



Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk is located in the Susunaiskaya lowland. In translation from Ainu "susunai" means "osier-bed river". The closest distance to the coast of The Sea of Okhotsk – 25 km. There are also the Tatar Strait in 50 km to the West and Aniva Bay in 22 km to the South. The oldest range in the South of Sakhalin – Susunaiskiy – comes from the Eastern part. Its highest point is Pushkinskaya Mountain (1047 m above sea level), and the highest point of the Southern part is Chekhov Peak (1045 m). The Susuya River runs through the city, including its inflows – Krasnoselskaya, Uyunovka, Rogatka, Khristoforovka, Khomutovka.

The history of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk is very peculiar. It was established in 1882 by Russian settlers, exiles and convicts. The settlement of Vladimirovka has been founded on the Chernaya River on the main post road, connecting Korsakov with the Northern parts of Sakhalin, and it has given the foundation of the city. Very solid houses and households were built here. At the end of the 19th century, Vladimirovka was a typical Russian settlement, where life was determined by the penitentiary system. The beginning of the 20th century is significant for Russia because of the Russo-Japanese war tragedy in 1904-1905. According to the Treaty of Portsmouth, the Southern part of Sakhalin Island was yield to Japan. Subsequent development of Vladimirovka was under an effect of Japanese colonization. Vladimirovka has been renamed as Toyohara, and in a few years it has got status of a city and has become the capital of the Karafuto governorate. After the act of liberation of the Southern Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands by the USSR army in August 1945, Toyohara became the capital of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk region. After its elimination and inclusion in the

Sakhalin Region, the city with a new name “Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk” became the regional center on 2 January 1947.

During the first years after the liberation the city has accommodated thousands of settlers from the central regions of Russia, Primorski Krai, the Far East and the North of Sakhalin, who enthusiastically participated in the construction of new residential districts, development of economy of the island capital. A strong construction base has been created, new power buildings have been built and an agro-industrial sector has been launched. In few decades Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk has gained government prizes for progress in agricultural and cultural construction areas: the Order of the Red Banner of Labour (1971) and the Order of People's Friendship (1982).

Nowadays the regional center is a compact modern city with developed economy and infrastructure. The main industrial and transport facilities, social and administrative institutions: administration of the region, public federal services, law enforcement bodies, customs, MES are concentrated here.

The official name of the main municipal formation is "the city of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk" urban district. It consists of Sinegorsk, Sanatory, Klyuchi, Novaya Derevnya, Dalnee, Bereznyaki, Starorusskoe, Novoaleksandrovsk, Lugovoe, Listvenichnoe, Khristoforovka, Khomutovo, Vestochka, besides the administrative center. The population of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk is 201,7 thousands of people, according to 01.01.2017 data. In 1945 a little more than 40 thousand people lived here.

Administrative functions of the municipal division are held by the mayor and city council.

A third of economic potential of Sakhalin Region is concentrated in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. According to 01.01.2017 data, 11,5 thousands of legal persons and 8,9 thousands of sole proprietors have been registered in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk.

Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk's local industry is developing; it contains some basic organizations of food industry: Dairy Plant “Yuzhno-Sakhalinsky”, “Sakhalinsky Bekon”, etc.

The agricultural sector provides the city with vegetables, potatoes, meat and dairy products. Some agricultural organizations achieve stable results in very difficult climate conditions, they are “Teplichny”, farm products, poultry plant “Ostrovnaya”, etc.

Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk has become a massive center of the international business at the turn of the century. Head offices and representatives of renowned oil and gas companies, construction and trading companies, business-centers of a number of countries of Asia-Pacific Region, the USA and the UK are located here. The priority areas of cooperation are wholesale purchasing, scientific and technical, humanitarian and cultural ones.

Infrastructure of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk is also developing. Modern office blocks, hotels, which conform to international standards, and shopping centers are being constructed. In recent years special attention is given to the development of residential building.

Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk is a city with a big number of prevention and care facilities. The best medical powers of the region are concentrated here: regional and city hospitals, the maternity home, the oncology center, polyclinics. There are also health-care institutions as “Araliya” and “Sinegorskie Mineralnye Vody”.

No surprise that Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk is also a center of culture, education and sport. Festivals and competitions are usually held in the city, either famous Russian and foreign guests often come here. Regional Museum and Art Museum attract people with their architecture and exhibitions.

There are a lot of opportunities to gain education of different degrees in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. Higher education can be gained in both Sakhalin universities and representatives of other universities of Russia. The biggest university on Sakhalin is stated to be Sakhalin State University, which has been established based on the oldest Pedagogical Institute of the region. There is also the only non-commercial Institute has survived in difficult economical conditions – Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Institute of Economies, Law and Information Technologies, established in 1991.

Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk is developing, perfectly fitting the modern lifestyle of Russian mega-cities.

