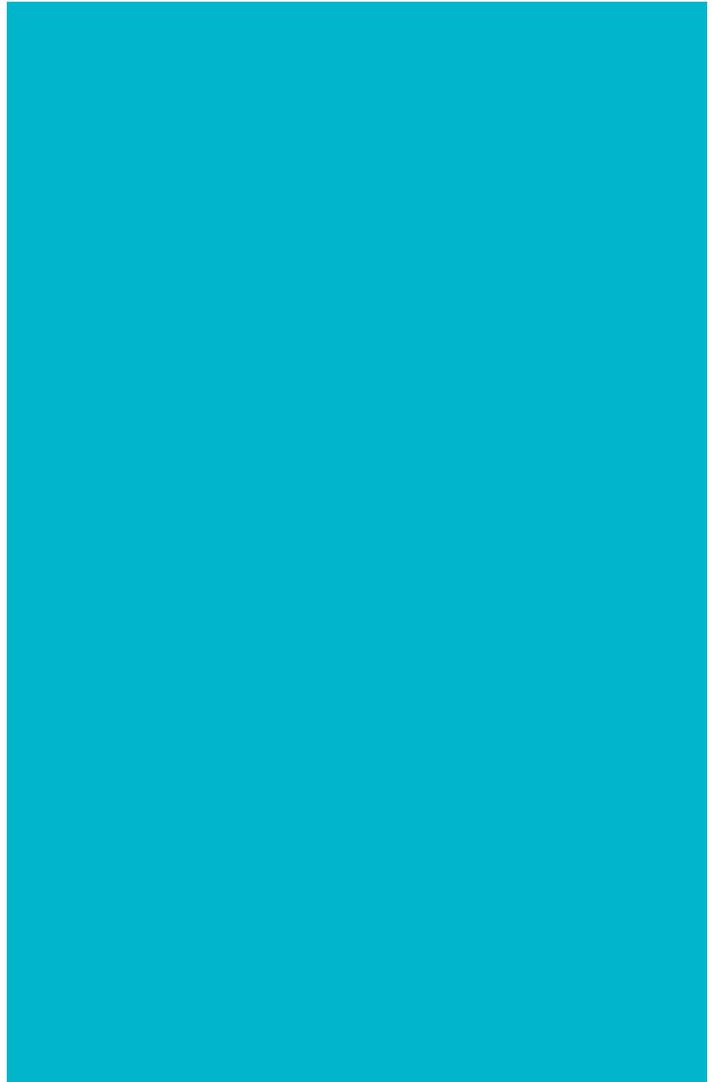




Institute of
Contemporary
Development



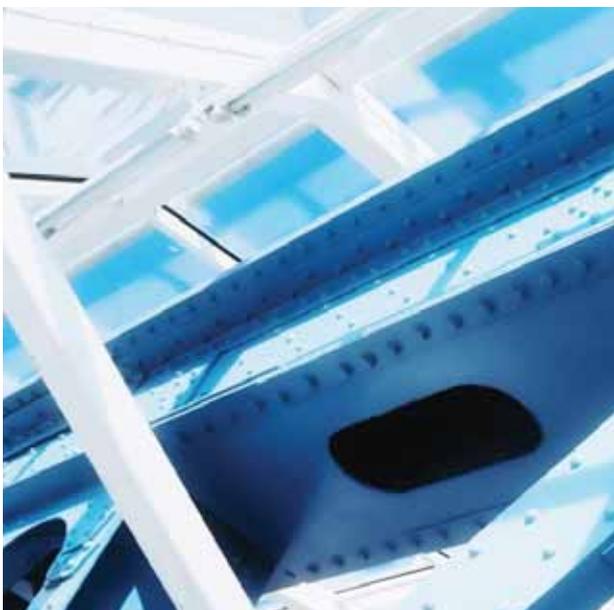
2008

Resolution of crucial socio-political and socio-economic issues

Implementation of high-priority national projects

Development of information society

Execution of foreign policy to fulfill the country's long-term goals



The Institute of Contemporary Development (INSOR) was established in March 2008 to unite the country's intellectual capital and leading experts to develop policies and recommendations important to Russia's future. Its mission is to engage Russia's and the world's leading academics, corporate, and government leaders in open and candid dialogue on practical ways of creating a modern Russian society.

Founded on the basis of the highly successful Center for the Development of an Information Society (RIO Center), the Institute's Board of Trustees is led by President of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev.

The Institute of Contemporary Development initiates expert panels and conferences, conducts high-quality, independent research and represents a forum for transparent and democratic exchange of ideas and views on practical solutions to Russia's most pressing problems. The Institute's experts study the optimal paths for the country's further development, preparing corresponding proposals for state authorities on policies and improvements in legislative framework.

The Institute's work focuses on five primary areas: the resolution of vital socio-political and socio-economic problems; the implementation of high priority national projects; the development of information society; and, the pursuit of a foreign policy that best corresponds to the country's long-term interest. The Institute combines work products and opinions of leading Russian experts as well as representatives of interested state authorities and the business community. The Institute conducts major social, economic and opinion surveys; hosts conferences, roundtables and working group meetings; and participates in other forums and public events.

Although the Institute has been in operation for less than a year, it has already gained a reputation as one of Russia's leading intellectual centers. Its work is in great demand by state authorities, Russian businesses and civil society institutions.



Dmitry Medvedev

President of the Russian Federation, Chairman of the Board of Trustees,
Institute of Contemporary Development

Global Financial Crisis

The Institute's first major expert discussion, on March 18, 2008, was dedicated to the current state of the global financial markets. The discussion was led by the Institute's Board of Trustees Chairman and newly-elected President of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev and included representatives from the Russian Presidential Administration, members of the Russian government, heads of the country's largest banks and investment firms, and leading Russian and foreign experts.

The participants discussed the strengths and weaknesses of Russia's capital markets and financial system, the impact of the crisis on global markets, and the prospects for the Russian financial sector's future development.

