

ST. PETERSBURG INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FORUM PROGRAMME

May 24-26, 2018, St. Petersburg

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The B20 Regional Consultation Forum

Digitalization - an Engine for Growth and Inclusive Development

The B20 is a partner group of the G20. It represents the interests of the business community and works to develop concrete proposals for G20 leaders on a consensus basis, with the objective of forming global policy to overcome key challenges. The B20 Regional Consultation Forum is a joint event held with the B20 Chair for 2018, the Group of Six. This Group brings together leading Argentinian business associations: the Argentine Bankers Association (ADEBA), the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange (BCBA), the Argentine Chamber of Commerce and Services (CACS), the Argentine Chamber of Construction (CAMARCO), the Argentine Rural Society (SRA), and the Industrial Chamber of Argentina (UIA). Heads of major companies and business associations, senior representatives of governmental bodies from the G20 nations, and the heads of international organizations will discuss B20 recommendations for G20 leaders. One of the key issues to be addressed is ensuring that the digital transformation becomes a driving force behind growth that is global, innovative, inclusive, and sustainable. What new business models and government policies should be employed to support these changes, including the development of a digital infrastructure, digital literacy, and related skills? How can cooperation between governments and the private sector be promoted to overcome the technological gap and ensure social sustainability and responsibility? The results of the discussion will be taken into consideration during development of the B20's recommendations which are to be agreed at the B20 summit in Buenos Aires in autumn 2018 before being presented at the G20 summit on 30 November to 1 December 2018.

The B20 Regional Consultation Forum

The Future of Labour Markets

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

Forging the New Global Supply Chain Architecture

New innovations in manufacturing technology, shifts in demand and consumption behaviour, coupled with new logistics platforms are reshaping global supply chain strategies. What is the role of Industry 4.0 in redrawing supply chain maps, and who are the players pioneering innovations? Which sectors are going to be most dramatically impacted by potential shifts in global supply chains, and how is this creating new investment opportunities? How is the "One Road – One Belt" initiative changing the transportation of goods and services, and what technological advances are delivering systemic efficiencies? How might new protectionist pressures disrupt global supply chain management?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

Managing Shifts in Demographic Trends

Women in the workforce, shifting birth and mortality rates, immigration, ageing societies, and income disparity are all elements that define some of the most important foundations of economic competitiveness. As the population ages and the workforce shrinks, a number of countries face economic challenges to their social models, welfare systems, and growth strategies. Other economies need to invest in their young, dynamic workforces in order to build the knowledge-intensive industries that are essential to assuring an affluent future. What steps should policy makers take to mitigate the potential downsides of demographic trends and accentuate and accelerate the opportunities? How are entrepreneurs capitalizing on new opportunities resulting from demographic shifts?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

Economic Protectionism and Global Markets

A collapse in global trade due to US protectionism is a top risk to the global economy. What are the root causes of current trade disputes and what steps can be taken by major economic players to avoid an all-out trade war? What industrial sectors might be most adversely affected by a rise in protectionism, and how much collateral damage to the global economy might result from a major rift in US–China trade relations? What measures should be implemented to balance global trade flows and maintain a sustainable global marketplace?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

Public-Private Collaboration in Disaster Risk Mitigation

According to the United Nations, only 4% of the estimated USD 10 billion in annual humanitarian assistance is devoted to preventing disasters, yet every dollar spent on risk reduction saves up to ten dollars in economic losses resulting from disasters. How can policymakers, local government authorities, and the private sector better coordinate and create incentives to increase expenditure on risk mitigation? In which areas has investment in preventative measures been most effective? How is climate change impacting the economics of risk mitigation, and what are some of the priority sectors where public–private collaboration can have a significant impact?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

Energy Panel

In partnership with Rosneft

The Energy panel has established itself as a premier discussion platform for oil and gas leaders, government officials and acclaimed industry experts. In 2018, the Energy panel will provide a comprehensive insight into the energy future and models of its sustainable development in new realities. Prospects for durable continuous improvement in the area of operational expenses and capital outlay of oil companies thanks to the roll-out of digital technologies. Maintaining long-term competitive advantage of the oil and gas industry in transition to the low-carbon economy through realization of human and technology potential.

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

Business to the Rescue: Addressing Social Inequality on a Global Scale

In partnership with PwC

Growing social inequality has long been identified as one of the greatest challenges of modern society, yet no simple solution is at hand. How much does globalization contribute to the deepening of social inequality, which is increasingly manifested on a national rather than interstate level? Are modern businesses acting in ways capable of addressing the long-term needs of society? What financial, taxation, and other reforms can be applied on a global scale to address these concerns? Are new technologies serving as a catalyst for deeper inequality, or can they offer ways of bridging income gaps over the long term? What threat does equality pose, if it is not fair?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

Digitalization and Future Energy Systems

In partnership with Rosseti

Energy systems are at the very nascent stages of digital transformation. Traditional approaches to the design of power systems are being relegated to the past and replaced by innovative models based on new technologies and management systems, leading to revolutionary methods in the way we produce, transmit, and consume energy. This, in turn, is offering unprecedented levels of efficiency and new design capabilities. Furthermore, the introduction of blockchain technologies has the potential to transform transactions relating to energy systems. What does the future configuration of energy systems look like? Is Russia ready for large-scale implementation of digital technologies and is the country prepared to embrace the true potential of these new breakthrough technologies?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

RT TV Debates

From the Atlantic to the Pacific: Creating a Space for Trust

Eurasia, uniting the East and the West, enjoys a unique geoeconomic position. It is widely believed that Eurasian economies will become the next growth engine for the global economy, advancing economic cooperation between Europe, North-East Asia, South Asia, and South-East Asia. In order to facilitate logistics, trade, and related economic processes, Eurasia's size demands the creation of unified regulatory systems for economic activities and the establishment of common digital and logistics platforms. Integration processes on the Eurasian continent could therefore have a major impact on the growth trajectory of the global economy. In the present context, how can 'Greater Eurasia', stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, become a space for collaboration? What might serve as the key drivers for accelerated Eurasian economic integration and which are the main areas of common interest? What are the key pros and cons of integration as seen by partners in the East and the West, and what benefits have the existing integration processes offered Eurasian economies? What is their role in advancing integration and what is the strategic potential of multilateral, trans-Eurasian economic cooperation?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

Trianon Dialogue Session

The City of the Future

The city of the future is being defined by the technology of the future – from fully integrated infrastructure and automated mass transit platforms to driverless cars, sensory-powered street lighting, parking and traffic monitoring networks, and advanced waste-disposal systems. The smart city of the future is increasingly being driven by big data and AI computing capabilities. To make such a hyper-connected environment fully effective, the DNA of urban environments, i.e. their people, must also be educated and reprogrammed. What cities have been effective in not only introducing new urban management systems, but also ensuring broad take-up by citizens? What new technologies are coming on stream that will reshape futuristic urban landscapes? What measures should urban officials put in place to mitigate new risks arising from the deployment of tech-driven urban management systems?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

Digitalization Unlocking New Opportunities in Agro-Industry

The latest internet technologies are rapidly changing the landscape for traditional industries. However, across the world, the agro-industry relies on traditional practices, focuses on the social wellbeing of people in rural areas, and demands special attention from the state. Can these factors slow down the transformation of industry? What information and internet technologies are already changing the landscape of agricultural production and what new growth opportunities can technology unlock?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

The Transformation of Public and Private Sectors in the New Economy

The ongoing digitalization of both government services and private enterprises promises greater efficiency and transparency, and offers a foundation for the introduction of new, transformative, innovative products and services. How is digitalization changing business models in both the public and private sectors? Which countries and regions are aggressively adopting digitalization strategies and which are playing catch-up? What challenges remain for the public sector in meeting the demand for modernizing the delivery of services?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

Pathways for the Medicine of the Future: Who Will Treat People in 30 Years' Time?

