

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION:

Alexei Ulyukayev: the Value of the Russian-American Pacific Partnership to Preserve a Positive Agenda Increases

Minister of Economic Development of Russia Alexei Ulyukayev sent his greetings to the participants of the 20th anniversary annual meeting of the Russian-American Pacific partnership (RAPP), held in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. "In the long history of its activities, the partnership has become an effective mechanism for the development of Russian-American trade and economic dialogue", - he noted in his welcoming address.

In this difficult period of bilateral relations, RAPP brought together representatives of business, state authorities, and non-government organizations of the regions of the Russian Far East and the West Coast states of the US. "In the current environment, the value of RAPP in maintaining a positive agenda and preserving constructive initiatives increases. All the more so when we are talking about cooperation in the Asia-Pacific – a region of vital importance to both countries," the Minister said.

At the RAPP meeting, U.S.-Russian cooperation in the field of energy and energy conservation, the environment, trade, transport and tourism were discussed. In particular, they noted the role of RAPP in the development of the oil and gas projects on Sakhalin. The forum was attended by Deputy Director of Department of the Countries of Europe, North America and International Organizations the Ministry of Economic Development of Russia, and Co-Chairman of the RAPP meeting, Dmitry Sazhin. In his speech, he noted that Russia maintains a policy of openness to attract foreign business into the country's economy. "Import substitution is a good chance for foreign businesses to participate in the new modernization of Russia. We welcome the interest of foreign companies, including U.S., to participate in our projects, especially in infrastructure," he said.

Following the meeting, the RAPP participants noted the need to lift sanctions as detrimental to business, to establish curriculum on Russian-American Relations by the example of the Moscow Institute of International Relations at universities of the West Coast of the U.S. and in the Russian Far East, to enhance activities of the sister-city ties between the U.S. West Coast and the Far East of Russia, and to urge regional authorities to engage in business mission exchanges.

Original text in Russian on Ministry of Economic Development website at <http://economy.gov.ru/minec/about/structure/depeurope/20151015042#http://>