

Dear Friends,

Summarising three days of work, I would like to point out that **more than 150 experts, of which 43 delegates from 26 foreign countries, attended the conference.** Given such a diversity of experience, views, and insights into rural areas, **it was very interesting to look together for a common recipe for their successful development.** Because rural areas in Russia differ significantly from such areas in Europe and America.

And yet, based on all the presentations, I have identified for myself **several underlying components of the “recipe”** which could be shared by all.

First, it is **people**, of course. Many experts focused on the **development of human capacity** and labour which, **alongside innovation**, should become a mainstay for development of rural economies. When deciding whether to support a project, we always start with a question of who is going to implement it, whether there is skilled enough labour in the area.

Another point is the **need for harmonious and balanced development** of rural areas. I can say from Krasnoyarsk Krai's experience that only an **integrated approach** can produce an effect necessary and this has been exactly our approach to drafting the development strategy for our municipalities.

Another component, a multi-disciplinary one, is to **determine correctly an area's specialisation, make smart use of its resources and specificities and have a common strategy for government and business interaction regarding the issue.** It is crucial that all kinds of public-private partnerships be used, not necessarily in the form of cash or infrastructure arrangements. Everything is clear about large-scale projects, one cannot do without involvement of the state there. As for small and medium business support, we, for instance, determined an approach for ourselves long ago, which is: **teach a man to fish, rather than give a man a fish.** Lest there is welfare mentality the conference participants

spoke about.

Those are, probably, the main things one should think about when addressing rural development challenges. Of course, plethora of interesting opinions has been voiced; therefore, we will seek to rely on them in the future when we finalise our regional growth strategy.

Distinguished colleagues, I would like to underscore once again that not only the conference issues are important for Krasnoyarsk Krai but that it is **highly relevant politically to us**.

Given that **Russia's next stop, following its accession to WTO, should be its membership in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development**, it is critical for us that an event contributing to that was held in our region.

Krasnoyarsk Krai reaffirmed its relevance as a platform for vibrant dialogue on the economic challenges of regional development and search for best ways of addressing them, and we are grateful to the conference organisers for the opportunity to do so internationally.

The OECD experts will come again as soon as in November to work on the territorial review of Krasnoyarsk agglomeration development, so our interaction is just starting!

I would like to thank all the conference participants; **I hope you will have most pleasant impressions of Krasnoyarsk as a result of this visit!**