

**Report of Alexey Strelnikov, scholarship holder of the Sverker Åström Foundation  
for the Furtherance of the Swedish-Russian Relations.**

From June-September 2007 I was doing internship in Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) with the support of the Sverker Åström Foundation for the Furtherance of the Swedish-Russian Relations. The Foundation gave me valuable opportunity to work at one of the world famous security think tanks – SIPRI.

Working as research assistant at this organization I was assigned to the most interesting (in my view) SIPRI project – ‘Euro-Atlantic, Global and Regional Security’. Fields of my research activity at SIPRI included various issues of ‘hard’ and ‘soft’ security in the Baltic Sea region, problems of energy security in the Northern Europe as well as political and security aspects of the United States and Russia’s policies towards this region. As the result of my work I presented analytical paper on the new U.S. policy towards the Baltic Sea region and its influence on regional security regime. In few month this paper will be published at SIPRI website as project paper.

Working for SIPRI I also had opportunity to establish close ties and professional contacts with many of researches, analysts and policy-makers from Sweden and all over the world. This experience was very useful for my professional development cause we were able to share our views and opinions on different security issues and discuss the most important problems of international security and world politics. I think, that such professional contacts are very important cause they help analysts and researches from different countries to understand each other.

I believe, that this internship in Stockholm International Peace Research Institute has opened me the door into the international community of security centers and think tanks worldwide, international organizations, governmental agencies and even business companies in Russia and Europe. I’m sure that work experience in such ‘high class’ international organization as SIPRI will be very useful for my future career promotion in Russia.

And last, but not least, is that scholarship of the Sverker Åström Foundation gave me an opportunity to visit Sweden, to know its history, culture and traditions, and of course, to meet people living in this country. I believe that new friends, I have found in Sweden, will remain them for the long time.

In my view, Sweden is one of the most interesting European countries and it’s really worthy of going there. Travelling in Sweden I visited many beautiful places: Sigtuna with its ruins and runestones, small but cozy Vaxholm in Stockholm Archipelago, port-city Malmö and, of course, Stockholm, which is really the capital of the whole Scandinavia.

I appreciate this opportunity to visit Sweden and I want to thank Sverker Åström Foundation and, personally, Ambassador Sverker Åström, president of the Foundation Disa Hastad and the Foundation’s Governing Board.

I believe, that the Sverker Åström Foundation’s activity will help our countries to keep good neighbour relations in the future and I wish the Foundation every success to its efforts.

Alexey Strelnikov,  
October 2007