

MORE PEOPLE WITH IDEAS



ANATOL LIEVEN

is a political scientist and a Senior Researcher (Bernard L. Schwartz fellow and American Strategy Program fellow) at the New America Foundation (Washington, USA). Participant in the Global Policy Forum in Yaroslavl.

Exclusively for the Yaroslavl Forum

The Yaroslavl Forum cannot compete with the Davos forum, for example, due to the fact that it is a conference that is organised by the Russian establishment and because it doesn't have nearly comparable resources. Hence, the **Yaroslavl Forum should take a different approach, namely to offer a platform for new challenging ideas, including non-mainstream ideas.** The Yaroslavl Forum should become a more radical venue, and it should attract more people who entertain outspoken views on contemporary problems. That would certainly stimulate discussion. A number of such people also participated in the Forum, such as Immanuel Wallerstein, for example.

It is also worth it for the organisers to consider reducing the number of participants presenting reports. Some interesting discussions did take place at the Forum. However, in most cases, I knew in advance exactly what this or that expert would be saying. **There were interesting subjects, but crucial issues were presented in a rather impassive manner and there were no radical views expressed.**

For example, if we take the issue of global warming, it would have been great to hear somebody suggesting the idea of controlling the global climate by emitting components that reduce the level of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. This is a very controversial subject that would have definitely triggered lively discussion. This idea is in line

with Russia's interests as the problem of atmospheric emissions is an important one for our country. **We need the right people to come up with elaborated ideas.** This would have attracted additional attention to the conference. The organisers went overboard by inviting such a huge number of VIP personalities who did not make any significant contribution to the work of the Forum or even managed to damage its reputation. I am alluding to the participation of Berlusconi. I don't think that his presence is capable of adding credibility to any international event.

The same is true with regard to the appearance of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. He is a popular Russian politician and he enjoys a parliamentary seat; however, what we have here is an international conference and hence, it is desirable that he and his people stay away from it. It's not merely about his statements being insulting to western experts – indeed, it's a good thing to occasionally put their nose out of joint – but Zhirinovskiy is the wrong person to make such statements. ■

Preparatory meeting for participants in the section 'GLOBAL SECURITY AND LOCAL CONFLICTS' OF THE GLOBAL POLICY FORUM (May 27, 2011 in Riga)

The preparatory meeting for the section 'Global security and local conflicts' of the upcoming Global Policy Forum took place at the House of Blackheads in Riga on May 27.

The preparatory meeting for this section was organised by Executive Directorate of the Global Policy Forum, together with the Baltic Forum.

Experts from Russia, Latvia, the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States of America expressed their opinion on the role of local conflicts in a specific region and their influence on global security, as well as opportunities to localise such conflicts and their prevention.

The experts formulated a range of issues to be discussed at the Global Policy Forum.

The moderator of the section, Chairman of the Management Board of the Institute of Contemporary Development Igor Yurgens said that the first set of issues to be discussed at the section in Yaroslavl is existing local conflicts, including frozen and prolonged ones that require evaluation in search for possibilities regarding their settlement and prevention. Positive experiences in the sphere of conflict management will also be discussed in Yaroslavl.

The second set of issues to be addressed deals with global security. According to Yurgens, the Westphalian system is beginning to malfunction. The conflicts in Kosovo, Abkhazia and South Ossetia demonstrate the necessity of finding new



approaches.

The matter of global instability in the sphere of information continues to be pressing. We still have to deal with cyber attacks, which are used both as an instrument to harm the state economically, as well as an instrument for revolutionary activity.

Igor Yurgens also announced that the Institute of Contemporary Development is preparing a report on relations between NATO and the CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organization).