The upheaval in the international financial markets has had a substantial impact on the global economy as a whole. For Russia, according to the Institute's experts, the global financial crisis could threaten the country's financial security in the short-term. But it also opens up a long-term opportunity to transform the country into one of the world's leading financial centers. A series of expert discussions hosted by the Institute in 2008 was dedicated to the prospects of creating a global financial center in Russia.

The Institute of Contemporary Development held a number of events since the onset of the global financial crisis to monitor and provide analyses of its impact on the Russian financial market. For example, on October 13 a roundtable

entitled **"The Global Financial Crisis and its Influence on Russian Economic Development"** was held. Participants included members of both the Institute's Management Board and Board of Trustees, as well as representatives of the scientific, banking and business communities. They analyzed the root causes of the financial crisis in the United States and the world, examined the existing interconnection between the global financial system and oil markets, and discussed the effectiveness of recent actions to stabilize the global financial system.

The discussion's results and the expert panel's proposals were presented on October 17, 2008, at a meeting with President of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev.

National Projects



The Expert Council for the Implementation of Priority National Projects and Demographic Policy under the President of the Russian Federation continued its work in 2008 within the framework of the Institute of Contemporary Development.

Affordable Housing

In 2008, the Council examined proposed legislative initiatives on affordable housing in order to ensure that citizens' interests are protected in the process of shared housing construction (Council meetings held on January 29 and February 13), and low-rise residential building development (meetings held on February 12 and April 9).

An April 16 Council meeting was devoted to an expert discussion of the Ministry of Regional Development of the Russian Federation's draft proposal on a **"Long-Term Strategy for Mass Housing Construction for All Categories of Citizens"**. The Council determined that this draft proposal reflects the real state of the economy and corresponds to the long-term forecast for the country's socio-economic development. The draft law identified the priorities and principal goals of state housing policy, including solutions for affordable housing for families of all incomes, housing maintenance and servicing, housing repairs, and other issues. Provisions on the housing market focused on continuing reforms launched earlier and at developing market institutions such as self-regulatory organizations, public private partnership and financing, among others. The Council recommended that the Russian Government adopt the proposed legislation.

Modern Healthcare

The Council held its first roundtable discussion on healthcare reform within the framework of the **"Public Private Partnerships and Russian Healthcare Reforms"** on May 13. Representatives of the Russian Ministry of Health and Social Development as well as experts from leading medical centers attended the roundtable.

The Council identified the need to clearly define a starting point for future reforms by determining the volume of public demand for healthcare services. Experts agreed that this project would require a major, but important initiative.

According to preliminary estimates, the desired level of healthcare spending should reach 6-12% of GDP. The higher estimate is only likely to be achieved in the long term (the current level of state healthcare spending stands at 3.5% of GDP, while citizens' payments range between 1.5-2% of GDP).

The high cost of healthcare as a percentage of GDP, in the experts' opinion, is due to the neglected state of the material-technical base of healthcare, the low level of wages in the industry, and the high level of diagnosed and – most importantly – latent diseases among the population.

The Council also analyzed the document on the **"Main Directions of the Russian Federation's Healthcare Development Concept through 2020"**, which was prepared by the Russian Ministry of Health and Social Development. The Institute experts concluded that:

- **In the next 10 to 15 years, the best healthcare system for Russia – both in terms of cost effectiveness and healthcare outcomes – would be a single-channel budgetary financing system within the framework of the State Guarantees Program (with the volume of financing reaching about 7% of GDP within four to five years), in combination with every possible incentive in voluntary health insurance;**
- **The quality of medical services should be determined by medical and economic standards, and exact diagnostic guidelines;**
- **The new financial and economic incentives for state and municipal healthcare systems should include:**
 - **the development and adoption of medical and economic standards;**

- **the introduction of a new form of incorporation for legal entities (as an autonomous service);**
- **implementation of the “fund-holding” principle in medical centers and clinics.**

Quality Education

On October 9, a conference dedicated to the Russian education system’s Development Program for 2009-2012 was held. The objective of the event was to help refine the priorities and directions of the National Project “Education”.

The focus of debate was on the need to transition from a strategy of developing science and innovation to a strategy of innovative development, which will increase the quality and expand the scale of scientific proposals, stimulate demand for technology and innovation in the non-financial sectors of the economy, and develop human capital.



Elvira Nabiullina

Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation



Alexandra Levitskaya

Deputy Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation



Oleg Morozov

First Deputy Speaker, State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation



Alexander Braverman

General Director of the Federal Fund for Support of Housing Construction; Doctor of Economics; Professor



Vladimir Mau

Rector, Academy of National Economics under the Government of the Russian Federation; Doctor of Economics; Professor



Alexander Oslon

President, Public Opinion Foundation



Tatiana Dmitrieva

Director, Serbsky Center for Social and Forensic Psychiatry; Academic, Russian Academy of Medical Science



Lev Yakobson

First Pro-rector of the Higher School of Economics State University; Doctor of Economics; Professor

Development Of Civil Society

The implementation of a national strategy of long-term socio-economic development requires the development of a civil society — one that is capable of shaping initiatives and making social demands as well as being an active, cooperative partner with the state.

Identifying strategies for the development of a full-fledged civil society in Russia was the subject of an April 21 roundtable on **“Society and the State: Formats of Dialogue and Paths to Cooperation”**, which was organized with the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation. Many participants gave evidence of the growing civic engagement and citizen action already taking place in cities and communities across Russia.

However, the challenges of developing civil society were also discussed. The problem of establishing efficient channels of communications between society and the state remains chronic. The state requires a connection

with society, including ongoing feedback, so that the country’s long-term development strategy can be implemented. Civil society needs to be both heard by the state and to receive real state support for all its undertakings, panel participants determined.

The discussion’s results and specific proposals included framing new channels of cooperation between society and the state. The experts also agreed that it is important to continue building on the long-term cooperation between the Institute and the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation.

The Institute also undertook a research project called **“The Russian Model of Democracy”**, whose preliminary results were released on July 2, 2008.

Experts discussed the challenges of forming democracy in Russia and how fully developed democratic institutions are linked to the country’s long-term development and current large-scale modernization programs. A key conclusion is the urgent need for measures to improve the level and quality of political participation by citizens. These measures must advance citizens’ political and economic freedoms as a fundamental prerequisite of the government’s modernization initiatives.

