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MOSCOW, JANUARY 25

Presentation of the Report "World economic situation and prospects 2023"

On January 25, the "House of Economist" hosted a presentation of the report "The World Economic Situation and Prospects for 2023", organized by the UN Information Center in Moscow and the International Union of Economists (in General Consultative Status of the UN Economic and Social Council) with the participation of the Free Economic Society of Russia.

The World Economic Situation and Prospects 2023 presents a gloomy and uncertain economic outlook for the near term. Global growth is forecast to moderately pick up to 2.7 per cent in 2024 as some of the headwinds will begin to subside. However, this is highly dependent on the pace and sequence of further monetary tightening, the course and consequences of the war in Ukraine, and the possibility of further supply-chain disruptions.

The tepid global economic prospects also threaten the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), when the 2023 SDG Summit in September marks the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The presentation in Moscow was moderated by Alexander Dynkin, Vice President of the International Union of Economists, President of the E.M. Primakov RAS, Academician of the RAS. Representatives of the UNIDO CIIC took part in the presentation of the report and discussion.

The presentations of the report "The World Economic Situation and Prospects 2023" were made by Vladimir Salnikov, Deputy General Director, Head of the Real Sector Analysis and Forecasting of the Center for Macroeconomic Analysis and Short-Term Forecasting (CMASF), and Irina Ipatova, Leading Expert of the CMASF.

According to the Report, US GDP may increase by only 0.4% in 2023, while the economic growth of the European Union will be about 0.2%. The gloomy forecasts regarding the contraction of the Russian economy in 2022 did not come true yet. At the beginning of 2022 experts estimated the fall in Russia's GDP up to 10-15%, then by the end of the year it will be approximately 3.5%.

"Against the background of the imposed sanctions, Russia was able to reorient trade flows from West to East, significantly increasing exports to China, India and Turkey. Enterprises had stocks of materials and components in warehouses, so the second and third quarters of 2022 went smoothly. The Russian Central Bank took effective measures to maintain stability in the financial and foreign exchange markets. The interest rate was increased, which allowed, after the strengthening of the ruble, to move on to easing monetary policy. This stimulated corporate and retail lending," Irina Ipatova explained.

However, when stocks of foreign materials and components in the warehouses of domestic enterprises come to an end, economic growth in Russia may slow down. One of the risks for the global financial system, named in the Report, is the development of a debt crisis, which is primarily associated with an increase in the cost of servicing global debt. Nevertheless according to the Director of the Institute of Economics of the Russian Academy of Sciences Mikhail Golovnin, the global debt burden is not the main problem of the global financial system in 2023.

"The Economist magazine" named 53 countries in which the situation in terms of debt burden is critical. However, the combined GDP of these countries is only 5% of global GDP," the scientist explained. Among other threats to the stability of the global financial system, Mikhail Golovnin named the outflow of capital from emerging markets and splitting up the global financial system, in particular, the reduction in demand for international reserve assets.

Scientific Director of the Institute for Economic Forecasting of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences,

member of the Presidium of the VEO of Russia Boris Porfiriev touched upon climate issues. According to the scientist, attention should be paid to climate change adaptation measures, while in the Report climate problems were narrowed to the reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



Credits: veorus.ru

"In the report there are no corresponding estimates for adaptation to climate change. Meanwhile, the UN Environment Program (UNEP) Report (note - "Report on the difference in climate change adaptation measures for 2022") was released, which showed that countries annually underinvest in the implementation of adaptation measures of about \$ 170 billion, "said Boris Porfiriev.

[Main source](#)

MOSCOW, JANUARY 30

Interview with the Director of the UNIDO CIIC Sergey Korotkov on sustainable education in schools

The YouTube channel "September the 1st" shared an interview with the Director of the UNIDO CIIC Sergey Korotkov on the topic "How to teach sustainable development in schools". The interviewer was Natalia Antonova - journalist, blogger, educational media programs curator.

