



On August 22–24, the XV BRICS Summit was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, with the participation of Brazilian President Lula da Silva; President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin (via videoconference) and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in person; Prime Minister of India Narendra Damodardas Modi, President of China Xi Jinping, President of South Africa Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa.

South African President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, as Chairman of the Association during this period, invited leaders from 67 countries, including more than 60 heads of state and government from Africa, and developing countries from other regions of the world: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Indonesia and Iran.

A year earlier, at the BRICS foreign ministers' meeting on May 19, 2022 via videoconference, China proposed to start the process of BRICS enlargement to *“enhance the Association’s representation and influence in the world”*¹.

By the beginning of the XV Summit, a number of countries had applied to join the organisation, including Argentina, Iran (announced in June 2022), Algeria (in November 2022), Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Egypt (in May 2023); Bangladesh, Ethiopia (in June 2023), and Venezuela (in August 2023). Several other states have officially expressed their interest in joining the format.



Johannesburg. Nelson Mandela Monument in front of Sandton City Centre in the square named after him

¹ What is known about BRICS Association // TASS. URL: <https://tass.ru/info/18558683>



The University of Johannesburg. Kingsway Campus

BRICS leaders adopted the final Second Johannesburg Declaration at the XV BRICS Summit². According to the document, six countries – Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE – will join BRICS from 2024. The participants of the Summit agreed to prepare a new list of possible partners for the next meeting. South African President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa said that BRICS has opened a new chapter in its history.

BRICS participants are in favour of keeping the name of the association after expanding the number of participants, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said. *“Everyone is in favour of keeping the name, it has already become a brand. None of the new entrants to the BRICS ranks suggested otherwise”*, he said at a press conference following the organisation’s summit in South Africa^{3, 4}.

“BRICS leaders have had the opportunity over the past two years to negotiate through videoconferences as well as a full-fledged summit”, South African President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa said on August 24. *“As a result of these talks, we have agreed to adopt the Johannesburg Declaration. This document covers a wide range of issues presented to the leaders, which were negotiated over nearly a year. The work was done by our experts*

*and ministers. As a result, we have adopted this document. This is the Johannesburg Declaration No.2, and it has been adopted”*⁵.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said the results of the summit were brilliant. *“Isolation” as an American weapon has been defeated forever*”, she wrote in her Telegram channel⁵. Russia, as chair of BRICS next year, intends to hold the BRICS summit in Kazan in October 2024.

In his speech at the XV BRICS summit at the enlarged leaders’ meeting on August 23, 2023, Russian President Vladimir Putin drew attention to the issues of transport development in the BRICS countries and their cooperation in this area. Putin drew attention to the issues of transport development of the BRICS countries and their cooperation in this area, in particular, he said: *“An important priority of BRICS cooperation is the creation of new sustainable and safe transport routes. Speaking before the BRICS Business Forum, I have already spoken about the urgency of accelerated development of trans-continental routes, such as the North-South corridor, which will connect Russian ports in the northern seas and the Baltic Sea with sea terminals on the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean coasts and in the future will be able to ensure annual transit of up to 30 million tonnes of cargo.*

² On July 25–27, 2018, the X BRICS Summit was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, which adopted the Johannesburg Declaration, now referred to as the First Johannesburg Declaration.

³ Interestingly, in Chinese, the name of the BRICS Association is denoted by a character 金砖 (pronounced in English as jīn zhuān) and is read “golden bricks”.

⁴ BRICS will retain its name after six more countries join // RIA Novosti. URL: <https://ria.ru/20230824/briks-1891989485.html>

⁵ BRICS countries adopted the Johannesburg Declaration at the end of the 15th summit.



BRICS countries. The names of the countries invited to the BRICS following the XV Summit, whose membership will begin in 2024, are typed in italics⁷

*We believe that the time has come to establish a permanent transport commission within the BRICS framework that would deal not only with the North-South project, but also more broadly with the development of logistics and transport corridors, interregional and global. If the partners agree, the Russian side could work on this idea within the framework of the BRICS Chairmanship in 2024*⁶.

