



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
Progress by innovation



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

UNIDO CENTRE
FOR INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION
IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

-

ITPO MOSCOW

MOSCOW, 2024

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	4
ABOUT UNIDO.....	5
SDG AND UNIDO.....	7
UNIDO CIIC RUSSIA (ITPO MOSCOW)	9
HIGHLIGHTS 2023	10
PROJECTS	23
OUTLOOK INTO 2024.....	25
MAJOR PRIORITIES.....	26

FOREWORD



Mr. Igor Kozhin
Head of the UNIDO CIIC (ITPO) Russian Federation

'In our world, everything is interconnected, all countries and all people! The world has already faced several global crises in recent years, but it is clear: we need closer multilateral cooperation. We need greater solidarity. We need to rethink our concepts of progress and growth and promote new innovative projects.'



ABOUT UNIDO

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is a specialized agency in the United Nations system. The Organization's primary objective is the promotion and acceleration of industrial development in developing countries and countries with economies in transition and the promotion of international industrial cooperation.

The Organization's three major priorities for action are:

- Supporting sustainable supply chains so that developing country producers get a fair deal and scarce resources are preserved.
- Limiting climate breakdown by using renewable energy and energy efficiency to reduce industrial greenhouse gas emissions.
- Ending hunger by cutting post-harvest losses and developing agribusiness value chains.

Cutting across these priorities are the following themes: technology and knowledge transfer, digitalization, investment promotion, training and skills, the circular economy, and women's economic empowerment.

The Organization is recognized as a specialized and efficient provider of key services meeting the interlinked challenges of reducing poverty through productive activities, integrating developing countries in global trade through trade capacity-building, fostering environmental sustainability in industry, and improving access to clean energy.

UNIDO promotes sustainable patterns of industrial consumption and production to decouple the processes of economic growth from environmental degradation. UNIDO is a leading provider services for industrial energy efficiency improvement and promotion of renewable energy sources. The Organization also helps developing countries in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, while achieving their economic and environmental goals.

Established in 1966, UNIDO is headquartered in Vienna, Austria. The organization boasts 172 member states and maintains a field network of 29 regional and country offices around the world. Mr. Gerd Müller is Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as of 10 December 2021.



SDG AND UNIDO

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a set of goals for future international cooperation, which replaced the Millennium Development Goals at the end of 2015. The Sustainable Development Goals are an agenda to end poverty and hunger, tackle the climate crisis, achieve gender equality and more before 2030. At a time of significant uncertainty, the Sustainable Development Goals point the way towards effective recovery from COVID-19 and building a better future for all on a safe and healthy planet.

UNIDO's mandate is reflected in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9: "Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation", but UNIDO's activities contribute to all the SDGs.

The Lima Declaration, adopted by UNIDO's Member States in December 2013, set the foundation for a new vision of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) and highlighted the role of industrialization as a driver for development. The ISID approach is based on four main pillars: creating shared prosperity, advancing economic competitiveness, safeguarding the environment, and strengthening knowledge and institutions. This applies to all fields of work UNIDO is engaged in, including technical cooperation, analytical and policy advisory services, standard setting and compliance, and a convening function for knowledge transfer and networking.

Over the past few years, the international community has made a quantum leap in advancing new approaches to accelerate progress and pave the way for a more ambitious, inclusive and universal development framework beyond 2015. While industrialization was not factored into the Millennium Development Goals framework, inclusive and sustainable industrialization now features strongly in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



UNIDO CIIC RUSSIA (ITPO MOSCOW)