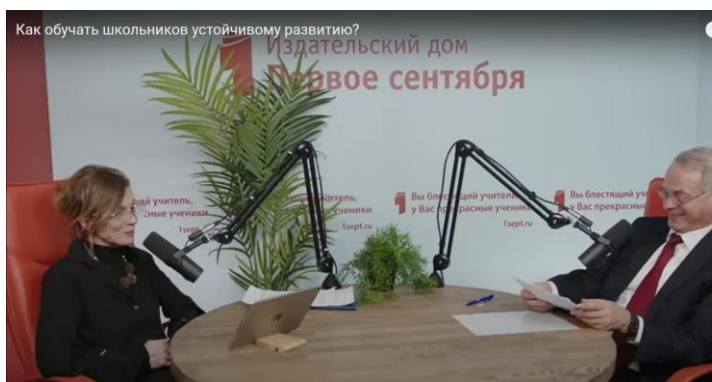
Main focus was put on:

1. What does sustainable development really mean?
2. Why it's necessary to teach the sustainable development in school?
3. How to make sustainable education meet the high standards?
4. What is ESG and it works?
5. How digitalization can help to obtain sustainable development?
6. "Green" jobs of the future

Sergey Anatolyevich spoke about the role of education in sustainable development. In particular, he mentioned that the UN had developed the concept of education for sustainable development, which was implemented in the Roadmap until 2023 by UNESCO, which is responsible for its development and implementation. In fact, education is part of Goal 4, "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all".

The Education 2030 Framework for Action sets out the guiding principles for achieving this ambitious goal and the commitment of states in this area. In addition, education as part of promoting the achievement of the SDGs for a more sustainable world can be actively developed already in the professional field.

"Now many companies support the principles of ESG, which, among other things, includes educational programs for employees on sustainable development and creating an environmentally friendly and socially responsible business. Our CIIC supports a competition called Sustainability Leaders aimed at promoting ESG for business. We were pleasantly surprised by how many companies are actively implementing sustainable education their employees," Sergey Anatolyevich noted.



Sergey Korotkov and Natalia Antonova

Sergey Anatolyevich also spoke about the importance of initiatives at the state level, such as Ecodictation - the largest educational project in Russia in the field of ecology. The UNIDO CIIC actively supports this initiative, as well as many ministries and officials. In 2020, the project was supported by 13 ministries and departments, in 2022 there were already 24 of them. This year, the number of Ecodictant participants was about 4.2 million people.

The full version of the interview [link here](#)

CHELYABINSK, JANUARY 31

The Governor of the Chelyabinsk Region held a regular meeting of the Coordinating Council for Environmental Issues

The meeting was attended by the head of the Russian Ecological Society, Chairman of the Governor's Coordinating Council on Environmental Issues Rashid Ismailov, heads of working groups, social activists and environmentalists.

Director of the UNIDO CIIC Sergey Korotkov, acting as a member of the Council, also took part in the meeting and discussion.

In his speech, Alexey Teksler, The Governor of the Chelyabinsk region, announced the steps taken to improve the environmental situation in the region.

Thus, ChMK PJSC modernized the gas cleaning of the electric steel-smelting shop, after the modernization PJSC Fortum moved away from coal combustion at the CHPP-2 and switched to gas, MMK PJSC launched a new sinter plant, modernized the gas cleaning of the electric steel-smelting shop, and builds a new coke oven battery.

In addition, 33 industrial enterprises entered into bilateral agreements with the regional government to improve the environmental situation. By 2025, the companies agreed a plan to implement a total of 177 environmental measures.

The head of the Russian Ecological Society, Rashid Ismailov, in his speech thanked Alexey Teksler for the fruitful work in the region.

"For us, the South Urals business expansion is extremely important, even politically important. Within the past year the South Urals hold the leadership positions in terms of environmental initiatives supported at the federal level. As we may see the environment in this very region is on the top agenda," said Rashid Ismailov.

Among the measures implemented to improve the environment, Alexey Teksler noted the reclamation of the Chelyabinsk city landfill, the completion of the liquidation of an oil storage facility in Zlatoust with an area of almost 1 hectare, the commissioning of an integrated facility for sorting and disposal of MSW in Magnitogorsk, which made it possible to close the Magnitogorsk landfill (its reclamation will begin this year.), the elimination of over 500 unauthorized landfills (more than 200 more will be liquidated, the reclamation of 4 large landfills in Kartaly, Upper Ufaley and Zlatoust will begin).

In addition, in 2022, the Chelyabinsk Region was among the eight regions where eco-industrial parks will be launched.

