

30.12.2009

Moskovsky Universitet newspaper, 2009, no 39-40, p.2

U.S. Under Secretary of State Visited MSU

During his visit to Moscow, Robert D.Hormats, U.S. Under Secretary of State for Economic, Energy and Agricultural Affairs, visited M.V.Lomonosov Moscow State University. It was not accidental that Moscow School of Economics was chosen as meeting venue. Founded in 2004 as a MSU Faculty the School embodies a new approach to economic education in our country, the School has also gained a high reputation both in Russia and abroad.

The meeting began in the conference hall where S.V.Shakin, MSE First Deputy Director, presented the faculty professors to the American guest and spoke about the education model applied in MSE, which is based on the idea of involving renowned researchers and experts into the process of learning. Then Robert D.Hormats gave a lecture to students and post-graduates on current problems of world economy development under conditions of the global crisis.

In his lecture he touched upon issues of international cooperation aimed at solving most important world problems including the quest for surmounting the crisis. According to Under Secretary after the Cold War has ended time has come for a global economy. In this connection a strong Russian economy meets U.S. interests and a strong American economy meets those of Russia. The goal of Robert Hormats and his colleagues in the State Department is to help translate the change of the context of Russian-American relations into real accomplishments.

He paid much attention to the issue of mutual investment. The two countries' growing investment volumes imply not only new jobs but also development chances. Under Secretary said American investors regard Russia as a promising market and the U.S., in its turn, is open for Russian investment, primarily in energy economy and knowledge-intensive production.

Robert Hormats stressed Russia's big scientific and innovation potential and underlined the importance of joint work in areas like nanotechnologies, medicine, information technologies and telecommunication. The priority of this direction is evidenced by the fact that the Bilateral Russian-American Interstate Commission on Cooperation is headed by Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev and U.S. President Barack Obama. The lecturer did not exclude eventual disagreements in certain areas but expressed his hope for continuation of the dialogue where prospects for it are open.

Questions from the audience concerned relations with China, economic growth of East Asian countries, problems of an alternative currency. MSE Director, RAS Vice-President A.D.Nekipelov pointed out the experience of Robert Hormats would allow him to maximally objectively evaluate modern economic processes from the scientific and practical points of view. 'It is interesting for me to speak to students since you are the future of Russia and the future of the world', Robert Hormats said. 'You will solve global problems we discuss today in G-20.'

Before leaving Robert Hormats left an entry in the Faculty guestbook following the autographs of George Bush Sr., M.S.Gorbachev, V.A.Fetisov, K.S.Serebrennikov and other well-known people of our time.

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