In partnership with GE

Modern medicine is undergoing dramatic changes with discoveries in genomics, new bio- and nanotechnologies, and artificial intelligence fundamentally changing the methods for diagnosing and treating human diseases. It is expected that doctors will learn to predict epidemiological trends in entire countries as well as at the individual level. Moreover, new techniques for predicting and preventing diseases, and for fighting hereditary diseases by reprogramming the genome and growing new human organs are being developed. How can these discoveries be delivered to the masses and what kind of healthcare system can we expect in 30 years? Who will treat patients: computers or people? What is happening behind the closed doors of scientific laboratories? What diseases will mankind conquer, and what new threats will it face? What will be the life expectancy of humans? Who in the country will be responsible for developing medicine in the future? What is the composition of the global market in the medical industry today, and what role can Russia play in the future?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

The Economics of Global Oceans

In partnership with Rosgeologia

The oceans contain vast reserves of mineral, energy, plant, and animal resources, which – if consumed rationally – can be considered to be inexhaustible. They play an important role in the global economy. Sea transport is a key pillar of globalization and the central component of international transport networks that serve global supply chains and international trade. However, are we effectively exploiting its potential? Which ocean resources will be most in demand during the next decade, and which approaches to harvesting will prove most successful? What new technologies will be required? How can projects be managed economically while guaranteeing the safety of passenger and freight transport, and what role does building a modern commercial fleet play in this process? What are the best approaches to managing the development of oceanic infrastructure?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

The Next Stage of the SCO Business Agenda

Collaboration within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a priority for Russia's foreign policy. In 2017, India and Pakistan became fully fledged members of the organization. Over the past year, they have been increasingly involved in the organization's work, and have become members of the SCO Business Council. Strengthening of the role of the Business Council in the trade and economic agenda of the SCO is considered as a necessary precondition for full realization of the potential of trade and investment cooperation. What is the common business agenda and what opportunities exist for the representatives of observer states to participate in the process? What does the future hold for the cooperation between the Business Council and the working groups of the Organization? How can we eliminate barriers to trade and foster deeper industrial and technological cooperation, including through the creation of new production chains and the use of international financial instruments?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

New Areas of Brics Trade, Economic and Investment Cooperation within Brics under South Africa's Chairmanship

On 1 January 2018 BRICS Chairmanship passed to South Africa, which has announced that its key focus will be "BRICS in Africa - partnerships with emerging economies and leveraging the Fourth Industrial Revolution to achieve inclusive growth". Participants of this session will discuss South Africa's priorities as a Chair, including the Digital Economy, transport infrastructure, supporting youth and women entrepreneurship, cooperation in reducing administrative barriers, developing partnership with the New Development Bank and present successful past and future joint projects both within BRICS, and within Africa.

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

Revolutionary Management Approaches Redefining the Organization of the Future

In cooperation with SIBUR

Arguments over how best to organize operations of major companies have been ongoing for decades. In an era of agile organizations, dynamic growth can best be achieved by nurturing talent. How are today's market leaders combining stable development with rapid growth and creating a modern and functional model? What should be the strategy of leaders in prioritizing talent? What steps should businesses take to transform their employees into drivers of change?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

Transformations in the Energy Sector

The transformation of the global economy is accelerating its pace and the revolution in how businesses and consumers interact, in logistics, and in communications means that we all have to adapt or face the prospect of falling behind. The energy sector is no exception, while its role in the global economy is steadily growing. A significant part of global GDP growth can be attributed to new consumers being integrated into the economy as well as to the growth of the service sector, and both factors imply the need for an affordable and reliable energy supply. The source is no longer important; what matters is how competitive the energy is and whether it is accessible, particularly with power that is consumed in the form of electricity. The choice of 'electrical outlet or petrol station' is becoming more topical, and is having an impact on long-term solutions in the energy sector. How can uncertainty be reduced to ensure that the fuel and energy sector remains attractive to investors and mitigate future volatility, while maintaining ample energy supplies for the global economy in 20 years?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

How to Win the Trust of Tomorrow's Consumer

Shifts in the global economy and demographic changes have a significant impact on consumer preferences. Demonstrative consumption is increasingly become a thing of the past, and more purchases are being made on the internet, bypassing traditional sales channels. The criteria that buyers use to evaluate products are also changing. What do we know about the consumers of tomorrow? How might consumer behaviour change in 10 to 20 years, and what are the potential demands? What should companies do today to earn the trust of tomorrow's buyer?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

Banking and Finance in the Emerging Markets: Version 2.0

In partnership with VTB Bank

Until recently, the fact that the financial and banking systems of emerging economies trailed those of developed markets was taken as a given. However, a close look at the post-crisis landscape shows that the "apprenticeship period" is largely over. Will the financial systems of this group of states be able to play a more vocal role in the global economy or alter key elements of the global financial architecture? What particular changes and in what way had the greatest impact on banking and finance in emerging economies in the post-crisis period? EMs as a major source of global investments. Future of new sovereign wealth funds and development institutions. Withstanding increasing restrictive and protectionist measures: the EMs response. FinTech challenges in the emerging markets.

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

Valdai Club Session

Turning Back the Clock: Political Rivalry vs Economic Interaction

"Cold war" is the most widespread definition of what is going on between Russia and the West now. Strictly speaking, the notion refers to a certain period of the second half of the 20th century, whose political and economic circumstances are impossible to recreate. The spirit of antagonism, the lack of common political projects and the readiness to up the ante in confrontation – something we observe now – are the essence of cold war. But this is not the cold war as we knew it before globalization. The current level of economic interdependence, the number of potential adversaries, and such diversity of actors simply did not exist back then. This makes the overall picture much more complicated and non-linear with the role of means of economic impact growing and economic wars on the agenda. This, in turn, undermines the very idea of globalization. How will the political cold war influence the economy and who can benefit from it? Is not the cold war a tool of rebuilding the world economy along the lines of the America First ideology?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

TV Debates of Russia 24 and the Valdai Discussion Club

Information Inequality: How to Rebalance the Information Landscape Globally

Today's world is unimaginable without intensive information exchange. Information plays more important role than ever before in decision-making in all aspects of life ranging from daily activities to development strategies. In order for its expanding role to be a success, it is crucial that the information is fair and accurate, and that the entire humankind and all nations can equally contribute to its creation. In the modern world, most sources of information are Western and in English, which reduces the effectiveness of international information exchange. There are many reasons why this is the case and in order to achieve a more balanced development of global information this inequality should be overcome. How can this be done and how can we restore trust in information, making it a true and effective instrument for global progress? How can we make the global narrative reflect the factual state of affairs in the world, reflecting the points of view of different countries and global powers in a fair and balanced way?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

Investment Breakthrough: Infrastructure and Technology of the Future

In partnership with Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF)

While investment is instrumental in ensuring the confident development of businesses and the economy as a whole, it is not a guarantee of growth and success in the future. In Russia, infrastructure has been created that brings together investments by the world's leading sovereign wealth funds and top Russian companies. This allows the best global expertise and practice to be combined with unique opportunities and cutting-edge developments by Russian companies. What is needed for an effective partnership between businesses and investors? How does investment create competitive advantages? What is needed today for the successful implementation of investment projects? How is implementation of infrastructure and technology projects shaping the future?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

Uncovering the Potential of the Arctic through the Northern Sea Route

The establishment of the Northern Sea Route is a key factor in the development of the Arctic and a major infrastructure project of global importance. Making the Northern Sea Route a truly global and competitive transport artery is a key priority. How will the infrastructure and communications management system of the Northern Sea Route develop? What are the new legal and regulatory challenges posed by navigation in the polar seas? How can we ensure safe navigation and prevent harmful impact on the environment?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

Share and Earn: The Sharing Economy

The sharing economy is a dynamically developing socioeconomic model that permits the rational use or exchange of resources. It reduces the burden on the environment while enabling people from various countries to earn additional income. The companies operating in this space generally realize up to 15% of the turnover as profit, while the remaining benefit goes to users. The development of the sharing economy has brought a number of changes to society: the creation of a digital ecosystem with the participation of millions of consumers, the emergence of the 'online reputation' phenomenon, allowing strangers to trust each other, 'thanks' system guarantees, consumers prioritizing use over ownership, and the development of microentrepreneurship. What opportunities and risks does the development of the sharing economy entail? What impact does it have on traditional business models? How is the regulation of this area developing?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

A Eurasian Community of Women Leaders: Cooperation in the Name of Change

Whilst the world today is home to a number of new initiatives aimed at improving the position of women, the Eurasian region is especially interesting in this respect: here we are dealing with a complex situation which, on one hand, represents traditional achievements in gender equality that date back to Soviet times, and on the other, problems which women must still face both in their personal and in their professional lives. Meanwhile, Eurasia accounts for a very significant share of global trade turnover, reflecting intensive cooperation between the people, organizations, cities, and countries of the Eurasian region to deliver a substantial contribution to the global economy as a whole; this is confirmed by China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative and many others in progress in the region. The women leaders of the Eurasian region should have the opportunity within this context to establish interaction and cooperation in areas of mutual interest for their countries and organizations; such cooperation will not only exert a favourable influence on the commercial and investment climate, and on trade, but will also allow substantial progress to be achieved in addressing serious social issues. What aspects of the status of women can be considered unique to the Eurasian region? In what areas of business and public administration is the participation of women the most apparent? What should be the features of a Eurasian network of women leaders, and what strategy should this organization pursue?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