The report, called **“Democracy: Development of a Russian Model”**, also concludes that, with any national model of democracy, a Russian model can only be formed through interaction among diverging political interests, as expressed by politicians and supported by society. The report analyzes the current state of institutions and public opinion, and proposes actions that can help create conditions for accelerating the development of the democratic process.

The Institute also launched development of programs to further strengthen judicial authority in Russia. An effective judicial system plays an important role in ensuring the efficiency and stability of Russia’s socio-economic and socio-political development.

A June 24 roundtable on the **“Problems Facing the Russian Legal System, as Reflected by Civil Suit Rulings of the European Court”** analyzed the possibility of modernizing Russia’s legal system in the near future. The starting point of the discussion was a study of Russian civil appeals to the European Court of Human Rights.



Evgeny Velikhov

President of the Kurchatov Institute; Academic-Secretary, IT and Computer Department, Russian Academy of Science; Secretary, Public Chamber



Igor Yurgens

Chairman of the Management Board, Institute of Contemporary Development, Professor



Arkady Dvorkovich

Aide to the President of the Russian Federation



Igor Bunin

President, Centre for Political Technologies



Igor Shuvalov

The First Deputy Prime Minister
of the Russian Federation



Anton Ivanov

Chairman of the Supreme Arbitration
Court of the Russian Federation



The roundtable identified fundamental changes required to modernize the Russian legal system and, in the process, to strengthen the independence of the country's courts and guarantee fair justice and absolute protection of citizens' rights.

The Institute also contributed to the development of proposals to fight corruption, which is a policy priority of President Medvedev. One of the Institute's priority areas is to ensure the expert development and preparation of proposals for the National Anti-Corruption Plan.

Two roundtable discussions were held on the subject of **"Fighting Corruption: How to Build a Systematic Approach"** (June 26) and **"Ways to Fight Corruption"** (July 1). During the discussions, experts employed a comprehensive and systematic review of the primary causes of corruption and outlined a series of solutions to combat this growing problem. The experts concluded that fighting corruption will require a long-term commitment by the government, with a specific sequence of actions and criteria to judge the efficiency and effectiveness of the government's actions.

On November 5, in his first address to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, President Medvedev laid out his strategic national development plan by focusing on the values, ideals and ethical principles of Russian society. On that very day, the Institute of Contemporary Development held a roundtable discussion entitled **"Russia: The Values of a Modern Society."** This discussion, which featured well-known Russian scientists, politicians, religious lead-



ers and other public figures, agreed that solutions to the country's economic, political and social problems were only possible with a well developed value system. Participants identified the following fundamental principles in the creation of a value system: the preservation of traditional cultural and spiritual values, their careful alignment with innovation, and a guiding sense of pragmatism and realism. The successful resolution of this task will create a new impetus for Russia's progressive development, spiritual renewal and successful modernization.

The development of civilized models and mechanisms of cooperation between the state, religious organizations and civil society was the subject of an international roundtable on **"State and Religion: Cooperation for the Benefit of Societal Development"**, which was held at the Institute on November 11 and included Russian and foreign religious and public officials. The roundtable's participants identified areas in which cooperation can offer the best support for spiritual growth, reaffirming the spirit of social consensus, counteracting extremism, and developing Russian culture and patriotism. Representatives from Italy, Germany, the United States and Slovakia shared their experience and vision of collaborative relations between state and church institutions.

At the request of the President of the Russian Federation, the Institute of Contemporary Development conducted a comprehensive study, entitled **"The Current State and Development Prospects of Local Self-Government in Russia"**, focusing on the current practices and problems of self-governance at the regional levels of government.

The study involved municipalities from 16 regions of Russia with different levels of economic development and social welfare, population density, demographic profiles, locations within Russia, urban vs. rural composition and other factors. The study spanned all seven of Russia's federal districts.



Leaders of the regional governments that were part of the study actively participated in the project. For example, in the Northwestern Federal District, the research was supported by the Plenipotentiary Envoy of the President of the Russian Federation. The project's methodology included qualitative and quantitative sociological surveys.

The study not only analyzed the interim results of Russia's reforms, but also the legal frameworks, socio-political opportunities, and financial and economic bases for local self-governance.

Roundtable discussions of the study's results involved officials who helped draft the law and its amendments, representatives from the scientific community, the Russian National Congress of Municipalities, the European

Club of Experts in Local Self-Government, and the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation.

Based on the project's conclusions, the Institute provided the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Committee on Local Self-Government with a package of amendments to Federal Law No. 131, **"On the General Principles of Local-Self-Government Organization in the Russian Federation"**.

The Institute's report **"Local Self-Government in Russia: Results of the 2003-2008 Municipal Reforms and Paths Toward Improvement"** was also submitted for public attention in November at a plenary session of the Public Chamber, which was dedicated to issues of local self-governance.



Dmitry Mezentsev

Deputy Speaker, Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation



Vasily Lipitsky

Secretary of the Management Board, Executive Director, Institute of Contemporary Development; Doctor of Philosophy; Professor



Alexander Chubaryan

Director, Institute of General History, Russian Academy of Science; Academic, Russian Academy of Science



Valery Makarov

Director, Central Economics and Mathematics Institute, Russian Academy of Science; Academic-Secretary, Department of Social Science, Russian Academy of Science

Information Technology and Russia's Future

An economy based on innovation and information technologies will play a leading role in Russia's orientation toward new frontiers and accelerate its future growth. Accomplishing this goal involves the development of a modern innovation strategy that will ensure the growth of the country's information and communication technologies sector. This would enable Russia to move away from an economy based on raw materials and radically modernize the economy in a short period of time.

Russia's innovative development is impossible without the creation of an information society. This goal is addressed in the **"Strategy for Developing an Information Society in Russia"**, which President of the Russian Federation signed in February 2008 and the creation in November 2008 of the Presidential Council for the Development of Information Society.