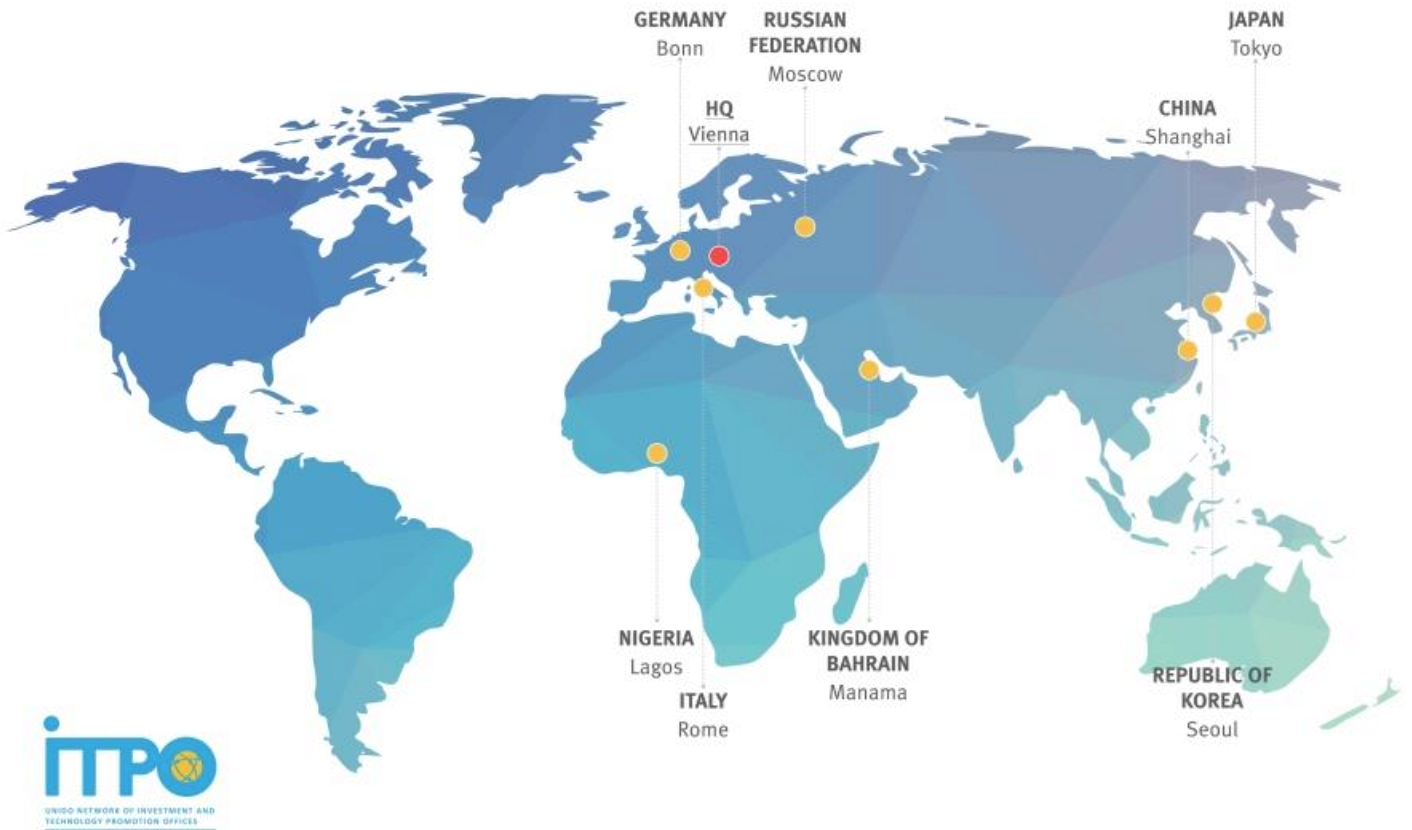
UNIDO Centre for International Industrial Cooperation in the Russian Federation (UNIDO Centre in Russia / UNIDO CIIC Russia) was established in 1989 under the Agreement between the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Government of the USSR. Today the UNIDO Centre operates under the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and UNIDO of 1992 and Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation No 513 of July 6, 2008.

The UNIDO Centre is an integral part of UNIDO, which performs operational management of its project activities. The Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation acts as coordinating body of the Centre on behalf of the Government of the Russian Federation.

The main objective of the UNIDO Centre is to promote international cooperation in economic, technological, industrial and scientific fields between enterprises, associations, organizations and firms from Russia and developed and developing countries.

The UNIDO Centre's activities are carried out in the interests of the federal government and are aimed at assisting Russian state organizations and private companies in effective development of international cooperation, attracting investment resources, technology transfer, as well as expanding and deepening cooperation between the Russian Federation and UNIDO.

The UNIDO Centre in Russia is a part of UNIDO global network of Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (hereinafter ITPO), which aims to support industrial development and economic growth of developing countries and countries in transition by identifying and mobilizing technical, financial, management and other resources needed to implement specific industrial investment and technology projects.



HIGHLIGHTS 2023



MOSCOW, 25 January

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 support of the Free Economic Society of Russia and the UNIDO Centre in Russia. The Director of the UNIDO Centre took part in the presentation of the report and discussion.



Credits: veorus.ru

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 crisis in Eastern Europe, 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.

Source: https://unido.ru/eng/news_en/world_economic_situation_2023/

MOSCOW, 30 January

INTERVIEW WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNIDO CENTRE SERGEY KOROTKOV ON SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

The YouTube channel “September the 1st” shared an interview with the Director of the UNIDO Centre 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:

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

Mr. Korotkov 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.

Source&Credits: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjvAAUdvOoI>

MOSCOW, 31 January

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The meeting was held in Moscow and 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. 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.

