



## Evgeniy Gerchev Kandilarov

Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”  
Received Sylff Fellowship in 2003

My name is Evgeniy Kandilarov. I am from Bulgaria and I have become a SYLFF fellow in Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” during my PhD course back in 2003.

First of all, I would like to take the opportunity to express my most sincere and deepest gratitude to Mr. Sasakawa and Nippon Foundation for the chance of being SYLFF fellow and to become part of this big worldwide SYLFF family. It had a really great impact on my academic and professional career and development and personally on my entire life. So I really hope that with my work as a University professor of History and with my research I can contribute even a little to one of the main goals of Nippon Foundation which is to work for better understanding and peaceful international development.

Secondly, I had the chance to say it once in 2016 on the official ceremony when Mr. Sasakawa was honored with Doctor honoris causa of the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” which I belong to, But I would like to highlight it right now once again. It is already 30 years since Nippon Foundation became one of the most generous supporters of my University and Its PhD students. Thanks to this support which was very significant and indispensable, especially during the very hard transition period that Bulgaria had to go through after the end of the Cold War, we have already over one hundred excellent students already leaders in in everyone’s field - journalists, teachers,, diplomats, lawyers, etc. On behalf of my University I would like to express my gratitude as well as my hope that this tradition and so beneficial cooperation will continue in the future.

Finally last but not least I would like to share what was the impact of the participation in this SYLFF leader’s workshop on me personally. It had many beneficial aspects but one of the most important and inspiring thing was the opportunity to meet and to interact with all these amazing SYLFF fellows from all over the world, with great expertize in so many different fields, with such a varieties of backgrounds and cultural identities. The opportunity to know all of them, to share ideas and experience with them, was probably the most important impact

from the workshop on me.

Once again thank you for the chance and the opportunity to be here and to become part of this. It was honor and privilege for me!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart!