

# MOSCOW URBAN FORUM

December 4–5, 2012

## AN AUTHORITATIVE DISCUSSION PLATFORM

The Second Moscow Urban Forum "The Megacity on a human scale" gathered more than **1900 participants**, 200 of them representatives of media and 114 speakers from **35 countries** in the central Manezh.

Discussions, lectures, workshops of the Forum were actively discussed by the online community: during the Forum online audience amounted to almost **22 000 people**. 1620 users have signed up for

Moscow Urban Forum page on Facebook, about 19,500 people read posts and almost 2.5 thousand participated in the discussions. On December 4 the Forum's twitter account remained among the trending topics on the social network and the number of # muf2012 hashtags and other references to the Forum approached 500. Live broadcast of the plenary sessions and the most interesting sessions of the MUF aired live on the official TV channel of the event- Moscow 24.

## URBAN EXPERTS, ECONOMISTS AND CITY MAYORS AMONG THE SPEAKERS OF MUF 2012

The transformation of Moscow and other megacities of the world from industrial to post-industrial urban centers was one of the key debate topics at the Second Moscow Urban Forum "The Megacity on a human scale". The mayor of Moscow Sergey Sobyanin who opened the first plenary session of the forum set the tone for the discussions. Deputy head of the Moscow Government Andrey Sharonov and Marat Khusnullin, Chief architect of the Russian capital Sergey Kuznetsov and other representatives of the city were among the leading speakers of the Forum.

Some of the speakers on MUF's celebrity list were: an independent policy adviser in the UK Simon Anholt, British architect and city planner Tim Stonor, Chairman of Committee for PPP, the Franco-Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIFR) Vincent Piron, former Mayor of Chicago Richard Michael Daley, adviser to the Mayor of London Tim Campbell, authoritative American urbanist Federico Casalegno, Chilean architect Alejandro Aravena, guru of international urban development Jan Gehl and many more caused the great interest of the Forum participants and the media.



The Forum's participants agreed that Moscow has a lot of potential, but changes are vital for it.

The capital's urban policy, development of the Moscow agglomeration, competent building of annexed territories, the joint projects of public and private capital, the main directions of budget policy and other topics were discussed during the sessions, speakers also considered different vectors of the megacity development.

In order to select the optimal path successful western and eastern cases should be carefully considered as well as mistakes and experience of other international cities.



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Furthermore a balanced strategy for the megacity should be formulated taking into account the geopolitical, economic and socio-cultural features and benefits of the big city. Director of London's Design Museum, architectural critic, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Architecture and Design at Kingston University Deyan Sudjic emphasized the importance of preserving the identity of the city.



Independent policy advisor Simon Anholt from the UK believes that Moscow deserves a better reputation, but it is not enough just to talk about it, action is needed as well as contributions to the world treasury that are particularly essential.

During the panel session "The Masterplan: a New Spatial Policy" dedicated to the development and formation of the Moscow agglomeration principles of the new urban policy speakers discussed the concept of polycentric development of the capital, ways to deal with traffic congestion and development of public transport system. The experts concluded that the workplace should be created on the new territory of Moscow and not residential buildings. When approving the concept of Greater Moscow, British architect Tim Stonor advised to consider not only the opinions of professionals (designers, architects, etc.), but also of ordinary citizens.

Director of the Centre for Sociology Studies at the Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration Victor Vakhshayn

emphasized the need to improve the culture of human relations as one of the factors of overall improvement of the atmosphere in Moscow and its perception by the visitors.

Speaking of the prospects of the Moscow agglomeration, famous architect and partner of OMA Reinier de Graaf (Netherlands) suggested the idea of practicability of further unification of the capital and the Moscow region that will result in the creation of the Supercity with 20 million people and the area comparable to that of Switzerland. This will facilitate the transition from the hydrocarbon to the creative economy in Russia.

The formula for success of the metropolis in the post-industrial society is the creation of appropriate conditions for the development and multiplication of quality human resources – concluded the participants of the panel session "Human capital and the urban environment: social and cultural aspects." One of the highlights of the discussion was the conversation on the nature of the elites and their role in the development of cities and more so, of society at large. Gor Nahapetyan, managing director of Sberbank CIB, offered functional definition of the elite: elite is not criticizing, it takes responsibility. Deputy Mayor for Economic Policy Andrey Sharonov announced the final idea: Moscow creates and attracts the elite, but it is equally important to keep them in the city.