“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.

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).

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

Source: https://unido.ru/eng/news_en/governor_chelyabinsk_regular_meeting/

MOSCOW, 3 March

INTERNATIONAL FORUM "CLEAN COUNTRY"

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 the country visited the Forum.

Director Sergey Korotkov, took part in the Forum during the session “Development of Ecomonitoring Systems in Cities of Russia and the World“. Mr. Korotkov 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.

Source: https://unido.ru/eng/news_en/forum_clean_country_skolkovo/

MOSCOW, 16 March

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. It was 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, Yury Fedorov, Chairman of the FBA EAC Committee, Oleg Chernyshev, Head of the FBA EAC Representative Office in the Central Federal District of Russia.

Source: <https://www.fbacs.com/articles/klimaticheskaya-adaptatsiya-i-nizkouglernoe-razvitie-ekonomiki-v-rossii-i-mire-praktika-vyzovy-per.html>

MOSCOW, March 17

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 Bessonov, 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).

Source: <https://www.bc-cis.com/news/news-item/142>

ST. PETERSBURG, March 22

XXII INTERNATIONAL FORUM "ECOLOGY OF THE BIG CITY"

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,

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. Mr. 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 access 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.

Source: <https://journal.ecostandard.ru/reports/ekologiya/mezhdunarodnyy-forum-ekologiya-bolshogo-goroda-reportazh-ecostandard-journal/>

YEKATERINBURG, March 28

MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE ESG AGENDA WITH THE SVERDLOVSK REGIONAL UNION OF INDUSTRIALISTS AND ENTREPRENEURS

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 event. 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, reporting 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.

Source: <https://sospp.ru/na-zasedanii-sospp-obsudili-kak-rossijskim-kompaniyam-sootvetstvovat-esg-standartam-stran-vostoka/>

ST. PETERSBURG, March 31

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.



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.

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.

Among the important measures to intensify industrial policy and ensure favorable conditions for the development of high-tech industries, were 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 Russian Empress Catherine II.

Source: https://unido.ru/eng/news_en/unido_ciic_congress_veo_of_russia/

MOSCOW, September 12

APPOINTMENT OF NEW HEAD OF THE UNIDO CENTRE IN RUSSIA

Mr. Igor Kozhin has been appointed as the new Head of the UNIDO Centre for International Industrial Cooperation in the Russian Federation.

Mr. Igor Kozhin will lead and coordinate the work of the UNIDO Centre, ensuring interaction with Russian and international partners to implement UNIDO programmes and projects.

The new Head of the UNIDO Centre will be responsible for cooperation with Federal Ministries and Agencies, as well as interested structures and organizations of the industrial and economic bloc. He will manage Centre's activities on investment and technology promotion within the network of UNIDO ITPOs and coordinate implementation of sustainable industrial development projects in Russia and other countries.



Appointment of Mr. Igor Kozhin for the position of the new Head of the UNIDO Centre in Russia was approved by the Director General of UNIDO, Mr. Gerd Müller, with an official date assuming office on September 11, 2023.

Source: https://unido.ru/eng/news_en/igor_kozhin_head_of_unido_rf/

BELARUS, October 7-8

VI INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CONFERENCE “NON-ROCKET NEAR SPACE INDUSTRIALIZATION: PROBLEMS, IDEAS, PROJECTS” (NRNSI 2023)

On October 7-8, in Maryina Gorka, the Republic of Belarus, at the site of the Aquarelle Ecopark, a large-scale event on industrial space exploration the NRNSI 2023 Conference was held.

The Head of the UNIDO Centre in the Russian Federation, Mr. Igor Kozhin, delivered a welcome speech to the conference participants. In his speech, he emphasized that UNIDO acts as a partner for the implementation of technology and knowledge transfer projects, investment partnership programmes, and that the organization strives to support the cooperation of public and private industrial enterprises, development institutions and scientific institutions in both industrialized and developing countries. Also, the Head of the UNIDO Centre expressed his confidence that in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation we can truly change the world and make it a better place.

The main goal of the NRNSI 2023 Conference is the establishment of a technological base for the construction of the space industry in low-Earth orbit and the solution of modern environmental, food, raw materials and economic problems of mankind, as well as the exchange of scientific and practical knowledge and experience, generalization of the results of scientific, research and scientific-practical work necessary for the effective implementation of the space vector of human development through the rocket-free industrialization of near space.

The conference was held as part of the UN World Space Week and brought together more than 1,000 representatives from 21 countries: speakers, honored guests and listeners.



