

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "ECOLOGY. HUMAN. SOCIETY" - 15 YEARS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN SCIENCE, BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

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ABSTRACT

Our conference is the first project of Student Science Association, which was restored in our University in 1998. The main peculiarity of the conference is the student organizing committee. The conference was attended by representatives of Russia, Belarus, Sweden, Poland, Bulgaria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Latvia, Georgia, Iran, not mentioning hundreds of Ukrainian participants. We're happy with the fact that our conference allows students to discover new information, which they wouldn't find in training courses manuals; contrariwise businesses and organizations can get direct access to young and qualified staff. We believe that events like our conference are useful for the young scientists and also for the public authorities and businesses.

Conference "Ecology. Human. Society "is a part of feedback between universities and market participants. The conference has overgrown limits of being simple educational process element. Today, it is a serious recruiting resource for state institutions and businesses - an important part of a mutually beneficial dialogue.

KEYWORDS

Scientific-practical conference, Environment protection, Rational nature management, Educational programs, Partnership between higher schools and business.

1 INTRODUCTION

Soviet system of higher education assumed involving students into scientific activity. Modern Ukrainian universities, especially technical ones, preserve this tradition. However, during the post-Soviet period, when the industry collapsed and the science fell into decay, diploma designs of technical specialties became hypothetical, based on older groundworks of professors staff. Not surprisingly, graduates, fluent in theory, but without any practical skills, were not very popular as employees.

Currently, Ukraine experiences development of applied research. Large and small corporations are more willing to cooperate with universities, improving their technical base, supporting specialists in conducting workshops, etc. This doesn't mean that the business is ready to easily hire inexperienced graduates. It is a vicious circle: one can't be employed without experience, and can't obtain experience without being employed.

2 MARKET VS SCIENCE

The market dictates, that apart from traditional training, the university should teach young specialist methodology of information retrieval and scientific research, and, the most important thing, should impart him presentation skills.

The presentation is the weakest point of applied researchers and developers. Long isolation from world knowledge bases during the Cold War, poor knowledge proficiency in foreign languages and sometimes lack of access to the Internet turns many of the scientific research into re-invention of the wheel.

Unfortunately, the course "Scientific Activity Grounds", given in Ukrainian universities, can not teach a student make brief, precise and accurate reports, feel confident before the audience and give exhaustive answers.

Therefore, student scientific conferences, held in universities, are very valuable from pedagogical point of view. They provide an opportunity for participants to train their speaking skills, to lead discussion with opponents, to develop critical thinking towards his own work. And, of course, a well-organized conference allows potential employers to find their future employees and either to hire them immediately or to support their studies.

3 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "ECOLOGY. HUMAN. SOCIETY" AND ITS ROLE

The conference "Ecology. Human. Society." is the first project of Student Science Association, which was restored in our University in 1998. It was among first youth ecological events of this kind in Ukraine.



Photo 1. Participants of the first conference (1998).

All these years our conference subject included three most topical segments of Ecology as Science: general ecology (biological and medical areas); technoecology (environmentally friendly technologies and equipment, environmental monitoring); ecomanagement (management issues in environmental and natural resource management, environmental audit, environmental education and training).



Photo 2. "General Ecology" workshop report (2003).

For past 15 years about 3000 people attended our conference. Those were representatives of universities, institutes and research facilities from all regions of Ukraine, as well as guests from foreign countries: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Armenia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Iran, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Sweden, USA. I'd like to highlight that our conference is also important as professional guidance for youngsters because it involves students of Kiev schools who make their research at Ukrainian Junior Academy of Sciences. Many of them enter our university and choose ecology for profession.



Photo 3. Conference program committee . M.Sc. D. Benatov, Dr. M. Gomelya (Ukraine), Dr. M. Orlovski (Poland), Dr. V. Savinyh (Russia).

A small peculiarity of this conference is the art contest for ecology-oriented art-objects made by both professional artists or photographers and amateurs.



Photo 6. Oksana Pushnyak «Chernobyl Madonna» -art contest winner of 2012

Outdoor master classes became important part of our conference. We have great opportunity to use "Polytechnic" - recreation center of the University, greatly situated on the banks of the Kiev reservoir, 40 km from the city.



Photo 5. Hydrobiology tutorial with Dr. A. Sytnik (Ukraine).

The participants, guided by lecturers, sample water, sediments, soil to make field studies of biodiversity, chemical composition, radioactivity, etc. In addition to lectures and presentations, students have wonderful opportunity to listen to the birds, singing at dawn, to see the sky, to relax and make friends with each other.

The State Environmental Inspectorate of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine has been supporting the conference from the very beginning. I must admit that public officers usually have very informal conversations with young scientists. In their reports and masterclasses they speak about expeditions and methods of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources, not only about bare statistics.

The main feature of the conference – is the student committee. University students initiated the first conference, and today, 15 years later, it's their full responsibility to ensure all phases of the event: beginning with the collection of reports and up to the organization of extensive scientific debate.



Photo 4. Organization committee – kitchen duty («Politechnik» recreation center, 2007).

Unfortunately, limited budgeting of Ukrainian universities and lack of tax incentives for Ukrainian business charity make organization and holding of the conference an uneasy task, though it's always fun. At the same time, students obtain priceless experience and many of them become good managers in their professional sphere. For example, some of them work for companies with their own production facilities or chemical agents sales departments, they're also employed at Ukrainian Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and other ecological authorities.



Photo 6. Photo to remember (2012).

