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The History of Money Evolution

Modern training of specialists in such areas as «Automobile transport» and «Transport technologies» requires that future engineers gain knowledge in marketing, finance and economics. That is why students of the National Mining University study a number of special disciplines during their study process, for example ‘The basics of transport economics’, ‘The basics of system and management theory’, ‘The economic theory’, ‘Commercial operation’, ‘The planning of transport sector’, ‘Project analysis’, and ‘Management of the automobile transport’. Students learn the main concepts of future and present value of money, cash flow, cash flow discounting, net present value, profitability index, and pay back of investments.

Pedagogy considers that motivation and interest in the subject are the main criteria for better learning. In order to encourage students’ interest and outlook, there has been an optional class ‘Learn more’ at National Mining University library since 2011. Due to fruitful cooperation between automobile and automobile economy department and transport management department students were delivered a series of lectures in that optional course, which broadened their knowledge with different interesting historical facts.

Thus, money and the history of its origin and development were chosen as the theme of one of those lectures. Nowadays, money is considered as a multipurpose item. It is used as payment for different goods and services. The main functions of money are: a medium of exchange, a store of value and a unit account.

Cash which we use daily exists in such forms as banknotes and coins. Using it every day we frequently think about its availability and amount, but do not think about the time when it came into service and how it looked like. The emergence of money is considered to be such an inevitable and unique process as the appearance of the languages. In the ancient world money was the valuable items of the tribe: cattle, fish, fur, pepper, rice, tea, grain, cocoa, spears, animal bones, shells or pieces of salt. The ancient Slavs used flax as money. Seashells cowrie *Cepralla moneta* also became wide spread all over the world and were in circulation until the 20th century.

Over time people changed the primitive money into gold and silver bullions. However, the bullions were too big and heavy so they were replaced by gold and silver coins as well as nickel and copper ones.

Nowadays, we widely use different plastic cards. Studying the history of money evolution gives us an opportunity to suggest that in future we will have non-cash funds which can be written on cards made of nanomaterial.