Credits: unido.ru

In the scientific and technical sections of the conference, reports were made, and discussions were held on the design and modeling of a general planetary vehicle (GVT), calculations of engineering structures, a hyper-high-speed transport system, construction technologies and operating features of a ground-based GPV takeoff and landing overpass.

Within the framework of the ecological and biological sections, discussions were held on modern technologies for growing plants, organization and functioning of closed ecosystems. The second day of the conference was devoted to social design and organization of people's lives in closed systems.

The NRNSI 2023 conference provided a platform to strengthen collaboration between scientists and practitioners. The presented technological exchange and innovative projects have become a shining example of the concept of sustainable development, which in the future can achieve tangible practical results for the general welfare.

Source: https://unido.ru/eng/news_en/unido_non_rocket_near_space_industrialization_2023/

SHANGHAI, November 7

UNIDO LAUNCH EVENT OF THE 4IR ALLIANCE AND THE AWARD CEREMONY OF THE GLOBAL CALL 2023 AT CIIE

On November 6th, the Head of the UNIDO Centre in Russia Mr. Igor Kozhin took part in the launch event of the Fourth Industrial Revolution Alliance (4IR Alliance) and the Global Call 2023 Award Ceremony at the 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai.

Under the banner of "Smart Leading, Green Future", the event brought together a diverse group of attendees. These included international organizations, representatives from China's central and local governments, global travel industry leaders, and prominent companies in the fields of energy, investment, finance, insurance, and technology. Industry associations, professional media, and experts on innovation and sustainable development were also in attendance.

The event featured a distinguished lineup of participants and speakers. Among them were Ms. Fatou Haidara, the Director-General Representative and Executive Director of UNIDO, Mr. Chang Qide, the UN Resident Coordinator in China, Mr. Wu Yabin, Head of UNIDO ITPO Beijing, Mr. Gu Yue, Secretary of the Party Committee and Chairman of China Pacific Property & Casualty Insurance Co., and Mr. Zhang Shuo, Chief Representative of the Beijing Office of the European Automobile Manufacturers Association.

The event marked the official launch of the second phase of the 4IR Alliance, organized by UNIDO ITPO Beijing. This phase has a more international focus and aims to delve deeper into emerging industries and frontier sectors. The UNIDO's 4IR Alliance is committed to enabling everyone to address the challenges and reap the opportunities of the 4IR. It seeks to tackle the digital divide, alleviate extreme poverty, and promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID).

During the event in Shanghai, the UNIDO Centre in Russia extended an invitation to AO Kaspersky Lab to become a new partner of the 4IR Alliance. Mr. Andrey Suvorov, Director of Business Development at Kaspersky Lab, represented the company at the event.



Credits: unido.ru

The event also included the Award Ceremony of the “UNIDO Global Call 2023 Global Solution Collection Campaign”. The UNIDO ITPO Beijing led the Global Call 2023 that was focused on three strategic categories: green hydrogen energy, energy efficiency optimization, and clean energy innovation, with an emphasis on clean and smart energy.

The objective of the Global Call 2023 was to amass innovative solutions in clean and smart energy that contribute to Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development. The campaign received over 300 original projects from more than 60 countries, including Russia. Notably, projects from developing countries accounted for 88.5% of the total, showcasing the event’s inclusiveness and diversity.

The Award Ceremony invited experts from numerous authoritative institutions in the industry, such as the International Hydrogen Energy Association, International Hydrogen

Energy Center, Beijing Tsinghua Industrial Development Research Institute, Tencent Group, and Schneider Electric, to conduct reviews.

SAINT PETERSBURG, November 9 **5TH INTERNATIONAL MUNICIPAL FORUM OF THE BRICS+ IN ST. PETERSBURG AND THE ICIE THEMATIC SESSION**

On November 9, 2023, at the invitation of the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (ICIE), Mr. Igor Kozhin, the Head of the UNIDO Centre in Russia, took part in the 5th International Municipal Forum of the BRICS+ countries. The event was held at the ExpoForum Convention and Exhibition Center in St. Petersburg.

A thematic session “Middle East and Africa: economic interaction, new opportunities and prospects” was held within the framework of the IMF BRICS+, co-organized by the ICIE. The aim of the event was to find effective forms and mechanisms for doing business in the region. The prospects for development and the specifics of implementing practical joint projects in industry, construction, transport, mutual requests and opportunities of partners from BRICS countries were discussed.

Mr. Kozhin delivered a presentation titled “Support to business in Africa and the Middle East within the framework of UNIDO project activities and BRICS+ cooperation”.

