

граммы создания экономического коридора»; провести исследования углеродного и водного следа цепочек поставок трех и двусторонних инфраструктурных проектов; разработать и реализовать мероприятия по декарбонизации трех и двусторонних инфраструктурных проектов; разработать и реализовать мероприятия

по цифровой трансформации трех и двусторонних инфраструктурных проектов; в рамках совместных инвестиционных проектов разработать и реализовать мероприятия по переходу к безуглеродной экономике в приоритетных отраслях для производителей сырья, находящихся в начале цепочки создания стоимости.

The Middle East and Russia: Realities and Prospects for Interaction (post-event press release)

On June 22, 2021, ICSTI, in partnership with the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, successfully held an international scientific and practical conference "The Middle East and Russia: Outlines of Strategic Partnership" in the format of videoconferencing. The information sponsors of the conference were the scientific journal "Information and Innovations" and MIA "Russia Today".

Statesmen, academic scientists, experts, professors of leading universities, young researchers, businessmen representing 20 countries of the world (Austria, Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Russia, Syria, Turkey, USA, Yemen, etc.) participated in the event.

D.Sc. Yuri Lonchakov, Acting Director of ICSTI, in his welcoming speech, noted that the conference program provides for the discussion of not only acute political challenges of our time, but also the economic interaction of countries, their participation in international economic initiatives, as well as involvement in global digitalization and access to scientific research and technical information.

Afterwards, Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim Mohamed ElSergani, the Plenipotentiary

Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt (Egypt) in ICSTI, Attaché for Education and Culture of the Egypt Embassy in the Russian Federation, Acting Director of the Egyptian Cultural Bureau in Moscow, and Dr. Alper Alp, Counselor in Education of the Embassy of the Turkish Republic in the Russian Federation, addressed to the conference participants. On behalf of the Ministry of Economic Development of Russia, the conference was greeted by Mr. Alexander Dianov, Director of the Department for the Development of Bilateral Cooperation, who, in particular, drew attention to the fact that among the most important areas of trade and economic cooperation are the exchange of technologies and the use of Russian experience in such areas as: oil and gas production, petrochemistry, remote sensing, water desalination, nuclear, space and information industries, as well as - the creation of innovative IT business platforms, the formation of a comfortable urban environment and "smart cities", the development of digital ecosystems and platforms, a low-carbon and green agenda, etc. The Ministry of Economic Development of Russia considers a significant increase in the volume of bilateral trade as one of the key tasks. As noted in the greeting, new contacts

should promote to remove obstacles in mutual trade, improve conditions for exporters, and expand the range of jointly implemented projects.

Many of those targets mentioned by A. Dianov were discussed by the participants of the conference, the agenda of which was full of relevant topics: experience and prospects of interaction between the countries of the Middle East region and Russia, the results of the Arab Spring, overcoming conflicts and regional security, foreign policy priorities of the countries of the region, participation of the countries in Chinese initiatives, regional geoeconomic projects, energy factor, harmonization of trade and economic cooperation.

The first plenary session "Realities and Expectations" was opened by Alexei Vasiliev, Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Honorary President of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, editor-in-chief of the journal "Asia and Africa Today", member of the Foreign Policy Council of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, who made a report "The Middle East: Experience and Results of 'Arab Spring' (10 years later)". Dr. Osama Ammar, the well-known Syrian statesman, expert, professor, Dr. Bassam Abu Abdallah, Director of the Baath Central Party School, columnist in the "Al-Watan Daily", expert in the field of international relations, professor, and Mr. Nasser Kandil, editor-in-chief of the Lebanese newspaper "Al-Binaa", journalist, video blogger, ex-deputy of the Lebanese Parliament, gave an assessment of the current relations between Russia and the countries of the region, their needs and prospects.

The participation of the countries of the region and Russia in the Chinese geoeconomic initiative "One Belt, One Road" was characterized by Dr. Alwan Amin Eddine,

the founder and director of the Sita Institute in Lebanon, and Mr. Ammar Brebdane, a young researcher from Syria. The topic was continued by Dr. Elena Savicheva, Associate Professor of the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, in the context of cooperation and conflicts in connection with mineral resources in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Mr. Gunnar Norbert Lindemann, the deputy of the Berlin parliament, Mr. Patrick Poppel, secretary general of the Austro-Abkhaz Society, and Dr. Johan Backman, associate professor of the Helsinki University, presented the European view of the geopolitics and geoeconomics of the Middle East region with the participation of Russia.

As well as Dr. Tatiana Tyukayeva, researcher at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences named after E. Primakov, presented the collective monograph "The Middle East: Politics and Identity".

The role of Russia in the settlement of the Syrian conflict, as well as the activities of the ICSTI Resource Centre for Sustainable Development of the Middle East "ICSTI for the Middle East" was covered by its head Dr. Naowaf Ibrahim, political observer and producer-coordinator of the United International Broadcasting Directorate of the MIA "Russia Today", special correspondent for the Sputnik agency, expert on Arab-Russian relations.

The second plenary session "Politics, Economics, Security" was opened by the report of Dr. Mandana Tishehyar, Director for International Academic Cooperation at Allameh Tabataba'i University, who spoke on Iran's participation in geoeconomic projects in the Middle East. The topic of Iran in the context of the priorities of its foreign policy, including in the light of the presidential elections of 2021, as well as the role of the famous Iranian politician Qasem Soleimani

in ensuring Middle East partnerships, were continued by D.Sc. Vladimir Belov, Professor of RUDN University, Dr. Elena Dunaeva, Senior Researcher of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and Dr. Lana Ravandi-Fadai, Senior Researcher at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Associate Professor of the Russian State University for the Humanities.

