

## **Victor Glukhikh: The Message of the President of the Russian Federation, Dmitry Medvedev, to the Federal Assembly Calls for a Transition to an Innovation-based Model of Development**

The message of the Russian President is full of optimism and trust in the creative potential of the Russian nation.

Indeed, to transform the economy from a raw material export one to an innovation export economy seems to be a task requiring the mobilization of the whole nation comparable in scope to the electrification and industrialization of the country in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Today, however, the task is much more complicated. The world has moved to a qualitatively new level of economic and political relations called “globalization”. The model that Russia chose, the market-based economy, dictates the priority of pragmatism and private interests, prevailing in many cases over national objectives. In view of this, giving a greater role to the state as a conveyor of the national interests receives more and more support. Indeed, a top-level initiative to overcome the economic crisis and its consequences gives its result. However, it looks like the efforts of the public and legislative powers alone would not suffice to shift the national economy to the path of innovations. Efforts from “above” must be complemented by efforts from “below”, both guided by the same approaches and priorities. But These two components require a third one - international cooperation of mutual benefit. In his address to the Federal Assembly President D.A. Medvedev made a clear call for increased international cooperation to build an innovation-based economy in Russia.

The global economic crisis has proven once again a very close interconnection between the economies of different countries.

But initiatives from “below” and international cooperation would yield the highest output only when the activity is well-focused, coordinated and interlinked with the operation of the public authorities. The role of such organizers and coordinators logically belongs to the public bodies of the business establishment and to particular innovation-oriented international organizations of which the Russian Federation is a member.

The business communities represent the most proactive and concerned segment of the population. This is why they are called ‘entrepreneurs’ – for their enterprises. There is no doubt that the leading role in the national public organization of the business communities belongs to the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RUIE). At the same time there is a need to initiate the deployment of an international collaboration in the initiatives from “below”. These initiatives can readily be undertaken by the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (ICIE – [www.ic-ie.org](http://www.ic-ie.org)) in a close cooperation with the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC – [www.istc.ru](http://www.istc.ru)), headquartered in Moscow.

ICIE and ISTC have entered into a cooperation agreement with the main focus on promoting innovation development of the Russian economy. It is noteworthy, that this agreement is aimed at providing proactive support to a number of crucial systemic actions under the general strategy voiced by the RF President in his message to the Federal Assembly on November 12, 2009, namely:

- “... there is a need to establish a permanent mechanism to provide support to talented specialists; to involve the most prominent Russian and foreign scientists, and entrepreneurs, skilled in commercialization of innovative results in Russia”;

- "... to be engaged in a search for and selection of promising projects throughout the country; to provide financial support to innovation companies, including small innovation businesses...";
- "... to expose a greater amount of projects to international expert review and to implement those in partnership with foreign centers and companies."

The basic idea of cooperation, which would ensure a successful achievement of the set objectives, associated with the transition to a qualitatively new level of novel technologies implementation and transfer, consists in the complementary nature of the organizations' resources.

Collaborative activities make provisions for the development of an original scheme of funding the continuous innovation process; for the development and management of promotional projects.

Apart from direct innovation projects, there are plans to develop supplemental programs, intended to improve the skills of project participants in making good proposals, matchmaking, making publications and presentations, and in promoting the research results. These programs are not associated with specific projects. They imply organization of meetings, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, science and technology forums in Russia and abroad. The following types of support deserve a special mentioning, in particular, conducting market research, developing intellectual property exploitation strategies, providing assistance during the negotiations with foreign partners.

Such a comprehensive approach to support the innovation process will ensure a valid bridging between investment markets and new technologies.

In practical terms the described approaches are planned to be thoroughly discussed at an international conference this April. All interested organizations are invited to take part in the preparation of this event.

It should be emphasized that a diligent use of the existing capabilities, e.g., potential of multilateral multiple-discipline international organizations successfully operating in Russia is a significant asset in order to implement a large-scale project of transition to an innovation-based economic development.

In conclusion, let me accentuate, that the success of a transition to an innovation-based economic development will be defined by the combined efforts private business and the state; thus entrepreneurs are interested in increased efficiency of governmental and intergovernmental organizations. To successfully accomplish the tasks, defined by the RF President D.A. Medvedev, it would be reasonable to raise the status of the Russian Federation in the ISTC to the level of an official Funding Party. A relevant contribution of the Russian Party would increase considerably the ISTC's potential, define its role in the development of the national innovation support system, especially regarding the introduction of the best world practices and to implement specific innovative projects, and ICIE will do the best to ensure a broader involvement of business partners in realizing full-cycle innovation programs.

V.K. Glukhikh  
Member of Federation Council  
RF Federal Assembly  
President of ICIE

*\*\*This article is a translation from Russian. ISTC does not bear responsibility for any divergence between the Russian and English versions.*