Work on this strategy began in 2003 by the Russian Ministry of Information Technologies and Communication. It was the main focus of the work of the RIO-Center, the predecessor foundation of the Institute of Contemporary Development. In 2008, the Institute continued these efforts by drafting the implementation protocols for the strategy.

A broad range of experts were recruited to exchange ideas on the challenges facing the development of Russia's information society, the formation of an innovation-based economy, principles for creating a national innovation system, priority measures for developing this sector of the economy, and ways to ensure that the Russian Legislature implements this process.

This work culminated in a report entitled **"The National Innovation System and Priority Measures for Developing the Innovation Sector of the Economy"**, which outlined the Institute's proposals to the country's leadership on:

- **institutional and infrastructural mechanisms for supporting innovation activity;**
- **priority measures for increasing demand of innovation technologies and products;**
- **development of domestic markets for Russian-manufactured innovation products and technologies;**
- **expansion of Russian high technology exports.**



Leonid Reiman

Advisor to the President of the Russian Federation; Board of Trustees Member, Institute of Contemporary Development; Doctor of Economics



Andrey Fursenko

Minister of Education and Science, Doctor of Science (Physics and Mathematics)



Ilya Ponomarev

Deputy of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation



Dmitry Milovantsev

Deputy Chairman of the Management Board, Institute of Contemporary Development

Russia's information and communication technologies sector is capable of becoming the engine of the economy's innovation-based development. Russia meets all the prerequisites to become a world leader in this area.

This case was made by a high-level delegation of Russian technology and policy experts at the Technology Leadership Council in Boston in April. A focus of this forum was the information and innovation potential of the fast-developing BRIC economies (Brazil, Russia, India and China). Institute experts who were part of the delegation advocated that the future of Russia's high-tech industry lies in both global cooperation and competition between the BRIC nations and the United States in areas such as consulting and software development.

A roundtable on October 9 **“Information Technology for Interaction Between Citizens and State Authorities: Solution for Tasks Set by the State of Russia”** was held on ways to advance the strategy outlined by President Medvedev during a Presidium of the State Council of the Russian Federation held in Petrozavodsk. Participants of the roundtable discussed the creation of an Internet-based information system to promote interaction between citizens and state authorities and the adoption of internal and external electronic document management technologies that will improve transparency of state services and reduce corruption.

Russian IT companies have worked extensively with European and U.S. software solution providers and document management companies. This experience should help to accelerate the development and adoption of similar technology in Russia, reducing time in which efficient performance levels are achieved in the public and private sector.

An expert discussion was held by the Institute on October 30 to analyze the evolution of Russia’s information society, based on information contained in report **“On the Information Society’s Development in the Russian Federation in 2007”** prepared by the expert community. This report covers a wide range of topics, including information and telecommunications infrastructure development; citizens’ access to information and technology; using information and communication technologies to improve the efficiency of state administration and local self-governance; the development of education, health-care and the social safety net; the preservation of Russia’s multicultural society; and improvements in the system of cultural and humanitarian enlightenment.

The importance of properly training qualified technology specialists to support the development of Russia’s information economy was the subject of an Institute-sponsored workshop, **“Professional and Education Standards in the IT Sphere as an Instrument of Training Staff for the Russian Economy”**(April 15). The event was organized with the Information and Computer Technologies Industry Association, and included participants from the Ministry of Information Technology and Communications and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation. Among other initiatives to ensure the training of qualified information technologies specialists, experts





reviewed and commented on draft requirements for professional standards (qualificational demands) developed by the Information and Computer Technologies Industry Association with support from the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications.

An important part of the Institute's work includes providing support for nontraditional education projects, including the **Baltic Science and Engineering Fair, the Youth Informational Equality Multipurpose and Multilevel Project (MIR), and the Computer Literacy (The Computer Teacher) Russian National Fair.**

The Baltic Science and Engineering Fair focuses on finding and supporting young scientists (age 14-17) so that they can develop their creativity and skills in communicating complex science and technology topics. The premise of this innovative fair is that the world is becoming less driven by knowledge and more by the generation and dynamism of new ideas combined with the exchange of information technologies.

The MIR project, which the Institute supports, is dedicated to attracting young people to the field of information technology and fostering an information culture among Russia's youth. It is designed to establish an unbreakable bond between the high-technology areas of life and the economy.

The Institute hosted a number of events for the MIR project in 2008. These events were designed to help young people apply life experiences they gained in the virtual world to real-life successes. This not only involved creating a major nation-wide youth Internet portal, <http://www.mir4you.ru/>, but also staging roundtables and training sessions devoted to instilling in young people a sense of cooperation, teamwork, the ability to negotiate and reach agreements, and the development of creative ways of thinking.

The goal of the Computer Literacy federal and regional education project is to recruit young people to teach basic computer skills to as many adults as possible through school-level computer classes. In 2008, the fair attracted more than 7,000 children from 368 schools to teach the "ABCs" of computer skills to more than 18,000 adults across 73 regions of Russia. More than 70 percent of the adults that participated in the Computer Literacy program said that they want to continue computer education courses and 20 percent intend to pursue new, more promising jobs using their computer skills.

Improving Russians' Living Standards



Evgeny Yasin

Academic Director, Higher School of Economics; Doctor of Economics; Professor



Alexander Auzan

President, National Project Institute - Social Contract; Doctor of Economics; Professor



Ruslan Grinberg

Director, Institute of Economics, Russian Academy of Science; Correspondent Member, Russian Academy of Science



Evgeny Gontmakher

Director, Center for Social Policy, Institute of Economics, Russian Academy of Science; Doctor of Economics; Professor

“The Concept for the Long-Term Socio-Economic Development of the Russian Federation”, was one of the most important strategic documents to be approved by the Russian Government in 2008, and which became key to the work of INSOR. This policy document outlines specific programs for all spheres of the Russian economy and public life — programs which, when implemented, will transform Russia into one of the world’s most developed nations.

A priority highlighted in the Concept for the Long-Term Socio-Economic Development of the Russian Federation and which became a focus of the Institute of Contemporary Development’s work in 2008 was strengthening Russia’s middle class. This priority was also articulated in President Medvedev’s speech to State Council session **“On the Strategy of Russia’s Development through to 2020”**. The goal is to create socio-economic policies to expand and improve the welfare of the middle class.

