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Autor(i) / Author(s):	Daša Adašková
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INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE: “INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 2014 – CURRENT ISSUES OF WORLD ECONOMY AND POLITICS”

Daša Adašková*

From 4 to 5 December 2014, the Faculty of International Relations of the University of Economics in Bratislava organised the 15th Annual International Scientific Conference entitled “International Relations 2014 – Current Issues of World Economy and Politics” at the Smolenice Castle. The Conference belongs traditionally to the most important scientific and academic events organised by the Faculty of International Relations and the last one was organised with the support of Taipei Representative Office in Bratislava and of the Slovak Association of United Nations.

Already for the 15th time, the Conference brought together scholars, experts and scientists from Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Ukraine, the United States of America and France. They met again at this prestigious forum to present their research, to discuss actual problems of international economics, international politics and international law and to exchange ideas and opinions on the issues.

Traditionally, the opening remarks were held by respected and renowned researchers. Prof. **Keith E. Maskus** from the University of Colorado in Boulder, USA, who is the renowned researcher in the field of international economics, opened the plenary session. In his speech he focused on current problems of intellectual property rights. The second renowned scientist in political science who held the speech during the plenary session was Dr. **François Gemenne** from the Sciences Po in Paris, France. He is a specialist in environmental geopolitics and in his speech he dealt with problems of climate change and their global negative effects in the future.

The opening remarks were followed by the expert lectures organised into four sessions. The first session dealt with current issues of the European Union.

* PhDr. Daša Adašková, PhD. is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of International Relations, University of Economics in Bratislava, Dolnozemska 1/B, 852 35 Bratislava 5, Slovak Republic, e-mail: dasa.adaskova@euba.sk.

The researchers discussed mainly specific aspects of the European financial and debt crisis, such as macroeconomic imbalances, current state of the implementation of the single European market, financial crisis in Ireland. However, specific issues of the Slovak and Czech membership within the European Union were also discussed.

The second session focused on current issues of the world economy. Within this session, researchers debated a wide range of topics, such as current aspects of the supply chain financing, state promotion of foreign direct investment in Ukraine, the interaction of American and European system of corporate culture, trends of the blue economy, the development of the Visegrad cooperation and its perspectives in the future, effects of natural resources on economic development of Nigeria and Botswana and the development of the world trade dominance.

The third session was devoted to current issues of international politics and international law. Within this session, researchers in their presentations covered several regions from international politics and international law perspective. Most of the presentations dealt with the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the presenters focused mainly on its geopolitical aspects and on political culture of Ukrainian population and its influence on the Ukrainian crisis. The other topics discussed within the session were the Russian strategy towards the Afghan issue, Japanese security policy, future perspectives of the development of the Middle East region and the limits of international criminal justice in relation to armed conflicts.

The fourth session focused on current issues of Southeast Asia development and was attended by an honourable guest, His Excellency **Andrew Chang**, head of Taipei Representative Office in Bratislava. Within the session the researchers discussed various aspects of Sino-Russian relations, the Fukushima nuclear disaster and its social impacts, climate reports and decision making on various levels in South East Asia.

The first day of the conference was concluded by a ceremonial dinner that was attended by all participants. The dinner was held in a friendly atmosphere in order to give the participants an opportunity to continue the discussion and exchange their views and ideas in a less formal way. The conference continued the next day with scientific lectures and discussions within the four sessions.

The two-day scientific forum was traditionally concluded with a plenary session during which moderators of each session summarised and evaluated presented lectures and subsequent debate within the sessions. During the final

evaluation of the conference the participants agreed that the event fulfilled its scientific goals successfully, as the conference was not only the opportunity to share results of a scientific research with other respected scientists and experts, but it was also the opportunity to establish contacts between researchers that are essential for a scientific cooperation and progress in the scientific research.