

**Agenda of the  
First Interregional Forum on Small and Medium-sized Business of the SCO and BRICS  
member states in Ufa City  
October 21-23, 2015**

Local time	Activities
<b>October 21, Wednesday</b>	
<b>During the day</b>	<b>Arrival of the participants of the First Interregional Forum on Small and Medium-sized Business of the SCO and BRICS member states to Ufa</b> <b>Accommodation in hotels</b>
<b>16:00-19:00</b>	<b>Ufa sightseeing guided tour</b> <b>Visit to museums</b>
<b>October 22, Thursday</b>	
	<b>Transfer of the participants of the First Interregional Forum on Small and Medium-sized Business of the SCO and BRICS member states from hotels to Congress-Hall</b> <i>2 Zaki Validi Street, Ufa</i>
<b>9:00-10:30</b>	<b>Registration of the participants of the First Interregional Forum on Small and Medium-sized Business of the SCO and BRICS member states</b>
<b>9:00-10:30</b>	<b>Tour at the Exhibition of entrepreneurs of the SCO and BRICS member states regions in a set of domains: IT, industry, production and processing of raw materials, ecology and tourism, medicine and pharmaceuticals, agriculture and food industry, franchising</b>
<b>10:30-12:30</b>	<b>Plenary meeting “Cooperation of the SCO and BRICS member states regions to establish a favorable business environment. Provision of mechanisms to support interregional projects of small companies.”</b> <i>Cooperation initiatives among small and medium-sized businesses of the regions in different countries come across a number of limitations: lack of common customs standards, logistical problems (expensive air and rail transport, poor road network and road navigation), insufficient interaction of government and business, complicated visa procedures, different systems of taxation.</i> <i>How to resolve existing administrative disagreements? What competences do the regions need in order to establish a favorable environment for small business? What are the practices of resolution of these issues without interference at the national level? Is there successful experience of administrative problem-solving for establishment of interregional cooperation?</i>  <i>(according to a separate agenda)</i>
<b>12:30-13:00</b>	<b>Press conference</b> <i>Congress-Hall press center</i>
<b>12:30-14:00</b>	<b>Business lunch</b> <i>Congress-Hall restaurant</i>
<b>14:00-16:00</b>	<b>Sessions</b>
	<b>Discussion panel</b> <b>“Best practices of the SCO and BRICS member states regions to provide legislative support to small business”</b>

	<p><b>Tax preferences, lower property leasing rates, access of small and medium-sized businesses to purchasing market are just few issues raised among SCO and BRICS businessmen and lawmakers.</b></p> <p><b>What regions are successful in stimulating entrepreneurship? Why? Each region has its own approach to issues with due account of local peculiarities. Is there a universal mechanism to support small and medium-sized business? What are the achievements of international partners and are they applicable in Russia?</b></p> <p><b>What preferences can international businessmen count upon in Russia as well as Russian businessmen abroad?</b></p> <p><b>Moderator and speakers (TBD)</b></p>
	<p><b>Discussion panel</b></p> <p><b>“Financial and infrastructure support to the small business of the SCO and BRICS member states regions”</b></p> <p><i>What mechanisms of financial support to small business in the regions have proved to be the most efficient?</i></p> <p><i>SCO and BRICS experience: what techniques are used abroad. What joint infrastructure projects need to be established: banks for interregional cooperation of SCO and BRICS small businesses, guarantee funds of export deliveries, investment funds? Otherwise, can we use existing institutions to support entrepreneurship?</i></p> <p><i>Provision of funds to international projects of small and medium-sized business. What are the chances of Russian regional small business to take part in the international projects and projects of the SCO and BRICS partners?</i></p> <p><b>Moderator and speakers (TBD)</b></p>
	<p><b>Discussion panel</b></p> <p><b>“Cooperation development of the companies of the SCO and BRICS member states regions through franchising”</b></p> <p><i>The main advantage of franchising is in the fact that it enables its holder to develop business under a strong brand by using its business techniques. Association and amalgamation is the new trend. Franchising network is able to change alongside the market changes and outrun competitors. In a franchising network each one is just like everyone and vice versa.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator and speakers (TBD)</b></p>
<b>16:00-16:30</b>	<b>Coffee-break</b>
<b>16:30-18:30</b>	<p><b>Presentation of investment projects of small businesses of the SCO and BRICS member states regions</b></p> <p><i>(according to a separate agenda)</i></p>
<b>16:30-18:30</b>	<p><b>Interregional Business Contact Exchange of regional businessmen of the SCO and BRICS member states</b></p> <p><i>(according to a separate agenda)</i></p>
<b>19:00-21:00</b>	<p><b>Official reception on behalf of the Head of Bashkortostan Republic Rustem Z. Khamitov on the occasion of the First Interregional Forum on Small and Medium-sized Business of the SCO and BRICS member states</b></p>
<b>October 23, Friday</b>	
	<p><b>Transfer of the participants of the First Interregional Forum on Small and Medium-sized Business of the SCO and BRICS member states from hotels to Congress-Hall</b></p> <p><i>2 Zaki Validi Street, Ufa</i></p>
<b>9:00-18:00</b>	<b>Tour at the Exhibition of entrepreneurs of the SCO and BRICS</b>