Separate waste collection is being actively introduced in the region at the moment. About 5.5 thousand containers for separate collection of MSW have been installed (in Chelyabinsk, Kopeysk, Yuzhnouralsk, Troitsk, Magnitogorsk, Snezhinsk, Ozersk, Kyshtym and Sosnovsky municipal district).

By the end of the year there will be about 8,000 of them.

The leaders of the working groups shared their proposals for solving environmental problems. The initiatives will be put in the guidelines for further implementation.

[Main source](#)

MOSCOW, MARCH 1

International Forum "Clean Country" was held in Skolkovo

On March 1-3, 2023, the 4th International Forum-Exhibition "Clean Country" was held in the Skolkovo Technopark.

The forum is traditionally held in support of the national project "Ecology". The organizer is the Clean Country Association with the participation of the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources.

The business sessions of the IV Forum were devoted to the development of nature tourism in the country, the conservation of natural resources, the improvement of legislation in the field of waste management, extended producer responsibility for the features of packaging recycling, the replacement of imported equipment with domestic analogues and other important topics. More than 5000 participants from different regions of our country have visited the Forum.

Within the framework of the forum, an exhibition was held, at which the largest enterprises of the country presented their innovative projects in the field of sustainable development.

Specialists of the regional operator GUP "Eco-techprom" visited the exhibition and got acquainted with technological solutions for processing, recycling and composting waste, and also took part in business sessions.

Representatives of the UNIDO CIIC, UNIDO National Expert Ivan Seregin and Director Sergey Korotkov, took part in the Forum during the session

"Development of Ecomonitoring Systems in Cities of Russia and the World". Sergey Anatolyevich spoke about the activities and projects of the CIIC, focusing on the implementation of Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

MOSCOW, MARCH 16

FBA EAC held a conference "Climate adaptation and low-carbon development of the economy in Russia and the world: practice, challenges, prospects"

On March 16, 2023, the International Scientific and Practical Conference "Climate Adaptation and Low-Carbon Development of the Economy in Russia and the World: Practice, Challenges, Prospects" was held, organized by the Research Institute "Low-Carbon Economy" NMC Higher Shtr REU named after G.V. Plekhanov, the All-Russian Society for the Conservation of Nature, the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development of the Sakhalin Region, together with leading scientific and business organizations.

The purpose of the conference is to form interaction between scientists, representatives of enterprises, businesses, public structures of Russia and countries of Eurasian cooperation on practical cooperation in the field of low-carbon economy.



Credits: fbacs.com

The conference participants were greeted by FBA EAC First Vice President Alexander Kotlyarsky. The conference was attended by Sergey Korotkov, Director of the UNIDO CIIC and Advisor to the Chairman of the Board of the FBA EAC on work with UNIDO, Pavel Nikanorov, member of the FBA EAC Committee on BAT and investment projects, Yury Fedorov, Chairman of the FBA EAC Committee on BAT and investment projects, Oleg Chernyshev, Head of the FBA EAC Representative Office in the Central Federal District of the Russian Federation.

[Main Source](#)

MOSCOW, MARCH 17

[Sergey Korotkov took part in a round table within the framework of the XV International Economic Forum of the CIS Member States](#)

On March 17, Moscow hosted the XV International Economic Forum of the CIS Member States "Dialogue of Integrations: CIS, EAEU, SG, SCO, BRICS". The forum was held in conjunction with the 97th meeting of the CIS Economic Council. The organizer was the Association "Business Center for Economic Development of the CIS" with the support of the Executive Committee of the CIS.

This year, the Forum was attended by more than 1,000 people, about 130 reports were presented, the work of thematic sections and round tables on finance, industry, healthcare, transport and logistics, "green economy" and other areas was actively carried out. The general sponsor of the Forum was VTB Bank. As part of the forum, the CIS Business Center signed 8 agreements, and also supported the Roscongress initiative, in particular, the Declaration of Business Cooperation in Greater Eurasia.

