In today’s world, globalization, like tidal waves in its force and momentum, is exerting a profound impact on the existence and development of mankind as a whole. This impact is particularly manifested in the forming of the common interest of mankind, as a result of and in a fashion specified by globalization. It is, therefore, of great importance to carry out in-depth studies of the process of globalization and its features, and to accurately locate its special values and significance for the existence and development of mankind. Thus a clear consciousness about globalization may develop, which will help regulate and stimulate healthy development of human society, as well as maintain and safeguard the common interest of mankind.

The term “globalization” refers to the transitional process of mankind from primitive isolation and separation amongst territories, nations and states to a world community. As a process of social change, globalization is not a new phenomenon that only has occurred in modern time; it already has a history of nearly 500 years. If it can be said that people were already feeling the effects of its ripples as early as from half a millennium ago, then it is only in our contemporary time that they are clearly shaken by the force of the tidal waves called globalization.

The globalizing process of human society coincided with the external expansion and world-scale development of capitalism in pre-modern history, and its origin can be traced as far back as to the great geographical discoveries in the 15th century. Christopher Columbus sailed to the Americas in 1492; Vasco da Gamma reached India in 1498 via Cape of Good Hope; Ferdinand Magellan accomplished his circumnavigation of the world from 1519 to 1522. These events ushered in a new era of the integration of the Eastern and Western Hemispheres,
raising the curtain for the prelude to the globalizing process of human society. The industrial revolution prompted a great leap forward in world transportation. The advent of the steamship greatly increased the speed of transport on the world’s major routes; the opening of one great canal after another provided much convenience for communication between people from different regions in the world. After entering the 20th century, there has been even closer ties between different territories, nations and states worldwide in political, economic and cultural domains, with social exchanges on a global scale becoming increasingly frequent. A series of significant events that were unprecedented in human history should particularly be noted for their role in this process, namely, the two world wars in which imperialists partitioned and re-partitioned the world, the world economic crisis between the wars, and the founding after WWII of the United Nations, which is commonly known as the “World Government”. These events brought to an end the mutual isolation of human societies and pronounced the initial forming of a global community.

After WWII, i.e. in contemporary time, new tendencies have appeared in the globalization of human society. On one hand, mankind has stepped into a post-war epoch of relative stability, with peace and development being featured as the two main themes of the time. In order to maintain peace and achieve development, it has become more imperative than any other time in history for nations and states to carry out political dialogues, cultural exchanges and economic cooperation between themselves in ever greater depth and scope. On the other hand, political, economic and cultural exchanges on a global scale are now facilitated by means and media of unparalleled efficiency and speed, thanks to the rapid evolution of modern tools of communication and transport, and modern technological revolution—particularly the inventions and applications of micro-electronic, information, space and new telecommunication technologies. The combination of the two elements presents itself as the massive impetus behind the globalizing process of modern human society, and gives the process, in the meantime, certain features as follows:

1) The process of globalization is accelerating in momentum. In 1492 the news that Christopher Columbus discovered the new American continent did not reach the English royalty until six months after the event. In 1865, the British government did not receive the message of the assassination of US president Abraham Lincoln until twelve weeks