

Секция «Международные организации и мировые политические процессы»

Shanghai Cooperation Organization: possible transition from ensuring regional security to forecasting economic development

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Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is one of the leading organizations in Asia which was originally formed bilateral cooperation between Russia-China strategic partnership in the sphere of security, economic development and politics. Central Asian countries joined in this organization with collaboration and cooperation in such spheres. However, these countries have joined in this organization in national security issues related border security and dealing with terrorism. Zhuangzhi (2004) pointed out that although SCO put multilateral agreement in mutual aims and tasks, disparate membership in this organization increase the dominance of Russia and China. These two countries have relatively bigger geopolitical size, population and economic growth pace compared to Central Asian countries. In this regard, inequality in membership in SCO increases the role of China and Russia in direction and influence. This may imply important future prospects and potential of the organization as SCO becoming more bilateral rather than multilateral agreement between Russia and China. Moreover, due to role of China in Asia-Pacific, SCO have more and more power of influence in Asia-Pacific which also APEC and ASEAN members are increasingly interested in Russia and China to be a part of these organizations in the region. This, in fact, may have influential on building new world order in regional and international affairs in Asia and may create rebalances of completion of power in Asia-Pacific where US has significant role. One of the top priorities of SCO is to succeed economic development both in Russia and China. By entering into this organization, Central Asian countries may benefit from energy resources in Russia and technology developments in China. In fact, Russia positions as major energy supplier to China and Asia-Pacific due to its natural endowments in Siberia and Far East. Moreover, the country is considered one of the biggest oil suppliers after Saudi Arabia which may advantage to growing manufacturing demand in China and energy warehouse for other Asia-Pacific countries. In this regard, Kazuhiko (2007) stated that one of the key aims of expansion of SCO relations to ASEAN is to cultivate the markets in Japan, South Korea and Malaysia. Thanks to positive relations with China, Russia was able to export oil, gas and crude oil products to ASEAN due to multilateral agreements with SCO (Kazuhiko, 2007). Asia-Pacific is considered third most oil export consumed market to Russia. To respond increasing demand for China's energy-starving market and new markets in Asia-Pacific, Russia decided to increase its oil production and find new oil refineries in Sakhalin Island shelf off the Pacific Coast. In fact, Asia-Pacific refiners began to boost purchasing crude oil from Russia. SCO expansion and its relationship with ASEAN allowed China and Russia to deal with energy security and cooperation in Asia-Pacific. Russia and China, as being active members of APEC, pointed out the energy sector configuration with Asia-Pacific region. This may imply that country will supply oil and gas through the Eastern Siberia pipeline for the Asia-Pacific region. This, in fact, may promote economic prosperity in Asia-Pacific regions because majority of countries in these regions are heavily reliant on industry and manufacturing. Pipeline construction and Russia's willing to enter this market to deal with energy necessity of their industries. For instance, Japan is eager to have energy configuration as per ASEAN agreement with SCO. However, Russia's response to this issues is rather bilateral than multilateral. Lukin (2009) stated that China and Japan compete on having the route for energy pipeline which can be commercially beneficial to Russia. Conversely, such

demand by China and Japan does not encourage Russia to construct new energy configuration in the region which may benefit China or Japan independently. Apart from China, Russia's role in economic development in Asia-Pacific is seen as limited. Watanabe (1999) found the lacking engagement of SCO (specifically Russia) in Asia-Pacific due to instability in Russia, economic transformation is still in process and Russia itself does not defined its role in Asia-Pacific other than preserving security in those regions. However, ASEAN countries are keen on Russia's membership in ASEAN as constructive role in regional affairs. In this extent, ASEAN countries see SCO participation in Asia-Pacific region is beneficial in both strategic interests and challenges (Watanabe, 1999). This, in fact, increased the role of SCO and ASEAN relations in the long-term strategic partnership in meeting energy sector demand in increasingly industrialized Asia-Pacific countries. To summarize the points, the role of SCO in Asia-Pacific is increasing due to dominant role of China and Russia in economic, military and political spheres. However, some members of SCO have disparate membership due to geopolitical size, economic growth pace and population size which seek equal power in membership in the organization. As a security issues concerned, Russia and China have predominantly influence on Asia-Pacific regions in terms of military arms exports and energy products supply to those regions where industrialization process is increasingly developing. While some authors argue that relations of China and Russia on the basis of SCO in Asia-Pacific complicate the relations with USA, APEC and ASEAN regions are greatly interested in seeing both powerful countries as strategically partnering in preserving security and economic development. In fact, SCO relations with Asia-Pacific can set not only new world order in Asia but also rebalance among competition of power among Russia-China-USA. Therefore, there can be both prospects for further development of SCO multilateral relations with Asia-Pacific and challenges for rebalances in power and capabilities in this region.

Источники и литература

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