*Based on open sources
Photo by Egor Komarov*

Drawing of flags in the header – source: <https://internationalbanker.com/finance/why-the-brics-bloc-will-play-a-crucial-global-economic-role-in-2023/>

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“Summer School – 2023” for international students was organised in August 2023 by the Emperor Alexander I St. Petersburg State Transport University (PGUPS) with the support of Eurasia International Corporation. As part of the traditional summer programme

for foreigners, a seminar for PRC students studying Russian as a foreign language was held. The seminar was attended by students of Nanjing Institute of Railway Technology (the People's Republic of China), with which



Chinese students in front of the monument to the organiser and First Rector of the University Augustin de Betancourt in front of PGUPS building (PGUPS Press Service)

⁶ BRICS Leaders' Enlarged Meeting. URL: <http://kremlin.ru/events/president/news/72089>

⁷ Collage by E. Komarov on the basis of contour map (URL: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/6b/Map_of_BRICS_countries.svg)

PGUPS maintains long-term cooperation on the basis of a long-term agreement. The students from China were taught according to the programme of specially organised master-classes of intensive Russian language learning with immersion in the language environment by experienced teachers. In addition to classroom classes, the programme included excursions in Russian to the university, Saint Petersburg and its surroundings.

It is planned that next academic year the Chinese students who participated in the Summer School will join the ranks of PGUPS students and start studying the bachelor's degree programme "Electric Power Engineering and Electrical Engineering".

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On August 24–27, 2023, the International Railway Salon "PRO//Movement.Expo" was held in Saint Petersburg. This important event in the field of railway transport was held for the first time on the site of the Museum of Russian Railways in Saint Petersburg. Samples of new equipment were presented on the area of more than seven thousand square metres – in the covered pavilion, on the open area and on the railway tracks. The event was attended by more than 130 companies, including 15 foreign ones, in particular, the car-building enterprise Jinxi Axle Co. Ltd. and a manufacturer of railway special machinery, particularly construction machinery, Shandong Huasheng Zhongtian Engineering Machinery Co. Ltd. of the People's Republic of China.

The exposition included 42 units of railway equipment, including more than 30 locomotives and cars, as well as new electric trains.

Oleg Belozerov, General Director and Chairman of the Management Board of "Russian Railways", JSC, together with other company executives, inspected the exhibits. Among the latest developments at the exhibition were presented: hybrid contact-battery DC electric

locomotive EMKA2; a new modification of electric train EGE2Tv "Ivolga 4.0"; DC electric train EP2DM; electric locomotive 3ES8 "Malakhit", which will become the basic platform for the development of the family of electric locomotives; a model of a prospective capsule passenger car in the dimension of the rolling stock T; a model of the updated interior of the SV car and other exhibits.

The PRO//Movement.Expo business programme included round tables, panel discussions, reports and communications devoted to the problems of achieving technological independence of the domestic railway engineering industry, development of digital technologies, the latest trends in transport logistics and issues of international cooperation strategy.

An important event of the business programme was the panel discussion "Prospects for the Development of Transport and Railway Engineering. Image of 2030", in which Oleg Belozerov, General Director and Chairman of the Management Board of "Russian Railways", JSC, took part and made a presentation.

The participants in the discussion presented their vision of the industry's development in the near future in the context of sanctions restrictions and assessed the importance of consolidating efforts and co-operation with transport engineering leaders from friendly countries.

According to Oleg Belozerov, in order to maintain and strengthen its leading position, Russian Railways, together with machine-building holdings, will have to ensure the development and implementation of a number of innovative technologies by 2030: hydrogen propulsion systems, unmanned steering and high-speed railways.

In his speech, Sergey Kobzev, the First Deputy General Director of "Russian Railways", JSC, said that the share of foreign components in the Russian rolling stock currently does not exceed 6 %, and only 6,000 out of 200,000 units of design documentation are supplied



General view of the complex of pavilions and full-scale exhibits of the Museum of Russian Railways in Saint Petersburg



Panel discussion "Innovations. Vector of Cooperation"



Roundtable "The Russian Labour Market: Staff Training at Universities and Competition for Talent among Employers"

by foreign companies⁸. "Russian Railways", JSC, together with machine-building companies, is certifying and organising serial production of new domestic models that will replace imported component parts.

Dmitriy Pegov, General Deputy Director of "Russian Railways", JSC and Head of the Traction Directorate, spoke about import substitution programmes using the example of electric trains. *"We organised the maintenance of Sapsan and Lastochka trains using our own resources in almost a month – in the shortest possible time we set up our own company, which took the initiative to carry out maintenance, and the process of transition to maintenance of trains exclusively using our own resources is proceeding as planned"*⁸.

