

MOSCOW, 12 MAY 2009. PIR PRESS – «PIR Center celebrates its 15th anniversary. It is still a teenager, one would say. However, we have been working so intensively all these years that each year can easily be counted for two. Then, PIR Center is far from being a teenager. It is a well-established organization, which has acquired substantial experience. But what is more important, it is full of energy, new projects and creative ideas,» – President of the PIR Center Vladimir Orlov.

These days PIR Center celebrates its 15th anniversary.

15 years – is it a lot or not? From its foundation in April 1994, PIR Center has become a respected, internationally recognized and leading Russian think tank in the field of nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). PIR Center is an independent, non-profit and nongovernmental organization engaged in research, educational, outreach, publishing and consulting activities. For the past 15 years WMD nonproliferation (nuclear, in the first place), arms control, and international security remained the top priorities for PIR Center's research.

In recent years PIR Center has substantially expanded the range of its research projects focusing on such problems as global energy security, strategic challenges in Central Asia; small arms and light weapons, new European security architecture etc.

At the same time, PIR Center maintains its traditional focus on the issues of nuclear nonproliferation. For instance, in early 2009 PIR Center has already held two roundtable discussions on the US-Russian dialogue on nuclear disarmament – the most discussed issues nowadays. These roundtables were organized within the framework of PIR Center's "Ways Nuclear Disarmament" Project.

In February 2007 the first issue of the *Security Index* journal came out of print. The journal publishes articles on international security in Russian and English languages quarterly. Today *Security Index* is a PIR Center's business card, as its predecessor *Yaderny Kontrol* was in previous years. It can be said without exaggeration that *Security Index* has been internationally recognized and found its readers all over the world.

PIR Center also continues to develop its educational programs. International Summer School on Global Security has become one of the most successful and famous projects. Overall, over the period of 15 years more than 600 young specialists from governmental organizations and research institutions, from various universities in Moscow, Russian regions and CIS countries have become alumni of PIR Center's educational programs. The 9th Summer School will take place in June to July 2009.

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“Of course, President of PIR Center admits, it is also a good time to consider which of our experiences and baggage we take into the future with us and what we leave in the

past. One of the steps in this direction is further development of Center's staff and structure. The other is rebranding of PIR Center's logo. The first step has already been made, and the second one will be announced soon."

"It is important to fill the 15th year of the Center with actual actions and successful and bright projects," Vladimir Orlov notes. For instance, on May 28 one more roundtable discussion will be held as a part of the "Ways of Nuclear Disarmament" Project. It will be devoted to the progress in the US-Russian disarmament dialogue.

Around the same time new issues of the Russian and International editions of the *Security Index* are coming out of print.

On June 28 the 9th Summer School on Global Security will start its work. During this School, the foundation of the Russian Training Center on Global Security on the base and under the auspices of PIR Center will be announced.

Beginning June, PIR Center will launch a new project analyzing Kazakhstan's role in global and European security architecture.

According to the PIR Center's President, PIR Conference "Multilateral Approaches to Nuclear Disarmament: Planning the Next Steps" is the most important event of the upcoming months.

PIR Center will hold this Conference in Moscow on July 3 with its long-term partners. Politicians, diplomats, the military and academia from Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China, India as well as from Norway, Switzerland and some other states and international organizations will take part in the Conference.

Exactly in such a business-style format PIR Center will celebrate its 15th anniversary.

"A good tradition that emerged five years ago during the celebration of PIR Center's 10th anniversary – awarding honorary "PIR Center's Globes" – will be continued this time," Vladimir Orlov informed.

On June 3, PIR Center plans to hold an award ceremony for special services and achievements in the field of WMD nonproliferation in the following categories:

- For contribution in strengthening nonproliferation regime;
- For contribution in shaping a new nonproliferation generation (For educational activity);
- For development of peaceful nuclear energy cooperation;
- For promotion of nuclear-weapons-free world ideas;
- For new talent in nonproliferation.

We are waiting for your comments and suggestions with the names of nominees. We also hope for your active participation in choosing the winners. You can send your comments to the Conference Coordinator Elena Geleskul at geleskul@pircenter.org

“Festive events which would allow us celebrating the 15th anniversary properly will continue in the following months,” Vladimir Orlov reported. – “Having started in Moscow, they will be finalized in the fall in Geneva where members and friends of our European branch - Centre russe d’etudes politiques – will get together to discuss the results of its activity over the first three years of its operations, to exchange ideas on shaping new mechanisms of European security and Russia’s role in this process. I am confident that honoring of PIR Center and planning of further work of our European branch will be aimed at even deeper integration of our Geneva affiliate into PIR Center. This way the international character of both PIR Center’s activity and its very structure will be strengthened.”

With the questions about seminars and conferences on disarmament issues you can contact PIR Center's Research Associate, Coordinator of the “Ways of Nuclear Disarmament” Project Elena Geleskul +7-(495)- 987-19-15, fax +7-(495)-987-19-14, e-mail: geleskul@pircenter.org

You can see materials on disarmament issues at the “Ways of Nuclear Disarmament” Project Section on PIR Center's website.

Detailed information concerning the publication of Security Index as well as advertising in the journal is available from Editor Dmitry Polikanov by telephone +7 (916) 142-85-39, +7 (495) 987-19-15, fax: + (495) 987-19-14, e-mail: polikanov@pircenter.org.

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