

Information

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III conference of the Association of rectors of transport universities of BRICS+

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ABSTRACT On June 10–11, 2024, the Emperor Alexander I St. Petersburg Transport University (PGUPS) in St. Petersburg hosted the III Conference of the Association of Rectors of Transport Universities of BRICS+.**For citation:** Komarov E. III conference of the Association of rectors of transport universities of BRICS+ // *BRICS transport*. 2024;3(2):1. <https://doi.org/10.46684/2024.2.1>.

Информация

III Конференция Ассоциации транспортных вузов БРИКС+

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АННОТАЦИЯ 10–11 июня 2024 г. в Санкт-Петербурге на базе Петербургского государственного университета путей сообщения Императора Александра I (ПГУПС) состоялась III Конференция Ассоциации ректоров транспортных вузов БРИКС.**Для цитирования:** Егор Комаров Е. III Конференция Ассоциации транспортных вузов БРИКС+ // *Транспорт БРИКС*. 2023. Т. 3. Вып. 2. Ст. 1. <https://doi.org/10.46684/2024.2.1>.

In the light of the expansion of international contacts and growth of global trade, over the last decades, the requirements for training of professionals for the transport sector in various countries have been increasingly converging. Certainly, a degree of alignment varies depending on a particular mode of transport. It is most of all manifested in training of specialists for water and air transport who are to be involved in international traffic with a high level of alignment of safety requirements, but every year it applies more and more to road and railway transport, too.

With regard to aspects of transport management, such as logistics, environment protection, energy saving, managing the transportation of highly hazardous goods, and international passenger traffic, require-

ments for transport personnel in different countries obviously become increasingly similar.

This makes academic, scholarly and engineering activities of educational institutions involved in training of manpower for the transport industry across the world similar in terms of the scope, challenges, and prospects. The goals and objectives for the development of contacts in these areas have formed the basis for the idea to establish the Association of Rectors of Transport Universities of the BRICS Countries put forward by the management of PGUPS in 2016–2018. It was presented at international conferences, symposiums, and workshops at a number of universities in China, India, Brazil, and South Africa and was received with interest and approval.



St. Petersburg. The Yusupov Palace on the embankment of the Fontanka River¹ is the cradle of Russian transport education and science. It is the first building of the Institute of the Corps of Railway Engineers. Currently, the building houses classrooms and the historical and cultural centre of Emperor Alexander I St. Petersburg Transport University (PGUPS). The III Conference of the Association of Rectors of Transport Universities of BRICS+ took place here on June 10–11, 2024. Photo by V. Korovyakovsky



Participants of the conference at the Yusupov Palace. June 10, 2024. Photo by V. Korovyakovsky

¹ Architect Giacomo Quarenghi, an architectural monument of the 18th century.



Conference room of the Constituent Conference of the Association of Rectors of Transport Universities of BRICS+. St. Petersburg, PGUPS. November 13, 2018. Photo by E. Komarov

The preparation work took several years, when representatives of various educational institutions exchanged their opinions, entered into bilateral agreements, held conference, exchange visits, consulted with major transport companies as the leading employers for graduates from transport educational institutions in the member countries, and with public authorities. In Russia, the idea to establish the Association was supported by the Ministry of Transport of Russia, the Federal Agency for Railway Transport (Roszheldor), and one of the world's largest transport companies JSC Russian Railways.

The constituent conference took place in St. Petersburg in 2018, where representatives of technical and transport universities from Brazil, Russia, India, China and the Republic of South Africa established the Association of Rectors of Transport Universities of BRICS+.

The purpose of the establishment of the Association is to provide an environment for transport-related educational institutions in the BRICS countries to share their experience in training of highly skilled personnel, implementation of state-of-the-art technology innovations in the transport sector, combining their efforts for the integration of universities into a global academic and scholarly community, improving their ratings on the international market of education, and supporting export of educational services.