A New Philanthropic Ecosystem to Underpin Sustainable Social Development

Today, the philanthropic sector is undergoing a large-scale transformation. While charitable organizations are playing an increasingly important role, social initiatives by organizations at the local level are becoming increasingly crucial in areas where the state does not have the necessary financial or operational resources. The private sector is pioneering new ways of demonstrating its social responsibility, and the role of technology as a tool for increasing the effectiveness of all participants in social initiatives is growing. Another trend is the formation of new approaches, such as social investing and social crowdfunding, among other innovations. What is the modern trajectory for the development of social engagement in Russia and globally? What problems do traditional and new participants in social initiatives face today? What social initiatives are in pressing need of funding? Can Russia develop a culture of social responsibility that meets modern standards? What trends will determine the continued development of socially oriented practices?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

Identifying New Strategies for Education in the Global Market

In the global education market there are countries with distinctive education systems – these include the French and Russian models, which are considered to be some of the most advanced in Europe and continue to set their own standards. Initiatives aimed at the internationalization and globalization of education inevitably raise the question of preserving national traditions. Is it possible to preserve a national educational identity in the modern world and who should champion it? How might public-private partnerships be applied in education and what has been the experience of Russia and France in implementing educational reforms?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

Religion and Finance: New Horizons for Collaboration

The fluid nature of modern economic realities demands a constant search for new sources of capital. One solution could be to boost cooperation at the junction of finance and religion. Representatives of the world's leading faiths have repeatedly spoken about the prospects of such cooperation, and existing interfaith dialogue can be mobilized to identify new areas of interaction. What are some examples of successful collaboration between religion and business? Can religion strengthen trust in business and help identify new sources of capital? What are the long-term prospects and how can these be turned into reality?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

Media Summit

The Future of Journalism

The rapid development of digital technology, social networks, and new media has presented professional journalism with a fresh set of challenges. Some predict that news agencies will be transformed into aggregators of information. Who has the right to consider themselves a journalist in the modern world? Is there a future for traditional journalism amid so much rapid global change? Will there be any demand for the traditional media in ten years, and if so, in what form, and how can news agencies ensure they survive? How might artificial intelligence transform journalism in the area of newsgathering? How can ongoing changes in the media be used to rapidly disseminate reliable information? What are the threats associated with these changes and how can modern journalism rise to these challenges in the foreseeable future?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

The Role of Business in Global Development: When Charity Pays Off

It has become the norm for large corporations active in or entering international markets to engage in social and charitable projects in their host countries. This allows companies not only to demonstrate their corporate social responsibility and improve their image abroad, but also to make a real contribution to society and address inequality. Most recently, Russian corporations have been actively expanding this aspect of their business. By creating workplaces abroad, Russian businesses contribute to social programmes and to improving the livelihoods of people in their host countries. Moving beyond symbolic gestures, corporations are making significant contributions to the implementation of socially-oriented programmes aimed at, among other things, improving quality of life, providing humanitarian and medical aid, and combating epidemics. Such work is being undertaken in a large number of countries, including in the CIS, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. What are the value and benefits of this activity? Can large corporations enter into partnerships with non-governmental organizations to contribute to the long-term sustainable development of society? Should the state be supportive of this? How are innovations impacting the social and humanitarian activities of corporations? What is the platform for interaction between corporations and Russian and international NGOs?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

Global Food Security: Who Will Feed the Planet's Growing Population?

In partnership with URALCHEM

Rapid population growth remains one of the key issues on the global economic agenda. According to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs under the UN Secretariat, the world's population will reach 8.5 billion by 2030. This in turn will lead to growing demand for food products, which producers will need to satisfy in the face of climate change, dwindling natural resources, and the large-scale spread of infectious plant diseases. These challenges can also provide an impetus for the development of new technologies in farming, improving soil fertility, and bringing food production to a new level, where food is safe and nutritious. What are the factors that will determine the planet's food security over the coming years? Are the key players in the agricultural market ready to face fundamental technological and investment challenges? What could help to meet the growing demand?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

Moving from the Knowledge Economy to the Trust Economy

The 'trust economy' is a dialogue on how to resolve contradictions which are reducing the world's potential for growth: from social inequality to resurgent protectionism. It is also a search for answers to common challenges: technological, demographic, energy-related, and others. Whether Russia will be able to unleash its economic potential depends on what conditions the government can create for effective and innovative business, and which industries and technologies it focuses on right now. Trust plays a crucial role. Without it, there can be no investment, transaction costs increase, and this can impede economic growth. It can truly be considered a fundamental economic category. How does a feeling of trust arise? On what is the degree and prevalence of trust in society dependent? How is trust connected with other aspects of societal development: economic prosperity, civil development, and culture? Finally, what are the consequences of high and low levels of trust in the economy and public life?

The Global Economy in an Era of Change

Smart Environments: A New Level of Urban Development

Today, the service sector accounts for 70% of global GDP and urban infrastructure plays an increasingly important role in securing its success. Hectic city life demands constant improvement of the comfort level provided by the urban environment. Meanwhile, investment in pedestrian routes, recreation zones, the development of street-based retail and the entertainment industry, transportation links, and the modernization of public infrastructure is creating new jobs and an increase in tourist activity, leading to accelerated economic growth and improved living standards. The modernization of the urban environment has also progressed to a new level, focusing not on improvements per se, but on the creation of an entirely new quality of life. The launch and implementation of the Russian Smart Cities project for the 2018–2019 period will allow diverse approaches and technologies to be tested, with the aim of rolling out the most effective solutions across the nation. What role will the government, business, and citizens play in shaping this environment? What know-how has emerged in Russia, and what opportunities are available for foreign investment? How can any populated area be transformed into a convenient, lively, active, and economically independent space? How does a city become a pilot city for the Smart Cities project? Can we make cities 'smart' across the nation or will only a limited number of cities succeed? How could Russia become a trendsetter in the development of urban technologies?

Harnessing Russia's Growth Potential

Putting Russian Economy on a Sustained Path of Growth: Challenges and Solutions

Macroeconomic stability, resulting from a fairly strict monetary and budgetary policy, has secured the foundations for a qualitatively new, high-performing economy. What structural transformations are required to boost economic growth rates? Where can the resources be found to speed up this process? Which budgetary policies will secure trust in macroeconomic institutions, while providing the conditions necessary for accelerated growth? What might act as the next driver of economic growth?

Harnessing Russia's Growth Potential

Transformations of the Competitive Landscape: Antimonopoly Regulation in a Digital Economy

The digital economy is presenting new challenges to antitrust authorities across the globe. Most of the world's competition authorities are now faced with the need to re-evaluate their approach to the markets of the new economy as digital giants aggregate enormous pools of data. How can the market situation be assessed, what approaches and mechanisms can be used in this dynamic environment, and most importantly, how is competition itself being transformed? How is industry reacting to the new trends, and how can a new equilibrium be achieved between innovation in industry and antitrust control?

Harnessing Russia's Growth Potential

The Export Potential of Russia's Creative Industries

The creative sector is establishing new niches in areas where various technologies intersect, expanding the export potential for the economy. Creative industries represent a source of growth for exports beyond raw materials, and can help Russia to establish its cultural output abroad, while putting forward a positive image for the wider world. The sector also makes a substantial contribution to the country's investment attractiveness, and provides an opportunity to change the structure of exports in favour of high-tech products and creative and digital services. At the same time, it offers great potential for the application of Russian human capital in the global context, and to act as a driver of Russian "soft power". What strategies can be undertaken to expand Russia's role in the global business community by increasing market share in the creative economy? Which creative industries have the greatest potential for export today, and which have the potential in the future?

Harnessing Russia's Growth Potential

Smart Investments for Smart Infrastructure

Currently a range of measures are being carried out to develop the Russian infrastructure market. In the near future, new financial support mechanisms for public-private partnership (PPP) projects will be introduced. The practice of preparing an "infrastructure map" will be introduced, and a registry of planned and ongoing projects will be developed. It is anticipated that substantial legislative measures will be implemented in the area of PPP, and a mandatory financial audit procedure for infrastructure projects with state participation, a so called a "PPP filter", will be instituted. With the implementation of the project pipeline a clear long-term strategy for infrastructure development will emerge, and potential investors will be provided clear and transparent "rules of the game". What are the global trends in the infrastructure and PPP markets? How could Russia benefit from foreign best practices when implementing its national infrastructure plans? What additional measures can be applied to attract foreign investment in Russia's infrastructure?

