

## TAMKANG FORUM DISCUSSED TAIWAN-RUSSIAN RELATION

Tamkang Forum was held on Thursday, December 23, at 9:30 a.m. in the Alumni Reunion Hall of the Taipei Campus: fifteen scholars gathered to discuss the prospective development of relationship between Taiwan and Russia. Former ROC prime minister and current president of Taiwan-Russia Association, Chang Jun-hsiung, said in his opening speech: "The current economic reforms in Russia are encouraging Taiwan to develop economic ties with Russia." Mr. Chang also emphasized the importance of a wide-angled view of the world and of international cooperation.

The forum was organized by the College of International Studies, Tamkang University, and the Taiwan-Russia Association. After Mr. Chang announced the theme of the forum, the fifteen participants exchanged their views. The executive secretary of the Science and Technology Advisory Group of the Executive Yuan, Wang Ting-an, pointed out: "Russia has a solid basis of research in basic sciences, whereas Taiwan has a rich fund for technological development; cooperation between the two sides can yield fruitful results." Russia has the expertise in the fields of communication, disaster prevention, aerospace, and energy; learning from Russia, Taiwan may be able to achieve significant breakthrough in technological development.

Dr. Wei Pai-ku, assistant professor of the Graduate Institute of Slavic Studies, Tamkang University, and executive secretary of Taiwan-Russia Association, said that the development fund of the Executive Yuan can assist in developing partnership between Taiwanese and Russian enterprises. The fund was once used to encourage investment and cooperation between Taiwanese and Israeli businesses. A memorandum of small to medium enterprises development has been signed by Taiwan and Russia; this memorandum, together with financial aid and information and

e-business plans, will help small to medium enterprises grow. Moreover, in terms of human resources, Taiwan and Russia may consider exchange of experts to facilitate exchange of know-how and two-way feedback between small businesses on both sides. (~Hui-chuan Wang)

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