The PIR Center is 15. Is it a lot? 15 years is a clear adolescence. However, our work has been so intense all this time that each year may count for two. Then one would realize that the PIR Center does not behave like a teenager. It is a well-established institution with significant track record and full of energy, new projects and creativity.

Since its establishment in April 1994 the PIR Center has become a respected, internationally recognized leading Russian research institution in the area of WMD nonproliferation. Its priorities for the last decade and a half have been arms control (especially with respect to nuclear weapons), WMD nonproliferation, and international security. In the recent years we have broadened the scope of research projects and paid attention to such issues, as global energy security; strategic challenges in Central Asia; small arms and light weapons; new European security architecture, and so on.

Meanwhile, traditional nuclear nonproliferation matters remain in the focus of our studies. A telling example is a large-scale project that we carry out – “Ways towards Nuclear Disarmament”. Within this project we held a significant international conference in Moscow in July 2009 – “Multilateral Approaches towards Nuclear Disarmament: Planning the Next Steps”.

Our plans are to move further in this direction. In the coming months we will pay particular attention to the 2010 NPT Review Conference. My participation as a member of the Russian delegation at the PrepCom meeting helped to understand better the situation in the area of nuclear nonproliferation from inside. Our research agenda contains the nuclear program of Iran, nuclear weapons in Pakistan, the situation in the Middle East, nuclear security and safety in the world, and the prospects of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. We realize that there is a need for substantial efforts to ensure the success of the NPT Review Conference, to make sustainable the climate of prudent optimism formed in the recent months.

The progress of the U.S.-Russian strategic dialogue is another priority of our work. We have lately received many guests from the United States in the PIR Center premises. We compare the positions, discuss the differences, try to find some common solutions. We are interested in talking about how to fix the constructive spirit and how to avoid deception and flattering at the same time. Such sincere dialogue will be continued during our meetings in Moscow and during other events – in Washington, in Monterey (California), or in Gstaad in Switzerland.

The Security Index Journal contributes to these discussions and also publishes the articles on many other hot topics important to Russia. Let us note, first of all, the desire to study the new European security architecture. Russian official proposals have been set forth. How are they perceived in Europe? What is required to change the temporary European architectural forms with the modern European home from Vancouver to Vladivostok with the solid basement and the climate of friendship and good neighborly relations.

The PIR Center also continues to develop its educational programs. In total, in the last 15 years various PIR educational programs have enrolled over 650 young experts from the government and academic institutions, Russian and CIS universities. In June-July 2009 we conducted the 9th International Summer School on Global Security. I am happy with its participants – they are energetic, bright, and smart. The school was a combination of intense lecture course and informal communications. I hope that the alumni will use the knowledge and contacts to open up new opportunities. For me, as a head of a Russian NGO, it is particularly important that our educational efforts have recently been supported by the state. For instance, in 2008 we benefited from the grant allocated in accordance with the Order of the President of the Russian Federation; in 2009 we gained support of the Russkhy Mir Foundation.

We chose this working, businesslike format, in order to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the PIR Center. We also kept up with the good old tradition (which was established five years ago at the celebration of the 10th anniversary) and gave awards – the PIR globes for special merits and achievements in the area of WMD nonproliferation. Among the winners are President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbaev and IAEA Director General Mohammad ElBaradei; President of the Ploughshares Fund Joseph Cirincione and his institution; as well as some other experts. I am content with the fact that three of my ex- and current colleagues in the PIR Center have been awarded – Senior Vice President Gennady Evstafiev, Member of the PIR Center Advisory Board Ildar Akhtamzyan, and former Assistant Editor-in-Chief of the Security Index Journal Nikita Perfiliev.

I am glad that the PIR Center is not a small research institution any longer (as it was conceived), but a real network – a non-governmental actor in international relations which has strong informal ties and influence.

The row of celebrations continued into the next months. We launched it in Moscow, but it ended up in fall 2009 in Geneva. Our friends and members of our European branch – Centre russe d’études politiques (CREP) – got together to discuss and sum up three years of CREP’s activities and exchange their views on the ways to form new mechanisms of European security and the role of Russia in this process.

I have no doubt that celebrations and long-term plans for our European branch will be aimed at further integration of the Geneva institution into our activities. Thus, we will consolidate the international character of our work and the PIR Center structure.

Vladimir Orlov
15 YEARS: OUR LANDMARKS

1994 - establishment of the PIR Center and the Vedomosti Kонтrol' (Nuclear Control) journal.

1995 - international conference on "Export Controls in Russia: Theory and Practice" was held.

1996 - international conference on chemical weapons destruction and Russian-U.S. cooperation on CW disposal was held. PIR Study Papers were published for the first time.

1997 - PIR Center together with the Moscow Engineering Physics Institute starts to train experts on control and non-proliferation of nuclear fuel cycle materials.

2001 - Director of the PIR Center Vladimir Orlov was appointed Consultant of the Study Group to Governmental Ex-

Perts to assist the UN Secretary-General in preparing a study on disarmament and nonproliferation. The book "Information Challenges to National and International Security" was published. The International Conference on Small Arms and Light Weapons was held.

2002 - the textbook on "Nuclear Nonproliferation" was published along with the book "Super-Terrorism: New Challenge of a New Age". PIR Center staff members were awarded for their contribution to the development of the Nunn-Lugar Program.

2003 - the second International Nonproliferation Conference was held.

2004 - the international conference on "G-8 Global Partnership against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction" was held and the reference book was published.

2005 - President of the PIR Center Vladimir Orlov took part in the NPT Review Conference as a representative of the NGO sector.

2006 - the international conference "G-8 and Global Security: Challenges and Interests. On the Way to St. Peters-

burg Summit" was held together with the Russian Foreign Ministry and the Presi-

dent's Office. The second report based on the sociological survey "Russians about the WMD threats" was published. The European branch of the PIR Center - Centre russe d'études politiques (CREP) - was established. The calculation of the International Security Index (ISI) started. Vladimir Orlov joined the Commission on Security Policy and Public Expertise of the Federal Laws and Other Legislation of the Public Council of the Russian Defense Ministry.

2007 - the presentation of the Security Index journal was held. Patriarch of nuclear nonproliferation Roland Timerbaev, Chairman of the PIR Center Executive Council was 80. His memories "Stories of the Past" were published. The PIR Center participated in the preparation of the high-level seminar "Energy and Global Security: towards a Cooperative Approach" in Gstaad (Switzerland).

2008 - PIR Center and the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) launched a new joint project "Ways towards Nuclear Disarm-

ment". The International Summer School on Global Security got the state funding.