D.Sc. Igor Ryzhov, Professor, Head of the Department of History and Politics of Nizhny Novgorod State University named after N.I. Lobachevsky, Dr. Alexander Polishchuk, Honored Professor, Senior Researcher of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Associate Professor of Moscow State Linguistic University, and Dr. Sergei Medvedko, Senior Researcher, Associate Professor of the Department of International Security of the Russian State Humanitarian University, attracted the attention of the participants to the issues of regional security.

Certain aspects of economic relations were evaluated in the speeches of Dr. Bou Diab Anis, Professor of Economics at the Lebanese University, member of the Supreme Economic Council of Lebanon, Dr. Henning Zoz, Professor, General Director of Zoz Group, and Ms. Galina Abbas, President of the RUDN Alumni Association in Lebanon.

The presentation of the results of the project "Ethno-Confessionalism in Politics in the Middle East and the Interests of Russia", presented by D.Sc. Vladimir Belov and Dr. Elena Savicheva, was a worthy concluding chord of the second session.

The third plenary session "Harmonization and interaction" was opened by the presentation of Dr. Olga Belova, Counsellor to the ICSTI director, associate professor, on the topic "ICSTI as a platform for multilateral mutually beneficial cooperation", which

announced a promising ICSTI project named "Harmonization of trade and economic cooperation in the ICSTI Community and between ICSTI member states and partners". The aim of the project is to assist public and private structures in choosing optimal solutions in the implementation of bilateral trade and economic cooperation with other countries and in multilateral interaction at the sites of international organizations (BRICS, EAEU, SCO). The following expected results of the project were named: minimization of financial, material, time and other costs and direct losses; growth of profitability, obtaining additional resources for expanding partner networks and expanding the trading range.

The aspiration of ICSTI to create an internationally recognized platform for facilitating economic cooperation in the Middle East region with the participation of Russia was approved and supported by the participants of the event.

Certain aspects of the promising project were highlighted by well-known experts. Dr. Irina Aydrous, head of the "World Economy" program, associate professor of the Department of International Economic Relations of the RUDN University, spoke about the current and promising financial models of trade and economic cooperation. Dr. Marina Nekrasova, Associate Professor, Vice President and Managing Partner of the National Foundation for Legal Support of Organizations and Citizens, described green technologies, carbon footprint and digitalization as the main trends in sustainable development in trade and economic relations.

The effectiveness of cluster and ecosystem business models for sustainable international trade and economic relations (within the framework of eco-oriented and unifying projects) was proved by Dr. Nadezhda

Kulikova, a federal expert, the Senior Researcher of the All-Russian Academy of Foreign Trade of the Ministry of Economic Development of Russia, Head of the Centre for Methodological Competencies of the Guild of Sustainable Development of the Moscow Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Professor at the Institute for Peace Culture, Full Member of the International Academy for the Integration of Science and Business.

Ms. Maria Ushakova, expert psychoanalyst, spoke about what psychoanalysis is, why it is an "environmentally friendly instrument of influence" and how it can contribute to the harmonization of international economic relations.

The presentation of Ms. Maria Chernyak, vice-president of the Union of Designers of Russia, art director of LLC "Complex solution", on the topic "Contribution of programs of international festivals to the sustainable development of trade and economic relations" complemented the polyphony of the conference with bright colors.

During the conference, 35 reports and speeches were heard. The organizers of this important international scientific event received, in particular, the following proposals:

- to support the ICSTI project through the participation of specialized companies and experts;

- to hold a similar conference with a focus on Latin America and the Caribbean;

- ICSTI to promote the establishment and operation of the Arab Knowledge Centre in Syria for the Arabic-speaking world;

- ICSTI, in partnership with the Centre for Methodological Competencies of the Guild of Sustainable Development of the Moscow Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to assist interested participants in trade and economic relations in improving organizational mechanisms and business

models of cooperation based on the application of the functional-role model of the cluster;

- ICSTI, the Analytical Centre "Forum", the All-Russian Academy of Foreign Trade of the Ministry of Economic Development, LLC "Complex Solution" to integrate efforts in creating ecosystems of digital platforms in the most promising industries and segments of the multilateral market;

- ICSTI, in partnership with the Eurasian Peoples' Assembly, the National Foundation for the Support of Rights Holders, to implement a joint international project for the global integration of the Middle East countries within the framework of a world-cultural initiative (as an instrument of soft power, the implementation of business and creative communications and tension reduction);

- ICSTI in partnership with the National Foundation for Legal Support of Organizations and Citizens: to assess the carbon intensity of the project portfolio and develop programs for decarbonisation of projects within the framework of bilateral trade and economic relations; develop emission reduction targets along the entire value chain for projects of the Economic Corridor Program; carry out research on the carbon and water footprint of supply chains of three and two-way infrastructure projects; to develop and implement measures for decarbonisation of three and bilateral infrastructure projects; develop and implement measures for the digital transformation of three and two-sided infrastructure projects; within the framework of joint investment projects, develop and implement measures for the transition to a carbon-free economy in priority sectors for producers of raw materials at the beginning of the value chain.