	<b>member states regions in a set of domains: IT, industry, production and processing of raw materials, ecology and tourism, medicine and pharmaceuticals, agriculture and food industry, franchising</b>
<b>9:00-11:00</b>	<b>Sessions</b>
	<p><b>Discussion panel</b>  <b>“Industry, production, and processing: strategic partnership between large and small business”</b>  <i>Exchange of technology and equipment, implementation of joint industrial projects, co-exploration of mineral deposits are traditional lines of interregional cooperation. Subcontract and outsourcing cooperation between large and small businesses is a powerful driver of these industries. They enable businesses to implement innovations and increase competitive ability of the SCO and BRICS regions in general.</i>  <b>Moderator and speakers (to be defined)</b></p>
	<p><b>Discussion panel</b>  <b>“IT: a major business development driver”</b>  <i>Today nobody is surprised that IT is found in almost all aspects of our life. Thus, it is not a coincidence that the companies using IT in business need increasingly more staff members to implement and maintain new software and adapt outdated stations and servers for new tasks.  Market expansion, effective cooperation, information security, and manager training will be discussed during the panel.</i>  <b>Moderator and speakers (to be defined)</b></p>
	<p><b>Discussion panel</b>  <b>“Agriculture and food industry: new opportunities for interregional cooperation”</b>  <i>Agriculture is a strategic line of partnership for the member states of the SCO and BRICS, as well as for the regions of Russia. Western sanctions pushed Russia to look for new suppliers; in turn, Russia is not only a major market for partners, but also an economically advantageous supplier of a number of goods.  What are the prospects of establishing agricultural joint ventures?  What directions for enhancing their presence on the Russian market are the most interesting for partners from the SCO and BRICS member states?  Which new trade routes between the regions are possible and necessary in new economic conditions?</i>  <b>Moderator and speakers (to be defined)</b></p>
	<p><b>Discussion panel</b>  <b>“Ecology and tourism: promising lines of cooperation between companies of the SCO and BRICS member states regions “</b>  <i>Tourism is traditionally one of the most popular spheres of small business development. In the current economic situation, it is particularly important to develop tourism between the regions of Russia as well as between the regions of the SCO and BRICS member countries. New tourist offers of the regions of the Russian Federation, the SCO, and BRICS member countries, ecological, agricultural and industrial tourism are only few promising lines of interregional cooperation development in this sphere.  How did the negative trends in the tourist industry affect the tourist flow in regions?  What lines of cooperation in tourism are the partners from countries of the SCO and BRICS interested in? What can the regions of the Russian Federation offer the international guests? What successful international projects in the tourist branch are implemented in the regions?</i>  <b>Moderator and speakers (to be defined)</b></p>

	<p><b>Discussion panel</b>  <b>“Medicine and pharmaceuticals: modern trends of socially oriented business”</b>  <i>Cooperation in medicine and pharmaceuticals is by all means not only economically feasible but also socially significant line of interregional interaction. This sphere is particularly promising for China and India which are interested in promoting of the methods and medicines of traditional (complementary) medicine on the Russian market. The representatives of the Russian official medicine are also interested in experience exchange with foreign partners.</i>  <i>What are the prospects of traditional and popular medicine in Russia?</i>  <i>Medical clusters on the RF territory: what are the possibilities of participation of partners from the SCO and BRICS? What is hindering cooperation in mutual projects in medicine and pharmacy?</i>  <b>Moderator and speakers (to be defined)</b></p>
<b>11:00-11:30</b>	<b>Coffee-break</b>
<b>11:30-13:30</b>	<p><b>Final Plenary meeting</b>  <b>Speeches of session moderators and their suggestions of provisions to be included in the Resolution First Interregional Forum on Small and Medium-sized Business of the SCO and BRICS member states</b></p>
<b>13:30-14:00</b>	<p><b>Press conference</b>  <i>Congress-Hall press center</i></p>
<b>13:30-14:30</b>	<p><b>Business lunch</b>  <i>Congress-Hall restaurant</i></p>
<b>14:30-17:00</b>	<p><b>Visit to Bashkortostan Republic companies</b>  <i>(according to separate agenda)</i></p>
<b>14:30-16:00</b>	<p><b>Presentation of investment projects of small businesses of the SCO and BRICS member states regions</b>  <i>(according to a separate agenda)</i></p>
<b>14:30-16:00</b>	<p><b>Interregional Business Contact Exchange of regional businessmen of the SCO and BRICS member states</b>  <i>(according to a separate agenda)</i></p>
<b>16:00-17:00</b>	<p><b>Transfer of participants of the First Interregional Forum on Small and Medium-sized Business of the SCO and BRICS member states to “Ak buzat” hippodrome of Bashkortostan Republic</b>  <i>217a Mendeleev Street, Ufa</i></p>
<b>17:00-19:00</b>	<p><b>International Riders Championship of the regions of the SCO and BRICS member states</b></p>
<b>19:00-21:00</b>	<p><b>Official reception on the occasion of the International Riders Championship in Ufa</b></p>
	<p><b>Departure of the participants of the First Interregional Forum on Small and Medium-sized Business of the SCO and BRICS member states</b></p>