Effective discussions were devoted to the prospects of domestic car building. Dmitriy Pegov, Deputy General Director of "Russian Railways", JSC, together

with representatives of manufacturing companies, presented a model of passenger carriages taking into account passenger demands. At present, the possibility of developing a permanent passenger train of the Push-Pull type consisting of a two-system electric locomotive, double-deck cars and a double-deck end car with a control cabin is being considered.

Representatives of railway enterprises and industry-specific universities showed great interest in the round table "The Russian Labour Market: Staff Training at Universities and Competition for Talent among Employers". It was attended by major experts in the field of transport staffing, including Dmitriy Shakhnov, Deputy General Director of "Russian Railways", JSC, and Oleg Valinskiy, Rector of PGUPS.

Dmitriy Shakhnov noted that in order to attract new employees, the holding company has developed

⁸ The International Railway Salon "PRO//Movement.Expo: took place in Saint Petersburg on August 24-27. URL: <https://railwayforum.ru/news/?ID=13011>



Dmitriy Shakhanov (left) and Oleg Valinskiy, participants of the roundtable "The Russian Labour Market: Staff Training at Universities and Competition for Talent among Employers"

a set of tools under the general name "Russian Railways – for people of business", he also formulated the key advantages of the company as an employer: scale, technology and care for employees⁷.

The exposition of the Emperor Alexander I St. Petersburg State Transport University at the exhibition of the salon was unfolded, where the developments of the University's employees and students were presented, in particular, a pilot plant made by students of the Department of Locomotives and Locomotive Maintenance, with the consulting assistance of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Heat Engineering. The essence of the device proposed by students Danil Taritsin, Danil Orlov and Alexander Petukhov is to create a non-contact drive using permanent magnets for locomotive auxiliary devices, for example, compressors and fans of the diesel refrigerator.

A number of agreements between business partners were signed during the PRO//Movement.Expo salon. In particular, the Emperor Alexander I St. Petersburg State Transport University signed a cooperation agreement with Joint Stock Company "Research Institute of Railway Transport" ("VNIIZhT", JSC), which provides for mutually beneficial cooperation aimed at the development of educational, scientific, innovative and research activities of PGUPS, improving the quality of training and retraining of personnel for railway transport. The parties intend to participate in the consortium within the framework of cooperation under the Priority 2030 strategic academic leadership programme and the development of technological leadership in the target areas of activity established by this programme.

The University also signed a plan of joint work until 2025 with the car building company "MC RM Rail", LLC. The plan provides for a wide range of joint scientific, academic, cultural and educational activities aimed at

research in the field of car design and production and training of specialists for the industry.

On August 26–27, after the official part of the PRO//Movement.Expo salon, designed for specialists, Open Road Days were organised for all interested citizens and guests of Saint Petersburg. The complex of the Museum of Russian Railways and exhibition grounds were visited by more than 11 thousand people. On the platform tracks of the Baltiyskiy railway station there was organised a display of operating machinery: steam



PGUPS students demonstrate their presentation of experimental plant of non-contact drive with permanent magnets (pictured in the foreground, left to right): Danil Taritsin, Alexander Petukhov and Danil Orlov



Tamila Titova First Vice Rector, Vice Rector for Scientific Work during the presentation of experimental plant of non-contact drive with permanent magnets. Alexander Petukhov (left) and Danil Orlov (right), the students of Emperor Alexander I State Transport University present the plant



Sergey Vinogradov (left), General Director of VNIIZhT, and Oleg Valinskiy, Rector of PGUPS, sign the co-operation agreement



After signing the plan of joint work until 2025, "MC RM Rail", LLC and PGUPS – exchange of signed documents and handshake: General Director of "MC RM Rail", LLC Maksim Teves (left) and Rector of PGUPS Oleg Valinskiy

locomotives of CO and P36 series, electric locomotives of CS2 and CS6 series and other locomotives.

The guests of the Open Road Days were welcomed with various excursions, thematic exhibitions for adult visitors and children of different ages, and quizzes.