Harnessing Russia's Growth Potential

Circular Economy: The Russian Model and Foreign Experience

Today, most developed countries are striving to pursue development along a sustainable, 'green' path and encourage circular economic models. What are the prospects for introducing a circular economy in Russia? What are some of the successful international best practices that could be applied in Russia, and what are some examples of projects that have already been implemented? Which companies should spearhead the transition to a circular economy? When might it be possible to legally require that citizens separate their waste? Which recycling industries are the most efficient today?

Harnessing Russia's Growth Potential

Presentation of the Results of the Russian Regional Investment Climate Index

In partnership with the Agency for Strategic Initiatives

Since 2014, St. Petersburg International Economic Forum has been the traditional platform for presenting the Russian Regional Investment Climate Index. Since it was first established, the Index has proven its effectiveness as a tool for assessing efforts by the authorities at all levels to improve the conditions for doing business in Russia's regions. The results stimulate competition for investment at the regional level. Which regions have demonstrated progress in the Index? What are the key reasons some regions have maintained their high position in the Index for the past four years? How is the business community participating in the work of the regional project teams?

Harnessing Russia's Growth Potential

Regulating the Technological Singularity: How Can We Open Doors to New?

Regulation is one of the key aspects that allows high-tech industries and markets to develop during the transition to a new technological order. What measures are needed to make the Russian Federation a favourable jurisdiction for developing, testing, and exporting breakthrough technologies and innovative solutions? How can an environment accelerating digital transformation processes and promoting scientific and technological development, as well as the development of new business models, be nurtured? How can a balance be reached between interests of the regulator, the need to comply with safety standards, and the interests of high-tech business? What are the prospects for developing regulatory "sandboxes" and "pilot zones" to identify scenarios for the application of the most promising products and services that were developed under the National Technology Initiative?

Harnessing Russia's Growth Potential

New Leaders in the Technology Sector: Entering the Global Market

Today a number of Russian technology companies are creating high-quality, world-leading products. Nevertheless, when scaling up their businesses and improving efficiency, domestic high-tech leaders have encountered obstacles to reaching global audiences regardless of their ambition. Could Russian export initiatives help overcome this challenge? What kind of support is needed to have a tangible and significant effect? Which global markets should be the priority targets and which countries can offer useful experience in this respect?

Harnessing Russia's Growth Potential

Increasing Russian Life Expectancy by 2030

In partnership with Abbott Laboratories

Making a breakthrough in life expectancy by increasing it from today's 73 to 78 by 2024 is a top priority for the Russian healthcare system. This challenge will require a huge concentration of effort by the whole of society: the state, business, and citizens themselves. An innovative development scenario for public health services should replace the current inert one. This means ensuring conditions in which healthcare professionals can practise creativity by choosing priorities, developing an effective programme with target indicators, making accurate and quick decisions, and establishing personal responsibility for the outcome. In order to achieve the goal of '78', the country must take immediate action. Should men and children be the priority focus of healthcare for the Russian population? What funding is required to reach 78 by 2024? Which strategic objectives should additional funding solve? How can the burden of responsibility for the population's health be distributed between the state, employers, and citizens? What immediate solutions should be adopted in the healthcare system to meet the challenges of the time? How should doctors be trained to improve the level of trust between doctors and patients? Who should be appointed to manage healthcare in order to ensure significant improvements for the industry?

Harnessing Russia's Growth Potential

The New Energy Agenda and Russia's Global Leadership

The tightening competitive landscape for capital, technology, and market access in the global energy sector demands that energy companies undertake additional efforts to remain competitive and attractive to international investors. Developing and introducing new technologies is not about following fashion; it is a fundamental requirement. Competition between different forms of fuel, power engineering, distributed generation, the EOR method, and digitalization are complex processes that will determine the energy agenda of the future. The key challenge facing Russia in the energy sector is creating the right conditions to implement the full technological cycle, from the development of technology to its implementation and commercialization. How can Russia take the leading position in a race in which non-economic competition plays an increasingly important role? How can Russia retain its technological independence and ensure accelerated development?

Harnessing Russia's Growth Potential

From Industry 4.0 to Industry X.0: How Russian Enterprises Can Grow a Business or Disrupt the Market with Smart Assets, Products, and Services

In partnership with Accenture

With the rise of new technologies, industry value chains are being disrupted and companies are rushing to innovate and make big investments in cutting-edge projects. But the latest research suggests that many companies simply aren't getting the most out of their digital investments; they are neither bringing the promised value back to the shareholder, nor producing an X factor increase in productivity. Industry X.0 focusses on the future of smart plants that produce smart products and companies that sell smart or living services. How do companies succeed in this transformation? What is the best way to defend and grow a business or disrupt a market with smart products, services, and assets, taking advantage of new innovative technologies? What approach are heavy industries taking to succeed at the goals of staying ahead in a continually changing environment? What do CEOs and the C suite need to do to transform the business culture within companies and empower their teams to work hand in hand with machine learning and artificial intelligence algorithms? How do you best achieve results and bring value to your business from your Industry X.0 investments?

Harnessing Russia's Growth Potential

Digital Lending: Buy Property without Leaving Home

In partnership with DOM.RF Russia Housing and Urban Development Corporation

In 2017, a record number of mortgage loans were issued, totalling RUB 2 trillion, and over a million families took another step up the housing ladder in Russia. Mortgage rates fell below 10%, and are expected to drop even further to 8% by the end of 2018 and 7% over the next few years. It is anticipated that by 2024, over two million families a year will purchase housing using a mortgage, and mortgage services will become available to over half of Russian families. The current drop in rates means a reduction in bank margins, which calls for improvements in business efficiency. Players who are able to leverage user-friendly service and cutting-edge technologies to increase issuance rates will have the advantage. The example of developed markets shows that it is not so much credit organizations but companies actively making use of innovative technologies, such as proptech and fintech, that are experiencing an increase in market share. The Russian Federation has already adopted the legal framework required to fully issue digital loans. In 2018, we will witness the first electronic mortgage transactions and a new biometric identification system. What will the mortgage service of the future look like for the consumer? Which online services are set to replace the traditional ones in mortgage lending? How might digitalization and standardization of the lending process change the economic model in the mortgage business? Is a fully-fledged model for online mortgage lending without physical offices possible? What are the risks of digital lending, and what measures need to be taken to increase the financial and digital literacy of the population?

Harnessing Russia's Growth Potential

State Support as an Effective Tool for Securing Leadership in Innovation

In partnership with RVC

The development of innovative technologies plays a key role in increasing national competitiveness in the global markets. Sluggish uptake of innovations hinders the emergence of technological production locally and creates barriers to the emergence of the digital economy. The state and its institutions play a decisive role in the process of shaping the innovative economy and securing the position of the economy in the global markets. What are the priority areas of national innovation policy and what instruments of state support for innovation and high-tech production should be employed? How can factors constraining the development of the innovative economy be eliminated? What opportunities for expanded international cooperation might lead to the formation of new technology markets, and how is global competition for technology, talent, and capital shaping demand for state support and funding instruments for innovative initiatives?

Harnessing Russia's Growth Potential

Tourism Cash Flows: Exporting Tourism

In 2017, the number of international tourist arrivals globally increased by 7%, reaching its highest level in seven years, while the size of the global market exceeded USD 1.2 trillion. This illustrates the importance of tourism in increasing non-commodity exports. Inbound tourism to Russia has increased by 123% since 2001, and the potential for growth remains very high. Securing growth in the sector is critical, especially as the country strives to increase the volume of non-commodity exports to USD 100 billion over the coming six years. What infrastructure, organizational, and business solutions are required to make Russia a sought-after tourist destination? How can new tourists be attracted and the number of repeat visits to the country increased? What should Russia do to widen its presence in traditional tourist markets and enter new ones?

Harnessing Russia's Growth Potential

Achieving Strategic Objectives

The Russian President has set ambitious development goals for the country over the coming six years, and delivering on these goals requires a qualitatively new system of public administration. What qualitative transformations must public administration undertake to achieve these goals? Worldwide, public administration systems are undergoing digital transformation. What are the key success factors in other countries when adapting their public administration systems to the digital economy? What is the best way to direct administrative and financial resources to projects to ensure their successful implementation? How can public administration systems be best adapted to the realities of the digital economy? And could advanced HR practices be implemented for all of Russia's civil servants, moving from the excellence of 'Russia's leaders' to a new quality across the entire workforce?