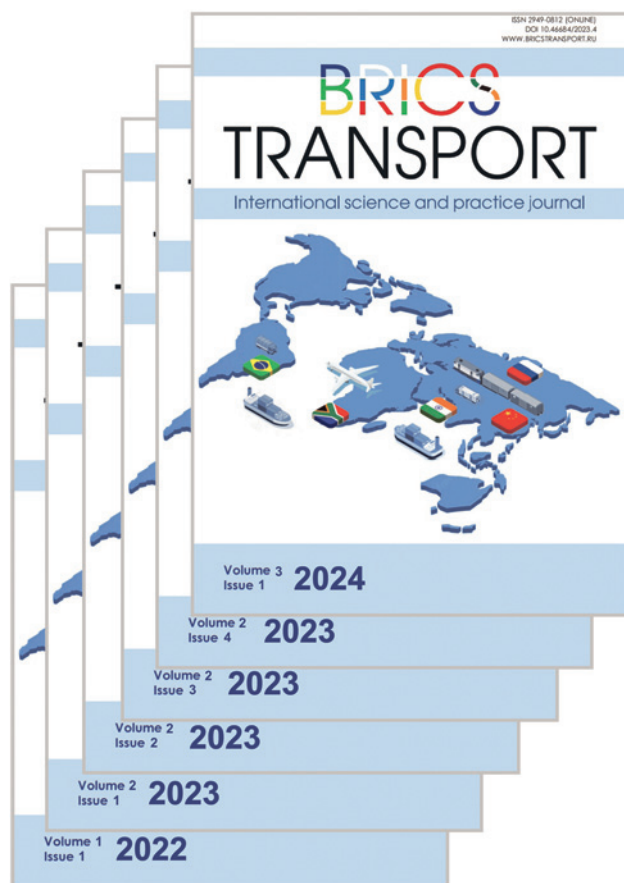
The Association is designed to contribute to combining efforts for the preservation, strengthening and development of the existing ties between universities; facilitate international academic exchanges of teachers and students; organize conferences and workshops

to share experience in the development of educational programs in transport; implement joint educational, scientific, and cultural projects, in particular in the network format; coordinate its efforts with national and international educational agencies; contribute to the organization of joint research work in priority focus areas of the transport industry; promote the publication of collections of research papers, monographs, learning and teaching materials, dictionaries, glossaries, etc.

In 2019, the II Conference of the Association held in Johannesburg, South Africa, adopted specific decisions on planning its activities for the years to come.



A group of participants of the II Conference of the Association of Rectors of Transport Universities of BRICS+ during the meeting with Mr. J. Mamabolo, the Minister of Transport of Gauteng Province, South Africa (fifth from left). Johannesburg, South Africa. October 23, 2019. Photo by E. Komarov



Covers of the BRICS Transport journal issues published in 2022–2024. <https://www.bricstransport.ru/jour>

The coronavirus pandemic mixed up the plans of the Association; however, it was able to hold a number of scientific and educational events online. 2022 saw the establishment of the *BRICS Transport* journal, an information organ of the Association in pursuance of the decisions of the 2019 Conference. The founders of the journal are Emperor I St. Petersburg State Transport University and the Training and Methodology Centre for Railway Transport Education. The journal has been registered as a mass media outlet in accordance with the established procedure in the Russian Federation and is issued in English on a regular quarterly basis. To date, six issues have been published.

The five years that have lapsed after the establishment of the Association were quite difficult. The global political landscape has changed drastically. In the recent years, the countries of Global South and the Russian Federation have encountered manifestations of neo-colonialism on the part of the United States and a number of EU countries. This, however, has promoted the search for new ways of interaction between Rus-

sia and its friendly countries and had positive effects on the enhancement and expansion of partnerships within the BRICS countries in economic, scientific, academic and other spheres.

The expansion of BRICS to 10 members in 2024 with the accession of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has strengthened the collective positions of the countries.

Transport is one of the most important areas in the activities of the BRICS countries. This was particularly highlighted in the speech of President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin during the expanded meeting of leaders at the 15th BRICS Summit on August 23, 2023. The President, in particular, said, *“The creation of new sustainable and safe transportation routes is an important priority in the interactions in the BRICS space. Speaking to the participants of the BRICS Business Forum, I already mentioned the relevance of the accelerated development of transcontinental 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 coast of the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean and will be able to provide annual transit of up to 30 million tonnes of cargo in the future.*

“We believe that the time is ripe for establishing a standing committee within the BRICS to deal not only with the North–South project, but also, more generally, with the development of logistics and transport corridors, both interregional and global. With the consent of our partners, Russia could work on this idea while chairing BRICS in 2024.”²

Based on the tasks set, the management of PGUPS initiated the convocation of the III Conference of the Association of Rectors of Transport Universities of BRICS+ in early 2024. The initiative was supported by the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation, Roszheldor, and JSC Russian Railways.