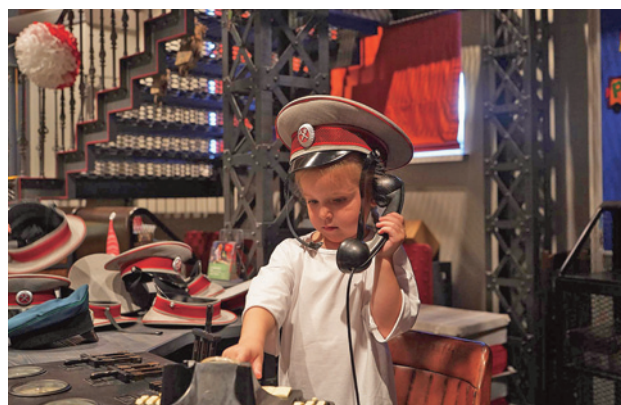
Visitors could watch the parade of operating vintage steam locomotives, electric and diesel locomotives, as well as new developments of rolling stock, which Russian railway workers are proud of, from the stands along the railway tracks.

Photo report

THE OPEN ROAD DAYS



Lectures and excursions



Classes for young visitors of the exhibition on training facilities (simulators) and business games



Children's railway drawing competition, games and quizzes



Parade of Locomotives

The PRO//Movement.Expo Salon has become an important event not only in scientific, engineering, economic, but also cultural life of Russia and Saint Petersburg.

*Based on the materials of "Gudok" Publishing House (URL: <https://railwayforum.ru/news/?ID=13011>).
Photo provided by the Corporate Communications Service of the Oktyabrskaya Railway, a branch of Russian Railways, and the press service of the Museum of Russian Railways.*

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As part of the Moscow Urban Forum, the BRICS International Innovation Forum was held in Moscow on August 27–29, 2023, which brought together more than 4,000 participants from 30 countries. The business programme, which included 50 thematic sessions, featured more than 130 Russian-speaking and 70 foreign speakers from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, China, Japan, Serbia, South Africa, India and other countries.

The forum addressed the issues of sustainable development of the urban environment, including transport problems, various aspects of social and economic life of modern megacities.

The business platforms became the place to discuss the basics of creating a “cloud city”, which will help to make a smart urban “revolution” oriented towards economy, state and person.

The business programme “Human” dealt with the issues of sharing economy, new services and services. The Economy programme offered a new perspective on the development of infrastructure, services and scientific and technical research. The panel discussions focused on the topics of digitalisation and cloud infrastructure of cities, economics and technological transformation of urban and banking services that are changing our lives. A separate discussion was held on the issue of “Technology for Human or Human for Technology”.

PGUPS was represented at the forum by Andrey Lang and Nikita Labutin, graduate students of the



Panel discussion at the forum



International Forum participants Alina Yurchenko (left) and Tatiana Ageeva

Bridges Department, and Tatiana Ageeva and Alina Yurchenko, master's students, who presented their reports.

PGUPS Press Service (PGUPS photo)

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On September 1, 2023, the Emperor Alexander I St. Petersburg State Transport University held a solemn ceremony dedicated to the Day of Knowledge. According to the established tradition, the holiday was held in the square of the Yusupov Palace on the Fontanka River.

Rector of PGUPS Oleg Valinskiy addressed the first-year students with a farewell speech: “This is a particularly exciting day for me, because I am also a first-year student, for me it is the first academic year in a new position at our wonderful university. A university that has a history of 214 years. During these years it has been increasing its competences, training specialists for the railways, metro and other important enterprises of our Motherland. I think that you, as students joining our staff, will support the traditions existing in the university, become talented specialists and increase the glory of the Leningrad Institute of Railway Engineers”.



The palace of the Yusupov Princes on the Fontanka embankment in Saint Petersburg. Architect G. Quarenghi, late 18th century. On November 1, 1810, students of the first engineering transport university in Russia – now Emperor Alexander I St. Petersburg State Transport University (PGUPS) – began their studies in this building. The garden of the Yusupov Palace (Yusupov Garden) traditionally hosts university students' festivals. Photo by Egor Komarov



From left to right: guests of honour: Viktor Golomolzin, Head of the Oktyabrskaya Railway – a branch of “Russian Railways”, JSC; Nikita Kamenir, Head of the North-West Territorial Administration of the Federal Railway Transport Agency; Oleg Valinskiy, Rector of PGUPS; Oleg Belozеров, General Director and Chairman of the Management Board of “Russian Railways”, JSC; Kirill Polyakov, Vice-Governor of Saint Petersburg; Natalia Astakhova, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Saint Petersburg; Denis Shevchenko, Transport Prosecutor of Saint Petersburg, and Evgeniy Kozin, Head of the Saint Petersburg Metro. Oleg Belozеров, General Director and Chairman of the Management Board of “Russian Railways” is reporting his speech



