East. Moscow, Economica, 2006, p. 628.

Country	Capital	Techno-logy	Labor	Natural resources
Japan	***	***	---	---
South Korea	**	**	---	---
China	**	---	***	***
Russian Far East	---	---	---	***
Mongolia	---	---	**	*
North Korea	---	---	---	---

*** - abundant resources; ** - sufficient resources;
* - limited resources; --- lack of factor or resource



It means that this sub-region needs jointly created ICT infrastructure to use the natural resources and technological readiness for innovative-based development and competitiveness.

This interregional ICT infrastructure will give the opportunities for all spatial formations of Northeastern Asia to increase their role in the social-economic development of the world.



V. Conclusion: What should we do?

For preparation and realization of the project for creation of joint information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure as a generator of innovation-based development in Northeastern Asia it is necessary to do:

1. To revise all elements of ICT infrastructure that are working in the Northeast Asia countries and regions for joint interests of these spatial formations.
2. To propose creation of additional elements and real joint system of ICT infrastructure on the whole in this sub-region.
3. To prepare joint interregional and national policies and regulatory frameworks for realization of this project.
4. To involve to this work the specialists of CECI for professional support a proposal for implementation of this project.
5. To organize the work of this infrastructure for innovative-based development and competitiveness for all members of the Northeastern Asia community.