2009 - the "Nuclear Nonproliferation" Encyclopedia was published. The PIR Center celebrates its 15th anniversary, but we are full of plans!
Experts of the PIR Center are well known to the Russian and foreign media. At average we have about 200 materials published a year in the press, on radio and TV. Our activities are covered by Vedomosti and Kommersant, Izvestiya and Nezavisimaya Gazeta, Washington Post and Agence France Presse. Comments by the PIR Center staff on various aspects of international security can be heard at Ekho Moskvy, Mayak, and BBC; watched on NTV and Iranian State TV and Radio! In the last five years our major topics in the media were:

PIR on air

PIR Center experts, members of the Editorial Board of the Security Index journal, and foreign partners of our institution are constant guests at the news and analytical programs of Russia Today TV channel in English and in Arabic. All topical issues – from Russia-NATO relations to the Iranian nuclear program – are in the focus of our attention. We commented on air President Barack Obama’s visit to Moscow and the U.S. decision to abandon the missile defense deployment, discussed the situation in North Korea and the talks on strategic offensive arms reduction.

Joseph Cirincione, member of PIR Center Advisory Board.

Dmitry Polikanov, Vice President of PIR Center.

Vladimir Orlov, PIR Center President.

Dmitry Evstafiev, member of PIR Center Editorial Board, Security Index.

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E-mail: soldatkina@pircenter.org
In April 2009 the PIR Center marked its 15th anniversary. However, we in the PIR Center decided not to fix it with a certain date, but rather celebrate the anniversary in a business-like format in full compliance with our mission. The important event was a good opportunity to remind the expert and political community of the nonproliferation values, on the need to move ahead on the way to nuclear disarmament. It is our task, after all, – and we have the capabilities – to make the world a safer place to live.

So it all started in spring at the meeting of the PrepCom of the NPT Review Conference, where President of the PIR Center Vladimir Orlov took active part in the work of the Russian delegation, The series of seminars, Triologue Club International meetings and eventually the large international conference followed. The conference was held on July 3, 2009 in Moscow and brought together diplomats, military, and experts from the majority of nuclear weapon states and unrecognized nuclear weapon states.

They could discuss multilateral approaches to nuclear disarmament and speak about the next steps to be taken in the foreseeable future to make the nuclear zero more than a romantic dream or a fantasy of the science fiction authors. This academic marathon ended in Geneva in Switzerland in fall 2009, where the groups and partners of the PIR Center and its European branch could discuss these issues.

The work of the forum was divided in the following panels:

- Nuclear Disarmament: Directions and Dynamics;
- Unequivocal Commitment to Nuclear Disarmament: What Does It Mean?
- Nuclear Arms Reductions: Mutual Efforts and Everyone's Stakes;
- World without Nuclear Weapons: What is the Motivation for Nuclear-Weapons States to Fulfill Their Obligations under Article VI of the NPT.

The conference reports were delivered by official representatives of three nuclear weapon states – Director of the Department for Security and Disarmament Affairs Anatoly Antenon, French Ambassador to Moscow Jean de Gliniasty, U.K. Ambassador to Russia Ann Pringle, and Director of the Department of International Cooperation of the Rosatom corporation Mikhail Lysenko. The position of Norway was stated by First Secretary of the Royal Norwegian Embassy to Moscow Kari Eken Wollebaek.

Nonproliferation and disarmament experts also presented their vision of the nuclear-weapon-free world. Among them were Director of the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies (California, United States) William Potter, Senior Fellow of the Observer foundation Nandan Unnikrishnan, Chairman of the PIR Center Executive Board Roland Timerbaev, Senior Vice President of the PIR Center, Lt.-Gen. (ret.) Gennady Evtușčev, Adviser to the Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces Alexander Radchuk.

The international conference "Multilateral Approaches towards Nuclear Disarmament: Planning the Next Steps" involved over 100 participants from 10 Russian cities, 24 countries and two international organizations.

Nikolay Solotvostov, Colonel General, Commander-in-Chief of the Strategic Rocket Forces:
"I wish you, Vladimir Andreievich, and the entire staff of the PIR Center success in your noble cause, which you carry out for the sake of mankind. Remain on demand. This is a true, not temporary, value of any nongovernmental organization."

Vladimir Rybchenkov, Counsellor at the Russian Embassy to the United States:
"I send my warmest greetings from Washington to the PIR Center on the occasion of its 15th anniversary. Your organization is the only NGO in Russia dealing with the WMD nonproliferation. It contributes a lot to raising the awareness of the broad public of international initiatives aimed at solving the key problems in this area, as well as to training the new generation of nonproliferation activists. For us, who are working far away from Moscow, your publications help a lot in implementation of our tasks and allows us to be at the height of diplomatic professionalism."

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In the final part of the conference we gave the floor to young experts who presented their views on how to advance to the world free of nuclear weapons.

We could not avoid official ceremonies as well. Being the leading Russian NGO on nuclear matters, the PIR Center set up a number of traditional prizes for academic and practical achievements in this area.

**Roland Timerbaev at PIR’s 10th anniversary, 2004.**

This year we had five nominations:

- For contribution in strengthening non-proliferation regime;
- For contribution in shaping a new non-proliferation generation (For educational activity);
- For development of peaceful nuclear energy cooperation;
- For promotion of nuclear-weapon-free world ideas;
- For new talent in nonproliferation.

The PIR Center awarded these prizes for the first time five years ago during the celebration of its 10th anniversary. In 2004 the list of winners included Rose Gottemoeller, Roland Timerbaev, Yevgeny Maslin, and Sam Nunn.

We marked for strengthening the nonproliferation regime two renowned specialists: IAEA Director General Mohammed ElBaradei and Senior Vice President of the PIR Center Gennady Evstafiev.

In 2005 Mohammed ElBaradei became a Nobel Prize winner. That year he was also elected for the third term as IAEA Director General. He is a career diplomat, a leading expert in the area of nuclear energy and one of the major proponents of nuclear nonproliferation.

**Gennady Evstafiev:**

“My acquaintance with the PIR Center started at the moment of its establishment. Together with Anatoly Antonov and some other people who discussed the advisability of setting up such think tank I supported Vladimir Orlov in his intentions. However, I had no illusions or big hopes that this research institution would become a sustainable organization. Fortunately, I was wrong and today we have the PIR Center as one of the leading think tanks on nonproliferation and nuclear disarmament. I have collaborated with the PIR Center at all stages – on export controls, on NPT extension, etc. I gave interviews that are still quoted today. Moreover, I have always been reading carefully all the publications of the PIR Center and often used them for my speeches. After my retirement in November 2003 I cooperate with the Center. I am grateful for the high reward of its leadership.”

