

## **Port Infrastructure and Its Impact on Trade with African Countries: A-Lab Roundtable at MISIS**

On May 24, the National University of Science and Technology MISIS hosted a roundtable organized by the analytical laboratory A-Lab MISIS. The topic of discussion was the impact of port infrastructure on trade with African countries.

The event aimed to explore how modern port systems can contribute to economic growth, overcome logistical barriers—especially for landlocked countries—and strengthen international trade integration.

The speakers at the roundtable were student researchers from A-Lab, who presented an analytical report on the current state and future prospects of port infrastructure on the African continent. The report highlighted key issues such as the need to modernize ports, develop transport corridors, and implement multimodal logistics solutions. Special attention was given to the potential of ports as hubs for economic growth and drivers of regional integration.

Thompson Daniel Edem, a master's student in the Data Science program at MISIS, emphasized the importance of companies like Rosatom in transforming logistics systems:

***"It's not just about introducing energy technologies, but also about using satellite monitoring, digital solutions, and sustainable models. We're moving from paper-based bureaucracy to analytics, from isolation to integration. Ports are becoming not just entry points but centers of economic acceleration."***

---

Fathelrahman Drwish noted the growing interest in infrastructure investment in Africa, including projects involving China and other countries. He stressed the role of the private sector in scaling up innovations, from port construction to terminal management and digital logistics systems.

Lilia Bondareva, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Foreign Languages and Communication Technologies at MISIS, drew attention to the fact that despite Africa's rich resources and export potential, intra-continental trade remains limited:

***"Transport is crucial not only for the economy but also for meeting humanitarian needs—delivering medicine, enabling emergency evacuations. We need resilient and flexible infrastructure with alternative routes. This is not just about logistics—it's about security."***

---

During the discussion, the need for a tailored approach to port infrastructure development was emphasized, taking into account the geographical and economic characteristics of each country. A-Lab students also spoke about the importance of forming a pan-African strategy for transport integration, which would enhance mutual trade—especially among landlocked countries—and increase the resilience of economic ties across the continent.

### **About MISIS**

The National University of Science and Technology MISIS is one of the most dynamically developing centers of science and education in Russia. Founded in 1918 as part of the Moscow Mining Academy, it became an independent institution in 1930. The university includes 9 institutes offering over 75 academic programs. MISIS has six branches—four in Russia and two abroad—and is home to more than 20,000 students, 25% of whom are international students from 85 countries.

### **About A-Lab**

A-Lab MISIS is an educational and analytical laboratory established within the Department of Foreign Languages and Communication Technologies. Its mission is to bridge academic knowledge and industry needs by bringing together students from different countries to conduct applied international research, including in the fields of sustainable development, logistics, and international cooperation.

### **Contacts**

A-Lab: [a-lab@isis.ru](mailto:a-lab@isis.ru)

Lilia Bondareva, Associate Professor, Head of the Department of Foreign Languages and Communication Technologies: [bondareva.lv@isis.ru](mailto:bondareva.lv@isis.ru)

Olga Perfilieva, Associate Professor, A-Lab Academic Supervisor: [perfileva.ov@isis.ru](mailto:perfileva.ov@isis.ru)