

CONCEPT OF SOCIALLY SIGNIFICANT PROJECT
The 17th INTERNATIONAL LIKHACHOV SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

Theme of the Conference:

**GLOBAL WORLD: SYSTEM-RELATED CHALLENGES AND
OUTLINES OF THE FUTURE**

Venue of the Conference: St. Petersburg, Russia
St. Petersburg University of the Humanities and Social
Sciences

Holding time: May 18-20, 2017

The International Likhachov Scientific Conference (hereinafter referred to as the Conference) is held in accordance with the Decree of President of the Russian Federation V. V. Putin 'On perpetuating the memory of D.S. Likhachov' No 587, dated on May 23, 2001. The Conference's co-founders are SPbUHSS and the Russian Academy of Sciences. Since 2007, the Conference has been held under the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

Outstanding Russian and foreign scientists, politicians, public leaders, clerical hierarchy, famous artists, writers, mass media representatives participate in the Conference annually.

The purpose of the Conference 2017 is to analyze comprehensively the system-related aspects of civilization's development contemporary problems in both material and spiritual spheres, to discuss ways of solving them, to discover conceptual relations between national problems and general trends in the world development.

Theme: global world: system-related shifts, challenges and outlines of the future.

Relevance of the Conference's theme is determined by the growing conflict intensity in the world community activities, by escalating the old threats and appearance of new ones.

We are witnesses to and participants in many complex, conflicting, overlapping processes in economic, political, social, cultural and other spheres. These processes bring together two essential points: rate of their increase and about-face in trends, which makes difficult to predict the future.

Over the last decade, a series of new models of global processes have been implemented in the context of world civilization. Each of these models not so much has

developed the experience of previous years, as refused it. The idea of multiculturalism turned out indefensible against a backdrop of real crisis in the policy of multiculturalism in European countries. It was replaced by the idea of interculturalism as a new concept of science and the art theme.

Globalization, as scientist and politicians thought, is a natural and objective process of types development and lines extensions of interaction between cultures, civilizations, peoples, states; it highlighted the significant contradictions between different cultures and civilizations. The globalization process has not only eliminated but even more escalated each state's seeking to be involved in existing global processes on preferential conditions using minimal concessions. For this reason the following items were put on the agenda: the increased requirements for government control competence, for stability of the national culture base dominants, for maturity of the political and cultural establishment, which in some cases was not proved to reflect adequately the challenges of this kind and put in the front row of the national policy a leader who is able to offer an effective way of development.

Globalization has led not only to integration of national economies and cultures, but even more strengthened a differentiation between the certain civilizations, confrontation between them, until the showdown. In particular, a struggle over status and resources, rights and influence of different countries within the specific region and within the world community as a whole have been much worse. This created large-scale conflicts, which increasingly result in violence and blood, social explosions and political upheavals, splits both on the national level and on the level of associations, unions of countries and other forms of cooperation. As a result, currently we are witnessing the winding-down of globalization processes and the growing interest of a significant number of countries seeking for their own development trajectory. Every contemporary state, its financial and economic establishment, the society as a whole now are reflecting again on their national interests, seeking for optimal solutions to response to challenges and threats, which the world transformation brings, creating global uncertainty. It can be said that globalization not only changes its vector, nature, types, and other characteristics, but the mechanisms of democracy themselves turned out to be not sufficiently effective to achieve optimum effect in environment of technology development aimed to the public opinion and individual consciousness manipulation and incapable in some cases to put in the front row people who can act in line with situations in economy, politics, social sphere, and culture.

The organizations created to govern inter-state relations increasingly find

themselves in a situation when they failed to elaborate well-considered decisions to resolve conflicts. Rules of international law are reinterpreted and yield the temporary schemes and one-time decisions of different kind that have not any precedents. In different countries there is a growing crisis of confidence in social institutions - public, banking, law enforcement, and other systems.

It is important today to outline, at least in general terms, the future, on the one hand, by the objective necessity of foreknowledge about world order, on the other hand, by the exponentially increasing dynamics, complexity and ambitiousness of the processes that characterize the relationship of a human and environment, science and engineering development, change in their role in life of a personality, society, country and the world as a whole. All these factors stipulate that it is significantly complex to foresight outlines of the future in scientific terms; to ensure the development stability of both individual states and the international community as a whole; to seek for strengthening the role of nation states.

There is a significant number of options for further choice at every development point of both nation cultural systems and the world civilization. Efficiency of strategic decisions regarding the ways, means, types of responses to various challenges depends on how deeply and objectively society realize the whole range of conditions that determine the basic coordinates of its being.

Thinkers, statesmen and public figures, writers, people of culture and art along with scientists - philosophers, political experts, economists, demographers, cultural specialists, etc. - are actively engaged in shaping of the future.

Against the background of economic, political, social, philosophical and other problems existing objectively in Russia, shortage of full conceptual vector and regulator of the worldview, there are seen the attempts of certain forces to impose on the country their own vision models of the future. The main benchmarks of their “future” are the “crisis of worldview”, “crisis of the era”, “catastrophe of spirituality”, “worldview vacuum”, “world-building change”, etc.

Historical experience and logic of the scientific knowledge development has convincingly proved that the future is not fatal and is not predetermined by higher forces, Divine Providence, or other just as unknowable and unpredictable first principles. The future is built by people who are thinking, living and working here and now - various political, economic, artistic, scientific establishments, in accordance with their views. It should not be reduced to a strict determination with both national historical and cultural matrices, and with a certain emerging global culture.

A key condition for the development of civilization and culture is the degree of fulfillment by humanity represented by the intellectual establishment of their ability to form a full, comprehensive and objective concept of their future. Beyond this, existing in the present imbalances, inconsistencies, disagreements and other weaknesses of the processes occurred in the community may result in future national and global disasters, in comparison with which the most negative forecasts will prove to be “the golden dream of humanity”.

The world can stand up to the future global risks and threats on the basis of systematizing the ideas about the future that are formed in different areas of scientific knowledge, comprehensive analysis of the current natural problems as well as problems of man-made, social and political and economic nature; joining efforts of the different research schools and research institutes.

Creation of the further development concept is possible only on the basis of comprehensive analysis of processes in the leading sectors of society life activities using the scientific methodology of forecasting.

In this regard, *the problem of careful thought the global world in the context of the system-related shifts and challenges observed that determine to a large extent outlines of the future*, is main for the participants of the Conference’s plenary session and will be developed during three sections activities.