

The Role of Youth in The BRICS Paradigm

Tatiana Seliverstova is the head of the Department of International Cooperation and Innovation Activity of the Russian Union of Youth. BüSo (Civil Rights Solidarity Movement) organizer Kai-Uwe Dücke submitted written questions to Seliverstova in Berlin on Feb. 25, on behalf of EIR and Neue Solidarität, the newspaper of the LaRouche movement in Germany. Her written answers were received on March 1.



Tatiana Seliverstova

EIR/NS: On April 1, Russia will take over the chairmanship of the BRICS [Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa]. What role will the BRICS Youth Forum play? What will be your personal role in that?

Seliverstova: The Russian Union of Youth (RUY) is to play an important role during the period of the Russian chairmanship of the BRICS, due to the fact that it has been working hard on developing cooperation among young people of the BRICS countries since 2012. All projects being implemented are supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Federal Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States, Compatriots Living Abroad and International Humanitarian Cooperation, and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation.

For 2015, RUY has scheduled a number of events aimed at developing youth cooperation in the BRICS countries. These events will take place in Russia on the threshold of the summit of the heads of state of the BRICS countries. In July 2015, the Russian Union of Youth will hold a BRICS Youth Forum in Ufa. Young leaders of the BRICS will discuss promising areas of cooperation, and come to a joint decision on coordinating efforts for creating a youth movement of the BRICS.

The Russian Union of Youth will also hold the BRICS International Forum on Science and Innovations this year in Moscow. Moreover, RUY will initiate the organization of a BRICS International Youth Forum, in the capital of South Africa in November 2015.

EIR/NS: Over the last generation, we saw the development of a growing lack of excitement of youth for science and technology in Europe, along with a growth of irrationality and pessimism. What was decided during the last BRICS Youth Forum in New Delhi concerning such frontier research as space exploration and development of the Arctic region? Vladimir I. Vernadsky is not widely known in the Western Hemisphere. What role do Vernadsky's concepts play in your scientific approach?

Seliverstova: During the last BRICS Youth Forum, held from 28 to 30 January [2015] in New Delhi, we decided to propose that the authorities of the BRICS should establish a department on youth initiatives in entrepreneurship, science, and innovations, within the BRICS Development Bank. Young scientists could work on projects on space exploration and development of the Arctic region in this department.

In accordance with Vernadsky's concept of the noö-sphere, we pursue the goal of coordination of efforts of young people from the five countries in order to preserve nature and support the growth of human capital in the BRICS. By using their abilities to work and create, the youth of the BRICS countries should act as a "geological force" in building an effective system of international youth cooperation, and this, in its turn, will require a certain youth social organization, and new ecological, and at the same time, humanistic ethics.

Countering Pessimism in Europe

EIR/NS: Since the election on Jan. 25, Greece's new government has demonstrated a much more positive attitude toward Russia and China than is generally the case for Europe today. Could the BRICS Youth Forum be a model for European, especially for southern



BRICS Youth Forum

Tatiana Seliverstova with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (center) and attendees at the Youth Forum, in New Delhi, Jan. 30, 2015.

European countries, in their attempts to solve the problems of horrific youth unemployment and lack of economic growth?

Seliverstova: Yes, I am convinced that the European youth community should seek to intensify multi-lateral cooperation using the model that we have established in the BRICS. Young leaders across Europe need to create programs and projects that will focus on positive outcomes of joint programs and projects. The youth of BRICS countries will strive for developing partnerships with European youth organizations, which are interested in broadening their horizons in international youth cooperation.

Only we young people can change the future of international relations so that countries consolidate their efforts and develop joint multi-dimensional projects in the BRICS and the EU. It is necessary to lay the foundation for a model of cooperation among BRICS countries and Europe.

The current crisis in southern Europe should encourage the younger generation to design and implement more projects and activities, which will focus on economic and scientific cooperation not only in Europe but also everywhere in the world. I am sure that setting up business incubators and innovation centers for the youth of the EU and BRICS will become a real platform for creating new projects aimed at economic growth of all countries.