The Secretary General of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) - Sergey Lebedev, Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) - Zhang Ming, Chairman of the

Coordinating Council of the Association "Business Center for Economic Development of the CIS" - Anatoly Kazakov, Chairman of the Eurasian Economic Commission - Mikhail Myasnikov, President of the International Alliance for Strategic Projects BRICS, Representative to the UN ECOSOC - Larisa Zelentsova, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation - Alexander Pankin, Secretary General of the International Union of Non-Governmental Organizations "Assembly of the Peoples of Eurasia", Secretary General of the International Coordinating Council for Trans-Eurasian transportation (CCTP) - Gennady Besonov, director of the UNIDO CIIC Sergey Korotkov and others.

The experts discussed the prospects for economic cooperation between the CIS member states, approaches to creating a common economic space "Greater Eurasian Partnership+", increasing trade turnover, creating free trade zones, forming a transcontinental transport infrastructure, increasing the share of payments in national currencies, as well as developing industry and healthcare.

In cooperation with the Sophia-Troitsk Foundation, the CIS Forum also supports a social function. For the participants of the Forum, within the framework of the project "ArtCoy preserves the symbols of Russia", implemented with the support of the Presidential Grants Fund, an exhibition of sketches and models on the topic of territorial development in the Tver region, presented by students of the Moscow Architectural Institute, was organized. An exhibition of projects of the Forum participants was held at the site of the World Trade Center (WTC).

[Main source](#)

ST. PETERSBURG, MARCH 22

[XXII International Forum "Ecology of the big city" was held in St. Petersburg](#)

On March 22-24, the XXII International Forum "Ecology of the Big City" was held at the EXPOFORUM CEC in St. Petersburg.

The forum is one of the key ones in Russia in the field of environmental protection and rational nature management as well as equipment, technologies and services. The main goal of the Forum is to promote and introduce in Russia innovative environmental equipment and technologies that contribute to the conservation of natural resources, strengthening environmental safety and improving the quality of life of the population in large cities.

The forum was held with the support of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation, the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Committee for Nature Management, Environmental Protection and Environmental Safety of the Government of St. Petersburg, Roszapovedtsentr of the Russian Federation.

On the sidelines of the Forum, a strategic session was held on the topic "The role of water resources in ensuring energy and environmental security", in which Sergey Korotkov, Director of the UNIDO CIIC, took part.

The session was moderated by Natalya Sokolova, Head of the Ecology and Environmental Protection section of the Expert Council under the Federation Council Committee on Agrarian and Food Policy and Environmental Management, Head of the Union for Energy and Environmental Security, and Alexander German, Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources Management, Environmental Protection and Environmental Protection security of St. Petersburg.

The moderator also recalled that on the first day of the forum, an agreement was signed on cooperation between 7 Russian regions for the conservation and restoration of the Baltic water system. Among the participants are St. Petersburg, Leningrad, Vologda, Kaliningrad, Novgorod, Pskov regions and the Republic of Karelia.

Sergey Korotkov said that the UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022 was released recently. According to the UN, the rate of progress needs to quadruple by 2030, because at current rates, by 2030, 1.6 billion people will not have ac-

cess to safely managed water services, 2.8 billion people will not have access to sanitation services, 1.9 billion people have basic hand hygiene devices.

UNIDO is making solid efforts to solve the problems. One of the projects is a water management training project in Morocco called H2O Maghreb. The project is running a five-month free training program that prepares young Moroccans for jobs in the industrial and municipal water supply.

Another project, which Sergey Anatolyevich spoke about, was carried out by the UNIDO CIIC jointly with the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation and is called "Detection, evaluation and gradation of water pollution sources of trans-border basins and ecological clean technologies transfer".

"The project was implemented for the Volga basin. The first component of the project was related to preparatory measures: prioritizing pollution points, assessing its impact on the environment, and studying existing projects to reduce pollution and protect human health. The second component was related to the transfer of environmentally friendly technologies to UNIDO, including the environmental management system, assessment of the possibilities of introducing cleaner production methods, environmental accounting and others.

[Main source](#)

YEKATERINBURG, MARCH 28

The Sverdlovsk Regional Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs held a meeting on sustainable development and the ESG agenda

At the end of March, a meeting of the Commission of the Sverdlovsk Regional Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs on Sustainable Development and the ESG Agenda was held in Yekaterinburg. Director of the UNIDO CIIC Sergey Korotkov took part in the meeting online. The event was also attended by Alexander Nuikin, Deputy Chairman of the Ural Bank of Sberbank, Igor Korotetsky, Deputy

Head of the Kept Consulting Department, Vsevolod Gavrilov, Managing Director of the Center for Digital GR Initiatives of Sberbank, and others.

