

To the International Science and Technology Center

On the occasion of

15th Anniversary

**From the National Academy of
Sciences of Belarus**

Minsk, 2009

Dear colleagues,

The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus sincerely congratulates on the 15th anniversary the Secretariat of the International Science and Technology Center and a large team of scientists who participated or is now participating in the ISTC's programs.

In difficult for the CIS 90-s – the years of fundamental restructuring of management mechanisms and economic crisis, priorities for science and technology development had been changed completely, scientific research directions and programs had been closed.

Hundreds and thousands of highly qualified scientists and specialists in the CIS defense complex lost their jobs. Threat of proliferation of expertise connected with weapons of mass destruction and means of their delivery became quite topical. In order to prevent possible disastrous effects the developed countries decided to support former CIS weapon scientists. Governments of the former Soviet Republics in their turn actively supported this initiative. It resulted in a new, unique form of international science and technology cooperation – the International Science and Technology Center.

Results of large scale and diverse ISTC's activity in 15 years passed are known worldwide. High level of research conducted in the framework of ISTC projects and programs is recognized worldwide. Republic of Belarus contributed to ISTC's developments. Projects of Byelorussian scientists in fields of information technologies, laser physics, biology, chemistry and medicine received high appraisal from scientific communities of many countries. ISTC supported a project for creating the first on the CIS territory joint Byelorussian-German laboratory. Its activity is of great importance for development of research of nondestructive testing.

During its activity in Belarus ISTC has funded more than 100 projects for the total sum of more than 37 mln. USD. The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus as a lead organization in the Republic of Belarus, responsible for cooperation with the ISTC, expresses its sincere gratitude for this. We highly appreciate diverse fruitful activity of the ISTC in organizing scientific programs, conducting scientific and science-educational events. This activity is directed at developing competitive technologies and materials, extension of the application field of high technology products, establishment of effective mechanisms in commercialization of scientific developments.

ISTC's activity facilitates significantly development of scientific contacts, establishment of new effective mechanisms for data and information exchange and greater integration of Byelorussian science into the global scientific community.

On this anniversary we witness a new stage in the ISTC's development that is connected with the development of innovations, large scale introduction of the ISTC project results into the fields of national economy.

Republic of Belarus states with satisfaction the establishment of good interaction and mutual understanding with the management and operational structures of the ISTC. This fact is being proved by the decision of the Governing Board to conduct its 49th Meeting in Minsk. This is a decision will serve further strengthening of the ISTC.

We express gratitude to the ISTC Funding Parties and the Secretariat for their long term consistent and effective work that ensures the creation of an integral scientific infrastructure with participation of 37 countries worldwide and implementation of high level research programs which are important not only because of their scientific results but also for their economic results. They contribute to social-economic development of member countries and their multisided cooperation. We wish new success in implementing existing and future ISTC programs!

Chairman of the Presidium
of the National Academy of Sciences
of Belarus

M.V. Myasnikovich