We also head two winners in the nomination “For Promoting of nuclear-weapon-free world ideas” – President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbaev and Joseph Cirincione with the Ploughshares Fund, which he heads.

**Victor Mourougov,**

Executive Director of the Russian Association of Nuclear Science and Education:

“In my brief greeting with the jubilee, I can hardly name all the areas and results of PIR research activities. Let me remember the most significant ones – the UN initiative, partnership in research with over 40 national and international organizations in one of the most sensitive spheres for mankind (nuclear disarmament, nonproliferation and international cooperation in nuclear technology uses); numerous publications; training of high-level experts (over 500), who work today in national and international bodies.”

**Alexey Arbatov,**

Head of the Center for International Security of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russian Academy of Sciences:

“Thanks to your efforts and the work of your staff, the PIR Center has rapidly become a leading Russian think tank of a new type and gained due respect, high status and rating in the international expert community. I wish all your employees further prosperity and success for the sake of our country and international security.”

**Yevgeny Satanovskiy,**

President of the Institute of Middle East Studies:

“There are only a few structures in contemporary Russia that deal with foreign policy issues in conformity with high international standards. They can be counted as easily as fingers on one’s hand, and the PIR Center is an absolute and unconditional leader in this list, especially in the area of nuclear nonproliferation. There are only a few organization that would deserve excellent marks for their activities in all spheres of work, but the PIR Center is such institution. Be it international conferences or public events, diplomatic club activities or publishing, internships or summer schools – they are always well-prepared, well-held and are appreciated in the professional circles.”

The activities of Nursultan Nazarbaev made an important contribution to the development of the modern system of international security. His major achievement is the non-nuclear status of Kazakhstan, which abandoned its nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction and refrains from possessing them. After the demise of the U.S.S.R. the republic had nearly 7.6 percent of the entire Soviet nuclear arsenal, including 1,410 strategic warheads, 104 ICBMs, and 47 heavy bombers. Nazarbaev counted on non-nuclear foreign policy of Kazakhstan and shut down the nuclear test range in Semipalatinsk, as well as destroyed all nuclear warheads inherited from the U.S.S.R.
Joseph Cirincione is President of the Ploughshares Fund and a renowned expert in the area of WMD nonproliferation. He was an advisor to the number of commissions and committees of the U.S. Congress. Before that he was the Senior Vice President for national security and international policy in the Center for American Progress and then for eight years worked as Director for Nonproliferation of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. For over nine years he served at the House of Representatives in the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Government Operations and was staff director of the bipartisan Military Reform Caucus.

The Ploughshares Fund is a PIR's partner for many years. For over 30 years of its activities the Fund focuses on supporting the initiatives on prevention of proliferation and uses of nuclear, biological, chemical and other weapons and on prevention of conflicts that may result in the employment of WMD. Today the Ploughshares Fund is the largest philanthropic organization in the United States making grants to the strengthening of peace and security.

Deputy Director General of the Rosatom state corporation Nikolay Spassky was awarded for developing cooperation in the peaceful nuclear energy uses. Dr. Spassky is a professional diplomat who occupied various positions in the central staff of the Russian Foreign Ministry. He headed the Department of North America, for six years was the Russian ambassador to Italy. In 2004-2006 he was Deputy Secretary of the Russian Security Council and in 2006 joined Rosatom.

Idar Akhtamzyan, Associate Professor of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) got a reward for his contribution to forming the new generation in the area of nonproliferation. He is one of the authors of the nuclear nonproliferation course, participated in the development of various textbooks, the “Nuclear Nonproliferation” Encyclopedia, and many other PIR Center's projects. Idar Akhtamzyan is a leading expert, whose knowledge and experience are beneficial for a few generations of students and experts in the area of nuclear energy and nonproliferation.

The “New Talent in Nonproliferation” is Nikita Pefilyev, who has got his Masters program with the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

Nikita Pefilyev graduated with honors the Tomsk State University in international relations. He had an internship with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington and studied in the Elon University in North Carolina in the United States. In 2007-2008 he edited the Yadeny Kontrol (Nuclear Control) electronic newsletter of the PIR Center. Now he is actively involved in developing the PIR Center Website.

Dr. Deana Arsenian, Vice President for International Affairs, Carnegie Corporation of New York:

“For more than 40 years mankind moves forward towards strengthening the nonproliferation regime. An integral part of this process, which determines the success, is the transfer of experience and training of young professionals. The role of the PIR Center in this area can hardly be overestimated.”
NUCLEAR ZERO: A DREAM OR A REALITY?

“Ways towards Nuclear Disarmament” is a joint project of the PIR Center and the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI). It was launched on October 1, 2008.

The aim of the project is to promote international dialogue and provide understanding among the policymakers and experts that for the sake of security on the planet it is necessary to rely less on nuclear weapons and to prevent their proliferation. As a result, the nations should strive to achieve nuclear zero, hence, eliminating another threat to the world.

The joint initiative of the PIR Center and the NTI is a part of the “Nuclear Security Project” designated to work out recommendations and encourage the ruling elite and civil society to reduce the risk of nuclear weapons use, to build the world free of nuclear weapons. It is known that the idea gains support of a number of former statesmen from the United States, Europe, and other regions.

In the course of implementation of the project the major focus is on informing the expert community and decision-makers on the possible mechanisms of progressing towards the nuclear-weapon-free world. The impetus for such broad public debate was given at the series of round tables and seminars.

On December 11, 2008 in Moscow the PIR Center held the meeting of the Triilogue Club International devoted to “New Presidents and the Future of the U.S.-Russian Relations”. The keynote speaker was Rose Gottemoeller, then Director of the Carnegie Moscow Center and currently one of the leading White House officials.

On February 19, 2009 we held the round table on “123 U.S.-Russian Nuclear Cooperation Agreement: What Are the Perspectives for It to Be Successfully Implemented?”. Keynote speakers were Mikhail Lysenko, Director of the International Cooperation Department of Rosatom, and Vadim Mikherin, Deputy Head of the Directorate for Uranium Production Sales, Director of the Department of American Countries and Intergovernmental Programs of JSC Techsnabexport.

Vadim Mikherin, Mikhail Lysenko.

In the course of debate the participants exchanged their views on the prospects of Russia-U.S. cooperation in the area of nuclear energy uses in the framework of the 123 Agreement and other important contracts, such as the HEU-LEU deal.