The experts discussed issues related to shift in implementing sustainable development and ESG-ratings for domestic companies within the framework of business interests in the Asia-Pacific region.

Deputy Chairman of the Ural Bank Sberbank Alexander Nuikin emphasized that this step carries both risks and opportunities. "A certain infrastructure for sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region has already been built. At the national level, the largest Asian countries importing Russian goods have already set goals to achieve carbon neutrality. Most of them focus on 2050-2070 and set intermediate goals by 2030, including reaching the peak of emissions, reducing fossil fuels, increasing the forest fund," said Alexander Nuikin.

According to Igor Korotetsky, Deputy Head of the Consulting Department at Kept, the largest companies in the East are now actively developing the ESG agenda and adopting international best practices, studying the experience of companies from America and Europe. For example, the largest oil and gas companies in the East are now making high demands on their suppliers. For example, companies take into account the impact of the supplier on the climate, its compliance with human rights requirements, impose requirements for compliance with environmental and social standards, etc.

He also noted the relevance of the topic of carbon regulation. "Setting goals to achieve carbon neutrality and integration into international commodity markets forces the countries of Asia and the East to develop carbon regulation," emphasized Igor Korotetsky.

Vsevolod Gavrilov, Managing Director of the Center for Digital GR Initiatives at Sberbank, agreed with the thesis that the influence of the ESG will increase and therefore participants in foreign economic activity with China will have to take them into account in their activities. The expert also noted that with a high degree of probability, re-

porting on the "carbon footprint" of supplied goods and services will be introduced.

"Russian companies doing business with China should closely monitor the development of the voluntary carbon market as an opportunity to supply China with a new product," Vsevolod Gavrilov added.

[Main source](#)

ST. PETERSBURG, MARCH 31

The UNIDO CIIC took part in the Congress of the VEO of Russia

On March 31, 2023, the Congress of the Free Economic Society of Russia was held at the Taurida Palace in St. Petersburg.

More than 4500 people took part in the events of the Congress of the VEO of Russia - representing the academic, educational and business communities, government authorities and public organizations, leading scientists and specialists from 72 regions of Russia and 15 foreign countries: Austria, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Brazil, Great Britain, Germany, Greece, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, France. Sergey Bodrunov, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, has been re-elected President of the VEO of Russia for the next five years.

The scientific part of the Congress of the VEO of Russia hosted the VIII St. Petersburg International Economic Congress. Within the framework of expert discussions, a wide range of opinions on the issues of scientific, technical and industrial policy in the context of global transformations was presented by more than 300 scientists and specialists. The moderator of SPEC-2023 is Vice-President of the VEO of Russia, Director of the Center for Contemporary Marxist Studies, Faculty of Philosophy, Moscow State University named after M.V. Lomonosov, Professor Alexander Buzgalin.

"It is necessary to develop international technological cooperation and industrial cooperation, build up industrial potential on a qualitatively new basis,

replacing the technological damage from the departure of former partners and outstripping competitors through the development of the most advanced areas of the industry,” said Sergey Bodrunov.

Among the important measures to intensify industrial policy and ensure favorable conditions for the development of high-tech industries, Sergey Bodrunov named: differentiated taxation, in particular, a system of tax preferences for priority developing areas, protection from unfair international competition of the most significant industries, solving the problem of sustainable provision of international financial settlements within the framework of industrial cooperation.

By tradition, the Congress presented the highest awards of the VEO of Russia - the Big Gold and Silver medals, registered by the Heraldic Council under the President of the Russian Federation and put on the federal heraldic record. The highest awards of the VEO of Russia are modeled on the first medals of the Imperial Free Economic Society, founded in 1765 by decree of Empress Catherine II.

events of the Congress were distinguished by their great scope and the level of the guests present. The course and results of the Congress of the VEO of Russia were widely covered by the federal and regional media.

Credits: veorus.ru

Director of the UNIDO CIIC Sergey Korotkov took part in the events of the Congress, and a welcoming speech was also sent to the VEO from the UNIDO CIIC.

[Main source](#)





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