Discussions on the second working day of the Forum addressed the specific aspects of urban policy in Moscow: affordable housing, preservation of cultural heritage, creation of public spaces, transformation of industrial zones, etc. "It is necessary to not only build houses in the residential areas, but also to create workplaces and green space" - formulated priority for Moscow developers Chief Architect of Moscow Sergey Kuznetsov.



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The cooperation between government agencies and businesses plays an equally important role in the development of cities, it is especially important for the solution of infrastructure problems. During the discussion "The role of public-private partnerships in addressing infrastructure problems of a megacity" Chairman of Committee for PPP, the Franco-Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIFR) Vincent Piron urged the leaders of Russian cities to attract not only financial investments but also technology and know-how from the private sector.



**In the framework of the strategic session "Moscow – a story of success"**, experts and participants of the discussion formed ideas and possible priorities for the new development agenda of Moscow, discussed the key challenges that the capital faces in the context of the current state and development strategy of Moscow 2025. Results were presented for discussion to the mayor of Moscow Sergey Sobyenin. In particular, David Erickson, member of the Board of Directors of MegaFon, said that Moscow is interesting because of its spirit: it was Soviet Union before and for the last hundred years the most interesting buildings in the world were built here.

It is vital for Moscow to become a place that foreigners want to visit. Moscow has a set of positive characteristics: size of the territories and diversity of spaces, cultural heritage and rich history, unique environment and

unlimited human potential. The future of the city will depend on the increase of areas through the rational use of space, including embankments and green spaces, the evolution of the city's openness and transparency for the global community, the flow of intellectual power and approval as the world leader. Tim Campbell, Advisor to the Mayor of London, reminded that there is the Moscow State University - one of the best universities in the world, and expressed the hope that the capital can take the same place based on the level of comfort and appeal in the near future.



As proved by the work of open station of workshops that was organized on the site of MUF there are many concerned people, art groups and companies that are willing to actively participate in changing the urban environment as evidenced by the submitted projects.

Summarizing the results of the discussions at MUF famous Danish architect Jan Gehl recommended to extend the program of Moscow to improve the quality of life in the city center and its suburbs, improve infrastructure in residential areas, to build sociocultural facilities, bike lanes, develop parks, etc. He also paid attention to the water resources of Moscow. This is the highlight of the city: it is necessary to use the embankments for walks and exercise, to free access to the watersides. "Moscow does not need that much time to transform into a beautiful city," - he concluded.



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## PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC



The official website of the Moscow Urban Forum [www.mosurbanforum.ru](http://www.mosurbanforum.ru) provides public access to presentations by the leading speakers of the forum: Alejandro Aravena, Clive Dutton, David Falagan, Rebecca Roberts Huges, Hugo Priemus, Pierre Laconte and many others. Presentations are available for download on [http://mosurbanforum.ru/gallery/presentation/presentation\\_2012/](http://mosurbanforum.ru/gallery/presentation/presentation_2012/)

In addition, participants of the Forum, journalists and all those who are interested in the urban theme can access the photo and video archives from the event here:

<http://mosurbanforum.ru/gallery/photos/>  
<http://mosurbanforum.ru/gallery/video/>

Suggestions and recommendations formulated during the Forum will help to resolve the set of trending problems, they will determine the growth points and breakthrough points in urban development. Obtained practical solutions and advice will become the basis for further constructive work. Following the results of the Forum at the beginning of the next year anyone that is interested in the subject will get access to **“Notebook”** which will reflect the ideas raised at the Forum, the **digest** of the Second Moscow Urban Forum, including the most remarkable reports, as well as the **movie** on the results of the Forum .

**PLEASE FOLLOW THE COVERAGE ON THIS YEAR'S FORUM AND WE ARE HOPING TO SEE YOU 2013 AT THE 3<sup>RD</sup> MOSCOW URBAN FORUM!**



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