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## **50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEOPLES' FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITY OF RUSSIA**

February 5th, 2010 is the 50th anniversary of Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (PFUR). In these years, PFUR has become one of the largest educational and scientific centers with world-wide recognition. Its 60 thousand graduates, including 4500 candidates and doctors of science (holders of PhD and DSc degrees), work in 170 countries of the world. Many graduates of the University are state and public figures of their countries, heads of large companies and educational and scientific institutions in Russia, the CIS countries, as well as in the countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Presently, PFUR and its branches are training about 30 thousand undergraduate and post-graduate students from 139 countries of the world, among them representatives of about 500 nationalities and 5200 foreign citizens.

The faculty of physics, mathematics and natural sciences is one of the oldest at the University. Till present about four and a half thousand mathematicians, physicists and chemists from 93 countries had graduated from the faculty. Graduates of the faculty have established scientific and teaching departments in research centers and institutions for higher education in many countries (Mexico, Rwanda, Peru, Colombia, etc). These have facilitated the formation and development of scientific research and higher education in these states.

The first mathematical departments to be opened at PFUR were the department of differential equations and functional analysis and the department of algebra and geometry. These were headed by prominent scientists-mathematicians who had been invited from the Lomonosov Moscow State University: Professor L.E. Elsgolts and Professor V.V. Ryzhkov. Among the well-known mathematicians who have greatly contributed to the work of the mathematical departments, several deserve special mention: Professors D.P. Zhelobenko, V.N. Maslennikova, V.I. Rozhkov, L.V. Sabinin, P.P. Bocharov, V.I. Burenkov. Among the current professors of mathematics are world recognised experts G.P. Basharin, A.V. Faminskii, V.M. Filippov (Rector of PFUR), M.L. Goldman, G.A. Kalyabin, E.B. Laneev, Yu.T. Lisitsa, V.M. Savchin, M.F. Sukhinin and others.

Currently several departments at the faculty are teaching mathematics. These are the department of mathematical analysis and theory of functions, headed by the corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences Professor V.D. Stepanov; the department of differential equations and mathematical physics, headed by Professor A.L. Skubachevsky; the department of nonlinear analysis and optimization, headed by Professor A.V. Arutyunov; and the department of higher mathematics, which provides mathematics courses to other faculties, headed by Professor V.I. Mikheyev.

The semi-centennial anniversary of PFUR will be widely marked in tens of countries around the world, as well as in various regions of Russia. The Editorial Board of the Eurasian Mathematical Journal congratulates PFUR, one of its founders, the faculty of physics, mathematics and natural sciences, and in particular the mathematicians of the faculty, with the anniversary and wishes them continued creative success.