

## SUMMARY

**Subject of the thesis:** Opportunities and challenges of the Russian Federation's participation in the activities of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

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**Relevance of the research issue:** Nowadays the Asia-Pacific economic integration is one of the most topical problems of the world economy and politics. Its impact on the world economy has sharply increased over the last twenty years thanks to the work of the APEC forum and to the strengthening of the Pacific Rim's (PR) positions in the international economy in general. The first, the second and the third world economies of the world are concentrated here (the United States of America, the People's Republic of Korea and Japan respectively). These economies possess the enormous economic potential and ample opportunities of economic and political influence on development of the international relations. Combination of so many rapidly developing countries of Asia and America determines the place of PR place in the world as one of the most important in the future.

The APEC forum which includes almost all the states of the Asia-Pacific Rim, will undoubtedly play an increasingly important role in the regional and global economic life. The history of the evolution of this forum for the twenty-six-year period of its existence shows that it has always reacted to the changes which took place not only in the region but in the whole world. APEC possesses high potential for development and this forum is the key block of PR.

The relevance of the study is explained also by the fact that the Russian Federation, being a participant of the intergovernmental multilateral forum in the Pacific Rim, got a chance to have a certain impact on the processes happening in the region. In turn, the scale and dynamism of these processes pose new challenges for Russia's foreign policy. The main objective is to deepen cooperation with APEC members, the reorientation of trade and economic relations with Europe towards Asia-Pacific countries, which will help to develop the Siberian and Far Eastern Federal Districts, and as a result it will lead to the more balanced and equitable development of all regions of the Russian Federation.

**The purpose of the work** is to research the factor of APEC in the economic development of the Russian Federation and to analyze economic results of participation in this forum.

**Research objectives:**

- to examine the prerequisites of occurrence and formation of the APEC forum in the Pacific Rim;
- to review the objectives, the mission, the basic principles of the functioning and the organizational structure of the APEC forum;

- to explore the stages of the forum and to organize the main provisions of the APEC Leader's Declarations;

- to analyze the results of meetings of APEC Economic Leaders, their influence on the Russian economy and examine initiatives of the Russian Federation;

- to estimate the scope of work and the main directions of cooperation of the Russian economy with APEC economies;

- to identify positive and negative economic consequences of Russia's participation in APEC and to make recommendations on optimization of our economy's further participation in this forum.

**Scientific novelty:**

The research work provides the vision of Russia's participation in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, highlights the preconditions of its entry to the forum, organizes the stages of activity of our country in APEC since the accession of the Russian economy up to the present time. The thesis examines the economic cooperation of the Russian Federation with the main economies of the Pacific Rim within the framework of the forum. Basing on the economic results of the membership the research work identifies the prospects of Russia's further participation in APEC.

**The structure and the content of work:** the thesis consists of an introduction; two chapters, each of which consists of three paragraphs; a conclusion, a 73-reference bibliography, including 43 sources in English and Appendixes. The total scope of work is 88 pages of printed text.

**Summary:**

1. The results of Russia's participation in APEC have an ambivalent character, affecting the Russian economy both positively and negatively.

2. APEC has long been at the forefront of reform efforts in the area of business facilitation. Therefore, participation in the forum helps to develop the small and medium business of the member economies and Russian economy in particular. Membership in APEC helps to develop Far Eastern and Siberian Federal Districts by attracting foreign direct investment flows from the APEC economies. Participation in APEC Economic Leaders annual meetings simplifies the development of the bilateral contacts of the Russian Federation with the member countries of the forum.

3. Supporting the idea of Democratic People's Republic of Korea's admission in APEC in the long term can give Russia the opportunity to benefit from the operation of the united Trans-Siberian and Korean railways.