The Institute’s work in this area was launched at a conference entitled **“The Middle Class: Problems of Creation and Prospects for Growth”**, on April 24, which attracted more than 100 scientists, political experts, sociologists, government representatives and members of the news media. The conference focused on the impact of underdeveloped institutions on the growth of Russia’s middle class. Conference participants discussed President Medvedev’s formula of “institutes, infrastructure, innovation and investments” and determined that it could only be achieved for the benefit of middle class development through institutional changes if implemented as soon as possible.



Tatyana Maleva

Director, Independent Institute of Social Policy; Professor



Mikhail Shmakov

Chairman, Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia

The study of the middle class in contemporary Russian society – as well as the possibility of reforming the primary socioeconomic, social and political institutions responsible for middle class development – was also the focus of various expert discussions held at the Institute in 2008 and summarized in a report called **“A Discussion of the Middle Class”**.

Institute experts have also been heavily involved in developing proposals to reform **Russia’s pension system**. These proposals were summarized in an Institute report entitled **“Overcoming the Russian Pension System Crisis or the Second Wind of 2002 Reforms?”**, which was the outcome of various expert discussions held at the Institute in 2008. Representatives of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia, the Coordinating Council of the Employers’ Union of Russia, the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, the Ministry of Economic



Development, the Ministry of Health and Social Development, the Ministry of Finance, the Pension Fund and the expert community participated in these discussions.

The Institute's proposals for pension reform included:

- **abolishing the regressive Uniform Social Tax system;**
- **abolishing all Uniform Social Tax concessions provided to various industries;**
- **introducing private (non-state), professional pension systems;**
- **developing a state co-financing program for voluntary pension savings;**
- **changing the Russian Federation Pension Fund's status.**

Several expert discussions hosted by the Institute of Contemporary Development were devoted to analysis of and new solutions for contemporary labor relations. A workshop entitled **"Models of Labor Ethics for 21st Century Russia"** (May 15) reviewed the current situation in labor

ethics and specifically the correlation between "labor ethics," "business and professional ethics," and "labor values." Participants also exchanged opinions about the current status of the development of labor ethics in Russia, which is important to the country's modernization.

The status of trade unions in contemporary labor relations, issues of social partnership and current labor legislation were the focus of an expert discussion entitled **"The Current State of Labor Relations in Russia"** (September 16).

A two-day Russian-German expert forum on **"The Creation of Social Policy: Social and Labor Relations"** (November 17-18) marked the beginning of a long-term research project to define new components of the "social state" concept in Russia and Germany, a concept which is established in both countries' constitutions. The project will be jointly conducted with the Institute of Economics the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Germany and the Institute of Contemporary Development. The project will also study social partnerships in the era of globalization and new solutions in the social sphere and the field of labor relations.

Citizen demands to see improvements in their living standards and the international expansion of Russian businesses requires that Russia engages in an active environmental policy. As a result, the Institute held a roundtable on **“Russian Environmental Policy”** on October 2 to analyze the efficiency of national environmental management policies.

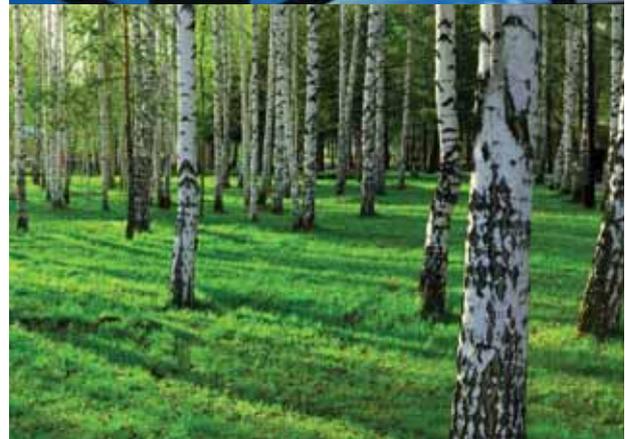
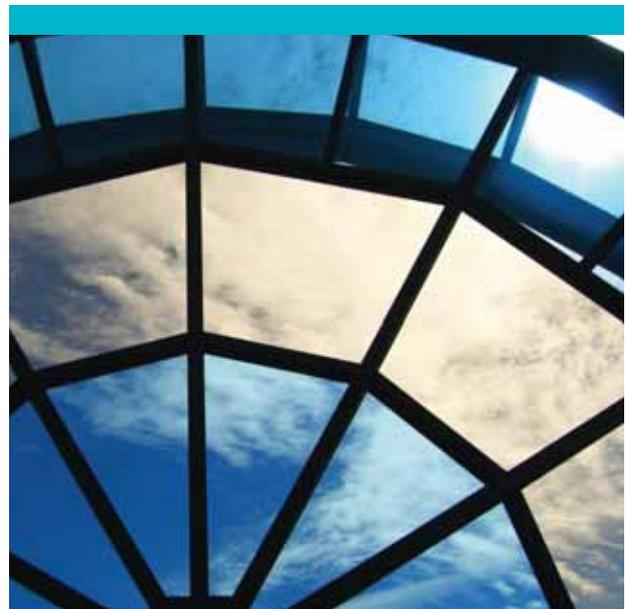
Participants, including representatives of the government, the Public Chamber and the World Bank, as well as environmentalists and business leaders, reviewed a draft document developed by Russian and international experts based on a study commissioned by the World Bank. The study found that Russia’s environmental quality was unsatisfactory, due to a lack of responsibility for environmental protection and monitoring.

The Institute experts concluded that an engaged and effective environmental policy can serve to reduce both energy and resource consumption in Russia and provide an impetus for Russia’s industrial modernization. This will, in turn, result in improvements in the country’s economic competitiveness.