Harnessing Russia's Growth Potential

The Russian IPO Market 2017–2018

After three years of stagnation, 2017 was marked by the return of Russian issuers to the international capital markets. Over the past year, Russian companies have brought in over USD 2 billion in initial public offerings. Everything suggests that the figures for 2018 will significantly exceed those for 2017, especially in view of the growing interest from foreign investors in high-quality assets belonging to Russian companies. Meanwhile, Russia still faces a range of issues on international capital markets: sanctions and mounting geopolitical tensions are posing certain challenges for Russian companies seeking to raise funds. What changes should Russian companies expect on the capital markets in the coming year?

Harnessing Russia's Growth Potential

How Russia Can Harness Human Capital for Its Competitive Advantage

Russia is achieving outstanding results in a number of traditional and new sectors of the economy. Russian programmers are held in high esteem by the global professional community. In the past 15 years, six Russians and Russian-born individuals have been awarded the Fields Medal, the most prestigious award in mathematics, sharing first place with the US and France. Over this period, five Russian or Russian-born scientists have been awarded Nobel Prizes in Physics. Russian animation is rapidly making new headway in international markets. Human capital – the talent, skills, and abilities of the professionals working in these fields – forms the basis of these achievements. Today the development of Russian human capital requires systemic support, ensuring that novices and professionals not only excel in their fields, but also achieve global recognition. How might the collective expertise of Russian professionals be expanded to new fields? How can young professionals be enticed to join high-tech industries and support them? How can the market value of Russian professionals be increased and how can professionals be offered greater access to global projects, leading to the introduction of global practices in Russia? Which new sectors of the digital economy could prove fertile ground for Russia's leadership?

Harnessing Russia's Growth Potential

Making Environmental Preservation an Economic Asset

In partnership with Russian Copper Company

Environmental issues and compliance with environmental legislation are acquiring increasing importance. The illegal emission of pollutants and challenging environmental position of several of the country's industrial centres have led citizens to increasingly express their discontent with the measures taken by supervisory bodies and have sparked new initiatives to introduce independent public environmental supervision and assessments of existing and proposed facilities. A certain level of ambiguity about the procedure, powers, and liabilities of environmental supervision remains, which could lead to the abuse of powers or, in certain cases, widespread public misinformation. Furthermore, the development of certain industries and the ability of companies to enter highly competitive international markets have in some cases been impeded. This could also serve as a means to maintain the development of domestic industry in key sectors, develop new infrastructure, and maintain Russia's energy independence. Does current Russian legislation support the notion of public environmental expertise? What are the official status, rights, and powers of civil eco-activists in Russia and abroad? How is the dialogue between government, business, and the environmental community being conducted today, and what is impeding finding the balance between diverging interests? How are other countries dealing with this challenge? What is the responsibility of environmental activists? Could a federal law on public environmental expertise improve the status of civil eco-activists and ensure impartial public control over the state of the environment?

Harnessing Russia's Growth Potential

Trends in Export Promotion Approaches

Rise of share in non-commodity and non-energy exports is vital for Russia's economic growth. Effective promotion of Russian goods and services abroad requires complex assessment and elimination of existing impediments. The creation of a new support mechanism for Russian exporters through the establishment of bilateral contacts and expanding into new markets, must go hand in hand with developing a positive image of Russian goods abroad. What are some of the support mechanism offered by the government to the Russian exporters? What are the associations that goods made in Russia evoke among customers in foreign markets? What are the prospects for a unified state support mechanism for Russian manufacturers?

Harnessing Russia's Growth Potential

Public Healthcare: A Responsibility of the State or Society?

Why should the development of palliative care in the Russian Federation be a priority for the country? How can the long-term care for senior citizens and disabled people be organized effectively? Comprehensive care for terminally ill patients and their families is one of the key criteria of a high quality of life and a fundamental requirement for the prosperity of both a given region and the country as a whole. However, under 15% of those in need of this kind of care actually receives it in Russia. A strong palliative care system doesn't just mean preserving the life of 1.5 million patients, but also provides a clear economic advantage for the country and a reason for civil society to stand with the government. Who can have an impact on quality of life for this category of citizens? How do we coordinate the actions of the state and society to properly develop a social medical care system? According to the 2017 directives of the Russian President to broaden the notion of 'palliative medical care' and design a set of measures to create the target model of a long-term care system, the state and the public must come together and collectively design a viable model for providing health and social care to these categories of citizens. This issue could become a concern for every family. Help in need is never forgotten!

Human Capital in the Digital Economy

Transformation of the International Labour Market: Meeting the Challenges

Global supply and demand for talent continues to be out of balance. In many markets, blue collar, manufacturing, and middle management jobs are being rapidly displaced, while in other sectors businesses are struggling to fill IT engineering, digital management, and other highly skilled technology-based positions. What is underlying the skills gap in global markets and what steps can be taken to align talent with emerging employment opportunities? What should businesses and governments do to support workers transitioning from employment that is becoming obsolete, and which companies and economies have established effective programmes for retraining workers? Are governments adequately prepared to respond to such rapid and fundamental changes in labour markets?

Human Capital in the Digital Economy

The Digital Economy vs Education: Changing the Paradigm

In partnership with Russian Textbook Corporation

What kind of education is needed to thrive in a digital-centred economy? What new continuing education opportunities does the digital economy support? How will the established formats, methods, and content of secondary and professional education and continuous learning be transformed in the digital age?

Human Capital in the Digital Economy

The Role of Creative Spaces in Today's Business Environment

A city's competitiveness is directly related to its ability to attract skilled labour and create entrepreneurial activity, which means that new spaces for working and living have to be set up. As traditional industry declines, the development of creative industries that integrate the interests of the scientific community, the city's administration, and the business community can work to spur culture, talent, and knowledge, underpinning an effective means of achieving economic growth in cities. Where in Russia are creative industries likely to develop first? What mechanisms, formats, and sources of funding are available to implement projects aimed at developing the creative industries? How can public-private partnership models be applied and can cooperation between city governments, business communities, and the creative class become a catalyst for the development of the creative industries?

Human Capital in the Digital Economy

New Urban Environments as a Catalyst for Investment

The dizzying pace at which private and public sector entities are mastering technical innovations and implementing new IT platforms means that there is a possibility that we will see a fundamental transformation of both work and society. However, the planned level of efficiency and innovation will be unattainable if the level of education and qualifications of tomorrow's workers are insufficient to ensure such rapid progress. It is expected that by 2025 there will be a deficit of more than 10 million qualified, highly skilled professionals in Russia. The need to address the imbalances in the labour market is becoming pressing. What steps should be taken in education and training to better prepare students for work amid continuous and rapid technical changes? What kinds of skills will workers need in the future? What can educational institutions do to adapt their programmes to the new requirements?

Human Capital in the Digital Economy

Media in the Artificial Intelligence Era: A Survival Guide

Today human intellect is supported by an ever-increasing number of digital resources where artificial intelligence is redefining the possible and changing the world. The media and entertainment stand at the very epicentre of this digital revolution, being both its driving force and the industry most susceptible to technological change. Are we ready for the new VUCA world and media landscape? Artificial intelligence is already closing in on its human counterpart: it has won at chess, Jeopardy!, and the Chinese board game Go, and in January 2018 it beat humans in a reading comprehension test. Speech-to-text programmes and text-writing programmes make it possible to automate many of the functions of a journalist – a creative profession until now. Bloomberg has replaced some of its news staff with an artificial intelligence program that writes stock news faster and with more flair than humans. Owing to their dynamism, honesty, and sincerity, increasingly popular amateur news sites and blogs are now starting to compete with leading television, radio, and print media journalists. Is the end in sight for professional journalism or will machine learning lead to a shift towards editorial journalism reflecting the author's original views and approaches? Which key trends will affect the structure of media consumption? How have TV habits changed and how will new technologies shape their future? What is the future for media in the era of virtual reality? What should market giants be investing in: quality content or quick popularity? Who will create elite content in the digital economy?