The idea to promote the activity of the Association of Rectors of Transport Universities of BRICS+ by holding a conference was in line with the activities of the BRICS Business Council established further to the 5th BRICS Summit held in Durban, South Africa, in 2013. The Council is designed as a platform for discussing issues of strengthening and promoting economic, trade, business and investment ties between the business communities in the BRICS countries, and for supporting a dialogue between the business community and government agencies.

In 2024, the Subgroup on Transport and Logistics of the BRICS Business Council was established at the behest of JSC Russian Railways to provide a platform for

² BRICS+ meeting of leaders. URL: <http://kremlin.ru/events/president/news/72089>



Conference room of the III Conference of the Association of Rectors of Transport Universities of BRICS+. Yusupov Palace on Fontanka Embankment. PGUPS. St. Petersburg June 10, 2024. Photo by D. Firsov

interested players in the transport sector to discuss important issues related to the development of transport and logistics for the improvement of logistics connectivity between the countries of the association. To date, about 100 organizations have taken part in the meetings of the Subgroup. These include not only transport and logistics companies, but also educational institutions, research organizations in the field of transport and logistics, and sector-specific universities. The Subgroup on Transport and Logistics of the BRICS Business Council supported holding the III Conference of the Association of Rectors of Transport Universities of BRICS+ as one of its formal events.

The Conference of the Association of Rectors of Transport Universities of BRICS+ took place on June 10–11, 2024 bringing together about 100 participants, including representatives of transport and technical universities, transport companies, research and design organizations in the field of transport. In addition, about 50 representatives of these organizations attended remotely through video conferencing. All of the countries that are currently members of BRICS were represented at the Conference.

The Conference was opened by the Rector of the hosting university, Emperor Alexander I St. Petersburg State Transport University, Oleg S. Valinsky who declared it open and welcomed the participants:

“Dear participants of the conference, colleagues, dear guests,

I cordially welcome you in the beautiful St. Petersburg and in the first transport engineering university, in the historical hall of the Yusupov Palace on Fontanka.

The founder of our educational institution, Emperor Alexander I, gathered the best professors and teachers from Russia and European countries, headed by Augustine Betancourt, the famous engineer and expert in engineering training at the best European universities, to teach at the Institute of the Corps of Railway Engineers.

On the instructions of the emperor, the treasury bought this beautiful palace with a park for the institute. Here Betancourt created a unique higher engineering educational institution, where future engineering talents studied and were educated. This year our University celebrates 215 years since its foundation.

The brilliant architectural and construction appearance of St. Petersburg of the XIX century, with its bridges, embankments and palace ensembles, was created by architects and builders, guided by graduates of the first engineering university of Russia. In memory of visiting the Great City, we ask you to accept the album “St. Petersburg and the Suburbs” as a gift. I also want to draw attention to the souvenir that we are presenting. The frog is a symbol of the students of our University, since initially the university trained railway engineers for both land and water transport. We hope that the souvenir will also become your good talisman.



Presidium of the III Conference of the Association of Rectors of Transport Universities of BRICS+. From left to right: Tamila S. Titova, First Vice-Rector – Vice-Rector for Research, PGUPS; Oleg S. Valinsky, Chairman of the Conference, Rector of PGUPS; Feng Yaou, President of the Eurasia International Corporation, China. Photo by D. Firsov

Dear colleagues! Representatives of higher education institutions from all 10 BRICS countries take part in our conference in both face-to-face and distance format. We have a wide representation of transport educational institutions in Russia, and our industrial partners are with us in this hall. I thank all the participants of the conference for their interest and attention to our event.

I declare the conference open, I wish you fruitful work and great success”.

The greeting letters to the conference participants were presented by the Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation Roman V. Starovoit, the Governor of St. Petersburg Alexander D. Beglov, and General Director – Chairman of the Board of JSC Russian Railways Oleg V. Belozyorov.



