Russian Federation

(675)

UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme

Progress report

Period of activity: 2006

UNESCO Chair in the learning society and human sustainable development

Report established by: Prof. Alexander Lunev, UNESCO Chairholder, Astrakhan State University

I. Activities

1. Academic activities

Education

* A refresher training course has been proposed in Record Management and Documentation Administration Support, Business, Botanical Expertise, Huntsmanship, Environmental Chemistry and Chemical Expertise, Information Technologies Application in Management, Information and Communication Technologies, Today’s Humanitarian Problems, The Application of Verbal and Tonal Systems in Special Work with Children Having Hearing Disorders etc... (the full list of proposed courses is available upon request in the original progress report).

* The Professional Retraining Courses have been proposed in Practical Psychology, Computer Science, Jurisprudence, Economics, Biology, Management in Education, Primary School English Teacher...

Research

In 2006 the activity of the Regional Resource Centre of On-Line Education was dynamic within the framework of UNESCO Chair. The Center’s activity is focused on:

- expending international scientific and technical cooperation with educational institutions and organizations of the Caspian Region and other countries;
- developing, implementation and maintenance the information resources in educational areas: software products, e-learning tools and data bases via Internet and without it;

The activity of the Centre of the Russian language also developed dynamically during the year. The Centre was established in 1998 on the basis of Philological Faculty. Nowadays its activity is developing within the framework of UNESCO Chair. The main direction of the Centre’s activities is promotion of correct Russian speech and making out of specific recommendations.

2. Conferences/Meetings

In 2006 ASU UNESCO Chair, the university units, in cooperation with social and economic, public, cultural and educational institutes and subjects of the region carried out the research activity in the directions topical for the region. The results of the work were
discussed during the conferences, seminars and meetings on different levels. Here are some examples of conferences (full list available upon request in the original progress report):

- Participation in the all-Russian scientific and practical conference “The increase of people’s psychological stability in state of emergency” (27-28 April 2006, Astrakhan). The project manager is Professor Kaygorodov B.V., Doctor of Psychology.
- Representatives of the Centre are permanent members of “Weeks of Adult Education”, carried out within the framework of UNESCO action. They also take part in scientific conferences, seminars, meetings devoted to the problems of adult education system development in Russia and in other countries.
- International conference “Person development psychological problems in Russia under the period of changes” (20-23 September 2006, Astrakhan). The project manager is Professor Kaygorodov B.V., Doctor of Psychology.
- International scientific conference “V.N. Tatischev: Past and current problems of state administrative government in Russia” (5-7 October 2006, Astrakhan). The project manager is Professor V.V.Ishin, Doctor of History.
- Participation in the seminar of Scientific and Cultural Centre in Goethe Institut “Basic methods of educational activity: methods of teaching the German language in multicultural context” (28 October – 11 November 2006, Moscow).
- The XXXVIII International the Ural and the Volga region students’ archaeological conference (31 January – 3 February 2006, Astrakhan). The project manager is Professor A.M. Lipchanskiy, Doctor of History.
- Presentation of the results of the research “Transformation of values in the modern epoch and problems of scientific work” within the framework of the Week of Science (28 April 2006, Astrakhan). The head of the research group is L.V. Baeva, Doctor of Philosophy.

3. Partnerships

International cooperation

The UNESCO Chair’s international activity consists in the:

- creation the united scientific space in the Caspian region;
- development of the international relations by signing bilateral agreements on cooperation with UNESCO Chairs in “near- and far- abroad” countries;
- registration of the applications for international grants, allowing to implement the university projects within UNESCO’s framework to attract foreign specialist to training and retraining programs;
- invitation foreign specialists for participation in “round table talks”, seminars, lectures.

Astrakhan State University develops international relations in the spheres of education and science with educational institutions and scientific and research organizations in Germany, France, Iran, USA, Finland, Vietnam, Japan, CIS countries etc. The aim of this partnership is
to increase the competitiveness of the Russian education, to implement projects on the development of modern science and technologies, for providing the exchange of experience.

The research work in this field aims to study the foreign experience in the spheres of specialists’ training and retraining in the situation of the market economy, in the problems of the quality of education and social partnership development, main competences formation, study of the methodological aspects in distance learning, labor market study, education motivation, and adaptation to the market economy among people of different age and status.

In 2006, the Chair members were sent abroad for the following missions (excerpt):
- Participation in the seminar “Educational institutions safety in educational systems of Israel and Russia” (15-30 March 2006, Israel).
- Participation in the presentation show of the Astrakhan region (24 – 27 April 2006, Germany, Leipzig).
- Establishment of the scientific contacts with the Clark University, Worcester polytechnic institute (12 – 24 April 2006, Worcester, USA).
- Participation in the symposium on modern family problems (27 March – 17 April 2006, Zigen university, Germany).
- Establishing of scientific contacts with Hanoi University, organizing and holding exhibition ASU (March, 25-April, 4 2006., Vietnam, Hano, Haloing).
- Signing the agreement of cooperation between universities(March,2-15,2006., ARE(Arabic Republic of Egypt), Sagazig).

II. Impact
The UNESCO Chair gives the opportunity of training and retraining to the specialists of different professions for dynamically developing labor market, among whom there are representatives of civil service, banking sector, travel companies, administrative officers, teachers, businessmen, health care professionals, lawyers, customs officers, etc.

One of the most promising directions of UNESCO Chair’s work is the creation of scientific experimental sites for researches in the spheres of Sociology, Andragogy, Psychology, Economics, Cultural Studies and Philosophy. In 2006 the activity of the Regional Resource Centre of On-Line Education was dynamic within the framework of UNESCO Chair. In connection with this, the work of the Chair contributes not only to the development of the University’s new activity and enlargement of scientific researches, but also to the accumulation of special andragogical experience, which is necessary in the circumstances of present demographical situation. Thus, one of the main objectives of ASU UNESCO Chair is programming of social, economical and cultural development of the region. Herewith, the main tasks of UNESCO Chair are the improvement of educational process and implementation of ICTs into studies. Special attention is paid to training of teachers, tutors, moderators and managers directed to the work with people of different social positions.

III. Forthcoming activities
Here are the main directions for the year 2007, with the related activities:

The problems of sustainable development of the Caspian Region
- International scientific research conference “International law aspects of cooperation of states in the sphere of economic relations”, April 24-27 2007

**The development of learning society in the region on the basis of social partnership**
- Studying of educational needs of adult population (in the course of the year)
- Approbation of international indexes of development of adult education (in the course of the year)
- Rendering of educational services for specific groups of population, (in the course of the year)

**The role of information and telecommunication technologies in the learning society formation and the regional sustainable development.**
- Creation of electronic training material library, increasing the quantity of advanced training courses with use of distance learning technologies (in the course of the year)
- The project “Electronic general education” (according to the international program Cisco Networking Academy Program (CNAP) (in the course of the year)
- The modernization of the raising the level of skills system of teachers, students of pedagogic specialties in the sphere of information and telecommunication technologies (according to international program Intel “Education for future” (in the course of the year)

**Development of intercultural communications in the region by means of education**
- Polycultural education as the factor of the Caspian region sustainable development (in the course of the year)
- Student action “We are against terrorism and extremism” (in the course of the year)