

**MOSCOW, 20 FEBRUARY 2009. PIR PRESS – New volume of the *Security Index* journal came out.**

Issue No. 2 (Spring 2009) of the *Security Index* Journal focuses on various soft security challenges. We speak about environmental issues, water shortages, investment climate, and energy security – the range is broad.

The issue opens up with the article devoting such security challenges as water shortages. Sergey **Zhiltsov** and Igor **Zonn** believe that today water conflicts are becoming an integral part of the global geopolitical system since they are about control over an essential resource for modern technological society. Politicians and experts might soon be talking about *water pipeline infrastructure*, similar to gas and oil pipes. Water conflicts are similar to those over oil and gas splitting producing and importing countries. The only difference is that oil and gas can have an alternative route or supply source, while it is much more complicated and expensive to implement for water. So, water is becoming a *global commodity*, which in the new century could exceed oil in terms of price, claim the authors.

Jürgen **Scheffran** speaks in his article about the climate change. The author analyzes the implications of climate change and global warming on the economic and social security of different regions of the world. In his article he also reviews the efforts of various international bodies to find a common solution to this global issue.

We suggest them to take part in the viewpoints about the future of North Korea. Two renowned experts on Korea, Georgy **Toloraya** and Vladimir **Khrustalev**, discuss the prospects of the totalitarian regime, the future of the nuclear program and the opportunities that the Korean settlement may bring to Russia from economic and geostrategic point of view.

The traditional topics such as the international security and the nonproliferation aspects are considered in the new issue. Of special interest is the round table “Russia, NATO and global security”. Is it necessary and possible to find a compromise and promote new forms of interaction between Russia and the major military structure of the West, i.e. NATO? Will bilateral relations between Russia and the United States be extrapolated on Russia-NATO relations? The key issue is also how much NATO is able to respond to the current international security challenges. And finally, one cannot forget about the prospects of NATO expansion. All these matters became a core of a debate that involved PIR Senior Advisor Lt-Gen (ret.) Gennady **Evstafiev** and MGIMO Professor, PIR Center Board Member Andrey **Zagorsky**.

Amb. Roland **Timerbaev** and Prof. William **Potter** touch upon the questions of the nuclear disarmament and nuclear-free world. Roland Timerbaev presents some of his solutions to the problem of achieving *nuclear zero*. William Potter gives the practical recommendations to the new U.S. administration aimed at intensifying security dialogue between Moscow and Washington.

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