Министр транспорта Российской Федерации

Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation

To the Participants of the III Conference of the Association of Rectors of Transport Universities of BRICS

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation, I would like to welcome you at the Third Conference of the Association of Rectors of Transport Universities of BRICS.

The global transport system is facing monumental challenges that urge us to place our focus on meeting the increasing needs of passenger and freight transportation, making them more efficient, safe and fast, while providing the comfort of passenger movements and convenient working environments for consignors and consignees.

Many transport solutions are indispensable from the global development of humanity on planetary scales. Modern transport requires that we improve processes in science and education and share international experience. This will contribute to the progress of both the BRICS countries and the world as a whole.

Joint efforts have a great positive influence on the growing partnership between the countries concerned. Scientific, cultural and humanitarian programs and projects implemented by the Association are making a brilliant contribution to the future.

I would like to wish the conference participants success in their endeavors, constructive scientific discussions, expanding the existing and building new business and social contacts.

Roman V. Starovoit

Greetings to the participants of the Conference from the Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation Roman V. Starovoit.
English translation



GOVERNOR OF ST. PETERSBURG

To the Participants of the III Conference
of the Association of Transport
Universities of BRICS

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Government of St. Petersburg, I welcome you at the III Conference of the Association of Transport Universities of BRICS.

Today, the BRICS association is playing a pivotal role in the global space. Its member states are steadfast to their positions on the international arena and present a united front in making important economic and political decisions.

A modern transport logistics system is being built up before our eyes, involving representatives of one of the world's largest economic blocks.

The fact that St. Petersburg is hosting the Third Conference of the Association of Rectors of Transport Universities of the BRICS Countries once again confirms its special status and potential as a major hub of education, science and culture.

Emperor Alexander I St. Petersburg State Transport University is one of the leading universities of the Northern capital. Its facilities provide a reputable international platform that sets an intellectual agenda for the development of transport universities in the BRICS countries, including the exchange of experience, state-of-the-art technology and innovation.

Collaborative programs in science and education that are designed to deliver forward-looking training of a new generation of talents will contribute to the strengthening of the technological sovereignty of our countries.

I am convinced that the Conference will provide a forum for effective discussion of pressing challenges in the transport sector, search for innovative solutions, and expansion of partnerships. I wish you all successful and productive work.

Governor of St. Petersburg

Alexander D. Beglov

Greetings to the participants of the Conference from the Governor of St. Petersburg Alexander D. Beglov.
English translation

To the Participants of the III Conference of the
Association of Rectors of Transport
Universities of BRICS

Dear Participants of the Conference, dear Friends,

I warmly welcome you on behalf of Russian Railway OJSC!

As a major transport and logistics company in Russia taking the lead in a number of aspects, RZhD Holding has been actively strengthening its international ties, implementing important projects in the railway industry in foreign countries, and offering its foreign customers the most advanced solutions in technology and infrastructure. Cooperation in the field of personnel training and development is becoming an increasingly important area in our international activities. After all, RZhD OJSC is the founder of almost one hundred educational institutions, it supports 71 centers of excellence, and our Corporate University was recognized as one of the best in the world.

Given the growing significance of the integration within the BRICS for the global economy, it appears to be extremely important to jointly generate and implement professional, educational, cultural and humanitarian projects at high education institutions in the partnering countries. In this process, the role of the Association of Rectors of Transport Universities in the BRICS countries can hardly be overestimated, as it offers an environment for extending contacts between university leaders, enabling them to subsequently proceed with consistent work based on long-term programs involving professors, teachers and students. RZhD OJSC is closely cooperating with Russian industry-specific universities and is willing to contribute to professional training and support promising educational and scientific projects.

I am convinced that our meeting will be an important milestone in the development of cooperation between transport universities of the BRICS countries. I wish all the participants fruitful work and success in the pursuit of their goals for the benefit of our countries!