In 2008, the Institute of Contemporary Development also developed a work stream on an issue central to Russia’s economic development – antimonopoly policies. **“Conspiracy and Coordinated Action”** (October 1) was the subject of a roundtable devoted to policies and actions to overcome businesses that collude through price fixing and other anti-competitive behavior. Participants cited examples of legal and enforcement actions taken against

cartels, including court cases from Russia and elsewhere around the world. A comparison of Russian and international practices helped to highlight policies and programs critical to fighting anti-competitive and illegal business practices. Based on the roundtable, the Institute prepared a list of proposals for ways of improving Russia’s antimonopoly legislation.

The Institute also conducted an expert assessment of the draft policy **“On Developing Competition in the Russian Federation”**, which was prepared by the Ministry of Economic Development.



Russia In The World



President Medvedev approved Russia's Foreign Policy Concept, which clearly establishes the principal goals and priorities of the country's foreign policy. As Russia has transitioned to a period of more active and engaged foreign and international economic policies, the importance of further defining the country's foreign policy priorities is even more acute, a process aided by the engagement of Russia's expert community.

One of the main topics pursued by the Institute of Contemporary Development in the area of international development is on the future of the strategic Russia-European Union partnership. Institute experts specifically focused on four specific issues relating to this partnership, including:

- **The European Union: current conditions and development scenarios;**
- **The current state and prospects of trade and economic ties between Russia and the European Union;**
- **Russian-European Union relations in the security sphere;**
- **Russia and the European Union: toward a new quality in relations.**

The Institute's analysis of these issues was concluded on the eve of the Russia-EU summit, which took place in November. Some of the principal provisions of the Insti-

tute's analysis were published in Rossiyskaya Gazeta on November 6, 2008, while the publication of the full report is now in printing.

The Institute concluded that it is essential for Russia and EU countries to build on the positive elements in their relationship and that this partnership should not be put at risk due to the current international political climate. The Russia-EU relationship should be based on a mutual understanding that only a genuine strategic partnership – and perhaps, at some later stage, a union based on equal rights and global responsibility – is capable of preventing a potential weakening of both Russia's and the EU's standing in the world. Only such a strategic partnership is capable of promoting both sides' accelerated development and stability in the face of future challenges and threats.

Within the framework of the Russian-EU discussion, the Institute established a working partnership with the Russia-EU Industrialists' Roundtable. A September 11 meeting between the two organizations served as an essential part of the preparatory work for the annual Russia-EU Industrialists' Roundtable held this November in Cannes. This conference is devoted to fostering trade and economic cooperation between Russia and the EU. President Medvedev gave a major policy address at the conference and the Institute's Chairman, Igor Yurgens, moderated one of the sessions.

A new research project entitled **"Russia-U.S. Relations: The New Agenda"** was launched in November to analyze the current Russia-U.S. relationship on the eve of the U.S. presidential elections. This research project followed a visit of an Institute delegation to the United States, which held talks with U.S. international policy experts on ways of improving bilateral relations, particularly in light of events in the Caucasus.

This research initiative will involve numerous renowned Russian specialists in U.S. relations, and will develop the framework for a constructive and positive agenda between the two countries. This framework will be presented in a report in early 2009. The Institute is collaborating with well-known U.S. political analysts in outlining this framework, including those advising the new U.S. Presidential Administration.

The Institute also identified as a priority the study of **"A New European Security Architecture"**. Expert consultation on this subject began in October, with a report due the first quarter of 2009.

Another focus of the Institute's work is on the issue of **"Russian Image-Building and Information Support for the Country's Interests Abroad: Tasks and Mechanisms"**. The Institute held an expert discussion on this subject on May 29, which involved officials from relevant

government ministries and agencies as well as representatives of the Russian mass media and business community. Work on this topic will continue in 2009.

The Institute is also planning ways to **deepen Russia's relations with the Baltic nations**. A Cooperation Agreement between the Institute of Contemporary Development and the Baltic Forum (Latvia), a non-governmental organization, was signed in 2008, which establishes the framework for ongoing working relationships between the two organizations. An agenda to guide the work of this new cooperative relationship was developed, including identifying new research projects on the state of Russia-Baltic relations.

The Institute also established discussions with the Association of Large Estonian Entrepreneurs (ESEA) in November focused on improving trade and economic relations between Russia and Estonia. Both organizations are dedicated to seeing positive momentum in this relationship.

Prior to the annual G8 summit in June, the Institute held a conference on **"Energy Problems in the 21st Century: On the Eve of the G8 Meeting in Tokyo"**. The confer-

ence examined a wide range of issues concerning energy and energy security in order to develop a consensus Russian position on these issues at the international level.

The Institute is also initiating discussions with the expert communities of Japan to focus on problems concerning security and the development of cooperation in Southeast Asia. An Institute delegation traveled to Tokyo in early December to discuss these issues with the country's political and expert communities, including the Institute of International Relations, an authoritative Japanese think tank similar to the Institute of Contemporary Development.

In its first year, the Institute has devoted considerable time and attention to the establishment and development of relations and the exchange of ideas and opinions with leading international foundations, particularly in Europe and the United States. Exchanges on foreign and domestic policy, foreign economic diplomacy, and Russia's economic development were conducted with the Institute's contemporaries around the world at international forums as well as at special summits hosted by the Institute in Russia.



Robert Zoellick

President of the World Bank



Andrei Kokoshin

Deputy, State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation; Academic, Russian Academy of Science



Alexander Dynkin

Director, Institute of World Economics and International Affairs, Russian Academy of Science; Academic, Russian Academy of Science



Alexander Budberg

Political Columnist, Moskovskij Komsomolets



Alexei Volin

Director, Amedia



Karaganov Sergey

Deputy Director, Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences



Anatoly Torkunov

Rector, Moscow State Institute of International Relations (University) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation; Academic, Russian Academy of Science



