

RUSSIA  
2 0 1 7



28 – 29  
SEPTEMBER

THIRD FORUM  
ON SMALL BUSINESS  
OF THE SCO AND BRICS REGIONS



上海合作组织

## Press release

# Participants of the Forum on Small Business of the SCO and BRICS Regions offered ways to solve difficulties of entrepreneurs

**Modification of the favorable credit facilities system, drop of the bureaucratic pressure, small and large business cooperation ties development, introduction of the united admission to the all-round support, formation of the unified requirements and standards of the business environment for the SCO and BRICS countries. All these recommendations were presented at the closing plenary session of the Third Forum on Small Business of the SCO and BRICS Regions. The offered solutions will be included into the final resolution and sent to the federal and regional authorities, expert and business community. The resolution will form a basis for positive changes in the sphere of small business.**

**Moscow, Russia, October 2, 2017** – The Third Forum on Small Business of the SCO and BRICS Regions took place on September 28-29 in Ufa, Russia, and assembled over 1,400 delegates from 47 Russian regions and 12 foreign countries including Belarus, Brazil, Germany, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Latvia, Tajikistan, Turkey and the SAR attended the Forum.

Conclusions and agreements made by the participants on the discussion platform of the forum were offered at the closing plenary session. The Vice-President of the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry **Elena Dybova** mentioned that the passing year hasn't met the expectations of the Government. "Despite the Government's efforts, the number of small businesses does not increase. Therefore the basic principles of the small and medium business support will be redesigned. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation believes that the business activity cannot be raised without a substantial drop of the bureaucratic pressure on small businesses. We need to introduce "one window", one report and one annual payment based on that report", Elena Dybova pointed.

Elena Dybova is convinced, it is necessary to raise entrepreneur's awareness using a variety of methods, including organization of forums on small and medium-sized businesses.

"Such forums aim to help find business partners, establish contacts and move forward. The business community must have the opportunity to speak out and to get up-to-date information on the present situation. In that sense the Third Forum on Small Business of the SCO and BRICS Regions is the one of the most effective", Elena Dybova added.

**Olesya Teterina**, Deputy Director of the Department for the Development of Small and Medium-Sized Businesses and Competition of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation, considers uncoordinated information to be a key problem that prevents the small business development.

“A lot of development institutions were created over the last two years. This variety of support measures makes it difficult for business to see into the matter. There is no clear and comfortable admission to the all-round support. Together with public organizations, development institutions and other establishments we are going to work out a simple and transparent scheme of acquiring business support from the federal, state and regional authorities, development institutions, and public organizations depending on the development stage. The same issue refers to educational support. In particular, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation will set up an educational platform for business community in December 2017, which will become an aggregator of educational seminars and programs”, Olesya Teterina declares.

**Azat Fazlyev**, the President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Bashkortostan Republic, who moderated the session “Trial and error business approach”, articulated conclusions of that session participants.

“The business experience proved that any business process has to be customer-oriented. Other important elements are careful examination of the market situation, monitoring measures of state support, ability to allow for financing, and cost control. Experienced businessmen consider necessary not only to choose business concept but also to maintain it and stick to it. And the main thing is to risk failure. A failure teaches to minimize the risk. This is how the project or business itself becomes resilient”, Azat Fazlyev sums up.

Speaking of the barrier-free cooperation in the SCO and BRICS, **Singla Mohit**, the Chairman of the Trade Promotion Council of India, noticed that first of all it is necessary to simplify the terms of deals, which requires the common standards. Besides, it is necessary to unify the business laws in the SCO and BRICS. In particular, it is essential to simplify complicated arbitration and to overcome reliance on dollar and euro.

“I am absolutely certain that the Forum in Ufa will contribute to solution of these problems as this meeting is an effective decision making platform. The participation of the Government members from different countries will raise the profile of the Forum,” Singla Mohit considers.

The participants paid special attention to the best practices of small businesses. Victor Nazarov, the Governor of the Omsk Region, shared his experience of business support. He noticed that for the half-year period of 2017 small businesses have increased the turnover by almost 29 percent and many of the Omsk entrepreneurs enter foreign markets, including the SCO and BRICS countries. The region turnover with SCO and BRICS countries has increased by almost 40 percent for the half-year period of 2017. The Omsk Export Centre performance has been rated forth in terms of efficiency of state support of foreign trade.

The business activity finds itself on the upswing in Bashkortostan. The number of small enterprises has increased by 9 thousand over the last 2 years. Small enterprises turnover is one third of Gross Regional Product today. Rustem Khamitov, The Head of the Republic of Bashkortostan, considers it is important today to stimulate development of interregional cooperation.

“The Republic of Bashkortostan is one of the leaders of agriculture in Russia. While over 60-70% of the total production are coming from personal farmsteads, uniting them is crucial. Only together they can gain additional sales and improve the quality of their products ”, Rustem Khamitov says.

Eight discussion sessions, the international track "Business without borders", an exhibition and contacts exchange took place within the framework of the Forum. During the 2 days of the meeting 9 cooperation agreements were signed and over 200 formal bilateral meetings were registered. Consultation platforms with the participation of the representatives of the Small and Medium-Sized Businesses Support Facility of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation were organized. They introduced the main forms of the Small and Medium-Sized Businesses Support and rendered consultation services. The participants of the Forum had an opportunity to take part in the master-class organized by the Russian Export Centre as well as intellectual quest named "Success navigator" arranged by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation.

The forum featured sessions on barrier-free cooperation in the SCO and BRICS, financial, legal, and infrastructural support to small business, support to export-oriented business. The participants touched upon the issues of franchising, youth entrepreneurship, and new digital technologies. They also got to know the best practices of the Russian and international small businesses.

Key conclusions and proposals of the Forum will be included into the final resolution which will be sent to the federal and regional authorities, expert and business community. The resolution will become a background for the positive transformations in the small business.

The Third Forum on Small Business of the SCO and BRICS Regions was held in Ufa on September 28-29, 2017. The forum was organized by the Government of the Republic of Bashkortostan, State Committee of the Republic of Bashkortostan for Entrepreneurship and Tourism, and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Bashkortostan. The forum was supported by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation and the SCO Business Council. The forum was sponsored by SC "BPGC."

Photos and press materials of the Forum are available by the link <https://goo.gl/CkS7Nw>.

\*\*\*

Contacts:	Nikolay Yevdokimov , +7903 660 4314 Anna Shelpuk, +7909 643 7572 <a href="mailto:pr@ufabusiness.ru">pr@ufabusiness.ru</a>	Evgeniya Kutsueva, +7927 950 3838 <a href="mailto:info@tpprb.ru">info@tpprb.ru</a>
-----------	---	---