General Director – Chairman of the Board of RZhD OJSC,
Representative of the Russian Federation
at the BRICS Business Council

Oleg V. Belozyorov

Greetings to the participants of the Conference from General Director and Chairman of the Board of JSC Russian Railways
Oleg V. Belozyorov. English translation

The conference participants were greeted by Head of the Federal Agency for Railway Transport (Roszheldor) Aleksey A. Druzhinin (via video link), Head of the Administrative and Personnel Department of the Federal Agency for Railway Transport Andrey M. Bespalov, President of the Eurasia In-

ternational Corporation, China, Feng Yaou, Minister of Transport of the Republic of Cuba Eduardo Rodríguez Dávila, Director of the Institute for Transport and Logistics Studies at University of Johannesburg, South Africa, Prof. Noleen Pisa, and others.



Andrey M. Bespalov, Head of the Administrative and Personnel Department of the Federal Agency for Railway Transport is greeting the Conference participants. In the photo are Nikita V. Kamenir, Head of the North-West Regional Department of the Federal Agency for Railway Transport (on the left). Photo by D. Firsov



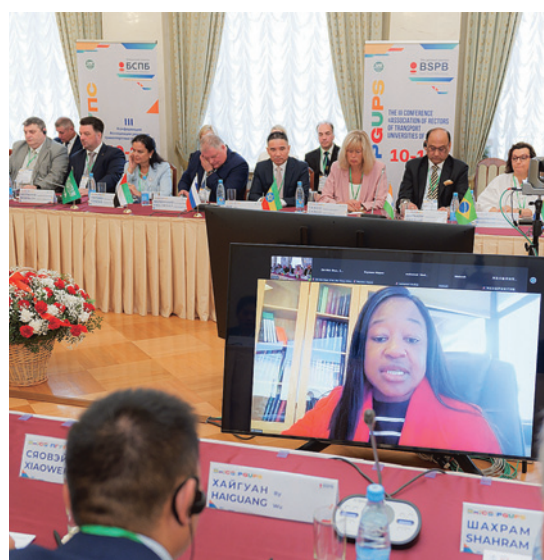
Alexander M. Zbarsky, Deputy Head of the Personnel Management Department of JSC Russian Railways is greeting the Conference participants, Peter K. Rybin, the first Vice-rector, Vice-rector for Academic Work of PGUPS (on the left). Photo by D. Firsov



Irina Yu. Ganus, acting Chairperson of the Committee for Science and Higher Education of the Government of St. Petersburg, is greeting the Conference participants. Photo by V. Korovyakovsky



Feng Yaou, President of the Eurasia International Corporation, China, is greeting the Conference participants. Photo by V. Korovyakovsky



Prof Noleen Pisa, Head of Department and Associate Professor & Director: Institute for Transport and Logistics Studies (ITLS) at University of Johannesburg, South Africa, is greeting the Conference participants via video link



Eduardo Rodríguez Dávila, Minister of Transport of the Republic of Cuba, is greeting the Conference participants via video link



Kumar Gaurav, Consul General of India in St. Petersburg, is greeting the Conference participants. Photo by V. Korovyakovsky



Esraa Daoud – assistant professor, the Head of the Grants and International Cooperation Office, Helwan University, Egypt is greeting the Conference participants via video link



Andrea Santos, Professor, Dean of the Faculty of Transport of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Federal Republic of Brazil is greeting the Conference participants via video link

Chaired by PGUPS Rector Oleg S. Valinsky, the plenary session of the Conference “Development of the BRICS Transport System: Role of Transport Universities” included about 20 presentations by experts from transport organizations, higher education institutions, research and design organizations in Russia, India, China, South Africa, Ethiopia, Brazil, and Egypt. The speakers talked about their understanding of and proposals on the goals and objectives of the Association and the ways for the improvement of manpower training and transport operations.

The presentations were delivered by **Oleg S. Valinsky**, Rector of PGUPS: “Responsibilities of a transport university for the development and dissemination of advanced competencies in the fields of transport and transport education in the context of the expanding BRICS space”; **Kirill L. Muzalevsky**, First Deputy Head of the Department of Foreign Projects and International Cooperation, JSC Russian Railways, and acting Head of the Subgroup on Transport and Logistics of the BRICS Business Council: “Topical issues of business cooperation in the fields of transport and logistics in the framework of BRICS”; **Vitaly V. Stepanishchev**, General Director of the Business Centre for the Development of Cooperation with Latin American Countries: “The status and development of transport and logistics integration of South American countries”; **Sergei O. Baryshnikov**, Rector of the Admiral Makarov State University of Maritime and Inland Shipping: “The research and academic potential of the State University of Maritime and Inland Shipping in the framework of the BRICS Associa-