Human Capital in the Digital Economy

Business, Science, and Practice: Securing Next Generation Healthcare

Cutting-edge technologies are crucial for achieving breakthroughs in the quality of healthcare and this complex endeavour will take up the coming 10–15 years. It requires choosing the right concept, competent researchers, modern laboratories, sustainable financing, and close cooperation with medical centres and patients. University teaching hospitals serve as the source of progressive ideas for the pharmaceutical industry and manufacturers of high-tech medical equipment. Implementing new ideas requires investment by both the public and private sectors and Russia has vast experience of collaborating with socially-oriented businesses to support science. Such collaboration is already advancing cancer treatment for children, the most vulnerable category of patients. It is vital that the results of the research belong to the public and thus are available to patients. Can financing R&D through non-profit funds ensure that new technologies are accessible to patients? How can we guarantee that new, expensive technologies become affordable to the majority of patients? What obstacles are medical scientists facing today? How are other countries promoting the development and introduction of innovative technologies? What is the role of the state in supporting innovative research and is investing in Russian R&D a charitable act or viable business for non-medical companies?

Foresight Series

The Future of the Mind. Michio Kaku

Foresight Series

Technological Entrepreneurship in Russia. Oleg Tinkov

Foresight Series

From Ambition to Vision. Sadhguru

Technology for Leadership

Sberbank Plenary Session

Transitional World: What Will Tomorrow Bring?

Industrial revolutions have always been based on individual technologies: steam engine, electricity, transistor, the Internet. But in the past years we have witnessed an essentially new paradigm, both daunting and mesmerizing: an exponential rise of technologies across all the industries. Economic modalities shift, human relations evolve, the boundary between the real and the virtual disappears. This is an inflection point that obviously will not last forever. We live in a transitional world. We are moving towards a reality where AI will take up the routine jobs, renewables will replace oil, biotech will resolve the shortage of drugs. Keeping up with the pace of change is difficult. Since 2000, the disruption of conventional business models caused the extinction of a half of the Fortune 500 companies. In the transitional world, the trailing countries are quickly turning into donors of capital for disruptive industries of the leaders. How can states, companies and people not lose themselves on the digital map of the world? How can they adapt to the new realities?

Technology for Leadership

Breakthrough Technologies: Who Gets Invited to the Future

In partnership with the Bank for Development and Foreign Economic Affairs
(Vnesheconombank)

The world is on the verge of a technological revolution in which, over the next decade, breakthrough technologies will realign the economic landscape and forces. Growth potential based on traditional sectors has reached its limits and a new economic era has begun. In 2018, quantum supremacy has been achieved, artificial intelligence is surpassing human abilities, robotic neural interfaces are coming to medicine, and blockchain is altering state governance. New realities demand that Russia make a leap into the future to avoid remaining on the margins of the new economy. What will be the landscape of the new global economy? Which should be Russia's priorities in delivering its strategy of breakthrough development and global leadership? How can the art of creating 'unicorns' be mastered?

Technology for Leadership

Artificial Intelligence Enters the Real Economy

Big data, automation, artificial intelligence, and in-depth analytics – these terms used to be the prerogative of science fiction but have now become the central elements of predictions about the future economy. It is forecast that the technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution will add up to USD 3.7 trillion to the global economy, bringing new products and services to the market, and also helping to protect the environment. How can the real sector benefit from innovative transformations? What initial successes have already been achieved? What are the main barriers to a breakthrough? What competencies need to be developed, and how can a decision be made to introduce breakthrough organizational and technological models? Which companies are demonstrating notable productivity gains by integrating big data and AI into manufacturing systems?

Technology for Leadership

Addressing New Dilemmas in Gene Therapy

Cell manufacturing and genetic therapy are plagued by high costs and a lack of economies of scale. To achieve the next generation of applications, genetic entrepreneurs are pioneering cellular manufacturing systems that allow the scaling up and scaling out of gene therapy approaches. How might new methodologies in cell manufacturing allow for rapid commercial production of genetic solutions? How might compressing the current long, expensive path from test tube to market in cell manufacturing unleash next-generation solutions? Are the current regulatory mechanisms adequate for dealing with the medical and ethical dilemmas we will face as gene therapy evolves? How widely can these new approaches be used beneficially, and what are the risks and limitations associated with them?

Technology for Leadership

Are Virtual Service Providers Engines of Growth or Destruction?

In partnership with Tele2

The telecoms industry, which for a long time was one of the most profitable sectors of the Russian economy, is stagnating. Given that the mobile economy makes up only 3.8% of Russia's GDP (according to the RAEC), market participants are looking for new sources of growth. Currently, many believe that the creation of mobile virtual network operators (MVNO) represents a promising direction of development. They are radically changing the format of relations between customers and companies from a wide range of areas of the economy. Smartphones have allowed consumers to access an entire spectrum of services. These devices are supported by traditional operators. By launching MVNOs, market players can offer their clients unique services directly through the telecoms company's infrastructure and eliminate the intermediary operator. This has given sceptics a reason to assert that an MVNO boom will lead to an imbalance of forces in the market, losses for traditional cellular operators, and a negative impact on the Russian economy. Opponents cite the experience of European countries: MVNOs, which take up to 40% of the market there, promote competition and improve service in various areas of the digital economy. In Russia, where the share of MVNOs is only 2.6%, the mass launch of virtual network operators could transform not only telecoms, but also other sectors of the economy, including banking, industry, the public sector, transport, retail, and other areas. Customers will receive convergent services, and the economy will receive the resources it needs to rejuvenate. Who is right?

Technology for Leadership

The Digital Future of Finance: Leaders of Tomorrow

In partnership with Tinkoff Bank

The speed of change in the digital world is setting new conditions for competition. The stability of large corporations was once considered their strength, while startups were distinguished by their agility. All of this has changed and major players in financial and technological markets are now competing in flexibility with startups. For corporations to maintain their reliability, they must transform their businesses into ecosystems. Competition for consumers is no longer about offering a better service; it is about values and approaches – which leads banking institutions to expand beyond financial transactions. The build-out of competing ecosystems includes customers, employees, media coverage, and market position. How can banks ensure that they are as nimble as FinTech startups and tech companies? What should the company of the future look like? How can a company remain an attractive employer and instil an atmosphere of creativity and innovation in the financial sector, which by definition is highly regulated and restricted? What new opportunities in decision-making and forecasting are offered by big data analytics? How can the best approaches to attracting customers be set up and maintained? Which technologies will determine the future of financial organizations on the five-to-ten-year horizon and how accurate are such predictions in our fast-changing world?

Technology for Leadership

A Recent History of Blockchain and the Impact on Government and Business

Blockchain development has caused a sensation in Russia and the world. It has so far been no more than a 'pilot' technology, but its implementation in business processes and public administration could potentially radically change how these processes work and increase efficiency. The current lack of established practices and a full understanding of which areas could really benefit from the use of blockchain are slowing down this process. How can we best differentiate where application of blockchain technology is simply paying deference to a fad, and where it is a vital necessity? What measures can the state use to streamline the use of the technology? Where and how are successful projects being implemented in business and public administration, and how can they be scaled?

Technology for Leadership

Cybersport: Global Trends in Sport and Business

The eSports industry has become a big business, and it continues to gain momentum. Annual audience growth stands at 25%, and investing in eSports appears to be both promising and, despite the novelty of this field, profitable. In Russia, the growth of the computer game sports market is outpacing even the most optimistic forecasts. The audience size for these competitions is approaching the number of viewers for hockey and basketball. In 2016, eSports was included in the All-Russian Register of Sports, and was awarded the right to be called an official sport. How is this industry organized, and what has caused it to grow so rapidly? How is the eSports market becoming an attractive area for investment? Is it possible to build a commercially successful eSports league in the Russian market?

Technology for Leadership

Challenges and Opportunities in Delivering Digital Infrastructure

In partnership with Rostelecom

Digitalization acts as the main driver behind economic growth and improving the quality of life of the population. At the same time, real changes in the effectiveness and competitiveness of Russian economic sectors are impossible without access to high-quality digital infrastructure. Creating a reliable supporting digital infrastructure provides a key competitive advantage for the cities and national economies of the future. Today, Russian citizens and organizations pay some of the smallest fees in the world to access the Internet. The market for data storage and processing is developing at a rapid pace. At the same time, the issue of ensuring the technological stability and security of the developing digital infrastructure is pressing. The ambitious agenda includes not only stimulating growth using digital infrastructure, but also ensuring its independence, stability, and security, which cannot but create additional economic pressure on the industry. What regulatory changes and commercial approaches are needed to overcome this challenge? What measures should be taken to stimulate the development of all levels of modern digital infrastructure? How can the technological independence and security of the infrastructure of the digital economy be ensured? How can the competitiveness of the country in the world data storage and processing market be developed? What regulatory incentives should be created to increase the economic attractiveness of investing in digital infrastructure over the long term?

