

Name: Galimov Marat

University : Volgograd State University

Major: International Relations

-Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 and the youth involvement-

In Russia, Sustainable Development (SD) sometimes loosely translates as 'resilient development' implying that no matter what pressure we put on our planet it will recover. However, the true meaning of SD which UN tries to convey is that we should treat our Earth and everything on it in such a way as to ensure that there will still be something left for the future generations after we are long gone. The same concept is implied in SDG 14 which is essentially a promise we have given to ourselves to treat all water bodies and their resources as if we might run out of them today rather than tomorrow.

I believe, the best way to achieve SDG 14 is to involve the youth in the process of increasing the sum of human knowledge on the issue. I try to make some contribution to this cause by my research work. Last year I cherished the opportunity to present my keynotes on the theme 'Russian interests regarding the Republic of Korea-China-Japan cooperation in the Arctic waters' (which is directly connected to SDG 14) at the All-Russian Science Conference in the Institute of Far Eastern Studies in Moscow. I was the only undergraduate student while everyone else were PhDs. Now I am currently writing an article on this topic with my research adviser. Thus, the older generation helps the youth get involved.

Also, I have been supervising even younger people who participate in the SDG-related projects. I am proud to say that at my university I worked as the Model UN expert in Economic and Social Committee for high-school students. My main task was to explain to the participants what SD and SDGs are and why it is up to the younger generation to preserve our planet. After the UN Model ended, I was deeply touched when two students from my committee confided in me that I had really helped them understand why conserving the planet is the task for everyone and not for adults only.

Finally, we need to exchange our knowledge with the youth from other countries. The best way to do this is to participate in various cross-cultural events. Last year, I worked as a moderator in ecological committee during The Japan-Russia Student Conference in Tokyo. In the course of 11 days we were discussing the topics such as climate change in the Arctic, Aral sea desertification in the former USSR, commercial overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the East Sea. I also took part in the Russian-China Summer School ecological committee, Moscow, 2018, where university students from the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China worked together on the green economy issues. I informed my Chinese colleagues about Volga-Akhtubin floodplains' sustainable tourism project, its ups and downs, and they, in turn, spoke about the China's projects in the Mekong River Delta. As my sphere of interest lies in the Northeast Asian region, my knowledge about Russia, the Republic of Korea, China and Japan contributed significantly to the overall discussion whereas these cultural exchanges allowed me to broaden my horizons on a big number of issues.

To sum up, it is important to maintain inter-generational and cross-cultural communication and collaboration because the implementation of all 17 SDGs is not a local question of saving some particular area today but a global issue of conserving the planet for tomorrow.