tion”; **Valery F. Tanaev**, Head of the Moscow Railway, a branch of JSC Russian Railways: “Transport support and prospects for the development of the freight frame on the Moscow Railway”; **Shan Zhiwei**, Vice President of Xi'an Jiaotong Transport University, China (via video link); **Artem I. Azhgirevich**, Rector of the Moscow Automobile and Road Construction State Technical University: “Forward-looking training of human resources for the transport sector”; **Tribhuvan Darbari**, Chairman of the SCO Secretariat, India: “The proposed strategy for the development of PGUPS among the SCO and BRICS countries”; **Natalia N. Shishlakova**, Deputy General Director for Corporate Development and Project Activities, Member of the Management Board of JSC Transmashholding, Director of Transmashholding Corporate University: “Training and Industry”; **Andrey A. Tikhomirov**, Head of the Centre for Macroeconomics and Forecasting Methodology, Institute of Economics and Transport Development: “Prospects for the development of transport and logistics routes connecting the BRICS countries”; **Vladimir V. Burovtsev**, Rector of the Far Eastern State Transport University: “Far Eastern State Transport University as the eastern academic outpost for the transport system in the Asia-Pacific region”; **Moges Aregay Gebremariam**, Head of Marketing and Investment Department, Ethiopian Railways: “The strategic plan for the development of Ethiopian Railway Corporation and its role in transport and logistics of the BRICS countries”; **Mikhail N. Cheptsov**, Rector of the Donetsk Railway Institute: “The Donetsk Railway Institute: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow”³.



Oleg S. Valinsky, Rector of Emperor Alexander I St. Petersburg State Transport University is speaking.
Photo by D. Firsov



Kirill L. Muzalevsky, First Deputy Head of the Department of Foreign Projects and International Cooperation, JSC Russian Railways, is speaking.
Photo by D. Firsov



Vitaly V. Stepanishchev, General Director of the Business Centre for the Development of Cooperation with Latin American Countries, is speaking.
Photo by V. Belikov

³ The Editorial Board is planning to publish presentations of the Conference participants in the coming issues.



Sergei O. Baryshnikov, Rector of the Admiral Makarov State University of Maritime and Inland Shipping, is speaking.
Photo by D. Belikov



Valery F. Tanaev, Head of the Moscow Railway, a branch of JSC Russian Railways, is speaking.
Photo by D. Firsov



Shan Zhiwei, Vice President of Xi'an Jiaotong Transport University, China, is speaking via video link



Artem I. Azhgirevich, Rector of the Moscow Automobile and Road Construction State Technical University, is speaking.
Photo by V. Belikov



Tribhuvan Darbari, Chairman of the Indian Secretariat of the SCO Business Council, is speaking.
Photo by V. Korovyakovsky



Natalia N. Shishlakova, Deputy General Director for Corporate Development and Project Activities, Member of the Management Board of JSC Transmashholding, Director of Transmashholding Corporate University, is speaking. Photo by V. Belikov

The Conference included a roundtable which discussed the objectives of the Association of Rectors of Transport Universities of the BRICS Countries, with **Denis L. Kravchenko**, Editor-in-Chief of the *Gudok* newspaper, acting as the facilitator.

The discussion at the round table was attended by: **Pyotr K. Rybin**, First Vice-Rector, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs of the PGUPS; **Dmitry V. Orlov**, Deputy Chief Engineer of the Gorky Railway branch of JSC Russian Railways, Russia; **Igor P. Kiselev**, Chief Scientific



Andrey A. Tikhomirov, Head of the Centre for Macroeconomics and Forecasting Methodology, Institute of Economics and Transport Development, is speaking.
(Photo by V. Belikov)



Vladimir V. Burovtsev, Rector of the Far Eastern State Transport University, is speaking. Photo by V. Belikov



Moges Aregay Gebremariam, Head of Marketing and Investment Department, Ethiopian Railways, is speaking.
Photo by V. Belikov