Technology for Leadership

Exporting Trust: Building Safe Global Digital Infrastructure

The technological future of the world depends on building robust digital infrastructure. Within a few years, all elements of the global critical infrastructure will have become digital. Nevertheless, without security guarantees, digital construction becomes a dangerous gamble. The threats go beyond losing data from a personal computer or money from a bank account. Risks involving digital infrastructure stretch as far as attacks disabling power grids, communications networks, transportation systems, or entire urban systems. Digital space has become a further dimension of real space, just like the Earth's surface or the air, with its own infrastructure – digital bridges and roads analogous to the ones we set foot on. It also contains valuable deposits in the form of data and people are already 'mining' digital currencies at rapid rates. The digital space of the future is attracting the interest of governments, not only because of the riches it contains, but also as a potential new battlefield. Concepts such as 'digital sovereignty' – the right of a government to control its own digital space and ensure its security – are emerging. Is it possible to create 'zones of trust' in the digital space? What challenges lie ahead on the path to creating a secure global critical infrastructure? What can Russia offer? What partnerships are possible in this realm?

Technology for Leadership

Breakthrough Technologies in Medicine: Evolution, Revolution, Organization

Breakthrough innovative technologies offer solutions that are simpler, more convenient, and cheaper. They disrupt the market and displace older players. Today, there are two key trends in healthcare: the first is the evolution of existing and very expensive technologies, often requiring highly qualified specialists to implement them. The second is a revolution of breakthrough innovations based on new physical principles and solutions. For example, simpler reconstructive heart vessel surgery can replace a dangerous and prolonged bypass operation. The use of portable devices for self-monitoring of blood sugar reduces the need for visits to the endocrinologist. And digital technology will give patients the opportunity to manage their health. The creation of an optimal balance between expensive and breakthrough technologies allows for the accelerated development of the industry, and this task is the responsibility of the organizers of the public health system. What breakthrough technologies are already having an impact on healthcare today? What breakthrough healthcare technologies will businesses be able to offer tomorrow? What system should the state use to support scientific research? What are the barriers to the introduction of breakthrough technologies, and how can they be overcome? How will artificial intelligence change the roles of the doctor, nurse, and patient? How can an effective relationship between business, regulators, and consumers be established?

Technology for Leadership

The Eco-System of Innovative and Creative Entrepreneurship: From Education to Successful Startups

Nowadays creative ideas and innovative solutions are not just an important part of development – they lie at the heart of all global economic, social, and cultural processes. Best practices demonstrate that breakthroughs in innovative and creative industries are facilitated by the establishment of modern entrepreneurial eco-systems. Such eco-systems provide platforms that allow constant assessment of the state of play, introduction of new educational methods, widening of the professional potential of innovators, provision of direct and indirect support to startups, and promotion of projects at the national and international levels. Such eco-systems are a result of collaboration between multiple players – state authorities, universities and business accelerators, non-profit organizations, research centres, and major corporations.

Technology for Leadership

Life Sciences in 2030: A New Era for Biotechnology

Over the last five years, the world of biotechnology has witnessed a number of scientific breakthroughs in genetics and cell technologies, genome editing, targeted delivery of drugs and biopesticides, and 3D bioprinting of tissues and organs. The role of microbiota in human metabolism and life span has drawn much of the attention and innovations in biomedicine are at the forefront of the paradigm shift from treating disease to personalized health preservation. The global pharmaceutical and agricultural industries are moving towards increased investment in the development of innovative science-driven technologies, most of which are aimed at creating biotechnological products and methods. The growth in numbers of biotech patents is reaching 25–30% annually, and the global biotech market is forecast to grow by 160% between 2017 and 2030, ensuring that the investment attractiveness of biotechnology almost equals that of the IT sector. Meanwhile, recent biotech advances are provoking debates about IP protection, the need for investment, and regulatory and ethical aspects. How can the constant flow of new ideas and products be maintained? What is the future for intellectual property in healthcare and biotechnology? What new financial instruments are required to ensure sustainable growth in the field of research and development in Russia? How can a balance be maintained between the growing expenditure on R&D and the government's optimization of its spending on healthcare and agriculture? What elements of state policy will play the biggest role in developing domestic R&D? What instruments should Russia use to stay competitive in the international biotech R&D market?

Technology for Leadership

Math in the Digital Age

Since ancient times, math has been considered the universal language of science – forming foundations of evolution in human intellect. Math has also always had practical applications, many of which have served as catalysts of economic growth, often leading to revolutionary changes. Fast-paced technological development and transition to the “digital economy” are both placing math in higher demand and also putting higher demands towards it. This session will examine the future of technological development through the eyes of the world's leading mathematicians, including Fields Medal winners, and the direct beneficiaries of their work.

Technology for Leadership

Infrastructure of the Future: How should Business and the Authorities Adapt to the New Environment?

In partnership with KPMG

2030. Two thirds of the planet population live in big cities where sensors control street lighting and safety in residential districts, transport is charged with drones in motion, and a human being on the way to work in a driverless car gets a doctor's consultation while looking through a message warning that the turbine cooling system at the plant he is in charge of will soon go out of order. The automatic data exchange and the development of new algorithms for their analysis, communication among people and things, autonomous intellectual management systems and industrial interaction schemes are key processes supporting the new digital infrastructure. What information networks and cybersecurity level will be required to manage such a system? How will the business model of energy companies change? Will the B2C insurance system disappear? What policy should governments pursue to regulate and maintain the smart infrastructure? What should instruments of financing such infrastructure be like? What new businesses will appear in the new landscape?

Technology for Leadership

Forecast-2100: Technologies of the Future?

Progress in the modern world is unthinkable without the development of science and technology, and without the implementation of technological innovations. Rapid technological developments in all areas of life are posing new challenges for humanity. Revolutionary developments in medicine, computing, energy, quantum physics, and space travel are changing our lives and altering the course of our civilization. How will our lives be different in 80 years, and what will the world look like in 2100? If our minds take charge of computers, what will happen to art, and how will we connect to the global information pool? Artificial organs, flying cars, incredible life expectancy and prolonged youth – all of these are forecasts stemming from the world of science.

Technology for Leadership

Betting on E-Commerce: The Winner Takes it All

Every day we are witnesses to how the implementation of information technology is changing consumer preferences, which in turn is giving rise to a rapid growth in Internet commerce throughout the world. Statistics indicate that Russia is lagging behind in the development and penetration of this e-commerce. Russian e-commerce growth (with the exclusion of Moscow and St. Petersburg) is being held up by inadequate development of logistical and information infrastructure, specifics of consumer behaviour, and high barriers to market entry. At the same time, present market conditions, market capacity, and deferred consumer demand have created global potential for e-commerce growth in Russia which experts estimate at up to RUB 7 trillion. Who is the current favourite in the battle for the Russian e-commerce market? What solutions and services has the consumer come to expect? Are there factors hindering the development of a digital trade ecosystem in Russia? What is the role of the government in this process?

Business Dialogue

Russia–Africa

Russia has reinforced its commitment to strategic cooperation with the African continent, and trade and economic relations are on the rise between the two regions, with Africa becoming an increasingly attractive and comfortable place to do business.

Forty-four countries on the continent have recently signed a historic agreement to establish the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The signatories include major economies such as Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Algeria, Morocco, and others. Should all 55 African countries become members of the AfCFTA, this would lead to the emergence of a single African market with a population of 1.2 billion people and GDP of over USD 2 trillion. According to estimates, removing customs barriers and eliminating other obstacles for business through AfCFTA will increase trade within Africa by at least 1.5 times by 2022.

What is Russia's proposition to its African colleagues in this rapidly changing environment? How can relations, which have historically been based on friendship, support, and mutual understanding, synthesize into a modern business policy and help Russia compete with activist China, growing India, and demanding European partners? What new technologies and instruments can both sides apply to effectively realize the potential and their mutual interests?

Business Dialogue

Russia–India

The current level of cooperation between Russia and India is characterized by growing mutual interest among companies in doing business in each other's markets, particularly in the energy, metallurgy, automotive, aircraft construction, high-technology transfer, and infrastructure development sectors. By the end of 2017, trade and economic cooperation between the countries had substantially increased, and the mutual trade turnover was close to USD 10 billion (up 21.5% from 2016). Inter-regional cooperation is becoming a key factor in strengthening trade and economic ties, and in broadening collaboration in manufacturing. Still, the potential of trade and economic relations has not been exhausted. Elimination of existing restrictions and barriers, development of priority investment projects, strengthening of interregional cooperation, and a number of other initiatives will help achieve the ambitious goal set by the leaders of Russia and India to increase mutual trade threefold to USD 30 billion by 2025. What are the potential areas for deeper industrial and technical cooperation between Russia and India, and what further steps are needed to enable bilateral economic ties to expand, including at the interregional level?