On March 5, 2009 the PIR Center organized the round table on “Russia-U.S. Dialogue on Nuclear Disarmament: What to Expect?” Among the participants were the diplomats who were the members of the Soviet/Russian and American delegations at the important disarmament talks. These were James Goodby, Nonresident Senior Fellow of the Brookings Institution, Roland Timerbaev, Chairman of the PIR Center Executive Council, Edward Iff, Adjunct Professor in the Security Studies Program in the Georgetown University; Sergey Koshelev, Deputy Director of the Department for Security and Disarmament Affairs of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

On the same day, the PIR Center organized a press conference in RIA-Novosti, where Joseph Cirincione and Vladimir Orlov met the Russian and foreign media. The key issue was certainly the situation on the Korean Peninsula, which at that time suffered from the recent nuclear tests conducted by the D.P.R.K.

On June 10, 2009, in one of the units of the Strategic Rocket Forces in Balabanovo-1 (the Kaluga region), the Public Council of the Russian Defense Ministry held its meeting on rearrangement of the Armed Forces with modern weapons and materiel. These activities are part of the measures taken to reform the army and ensure its new format. Vladimir Orlov participated in the meeting.

On July 2, 2008 the Triilogue Club International meeting on “Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament on the Eve of the 2010 NPT Review Conference: New Approaches” was held in Moscow. The keynote speaker was William Potter, Director of the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies.


On the next day the PIR Center hosted the international conference “Multilateral Approaches to Nuclear Disarmament: Planning the Next Steps”. Among the key topics were the problems of nuclear arms reduction, practical recommendations to nuclear weapon states relating to the new non-nuclear security mechanisms, the issues of compliance with Article VI of the NPT.

Within the framework of the project the PIR Center draws particular attention to publishing the materials on disarmament matters and Russia-U.S. negotiations in this area.

The recent issues of the journal contained the articles by Anatoly Diakov and Eugene Miasnikov, Roland Timerbaev and George Perkovich, William Potter and Rose Gottemoeller, and other experts.
SCHOOL OF PRACTICAL SKILLS

In the last 15 years of its work the PIR Center has managed to implement many educational projects – for young specialists and for existing politicians, diplomats and the military. Recently these activities became systemic – they started as a program of lectures in Russian universities and now has transformed into a training center on international security issues.

Key element of success is the specific educational product appreciated in Russia and abroad – the International Summer School on Global Security. It comprises methodology, advanced selection mechanisms (we have about 5-6 applicants per seat), a relatively stable group of lecturers – leading Russian experts, representatives of governmental and research institutions, as well as businesses, who are deeply involved in international security studies and decision-making. A particular feature of the program is the ratio between the number of lecturers and students – 25:23 (2008), 27:21 (2009).

On June 29 – July 12, 2008 such school was conducted for the eighth time. During the first week the participants considered the regional security matters (Europe, Central Asia, Black Sea and Caspian region, Middle East), as well as energy, environmental, water, information, demographic and migration security, international crime, drug trafficking and other modern challenges to global security.

The second week included lectures and seminars on WMD nonproliferation and arms control. Particular emphasis was made on the international nonproliferation regimes and related matters, possible scenarios of their improvement, regional challenges to nonproliferation (North Korea, Iran), the role of international institutions in settling the nonproliferation problems.

In the course of implementation of the project we gained support from the Human Resources Training Fund “State Club” in accordance with Order 367-rp of June 30, 2007 of the President of the Russian Federation aimed at backing the NGOs. The partners of the PIR Center in conducting the Summer School were the MFA of Norway and Sweden, the U.S. Department of Energy, the Federal Department of: Defense, Civil Protection and Sports of Switzerland, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, etc.

In 2008 the PIR Center received over 160 applications from 12 CIS countries for the Summer School. The commission selected 23 young experts representing defense and foreign ministries, research institutions, master and post-graduate students of universities.

Tatiana Nikonova, Post-Graduate Student of the Chair of World Politics, Tomsk State University, Tomsk, Russia:
“Broad representation of the CIS countries helps to review effectively the problems of regional security and offer joint solutions to common problems. The school helps to maintain the links between the countries at the level of interpersonal communications.”

Ilya Adamov, Third Secretary of the Main Treaty and Legal Directorate of the Belarusian MFA, Minsk, Belarus:
“The way the school is organized helps to dive deep in the international security problems. The program covers a variety of topical issues. There is an optimal balance between the traditional and new challenges to global security. Lecturers are not only professionals, but are also very enthusiastic. It is a rare and very pleasant combination. The school is perfectly managed – a mixture of order and hospitality.”

Mira Espernova, Master Student of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Almaty, Kazakhstan:
“The PIR Center is one of a few organizations which listens to and hears young experts. The lecturers are real stars. Their huge experience helps us to get independent views and see the particularities of certain problems. The Summer School is an impetus to further professional development.”
Participants of the 2008 Summer School with their lecturers – Ildar Akhtamazyan and Roland Timerbaev.

and academic institutions. The average age of the participants is 27-28 years old.

The 9th School was conducted on June 28 – July 10, 2009. The program comprised young professionals from eight Russian cities (Barnaul, Vladivostok, Makhachkala, Moscow, Petrozavodsk, St. Petersburg, Tomsk, Tyumen) and nine CIS countries (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine). Among 21 course participants were specialists of the foreign ministries, universities and think tanks.

The list of lecturers included the heads of well-known and new, dynamically developing Russian think tanks and foundations: Director of the Moscow office of the MacArthur Foundation Igor Zevelev, Director of the Center for Post-Industrial Studies Vladislav Inozemtsev, Executive Director of the “Russkiy Mir” Foundation and “Unity for Russia” Foundation Vyacheslav Nikonov, President of the Institute of Middle East Studies Yevgeny Satanovsky, Director of the Center for Energy and Security Anton Khlopkov.

Two-week program of the Summer School contained 32 lectures, five seminars and two round tables. The final seminar took the form of debate, where the students had to decide whether 2010 would mean the end of regime of nuclear nonproliferation.

There is a program of progress evaluation at the School, which is valid both for lecturers and students. It includes two tests, a presentation and the evaluation of activities at lectures and seminars. As a result, the participants get certificates of graduation. The highest results were demonstrated in 2009 by Ilya Adamov (MFA of Belarus, Minsk), Ivan Trushkin (Altay State University, Barnaul), Artem Bondarevsky (Russian Cooperation Agency, Moscow), Natalia Buricova (Historical Perspective Fund, Moscow), Jean Koshebaev (Al-Farabi University, Almaty), Alexander Plugarov (MGIMO, Petrozavodsk), Elena Mykal (National Institute of Strategic Studies, Kyiv).