Leonid Grigoriev

President, Energy and Finance Institute

List of 2008 Events

- 21**
January "On the Inclusion of Unused Defense Industry Lands in Housing Construction," a conference based on the work conducted by the Commission on Developing an Affordable Housing Market under the Russian Presidential Council for the Implementation of Priority National Projects and Demographic Policy
- 22**
February meeting with the candidate for the Presidency of the Russian Federation, First Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev with members of the Management Board and the Board of Trustees of the Institute of Contemporary Development
- 29**
January presentation of the "Licensing Support for a Basic Software Package" project
- 29-2**
February - March "Local Measurement of Poverty" conference
- 29**
January session of the Expert Council for the Council under the President of the Russian Federation for the Implementation of Priority National Projects and Demographic Policy devoted to the "Improvement of Legislation and Practices Aimed at Protecting the Interests of Citizens in the Process of Shared Housing Construction"
- 4**
March "On Taxation of Innovation Companies" roundtable
- 4**
February "On Improvements to Land Legislation and Legislation on Subsurface Resources Aimed at Developing the Construction Materials Industry," a conference based on the work conducted by the Commission for Developing an Affordable Housing Market under the Russian Presidential Council for the Implementation of Priority National Projects and Demographic Policy
- 7**
March expert discussion of the draft of a new Strategy for Russia's Financial Market Development
- 7**
February discussion of amendments to the draft law "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation on the Issue of Low-Rise Housing Development," which was held within the framework of the Expert Council under the President of the Russian Federation for the Implementation of Priority National Projects and Demographic Policy
- 18**
March expert discussion of the current state of global financial markets, with the participation of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of Contemporary Development, newly-elected President of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev
- 4**
April The 2nd Russian CIO Summit
- 12**
February session of the Expert Council under the Russian President for the Implementation of Priority National Projects and Demographic Policy "On Draft Laws Aimed at Protecting the Interests of Citizens in the Process of Shared Housing Construction"
- 9**
April session of the Expert Council for the Council under the President of the Russian Federation for the Implementation of Priority National Projects and Demographic Policy "On Legislative Proposals on Housing Policy"
- 14**
February discussion of measures aimed at developing the Russian stock market
- 15**
April workshop conference on "Professional and Education Standards in the IT Sphere as an Instrument of Training Staff for Russia's Economy"
- 15**
February conference "On the Preparation of Legislative Proposals on Housing Policy"
- 16**
April session of the Expert Council for the Council under the President of the Russian Federation for the Implementation of Priority National Projects and Demographic Policy "On Draft of the Long-Term Strategy of Mass Housing Construction for All Categories of Citizens"
- 18**
February "New Foreign Policy Conditions of Russia's Development" seminar
- 17**
April "The Economy of Public Preference: Structure and Evolution of Social Interests" roundtable
- 20**
February "Free Software and Informational Support in Schools" conference
- 21**
April "Society and the State: Formats of Dialogue and Paths to Cooperation" roundtable
- 21**
February session of the Advisory Group under the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications attended by Internet companies and Internet community representatives
- 23**
April "Legislative Provision of the Operation of Technological Parks and Innovation Technology Centers" roundtable

- 24**
April "The Middle Class: Problems of Creation and the Prospects of Growth" conference
- 25**
April "Global Position Systems for the Russian Automobile Market: Road Safety and Theft Prevention" roundtable
- 29**
April "Results of the International Global Cooperation Forum: Russia Will Become a Technological Leader Among BRIC Nations" press conference
- 13**
May "Public Private Partnerships and Russian Healthcare Reforms" roundtable
- 15**
May "Models of Labor Ethics for 21st Century Russia" roundtable
- 19**
May meeting of the members of the Public Council on Pension Savings Investment
- 20**
May expanded session of Institute of Contemporary Development Management Board
- 21**
May "Ensuring the Legislative Regulation of Investment Funds Involved in Especially Risky (Venture) Investment" roundtable
- 28**
May "Russian Municipal Reforms in 2003-2009: Preliminary Results, Problems and Future Prospects" roundtable
- 29**
May expert discussion on "Russian Image-Building and Information Support for the Country's Interests Abroad: Tasks and Mechanisms"
- 4**
June "Energy Problems in the 21st Century: On the Eve of the G8 Meeting in Tokyo" conference
- 5**
June presentation of the regional section of the national youth Internet portal <http://www.mir4you.ru/>, part of the Youth Information Equality project
- 6**
June situational analysis of "The Boundaries and Internal Structure of the Middle Class: Methodological and Methodic Problems"
- 9**
June "Problems in Creating Value Reference Points in the General State Education Standards for the Next Generation" roundtable
- 9-10**
June training session for developing life skills among the youth, part of the "Youth Information Equality (MIR)" project
- 16**
June meeting with World Bank President Robert Zoellick
- 17**
June "Problems of State Regulation in Electronic (Computer) Game Design and Distribution Activities in the Russian Federation" roundtable
- 18**
June signature of the Cooperation Agreement between the Institute of Contemporary Development and the Baltic Forum (Latvia) Association
- 18**
June expert discussion on "The Prospects of Pension System Reforms"
- 19**
June "Problems of Improving Efficient State Participation in and Implementation of Intellectual Property Rights" roundtable
- 19**
June meeting on problems in Russian-Georgian relations
- 24**
June "Problems Facing the Russian Legal System, as Reflected by Civil Suit Rulings of the European Court" roundtable
- 26**
June "Fighting Corruption: Building a Systemic Approach" roundtable
- 30**
June expert discussion on "Pension System Improvements"
- 1**
July expert discussion on "Ways to Counteract Corruption"
- 2**
July expert discussion on "Problems of Forming an Innovation-Based Economy"
- 2**
July "The Russian Model of Democracy" roundtable
- 3**
July expert discussion on "Russia's Prospects as a Global Financial Center"
- 3**
July expert discussion on "Problems of the Comprehensive Implementation of Information and Communication Technologies in Healthcare"
- 9**
July meeting with World Bank Vice President Danny Leipziger, discussion of the "Strategies of Sustained Growth and Inclusive Development" report
- 10**
July expert discussion on "Competition and Strategies of Middle Class Representatives"

