中文 | English



Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

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The Institute of East European, Russian & Central Asian Studies (IEERCAS) under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) is one of the institutes of CASS specializing in international studies. Preparations for its setting up began in July 1964, and it was formally established in March 1965.

With the original name of Institute of Soviet and East European Studies, it was first affiliated with the Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and was soon afterwards placed under the jurisdiction of the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. During the "cultural revolution", the institute was suspended for a time. In February 1976, research activities were partly resumed. Because only Soviet studies were revived, the institute was named the Institute of Soviet Studies. In January 1981, the institute came under the jurisdiction of CASS, resuming East European Studies at the same time. Hence, it was renamed Institute of Soviet & East European Studies. After the dissolution of the former Soviet Union, the institute adopted its current name in 1992. Since the founding of the IEERCAS, its former directors include Messrs. Wu Xiuquan, Liu Keming, Xu Kui, Zhang Wenwu and Li Jingjie. And the current director is Mr. Xing Guangcheng, deputy directors are Mr. Dong Xiaoyang, Mr. Zhang Jianguo and Mr. Zhu Xiaozhong.

The functions of the IEERCAS are to conduct systematic basic research on politics, economy, foreign relations, culture, education and other areas in Eastern Europe, Russia and Central Asian republics, and engage in certain applied research, so as to serve China's socialist modernization drive and its reform and opening-up, and to promote mutual understanding and friendly cooperation between China and various countries in this region.

At present, the institute has a total staff of 150, including 80 research personnel, accounting for 53% of the staff; 70% support staff and administrative and logistical personnel, accounting for 47%. Among the researchers and support staff, 55 hold senior academic titles, accounting for 45.4% of all the professional staff.

The IEERCAS has six research sections, namely, the Section of Russian Politics and Social Culture, Section of Russian Economy, Section of Russian Foreign Relations, Central Asian Section, Ukrainian Section and East European Section. There are two editorial departments under the institute: the editorial department of East European, Russian & Central Asian Studies and that of Collection of Translations on East European & Central Asian Issues. In addition, IEERCAS also has other sections such as Library and Reference Room, Section for Organizing Scientific Research, General Office and Administration Section.

During the 1980s, the IEERCAS did a lot of basic research on the general situation, economic system, political system, nationality relations, foreign Policies in the former Soviet Union and East European countries and on the reforms in those countries. Large reference books such as General Survey of the Soviet Union and General Survey of Eastern Europe and a series of monographs were published, including An Outline of the Soviet Economy, The Development of Theories of Soviet Economic Construction and Economic System Reform, Comparative Analysis of the Economic System Reforms in the Soviet Union and East European Socialist Countries, Seventy Years of the Soviet Political and Economic Systems, and A Study on the Soviet and East European Political Systems. At the same time, a large number of studies were also written. The institute has made positive efforts for the normalization of relations between China and the Soviet Union.

Following the drastic changes in the former Soviet Union and East European Countries in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the IEERCAS adjusted its research directions in accordance with the new situation. On the one hand, emphasis was laid on the systematic studies of the causes and lessons behind the drastic changes that had taken place in those countries. Many researchers participated in the writing of monographs such as Examining the Drastic Changes in the Soviet Union, Historic Thinking on the Evolution in the Former USSR, etc. On the other hand, efforts were made to follow the new developments and new changes in political and economic situation in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and to study the transformation of the systems in those countries. New research fields such as Central Asian studies and Ukrainian studies were opened up. And a series of research papers and studies have been written in this area. Under the new situation, the IEERCAS continues to take as its important research task the development of China's friendly cooperative relationship with Russia and the Central Asian and East European countries.

The IEERCAS maintains extensive contact with institutions and scholars throughout the country in the field of East European, Russian and Central Asian studies. It constantly holds various kinds of workshops, seminars and lectures and other academic activities. In 1982, on the initiative of IEERCAS, the Chinese Association for East European, Russian and Central Asian Studies (originally named Chinese Association for Soviet and East European Studies), a nationwide organization, was set up. Since its establishment, thanks to the active participation of member institutions and individual members throughout the nation, the Association has done a great deal of work in promoting East European, Russian and Central Asian studies in China.

Along with the advancement of reform and opening-up in China, IEERCAS' s foreign academic exchanges have been developing constantly. It has established various kinds of academic exchange relations not only with research institutions in Russia and Central Asian republics and East European countries, but also with those in the United States, Britain, Japan, Germany, Australia, Canada, France, Sweden, the Republic of Korea, and Singapore, etc, including the exchange of visiting scholars, and joint sponsorship of academic seminars. During the past ten years, IEERCAS has jointly sponsored with research institutions in Russia, the United States, Japan, Britain, Germany and other countries international seminars and conferences, such as "Seminar on Soviet Issues", "Seminar on Soviet Interview Project", "Conference on Reform, Change and Transformation of the Centrally Planned Economies", "Seminar on Russian Problems", "Conference on Russia, Central Asia and China", and "Conference on the Dynamics of Economic Development in the Central Asian Region".

The institute also undertakes to train MA and Ph.D students. The East European and Central Asian Department of the Graduate School under CASS is located within the IEERCAS. It admits MA students majoring in international Politics and international organizations and Ph.D students majoring in international political studies. And it has been authorized to grant corresponding degrees in the above-mentioned two disciplines.

The IEERCAS has a specialized library with collections in the fields of politics, economics and foreign relations of Russia, East European and Central Asian countries. The current collection of books exceeds 60,000, representing one of the biggest in this field in China. The collection includes books in over ten foreign languages, such as Russian, East European, English, Japanese, German and French. The library subscribes 280 newspapers and Journals published in Russia, East European and Central Asian countries. And it has established book exchange relations with libraries in Russia, Ukraine and other countries. Computers have been used in cataloguing and database setting up. At present, there are two databases: "Books on the Soviet Union and East Europe since 1949" and "Subject Index of Articles in Chinese Newspapers and Journals concerning Soviet and East European Issues."

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