

Putin said that facing the current economic crisis requires “economic development, above all, the innovation component of that development,” citing infrastructure development in particular.

People’s Daily reported Oct. 13, that 5 of the 12 agreements, whose signing Putin and Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao witnessed, are in the energy sphere—on oil and gas, but also nuclear power cooperation. Other key areas are transportation and aerospace. (Nearly two dozen more agreements were signed by Russian and Chinese companies at a simultaneous Business Forum.) In Putin’s delegation were Russian Railways CEO Vladimir Yakunin and Andrei Perminov, head of the Russian space agency Roskosmos.

As had been announced in September, by Russian Minister of Transportation Igor Levitin, Yakunin and Chinese Minister of Railways Liu signed a memorandum of understanding on “organizing and developing high-speed rail service on the territory of the Russian Federation.” According to AK&M news, the routes specified for cooperation on high-speed rail are Khabarovsk-Vladivostok (in the Far East), Moscow-Sochi, and Moscow-Nizhny Novgorod (the latter two

are in European Russia). They were already planned in the Strategy for the Development of Rail Transport in the Russian Federation to the Year 2030, which was adopted in 2007-08, and which includes a rail line to the Bering Strait and a potential tunnel to Alaska; its implementation has been thrown into question by the crisis. Now, a joint Chinese-Russian working group of specialists is to be set up by Dec. 1 of this year. “The two sides intend to use the most advanced international experience to achieve maximum efficiency and profitability in passenger transport and the production of high-speed rolling stock and technologies in the Russian Federation,” including technologies which China has perfected under contract from the German company Siemens, according to the report.

As highlighted by the Russian business paper *Vedomosti*, on the eve of Putin’s visit to China, Presidents Medvedev and Hu Jintao approved a comprehensive “Russia-China 2018 Cooperation Program” for building 205 joint projects in the Russian Far East, Siberia, and northeast China, when they met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in September. Replying to a question from the Chinese press about these bilateral

Yakunin: LaRouche Warnings Were Crucial for Us

Oct. 18—Vladimir Yakunin, the CEO of Russian Railways, and a longtime associate of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, said in an Oct. 16 interview with the Baltic Information Agency (BaltInfo), that Lyndon LaRouche’s warnings of a systemic global crisis prepared him and his company for what has happened during the past three years.

Yakunin was asked, “How does Russian Railways view the world crisis—as an annoying event, or as an incentive to make bold decisions and an economic and technological breakthrough?”

He replied: “In 2006, already, the American economist Lyndon LaRouche, who uses non-traditional systems in analyzing the economic situation, warned that the crisis had already begun. Few people listened to him, but we were among those few. Now we are trying to keep our hand on the pulse. Last year Russian



Presidential Press & Information Office
Russian Railways CEO
Vladimir Yakunin

Railways set up an anti-crisis committee, which monitors the situation in the carriage market and inside our company on a daily basis.”

One year ago already, in an Oct. 2, 2008, interview in the business daily *Kommersant*, Yakunin said he had known of the coming crisis years in advance, because of the warning he received from LaRouche. In February of this year, Yakunin took the same message to a conference at the London School of Economics, where he again named LaRouche as the “very rare” economist who predicted the collapse of the world financial bubble.

Yakunin is co-founder of the World Public Forum “Dialogue of Civilizations,” known as the Rhodes Forum. LaRouche and his wife, Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche, were speakers at the Seventh annual Rhodes Forum, held Oct. 8-12.