- 11**
July
"Development of the Institute of Independent Directors" conference
- 25**
July
"The Role and Place of Information Security Services and Information Technologies" seminar
- 30**
July
press briefing for Russian and foreign media on the main analytical material prepared by the Institute
- End of August**
meetings with representatives of US political and expert communities
- Early September**
early September – meetings with representatives of French political and expert communities
- 9**
September
"Information Technologies for Interaction Between Citizens and State Authorities. Solutions to the Tasks Set by the State Council of Russia" roundtable
- 11**
September
working meeting with the ranking representative members of the Russia-EU Industrialists' Roundtable Council, part of the preparations for the annual Russia-EU Industrialists' Roundtable Conference due in November in Cannes
- 15**
September
Management Board of the Institute of Contemporary Development
- 16**
September
"The Current State of Labor Relations in Russia" roundtable
- 24**
September
"Issues and Prospects of Russia's Modernization" conference
- 24**
September
"The State of the Russian Economy and Financial Systems" roundtable
- 25**
September
expert discussion on "Autumn 2008: Possible Scenarios of the Situation's Development"
- 30**
September
"Problems of Developing and Adopting Information and Communication Technologies Standards in Russia" seminar
- 1**
October
"Conspiracy and Coordinated Actions" roundtable
- 2**
October
"Russian Environmental Policy" roundtable
- 9**
October
conference dedicated to examining the education system's development program of 2009-2012, held within the frameworks of the priority national project on Education
- 9**
October
"Innovative Development is the Basis for Russia's Economic Modernization" roundtable
- 13**
October
"The Global Financial Crisis and its Influence on Russian Economic Development" roundtable
- 14**
October
"Legal Regulation of Local Self-Government in Russia: Status, Problems and Areas for Development" roundtable
- 15**
October
"Russian Local-Self Government as a Political Institution: Conditions for Creation and Prospects of Improved Efficiency" roundtable
- 16**
October
"Financial and Economic Bases for Local Self-Government: Methods for Strengthening the Resource Base of Municipal Bodies" roundtable
- 21**
October
"Information Culture and Development of Mass Communications" roundtable
- 23**
October
roundtable announcing the winners of the "Computer Literacy – Year of the Family" competition, awards ceremony
- 27**
October
meeting with British business representatives
- 27**
October
expert meeting on local self-government issues attended by members of the European Club of Experts on Local Self-Government
- 29**
October
expert meeting "On Reforms in the Global Financial Architecture"
- 30**
October
expert discussion of the draft national report "On Development of an Information Society in Russian Federation in 2007"
- 5**
November
"Russia: The Values of a Modern Society" roundtable
- 7**
November
expert discussion on "The Influence of the Global Financial Crisis on Russia's Financial Sector"
- 11**
November
international roundtable on "State and Religion: Cooperation for the Benefit of Societal Development"
- 14**
November
expert discussion on "The Influence of the Global Financial Crisis on the Real Sector of the Russian Economy"
- 17-18**
November
Russian-German expert forum on "The Creation of Social Policy: Social and Labor Relations"

20
November "The Availability of Alcohol, Alcohol Behavior and its Effects on the Health of the Russian Federation Based on Study Results" roundtable

21
November expert discussion "The Global Financial Crisis' Impact on the Macroeconomic Situation in Russia. Discussion of the World Bank Report"

24
November expert discussion on "The Social and Political Consequences of the Financial Crisis for Russia"

25
November seminar on Russian-US relations

26
November "The School Nutrition Industry" roundtable

27
November "The Role of Non-Profit Organizations in Resolving Healthcare and Social Development Problems" roundtable

28
November expert discussion on "The Financial Crisis' Impact on Russian Regions"

5
December "Fiscal Policy During the Crisis" roundtable

10
December roundtable on "Crisis vs. the Stability of the Social Order. Social Risks and Ways to Overcome Them held" jointly with the Public Opinion Foundation

11
December presentation of the report "Democracy: Development of the Russian Model"

11
December "Russia's Regional Policy During the Global Financial Crisis" roundtable

12
December "Modernization of Russian Environmental Policy, Management of Environmental Issues and Environmentally Friendly Institutions" roundtable

19
December "2009 Forecasts for the Russian Economy" roundtable

Appendix 2

Commissioned by:

- The Administration of the President of the Russian Federation
- The Government of the Russian Federation
- The Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation
- The Ministry of Regional Development of the Russian Federation
- The Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation
- The Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation
- The Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
- The Ministry of Information Technology and Communications of the Russian Federation
- The Pension Fund of the Russian Federation
- The Supreme Arbitration Court of the Russian Federation
- The Security Council of the Russian Federation

Partners:

- The Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation
- The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation
- The Public Chamber of the Russian Federation
- The Institute of Economics the Russian Academy of Sciences
- The Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences
- The Institute of General History of the Russian Academy of Sciences
- The Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences
- The Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs
- The Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia
- The Coordinating Council of the Employers' Union of Russia
- The Association of Independent Centers of Economic Analysis
- The Social Contract National Project Institute
- The Independent Institute of Social Policy
- The Public Opinion Foundation

- The Institute for Energy and Finance Foundation
- The Center of Political Technologies Foundation
- The Council for National Strategy Interregional Public Organization
- The National Association of Stock Market Participants
- The Information and Computer Technologies Industry Association (APKIT)
- The Russian Chief Information Officers (CIO) Union
- The Friedrich Ebert Foundation
- The Non-Commercial Partnership Center for Research of Telecommunications Development
- The E-Development Partnership in the Northwest of Russia
- The Institute of the Information Society
- The Center of Information Technologies Scientific Production Association (NPO)
- The Bank of Moscow
- The World Bank
- The World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- The Bureau of Economic Analysis Foundation
- The Institute for Urban Economic
- The New Perspectives Foundation
- The Agency for Housing Mortgage Lending
- The National Agency for Low-Rise and Cottage Construction
- The Russian Builders Association
- The Russian National Congress of Manipulates
- The All-Russian Council of Local Self-Government
- The European Club of Experts in Local Self-Government
- The Konrad Adenauer Foundation
- The Institute of European Civilizations
- The Baltic Forum
- The Baltic Science and Engineering Fair
- The Russians Abroad Library Foundation
- The Agency for Political and Economic Communications
- The RUSOFT Association
- The Who If Not Me? Charitable Foundation
- The Public (Narodnaya) Assembly Charitable Foundation



www.insor-russia.ru