The General Meeting of the Russian Academy of Sciences

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Address of RAS Vice President Academician V. V. Kozlov

I would like to touch on what the RAS Presidium does working out the Concept of Development of the Russian Academy of Sciences until 2025. Compiling the concept, our commission based itself on the RAS basic research plan until 2025. It also used materials included in the Concept of Development of the Ural, Siberian, and Far East branches. The raw version, which Academician Yu.S. Osipov called the first version in his opening address, was discussed at an RAS Presidium meeting. We have the remarks and proposals of this discussion at our disposal. Now we are generalizing and updating this text with account for these remarks and proposals. In general, I agree with Academician V.E. Fortov's opinion that we need a broad discussion in order to prepare a qualitative document, bring together different views, and move forward consistently.

A few words about what this concept looks like (after it is updated, we suggest that this important document be published on the RAS website for full discussion). Its structure is the following. In the beginning, there is a brief overview of the state of affairs in all areas of the Academy's work, outlining the range of the main problems. Then an analysis of the RAS strengths and weaknesses, as well as opportunities and threats, that arise in the Academy's activities is given. The main section of the concept is "The Strategic Directions of Development of the Russian Academy of Sciences." It shows the ways of resolving the accumulated problems, including the improvement of the legal and regulatory framework. Serious work lies ahead to negotiate various contradictions that exist in the legislation concerning the status of the RAS, its divisions, academic institutes, and other structures. The concept envisages further steps to strengthen and improve the RAS structure and solve the personnel problem and the problem of scientific youth. Attention is also paid to publishing and educational activities.

A few words about the RAS educational activity and personnel policy. It is important that one of the

strategic goals is to ensure the development of the Academy as a state-of-the-art, single scientific and educational complex. This will allow us to prepare human resources for basic science and for the RAS. We have done and are doing a great deal in this area, but more work lies ahead.

Until recently, we focused our attention on support for basic departments, which were created by our leading universities, and partners and which operate at academic institutes. According to the law, with amendments to the Law On Science and the Law On Postgraduate Vocational Education, there is a clear-cut division in the liabilities of the parties. We provide for premises, and financing should be done by the higher educational establishment. This work is very important for the Academy, since this is our source of human resources for postgraduate courses and young scientists at the RAS.

The personnel issue was clearly formulated in the report of the RAS Presidium Learned Secretary Academician V.V. Kostyuk. I would like to note that we fully accomplished Russian President D.A. Medvedev's directive to hire an additional 1000 young scientists with academic degrees to work at our research institutes. We received 2000 applications, which was much more than the number of people we could hire. True, not all institutes offered young people with academic degrees. However, the main point is that the youth showed a desire to work at the RAS research institutes. We will continue working on the postdoctoral program, which has been going on for three years and which is mainly designed for those who have finished postgraduate courses at our institutes.

Responsibility for the personnel policy must operate from top to bottom. It stays with the RAS Presidium, the branches, and institute directors. Of course, these are complex problems, but we must solve them one way or another. Only systematic work may lead to a positive result. We should all focus on this work.