The program was possible thanks to the generous support of our sponsors and partners — the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada, the Foreign Ministries of Norway, Finland, Sweden, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.K. government (within the program of bilateral cooperation), the Federal Department of Defense, Civil Protection and Sports of Switzerland, the MacArthur Foundation, and the “Russkiy Mir” Foundation.

Vladimir Orlov, President of the FIR Center, Editor-in-Chief of the Security Index journal:

“Within two weeks the students of the Summer School got such amount of knowledge that one normally receives during a semester... We have managed to share ideas and exchange views on many disputable issues and tracked the lanes of cooperation... We can be sure to say that the Summer School was successful and became our real contribution to the formation of a new generation of experts in international relations in the CIS.”
“Internship in the PIR Center means responsibility, independence and the business-like atmosphere of partnership. Responsibility for your practical efforts and theoretical studies, for the things that will be then appreciated (or not) by practitioners and academics. Independence of choice, in research and in defining one’s academic interests, their further development to success. Independence in the implementation of tactics and strategy of defense of your study paper. Atmosphere of friendly, interested productive partnership.”

Roman Ustinov, Attaché, Department for Security and Disarmament Affairs of the Russian MFA

“Internship in the PIR Center is an important landmark in my professional development as an expert on international relations. In the course of internship I had a chance to deepen my knowledge of international security matters, as I prepared a special report and had long conversations with the leading Russian and foreign experts. It is also important for me that I acquired new friends among young employees and interns of the PIR Center.”

Alexander Plugarev, Post-Graduate Student of MGIMO

During the years of PIR Center’s activities its projects engaged over 650 people. They are research fellows, consultants, alumni of the educational programs. This community is varied — many of them deliver lectures in the leading universities, take serious posts in the government bodies, work in international organizations and transnational corporations.

Training of qualified experts in international security and nonproliferation is a top priority of the PIR Center. Internships involve young talented students and researchers from Russia, the CIS countries and abroad, they help to renew the expert corps. For the majority of interns the months in the PIR Center became a certain "elevator to the future", a tool of professional career growth.

Interns are engaged in all academic and educational events of the Center and other leading Moscow analytical structures. Besides, there is an opportunity to carry out one's own research project in the area of international security, to get professional consultations of research staff and advisors of the PIR Center, to meet governmental and nongovernmental experts from Russia and abroad. The most topical and bright papers are published in the Security Index journal.

In 2008-2009 the internships in the PIR Center involved nine people.

Yevgeny Petelin, graduated the Tyumen State University, post-graduate student of the Institute of Far East Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences. He participated in the research, educational and publishing projects of the PIR Center. In the course of his internship he wrote an article “Nuclear Panda: China in the Search of Energy Security”, which was published in the special issue of the Security Index journal devoted to peaceful nuclear energy uses. After the internship Yevgeny Petelin was invited to the PIR Center as Assistant and then Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the Security Index journal.

Angelica Matveeva, student of the Moscow City University of Management of the Moscow Government and the Stockholm University, participated in the preparation of the international workshop on “Compliance with the Commitments on Arms Transfer Control: Information Exchange, Transparency, and Prevention of Unauthorized Use” held by the PIR Center together with a U.K. NGO – Safeworld – in March 2008. Her article on “German Nuclear Industry: Back to the Past?” was published in the special issue of the Security Index journal devoted to peaceful nuclear energy uses.

Yelena Cherepnina, student of the Institute of History and Political Sciences, the Tyumen State University, wrote a number of articles for the “Nuclear Non-proliferation” Encyclopedia published by the PIR Center in early 2009. During the internship she worked at a research project “Prospects of Nuclear Industry Development in Japan and the Interests of Russia”.

Alexander Pluargarev, post-graduate student of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) of the Russian MFA, also contributed a few articles to the Encyclopedia. He wrote a commentary on “Chemical Weapons Destruction: Will Russia and the United States Comply with Their Commitments by 2012?”, which was published in the Security Index journal.

Elena Geleskul, graduated the Novosibirsk State Technical University, was deeply involved in the implementation of research and information projects of the PIR Center, helped to conduct many seminars. In the course of her internship she wrote an article “The History of the Libyan Nuclear Program: The Reasons for Failure,” on the history and reasons for curbing the Libyan nuclear weapon pro-
program. After the internship she became re-
searcher associate in the PIR Center and
coordinated the “Ways towards Nuclear Dis-
armament” project and the Dialogue Club
International.

Darya Zolina, post-graduate stu-
dent of the Faculty of Interna-
tional Relations of the Nizh-
ny Novgorod State University
named after Nikolay Lob-
bachevsky, worked on “Export Interests of
France in the Nuclear Energy Sphere”.

Pavel Luzin, at the moment of internship
was a student of the Faculty of History and
Political Science of the Perm State Uni-
versity. He published an article on “Outer
Space: Prospects for Cooperation and Con-
flicts” and started his post-graduate stud-
ies at the Institute of World Economy and
International Relations (IMEKO) of the
Russian Academy of Sciences.

Kseniya Smer-
tina, master student of the Faculty of
International Relations of the St. Pe-
tersburg State University, participated in
the implementation of research and
information projects, in preparation of the
conferences within the “Ways towards Nu-
clear Disarmament” project. During the
internship she prepared a study paper on
“The European Security Treaty Initiative in
the Context of New European Security Ap-
proaches”, which will be published in the
Security Index journal.

Maria Teploukhovo,
va, post-graduate student of the Vlad-
iyosto Institute of International Rela-
tions in the Asia-Pacifi c. Far Eastern State
University, helped to organize
the conferences within the “Ways towards
Nuclear Disarmament” project. The topic of
her research was the relations between Rus-
ia and international structures in the Asia-
Pacifi c region in the context of development
of the Russian Far East. The article will
be published in the Security Index journal.

MIDWEEK BRAINSTORMING: A DIALOGUE OVER A CUP OF TEA

For nearly 10 years now the PIR Center
holds the Midweek Brainstorming sessions.
The idea of informal seminars, where experts and diplomats can freely share their views in the off-the-record mode, became a
success and complemented other discussion
platforms of the PIR Center.

Midweek Brainstorming meetings are
the place where people exchange ideas and
speak out loud. Among the participants are
those who prepare policy recommendations
on key items of international agenda, those
who are ready to listen to the constructive
criticism, in order to amend the positions.
The seminars are open to speak for anyone
who is ready to deliver his vision of security
problems and their solutions. Young
researchers, alumni of the PIR Center
educational projects, defend their reports
and other publications.

