This year marks the 200 Years Anniversary of the Institute of Oriental Studies (Russian acronym IOS) of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS). To celebrate this milestone, the Institute organized the second Post War Renaissance, proving to be quite productive for the Soviet Oriental Humanities. Producing numerous situational analyses for the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Institute’s prestige soared. It became an eminent think-tank, both profiling modern political problems and producing research in the traditional cycle of Oriental Studies. Led by Primakov (from 1979 Academician of SAS), IOS/SAS was awarded the Order of Labour Red Banner, with many of its scholars also winning other prestigious awards and distinctions, both Soviet/Russian and international.

From 1987, the Institute was led by the Sinologist and former Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia, and famous for his drastic policies have brought both opportunities and challenges. Progress in terms of GDP are accompanied by inequality in income and social security domains, leading to popular outrage. The growing privatization of essential services raises concerns over ecology and common resources.

The symposium cum workshop aims to deliberate the following issues and areas, both from the perspective of countries with historical linkages with transnational region; (1) Understanding South Asia as a region; (2) Cultural kaleidoscopes of South Asia, with both intellectual and material, linguistic and sociological mosaics; (3) Common Historical Connections; (4) Linkages of the South Asian region; (5) State processes and development experiences in South Asia; (6) South Asian Regionalism and Integration: Trends, Problems and Prospects; (7) Engaging Russia in South Asia.

Proposals

Speakers will be given 15 minutes for their presentation, followed by 10-15 minutes for discussion. The working language of the workshop will be English. Postgraduate students are encouraged to participate as well.

Abstracts can be sent to any of the following:

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The Symposium is organized by: The Centre for South East Asian Studies and the Department of Foreign Languages, Gauhati University, India and The International Centre for South Asian Studies and the Faculty of International Relations and Area Studies at the Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow, Russia.

Themes

Ethno-linguistic pluralism is both a hallmark of South Asia and a prime factor of contentious relations among its countries and of intra-country conflicts. Terrorism further details mutual understanding and harmonious relations. Border conflicts make the region volatile and migrations across borders are an issue of concern for both economic and political policies have brought both opportunities and challenges. Progress in terms of GDP are accompanied by inequality in income and social security domains, leading to popular outrage. The growing privatization of essential services raises concerns over ecology and common resources.

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