Editor of the BRICS Transport Journal, Emeritus Professor of the PGUPS, Russia; **Han Xiaowei**, Rector of the Shaanxi Railway Vocational Institute, People's Republic of China; **Ali Ziaii**, Secretary for Transit and Transport of the Center for Development and Progress under the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran; **Alexander P. Zhigadlo**, Rector of the Siberian State Automobile and

Highway University, Russia; **Peter G. Yakovlev**, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Railways Journal Zheleznye Dorogi Mira, Russia; **Andrea Santos**, Professor, Dean of the Faculty of Transport of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Federal Republic of Brazil; **Alexander N. Guda**, Vice-Rector for Research at Rostov State Transport University, Russia; **Karina A. Garmash**, Deputy



Mikhail N. Cheptsov, Rector of the Donetsk Railway Institute, is speaking. Photo by V. Belikov



Denis L. Kravchenko, Editor-in-Chief of the Gudok newspaper, is facilitating the roundtable discussion at the Conference.
Photo by V. Korovyakovsky



The final meeting of the conference in the hall of the Museum of Railways of Russia. In the presidium – from left to right: Igor P. Kiselev, chief scientific editor of the BRICS Transport Journal, Tamila S. Titova, First Vice-rector, Vice-Rector for Research, PGUPS, Oleg S. Valinsky, Rector of the PGUPS; Vladimir A. Odintsov, Director of the Museum of Railways of Russia.

Photo by Svetlana Minina

Head of the St. Petersburg Metro, Head of the Personnel Management Service, Russia; **Sant Kumar Chaudhary**, Chairman of the Shankar Institute Group, Republic of India; **Vladimir V. Burovtsev**, Rector of the Far Eastern State Transport University, Russia; **Mikhail M. Mehedov**, Deputy Director General for Development of JSC VNIIZHT; **Yuri A. Trofimov**, Rector of Irkutsk State Transport University, Russia; **Maxim A. Garanin**, Rector of Samara State Transport University, Russia; **Irina S. Skovorodina**, Editor-in-Chief of the BRICS Transport Journal, Russia; **Alexander G. Galkin**, Rector of the Ural State Transport University, Russia; **Natalia Yu. Anashkina**, Vice-Rector for International Relations of the Ural State Transport University, Russia; **Vlaimir I. Metilenko**, Director of the Central Museum of Railway Transport of the Russian Federation, Russia; **Yakov M. Dalinger**, Vice-Rector of the Russian University of Transport, Russia; **Lyubov V. Luchinina**, Head of the Department of International Cooperation of the Russian University of Transport, Russia; **Aman Abdulkerim Mohammed**, Project Manager of Awash Kombolcha Haragebeya Railway Project, Federal Republic of Ethiopia; and others.

During the general discussion, the participants made specific proposals for the development of academic, research, humanitarian, cultural and other activities of the Association.

Some of the most important proposals include managing remote network training in various areas of transport and engineering policies for students of BRICS transport universities; advanced training of transport industry specialists; international summer schools for students; joint scientific research by scholars from universities and research institutions of the BRICS countries, in particular, regarding the development of international transport corridors; establishing a fund for encouraging start-ups and research by students of transport universities; participation in work of international research platforms, in particular, the Subgroup on Transport and Logistics of the BRICS Business Council to prepare recommendations for the next BRICS summit (2024, Kazan, Russia).

It was proposed to rename the Association into the Association of BRICS Transport Universities to expand its ability to involve transport research institutions and transport companies in its activities.

The conference participants voted on the proposed amendments to the Charter of the Association, which is now called the “Association of Transport Universities of BRICS+”. Rector of PGUPS Oleg S. Valinsky was elected as Chairman of the Association. All amendments to the Charter will be coordinated by the participants and implemented by the end of 2024.



General view of the Museum of Railways of Russia. Photo of the Museum of Railways of Russia

On July 11, the final meeting of the Conference was held at the Museum of Railways of Russia. The meeting discussed proposals on the work plan for the coming year and in the future. Proposals on the time and venue of the next IV conference of the Association of BRICS Transport Universities were considered.

It was decided to discuss the received proposals and make a decision in a remote online format by the end of 2024. The conference participants got acquainted with the exposition of the Museum, one of the largest collections of historical exhibits of railway equipment in the world.

Bionotes

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