In 2008-2009 within the framework of the
meetings the following study papers were
defended:

- International aspects of nuclear energy
development in China (Yevgeny Petelin);
- Chemical weapons destruction and
implementation of the CWC (Alexander
Plugarov);
- Arms race in outer space (Pavel Luzin);
- History of the Libyan nuclear program
(Elena Geleskel);
- Nuclear exports of France (Darya Zolina);
- Russian interests in the Asia-Pacific region
(Maria Teploukhova);
- Promotion of the idea of the European
Security Treaty (Kseniya Smerstina).

Since early 2009 the Midweek Brainstorming sessions take place every
two weeks, normally on Wednesday. The
speakers and topics are broad:

- Nuclear education. Human resources as
a challenge to nuclear renaissance and
nuclear nonproliferation. Situation in
Russia and in the world. The concept
of nuclear education in the Eurasian
Economic Community (Victor Murogov,
Director of the International Nuclear
Education Center);
- Russia and NATO after 2008 (Gennady
Evtayev, Senior Vice President of the PIR
Center);
- Prospects of ratification of the CTBT
(James Goodby, Research Fellow at the
Hoover Institution, Stanford, U.S.A)
- Politico-military situation in Sudan
and arms transfers in the region (Vadim
Kozyulin, Conventional Arms Project
Director of the PIR Center);
- Ways of nuclear disarmament: positions
of Russia, United States, and China;
presentation of the study “Engaging China and
Russia on Nuclear Disarmament” (Nikolay
Sokov, Senior Research Fellow of the James
Defense of the research paper by Elena Geleskel,
December 2008.

Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies
of the Monterey Institute of International
Studies, Monterey, U.S.A.
- Harmonization of energy interests in
Central Asia and the Caspian region –
the policy of Iran (Albert Zulkharnoev,
Educational Projects Coordinator in the
PIR Center);
- Outcome of the PrepCom of the 2010
NPT Review Conference (Vladimir Orlov,
President of the PIR Center);
- Results of the U.S.-Russian summit (Gary
Samore, Coordinator of the U.S. Office for
the Prevention of WMD Proliferation and
Terrorism, National Security Council).

Briefing by Gary Samore, July 2009.
GLOBAL EXPERTISE

A significant role in the PIR Center work is played by the Executive Council, which determines the key directions of our activities.

At present, it comprises the following members:

- Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Chairman of the Council Roland Timerbaev;
- Member of the Royal Institute of International Affairs Yury Fedorov;
- Leading Research Fellow of the IMEMO Natalia Kalinina;
- Director of "Aspekt-Konversiya" Yevgeny Maslin;
- Rector of the Academy of National Economy at the Russian Government Vladimir Mau;
- President of the PIR Center, Editor-in-Chief of the Security Index journal Vladimir Orlov;
- Director of the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies (Monterey, California) William Potter.
- Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, President of the International Engineering University and Chairman of the Russian Pugwash Committee at the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences Yury Ryzhov;
- Head of the Group for Nontraditional Security Challenges of the Center for International Security at the IMEMO Yekaterina Stepanova;
- Director for Legal and Commercial Affairs of SAP CIS Mikhail Yakushev;
- Vice President of the Russian-American Business Cooperation Council Dmitry Yakushkin;
- Senior Research Fellow of the Center for War and Peace Studies of MGIMO Andrey Zagorsky;

Chairman of the PIR Center Executive Council, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Roland Timerbaev.

Vladimir Mau is an author of market reforms in modern Russia, one of the bright intellectuals in the Russian economic science. Mikhail Yakushev is a talented lawyer and IT-expert, who fights to bridge digital divide on the planet.

Natalia Kalinina is one of the leading experts in Russia on chemical disarmament.

Mikhail Yakushev, Shamun Kagermanov.

Dmitry Yakushkin is a former press secretary of the Russian President and now is a successful businessman.

Each of the Council members is a world-class authority.

In July 2009 the PIR Center held a regular meeting of its Executive Council. At the meeting President of the PIR Center Vladimir Orlov delivered an annual report for 2008.

In the course of the meeting the participants discussed the results of PIR research activities, educational programs, information and publishing projects and talked about the prospects for the development of the organization in 2009-2010. Founder of the PIR Center Vladimir Orlov declared his decision to add a new member to the Council – William Potter, Director of the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies. For the first time in 15 years the Executive Council got a foreign expert as a member.

The PIR Center Executive Council is a committee of wise men, in fact. Their experience and expertise are highly appreciated around the world. Roland Timerbaev was one of the authors of the NPT.

Yevgeny Maslin headed the legendary 12th Main Directorate of the Russian MOD and ensured quick and smooth withdrawal of Soviet ballistic missiles from Kazakhstan and Ukraine. He was one of the Russian founders of the Cooperative Threat Reduction program. Yury Ryzhov is an academician, a renowned public figure and diplomat.
Nuclear nonproliferation issues and disarmament remain in the focus of PIR's attention, but they are not the only matters that we tackle. Conventional arms control, new European security architecture, Russia's role in the Asia-Pacific region -- all these are only some of the projects that the PIR Center is developing.

Vladimir Voronkov -- Director of the Department for Pan-European Cooperation of the Russian MFA. In 1975 he graduated the Lomonosov Moscow State University and holds the doctoral degree in history. Since 1989 he has been working the Russian Foreign Ministry, taking different positions in the central staff and abroad. In 2000-2002, he was Minister Counselor of the Russian Embassy to Poland. In 2002-2005 he served as Deputy Director of the Human Resources Department of the Russian MFA. Then in 2005-2008 he was Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the OSCE. He possesses the diplomatic rank of the Minister Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the 1st class.

In August 2009 PIR Senior Vice President Gennady Evstafiev met Defense Attaché of Pakistan Tahir Saddique. In the course of the meeting the parties discussed the Indo-Pakistani relations and the security issues in the region. Tahir Saddique praised the activities of the PIR Center as one of the leading research institutions in Moscow.

In September 2009 the PIR Center hosted the meeting with the representatives of the Indonesian Foreign Ministry and the Embassy of Indonesia to the Russian Federation. The parties spoke about the non-traditional security challenges in the Asia-Pacific region, the prospects of Russia’s penetration and greater involvement in the region, the perspectives of the development of East Siberia and Far East of Russia and their contribution to the progress of the Asia-Pacific area.