Business Dialogue

Russia–Italy

Russian–Italian economic and trade cooperation is one of the main driving forces in the EU–Russia economic relationship. This is particularly evident in the current strained geopolitical situation and the ongoing restructuring of the global economy. At the same time, the full potential of Russian–Italian cooperation has not yet been realized. A key area for exploration is the transition from trade in goods to joint manufacturing, including for third-country markets. Participants at this roundtable – the leaders of major companies and financial institutions from both countries – will advance the quest for new ways to expand mutually beneficial cooperation.

Business Dialogue

Russia–USA

Despite the complications in bilateral political relations, business goes on and is delivering positive results. How are American and Russian companies overcoming the obstacles they face? What strategies have proven to be most effective, and what does the future entail for bilateral economic cooperation?

Business Dialogue

Russia–Finland

The main principle of the circular economy is ensuring that each process in the life cycle of a product or service is carried out with maximum efficiency, and with minimum waste, industrial emissions, and energy leakage. When the lifetime of useful service has ended, goods are not discarded, but recycled. Companies work together to build ecosystems where waste from one producer becomes raw material for another. The net profit of the European market's circular economy is forecast to be EUR 1,800 billion by 2030. A circular economy offers significant environmental and social benefits. The transition to a circular economy will require significant changes at the societal and state level and will affect the choices made by citizens and by consumers as whole. A national roadmap for the circular economy will set the pace for changes in legislation and interaction between society and business. The circular economy will open up new business opportunities and create new jobs, not only to replace those that were lost during industrial structural changes. Bioeconomics is the economy of the regeneration of natural resources in the production of food, energy, goods, and services. The bioeconomics of Finland is based on the regeneration of the forestry and chemical industries. Digital technologies can be used to replenish and maintain bioresources. New ways of utilizing bioresources at the regional level will promote economic growth and create new jobs. It is expected that new products, materials, and services will appear in the forestry, chemical, and energy industries, and in the area of smart digital solutions. In Finland, a bioeconomics programme is part of the state development strategy for various sectors of the economy. Russia has approved an integrated comprehensive biotechnology development programme for the period until 2020. In Russia, the development of bioeconomics holds the promise of new jobs, investment, and stable economic growth. International cooperation and the sharing of best practices can help to create the right conditions for the sustainable and consistent development of bioeconomics. How can an environment that will facilitate a circular economy in Russia be created? What potential does bioeconomics have for economic relations between Russia and Europe? What opportunities do the circular economy and bioeconomics open up for Russian and Finnish companies?

Business Dialogue

Russia–France

Russia and France have a history of bilateral relations that goes back centuries. How are economic relations between the two countries evolving, and what are the expectations of the 'captains of industry' on both sides? Can restrictions in trade and finance be mutually lifted, or have the parties adapted to the sanctions? Where are the reserves of our economies hidden? How may a historical friendship be transformed into economic growth and the development of an innovative economy? Are there any opportunities for increasing the mutually beneficial transfer of technology? What are the prospects for bilateral cooperation as part of digital transformation and Russian–French cooperation in building the industry of the future and modernizing urban infrastructure? Are Russian and French companies in third-country markets competitors or partners?

Business Dialogue

Russia–Japan

Business Dialogue

Russia – Sweden

Around 400 Swedish companies have representative offices and branches in Russia. Volvo, Scania, Oriflame, ABB, and Tetra Pak are some of the brands that are developing their own production networks, while IKEA is the largest private investor in Russia. The presence of Swedish businesses in Russia continues to expand. At the end of 2017, AstraZeneca, the Russian Ministry of Industry and Trade, and Kaluga Region signed an investment Agreement, providing for AstraZeneca investment of a further RUB 1 billion in upgrading its Russian facility and technology transfer to manufacture drugs to treat diseases that have a high impact on society. Advancing dialogue at the intergovernmental level and removing obstacles to regular contacts is strategically important for the growth of economic links between the two countries. What measures are necessary to support and accelerate the development of collaboration between Russia and Sweden? What more can the national government and regional authorities do to encourage Swedish companies to continue to invest in Russia? How can the digital transformation of business improve efficiency?

Business Breakfast

Nord Stream 2 Business Breakfast

Energy for Europe: A Reliable Partnership

The stress on Europe's gas markets caused by the unexpected cold snaps this past winter has shown that Europe needs substantial and reliable natural gas supplies. Especially with Europe's domestic gas production projected to decline further, it is clear that there is a growing need to make new gas reserves available to Europe. Moreover, natural gas is economically and ecologically indispensable for Europe to meet its climate goals and for the EU to achieve its three key energy objectives of secure, sustainable and affordable energy. Europe's increasing import gap will be filled by a combination of LNG and Russian gas. Russian natural gas reserves are not only big enough to meet a significant share of this import requirement in the coming years, they are ready to be connected to European consumers at a competitive price. Europe and Russia have shared a strong, mutually beneficial energy relationship and partnership for more than 40 years, making Russia a reliable partner in securing Europe's energy supply. We would like to discuss these and other questions with you at our Business Breakfast: What is the strategic advantage of Russian gas for Europe? What will the economically and ecologically feasible future energy mix for Europe be? How will Russian gas and LNG compete to ensure European security of supply? Why does Europe need additional pipeline capacities to transport gas from Russia's vast gas fields? How does Nord Stream 2 fit into the EU's energy strategy?

Business Breakfast

Sberbank Business Breakfast

The New Economic Povestka* (NEP): the What, the How, the Who

Over the past several years, Russia has built a solid macroeconomic foundation. Inflation and unemployment are at record lows, there is fiscal surplus, international reserves are growing. Yet, experts only estimate the potential for growth between 1.5% and 2% annually. What do these figures mean? Trailing behind, a growing gap versus developed countries. So, acceleration of the economy will be at the top of the new government's povestka. And a sharp acceleration can only be achieved by digitization and introduction of modern technologies. The government will have to accomplish a technological transformation. To preserve the confidence of people and businesses. And most importantly, to build an effective and efficient system of public management without which such a transformation is impossible. What set of reforms could accelerate the economic growth to 3-4% annually? How can we build a modern system of public management? Who will implement the new economic povestka?

* Povestka means "agenda" in Russian. The abbreviation NEP was originally used in the Soviet Russia in 1922-1928 for the New Economic Policy.

Business Breakfast

Providing Medications to the Russian Population

For the coming years increased availability of high-quality medications, especially in outpatient settings, is a priority for the development of healthcare in the Russian Federation. This would alleviate complications from illnesses and decrease the use of more expensive types of medical assistance, as well as ease the financial burden on families. While only a limited number of individuals have a formal access to medications in outpatient settings in Russia today, this expenditure (both budgetary and individual) represents 17% of the total spending on medications. In the EU countries this figure is three-fold, larger with state financing at least 50%. Addressing this issue will help patients and provide

a powerful, targeted stimulus for the development of the pharmaceutical industry and science in Russia. How important is it to increase the volume of free medicines provided in outpatient settings, and what share of the cost should be borne by individuals? Should the structure of the pharmaceutical consumption in Russia undergo changes? Which medicines are vital to ensure that the quality of care in Russia meets international standards? What legal barriers must be overcome to increase the efficiency of state procurement of medicines – from the perspective of manufacturers, distributors and consumers (state and medical organizations)? Can players in the pharmaceutical market propose breakthrough solutions for providing medications to the Russian population?

Business Breakfast

Digital Transformation of Business: International Experience and Russian Practice

Today, digitalization in business, government, and society allows countries to expand their presence and compete in the global market, thereby improving the quality and standard of living of their people. The Russian Association for Electronic Communications estimates that the digital economy makes up 2.42% of Russia's 2017 GDP. The influence of Internet markets on the economy is growing by 11% annually, and there is a successful track record of digital transformation in a number of areas. Digitalization is no longer an abstract concept but a reality, and the Russian IT industry plays a major role. This working breakfast will discuss international experience, best practices in Russia, and the role of state support for digital transformation in areas that are closely integrated with modern society. What is the role of the IT industry in the digital transformation of the Russian and global economies? What are the barriers to the digital transformation of the Russian economy and what can be done to overcome them? What are some examples of successful practices and what are the prospects for international cooperation?