First-year students of PGUPS at celebration of the Day of Knowledge

Oleg Belozеров, General Director and Chairman of the Management Board of “Russian Railways”, JSC, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of PGUPS, said: *“Dear friends, the fact that you are here today is already a certain success, you have passed the entrance tests, you have decided on your future profession. Now our*

task is to persuade you to come to our company after graduation. Russian railways are developing, and each of you will find interesting and promising work for energetic people, for people of business. Railways move by people’s energy and we need your energy and knowledge very much”.



The part of the celebration adapted for stage. The symbolic student card is handed over by the university rector Oleg Valinskiy and the university organiser Augustin de Betancourt, performed by Associate Professor Evgeniy Korovyakovskiy



The symbolic flame of knowledge is lit by Nikolay Bushuev, an honourable teacher of PGUPS



According to tradition, first-year students laid flowers at the monument to the organiser of the university, the First Rector Augustin de Betancourt

The audience was greeted by the guests of honour: Nikita Kamenir, a graduate of PGUPS, Head of the North-West Territorial Department of the Federal Railway Transport Agency; Kirill Polyakov, Vice-Governor of Saint Petersburg; Evgeniy Kozin, a graduate of the university, head of Saint Petersburg Metro, who congratulated professors, teachers and students on the Day of Knowledge and wished them success.

In the theatrical part of the holiday the organiser and the First Rector of the University, Engineer, Architect, Scientist Augustin de Betancourt, whose role was played by Associate Professor Evgeniy Korovyakovskiy, addressed the first-year students. By his decree he ordered to light the symbolic fire of knowledge “as an eternal symbol of the movement from the darkness of ignorance to the light of knowledge”, which was performed by Nikolay Bushuev, an honourable lecturer of PGUPS.

At the end of the celebration, Rector Oleg Valinskiy presented representatives of first-year students with a symbolic student ticket. The 214th academic year began at the Emperor Alexander I St. Petersburg State Transport University.

Egor Komarov. Photo of PGUPS

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A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Emperor Alexander I St. Petersburg State Transport University was held on September 1 under the chairmanship of Oleg Belozеров, General Director and Chairman of the Management Board of “Russian Railways”. JSC.

They considered the following issues: the results of implementation of the Development Programme of

the Emperor Alexander I St. Petersburg State Transport University for 2019–2023 in 2019–2022; joint activities of PGUPS and “Russian Railways”, JSC, for advanced training of specialists; preparation for the events scheduled for 2024 dedicated to the memory of Augustin de Betancourt – the First Rector of the Leningrad Institute of Railway Engineers, General Director of Railway Engineering of the Russian Empire (to the 200th anniversary of the death of A.A. de Betancourt on 26 July 2024). Specific decisions were made on the issues considered.

The meeting approved the new composition of the Board of Trustees: Oleg Belozеров – General Director and Chairman of the Management Board of “Russian Railways”, JSC, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of PGUPS; Oleg Valinskiy – Rector of PGUPS; Vladimir Garyugin – Honorary Citizen of Saint Petersburg; Viktor Golomolzin – Head of the Oktyabrskaya Railway – branch of “Russian Railways”, JSC; Aleksey Druzhinin – Head of the Federal Agency for Railway Transport; Evgeniy Kozin – Head of the State Unitary Enterprise “Saint Petersburg Metro”; Anatoliy Krasnoshchek – Senior Advisor to the Director General of “Russian Railways”, JSC; Jakob Kraft, General Director of Yamal Railway Company; Kirill Lipa, General Director of “Transmashholding”, JSC; Viktor Lobko, President of PGUPS Alumni Corps; Kirill Polyakov, Vice-Governor of Saint Petersburg; Igor Romashov, Chairman of the Board of Directors of “Transoil”, LLC, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the PGUPS Development Assistance Fund; Valeriy Tanaev, Head of Moscow Railway, a branch of “Russian Railways”, JSC. PGUPS Professor Igor Kiselev was reappointed Secretary of the Council.



Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Emperor Alexander I St. Petersburg State Transport University, 1 September 2023, St. Petersburg. Photo by PGUPS

PGUPS Press Service