In 2009 Vladimir Voronkov became a member of the PIR Center Advisory Board. Dr. Voronkov is Director of the Department for Pan-European Cooperation of the Russian MFA and one of the authors of the Russian initiative on the European Security Treaty. His article on the matter was published in the Security Index journal in 2009.

The next step is to move from discussion of the new European security architecture in our journal to a practical dialogue. Logical continuation of this process is the meeting with the representative of the European parliament in September 2009 at the PIR Center premises. In the course of debate the parties talked about various aspects of Russia-EU relations, NATO expansion eastwards and, obviously, the issues of nuclear disarmament and progress ahead to the world free of nuclear weapons.

Those who would like to take part in the contest of applications for the International Summer School on Global Security should send the following documents to organizers:

- CV (in Russian and in English);
- Reference letter from a head of the organization/research supervisor (in Russian and in English);
- Cover letter (in Russian) containing the objectives of participation in the program.

CV of the applicant should contain the following information:

- First and last name;
- Date of birth;
- Educational background (namings the institutions and the year of graduation);
- Current position and the place of work/studies;
- Previous job experience;
- Areas of research interests;
- List of conferences, in which the applicant took part and the topics of reports delivered;
- List of publications, one of the publications in electronic format or a link to the publication posted in the Internet;
- Language proficiency;
- Detailed contact information;
- Photo.

To take part in the internship, the applicant should send the following information to President of the PIR Center Vladimir Orlov:

- Detailed CV in Russian;
- Reference letter from a head or deputy head of the organization, the applicant is affiliated with;
- List of publications, including an electronic version of one of them;
- Application form indicating the term of internship.

For further information related to educational programs of the PIR Center contact Educational Project Coordinator Albert Zulkharneev (zulkharneev@pirecenter.org).
TRIADOGUE CLUB INTERNATIONAL: TRADITIONS AND INNOVATIONS

Triadogue Club International is another visiting card of the PIR Center. Today it is the only politically independent community of that kind, which provides its members with the unique opportunity to get first-hand information on international policy and security. The club unites politicians, experts and businesses and has become an intellectual platform for professional discussions.

Objectives of the Club:

- Timely and qualified presentation of the existing range of views on the most topical issues, including WMD nonproliferation and nontraditional challenges to international and national security;
- Discussion on international security matters involving civil servants and business representatives;
- Promotion of thorough analysis of the events happening in Russia and abroad.

The meetings of the Triadogue Club take place four times a year and are based on a keynote speech by a leading governmental or nongovernmental expert from Russia or any foreign country.

The variety of matters for discussion is broad – from nuclear nonproliferation to demographic situation and exit strategies for Russia in times of global economic crisis. Key emphasis is made on practical aspects and presentation of exclusive information, while Q&A sessions help the Club members to get a clear picture of the political kitchen hiding behind the official statements.

In the recent year the Trialog Club meetings hosted Sergey Ponomarev, Deputy Head of the Federal Space Agency of Russia; Sergey Zakharov, Deputy Director of the Institute of Demography of the State University – High School of Economics; Rose Gottomoeller, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Verification, Compliance and Implementation; Jonathan Fanton, President of the MacArthur Foundation; Sergey Guriev, Rector of the Russian Economic School; William Potter, Director of the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies; Vladimir Voronkov, Director of the Department for Pan-European Cooperation of the Russian MFA. Besides, the Club members participated in over two dozen events held by the PIR Center during the year.

At present, the Club comprises 16 corporate and 18 individual members, among which are the embassies of Switzerland and India, China and South Africa, Spain and France, Italy and New Zealand, as well as Washington Group Int., Booz Allen Hamilton, the Kurchatov Institute.

The new members to the Club include, among others, the Embassy of Finland, the International Science and Technology Center, and young experts from France and Azerbaijan.

In 2009 two institutions affiliated with the PIR Center merged – the Trialog Club and CREP. This step paved the way to better cooperation between the members of two organizations, gives them the opportunity to participate in all academic fora of the PIR Center and in the Club meetings that now take place in Moscow and in Geneva.

For more information on the Club membership contact:
Tel.: +7 (495) 987-19-15
Fax: +7 (495) 987-19-14
E-mail: trialog@pircenter.org

Participants of the Trialog Club meeting, April 2009.
PIR IN SWITZERLAND: A CLIMATE OF CHANGE

The European branch of the PIR Center – Centre russe d’études politiques (CREP) – exists for over three years now. During this time CREP has managed to become a place of interest for everyone who studies Russia or international security matters. The list includes the staff of the international organizations in Geneva, political scientists, bankers and politicians, students and the media. The center started with 19 members in 2007 and has grown to 64 individual and 5 corporate members from Switzerland and Russia, the United States and Great Britain, Japan and Latvia, Jordan and Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan, Australia, and some other states.

Among them are the International Committee of the Red Cross and the leadership of the Geneva Canton, such banks as UBS, Mirabaud & Cie, Pictet & Cie, Rosbank, heads of diplomatic missions and experts. They all receive the Security Index journal and invitations to the CREP events.

And now – after the merger with the Triologue Club International – they are also invited to the PIR Center research fora.

In May 2008 CREP held a round table devoted to various aspects of Russian foreign policy after the election of new President – Dmitry Medvedev. Chairman of the Triologue Club International Dmitry Polikanov and President of the PIR Center Vladimir Orlov focused also on nonproliferation issues in the Russia-U.S. relations, as the discussion took place on the margins of the PrepCom meeting in Geneva.

In October 2008 the annual meeting of the CREP members was held in Moscow. The participants discussed the research projects, seminars and round tables to be conducted at the CREP premises in Geneva, listened to and approved the annual report of the institution.

In February 2009 together with the Triologue Club International we organized a seminar to discuss the European and American vectors in the Russian foreign policy course. The keynote speakers were Konstantin von Eggert, who at that time headed the BBC Russian Service; Vladimir Orlov, President of the PIR Center; Igor Zevelev, Director of the Moscow office of the MacArthur Foundation; Pavel Baev, Senior Researcher at the Peace Research Institute in Oslo (PRIO).

In April 2009 Vladimir Orlov made a speech in the Federal Parliament of Switzerland in Bern at the hearings devoted to the global and regional security threats. The event took place in the framework of preparation of the government report on security policy. Among the speakers were Defense Minister of Switzerland, Chief of the General Staff, heads of the appropriate departments of the Foreign Ministry and Federal Police Service, invited foreign guests.

Vladimir Orlov made a detailed report with particular emphasis on the need to form a new European security architecture.