During his presentation, Mr. Kozhin informed the attendees about the organization’s priority areas in Africa and the Middle East, flagship UNIDO programmes, and initiatives in developing and least developed countries. He also discussed opportunities for expanding cooperation for sustainable industrial development and prospects for implementing new projects through the UNIDO Centre in Russia and the UNIDO’s global ITP Network.

In his address, Mr. Kozhin underscored the rapidly growing influence of the BRICS countries on the global sustainable development agenda. He highlighted that these countries are becoming a benchmark for both developing and industrialized nations. UNIDO collaborates with all BRICS countries, implements technical cooperation programmes with individual countries of the Group, and actively participates in strategic cooperation activities.

The IMF BRICS+ event in total attracted more than 7,000 attendees. This included delegates from 85 constituent entities of the Russian Federation and foreign representatives from over 200 cities in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and the CIS. This year, the forum was represented by 700 Russian commercial companies. The event also saw participation from about 20,000 people from 104 countries who joined the forum using online platforms.

PROJECTS



ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT AND FINAL DISPOSAL OF PCBS AT THE RUSSIAN RAILROAD NETWORK AND OTHER PCBS OWNERS

Background

UNIDO project «Environmentally sound management and final disposal of PCBs at the Russian railroad network and other PCBs owners» aimed for creation of the state management system for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the Russian Federation, PCBs identification system in the energy equipment of industrial enterprises, safe maintenance of PCB-contaminated energy equipment and environmentally sound disposal in accordance with Russian and international regulations. The project partners are Russia Railroads JSC, as one of the major PCB-owners in the country, «Vodokanal of St. Petersburg» SUE; Gubkin Russian State University of oil and gas (National Research University).

Goals

- Institutional, regulatory and workforce capacity building for implementation and performance of PCBs environmentally sound management system;
- Country-wide inventory of PCB-contaminated equipment and wastes;
- Environmentally sound management and disposal of PCB-contaminated equipment and wastes.

Completion in 2023

In April 2023 the final independent evaluation of the project was completed, and the project performance was assessed as satisfactory.

Some of outputs of the project, namely the legislative part, were assessed as highly satisfactory as the project team conducted a lot of work in this matter. The evaluation team expressed their hope that the work on the project will be continued as the implementation of the Stockholm Convention is the important step in the framework of environmental safety and sustainable development in the Russian Federation.



OUTLOOK INTO 2024

MAJOR PRIORITIES

The UNIDO Centre will focus on the activities listed in the Centre's Project Document as well as on the tasks recommended by the UNIDO Secretariat and the Government of the Russian Federation. The main priorities of the UNIDO Centre for 2024 as it is stated in Annual Work Programme 2024 are:

- Enhanced cooperation with Russian enterprises, organizations and institutions in establishing contacts with interested partners abroad and preparing appropriate project proposals in investment and technology;
- Attracting foreign technologies to localize them in Russia, adapting technologies to the needs of Russian companies, attracting finance for projects of technological modernization of Russian companies from international financial institutions and financing organizations;
- Assistance in developing key technological solutions at the request and in line with interests of Russian companies, promotion of domestic technologies in the international market;
- Assistance in strengthening technological chains of Russian companies, by attracting international experts and using competence of companies from UNIDO member countries;
- Participation in exhibitions, forums, conferences and meetings organized by UNIDO;
- Filling the UNIDO Centre database with information on industrial enterprises and other organizations in Russia and abroad that are interested in cooperation with foreign partners and/or Russian partners, as well as on scope of their interests;
- Promotion of investment and technology in Russian industry through development of specialized scientific and educational programmes and academic capacity building;
- Cooperation with relevant UNIDO Departments and Divisions at the Headquarters in Vienna, Austria, to initiate new projects and promote joint programmes and initiatives, including technical cooperation projects and organization of global forums.
- Stronger synergistic cooperation with UNIDO ITP network and other ITPOs and exchange of information on investment opportunities and technology transfer;
- Assistance of the Centre in promotion of Russian experts and specialists to responsible positions in UNIDO in cooperation with the management of the organization and the UNIDO Human Resources Service in Vienna.

The UNIDO Centre will seek to align its activities and initiatives with the UNIDO Medium-Term Programme Framework 2022-2025 and its strategic orientation to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals as well as with global efforts for "better recovery" from the COVID-19 pandemic. The following integrated approaches will be considered:

- Structural transformation and industry expertise;
- Digital transformation and innovation;

- Climate-neutral industry and circular economy;
- Youth, gender equity and lack of indifference;
- Special Initiative on Recovery from COVID-19.

The UNIDO Centre will continue to strengthen cooperation with the Russian state bodies, organizations and agencies of the UN system, various Russian and international organizations.



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IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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