On September 30, 2009 the CREP meeting in Geneva discussed the problems of further development of nonproliferation programs of the PIR Center and the intensification of the disarmament dialogue.

The PIR Center gradually merges with CREP – in 2009 we made a rebranding of the organization. The PIR Center logo is now new – it uses traditional elements well-known by the Russian expert community and new traits accepted from the partner in Geneva.

Participants of the CREP meeting, February 2009.
Security Index Journal is a visiting card of the PIR Center. It occupies the niche of a leading Russian publication on foreign policy and international security issues.

The concept of the journal is evolving. For instance, we publish more and more often the articles and comments by young experts. The journal is a launching pad in academic career for them, a perfect opportunity to take a position and provide a fresh vision of many global developments. Meanwhile, among the contributors of the Security Index journal are statesmen and experts from Russia and abroad — their interviews and leads make the crown jewels of each issue. In 2008-2009 the list of our authors comprised Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Head of Rosatom Sergey Kiryenko; Academician Nikolay Ponomarev-Stepnoy, and parliamentarians Mikhail Margelov, Konstantin Kosachev, and Victor Zavarzin. The geographical scope of contributors is also wide — from Turkey to Japan, from Bulgaria to Germany, from the United States and Kuwait to Russia and Switzerland.

The topics covered by the journal vary. We have polemics on the future of the Russian Armed Forces and nuclear programs of Iran, discuss the situation in Central Asia and the mysteries of the Korean Peninsula, analyze the arms trade in Africa and global warming. We have articles on food security and NATO enlargement, strategic arms and wars over the pipelines, analysis of terrorist threats and demographic challenges.

At the same time, the international edition of the journal also has each issue focusing on a certain central topic. The first issue of 2008 covered international problems in Asia. The second issue concentrated on European security matters. The third issue was devoted to nuclear renaissance and the Russian prospects for peaceful nuclear energy uses. In 2009 we spoke about soft security, disarmament and nonproliferation matters.

Georgy Toloraya, Head of the Department of Regional Programs, "Russiya Mir" Foundation:
"Being realists, we have to proceed from the assumption that the collapse of the D.P.R.K is not inevitable and it is not in our national interests (let alone the interests of Koreans as a nation). We can really facilitate a favorable scenario — transformation of North Korea into a normal, ordinary state and provision of its external security and internal stability."

Irina Zueva, Historian:
"Thus, just like 100 years ago Western forces create their own political reality in the Balkans, Serbia made a turn and lost a sacred part of its land (though by chance without losing its statehood yet). The reasons for such tough attitude of the Western community towards Serbia should be analyzed."

Anastasia Angelova, Editor of the Review Section of the Comparative Politics Newsletter of the Research Committee of the Russian Association of Political Science:
"Russia has good chances to strengthen its positions on the European market of nuclear technologies. Most CEE states enjoy a long history of constructive cooperation with Russia in the nuclear energy industry, which provides good grounds for further strengthening of cooperation between Russia and CEE states in this area. The attitude towards the Russian technologies, despite the tragedy in Chernobyl, remains positive in most countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Besides, the competitive position of Russian nuclear technologies on the CEE market is very strong."

Sergey Ogay, Rector of the Admiral Nevelsky Naval State University, Vladivostok, Russia:
"Thanks to the activities of the PIR Center the common information space and the discussion platform for security issues have been created. The English version of the Security Index journal is one of a few tools available to a Western researcher to study the works by Russian authors in an unbiased manner. It is important that postgraduate and graduate students have a chance to get to know the studies by leading experts. The journal can hardly be found at the shelves of the Naval University library — it is always at hand, always in use by students and professors."
PORTAL TO THE INTERNET

Roman Chudnov, Internet Specialist of the PIR Center:
“PIR Center’s Website is always transforming. We add new functions and sections. Nowadays everyone can leave a message at the forum and express his views on PIR news or articles. We welcome polemics with the authors and experts - we are always happy to have such virtual intellectual battles. The results of the surveys of the Website are regularly published in the Security Index journal. In the foreseeable future we plan to launch a new section – on international geographic distribution of the Russian peaceful atomic energy sector. A more ambitious project is the development of the updated educational module on international security matters, which should replace the existing Virtual Nonproliferation University.”

Yury Yudin, Senior Researcher and Project Leader of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR):
“PIR Center’s Website deserves appreciation of the expert community as a reliable source of information on the most topical issues of international security. It is an important tool in maintaining constructive dialogue between Russia and the international community.”

Maria Avdeeva, Master Student of the European College of the Parma Foundation, Italy:
“The Website of the PIR Center is, at first glance, a complicated resource, but it is very convenient in use. All pages contain lots of links to various projects and specific data. I have never found any non-functioning link. I use the site very often.”

Gaukhar Mukhatzhanova, Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS):
“For me the Website is an excellent source of information and analytical materials, above all on Russian-Iranian nuclear cooperation. Another good resource of the PIR Center is a collection of materials on security and nonproliferation in Central Asia, which I would recommend to everyone interested in the developments in this region.”

Natalia Sarneva, Graduate Student of the Georgetown University:
“It is convenient that the Security Index journal is open to public online together with other publications of the PIR Center. I have to admit that the site is popular with the students and faculty of the School of Foreign Service of the Georgetown University.”

Maxim Starchak, Head of the Group on International Security Problems and Conflicts, Russian Association of Political Science:
“Each year the Website gains more and more information and materials on international security. It becomes a useful resource for any professional in international relations. The broad coverage and the quality of materials distinguish it from any similar portals.”

Natallia Teller, Editor of the Yaderny Kontrol newsletter:
“Nuclear program of Iran and international cooperation in nuclear energy sector, nuclear disarmament and negotiations with North Korea – all these and many other issues are regularly covered in our weekly electronic newsletter called Yaderny Kontrol. The motto of our publication is a view from Russia on global events in the area of nonproliferation and disarmament. We analyze hundreds of articles and select for our readers the most exciting and topical materials providing a full coverage of the events. The newsletter presents Russia’s official position, the assessments by the governmental and nongovernmental experts, including exclusive materials from the PIR Center. Our audience comprises over 600 subscribers, out of whom are experts, politicians, representatives of international organizations.”

PIR Center Website is visited people from nearly 70 countries, including such as Guinea or Bangladesh.

Visitors by country

- Russia (57,676)
- U.S./Canada (7,034)
- Ukraine (3,583)
- Switzerland (2,706)
- Kazakhstan (1,811)
- Germany (1,658)
- South Korea (1,658)
- UK (1,379)
- Other countries (15,616)
- N.A. (2,786)