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Article analyses problems and approaches of development and use of rare earth elements/metals (REE/REM) in Russia and in several other countries. Shown each country has its own specific way of forming technological chains of using REE/REM. China's experience of the development of the REE/REM industry is presented. Specific feature of China's experience lies in implementing step-by-step approach in forming and developing REE/REM industry. Unfortunately Russia's approach is based upon exploration and research-oriented activities. Less attention is given for forming of viable and stable local demand.

*Rare earth elements/metals, technological chain, local demand development, balancing of supply and demand*

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**Creating a Strong Rare Earth Industry in Russia: State Corporations Without not Overpower**

In this article prospects of creation of new scientific, technological and commercial sector of production from rare earth concentrates and oxides of the Tomtor field within the State Nuclear Energy Corporation «Rosatom» are discussed. It is shown that the State Corporation «Rosatom» enterprises can establish an effective technological chain «ore processing - getting highly liquid REM-products».

*Rare earth metals, Tomtor, Rosatom, State Nuclear Energy Corporation, technology, rare earth metal oxides, pure rare earth metals, ore processing, value added*

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**Evaluation of Areas of Supply of Rare Earth ore Deposits Tomtor for Processing: the Spatial Aspect**

The present article develops and proposes some variations of transport directions to the processing capacities in Siberia and the Far East where there is a strong possibility to build a chemical-metallurgical complex for rare earth ore enrichment from the Tomtor deposit (The Sakha Republic (Yakutia)). The probable locations associated with technological and economical advantages for raw material processing and producing of high-technology products on basis of rare-earth metal (REM) are also analyzed and compared in this article.

*Tomtor, rare earth metals, rare earth metal oxides, Rosatom, Rostec Corporation, high-technology products, comparative analysis, spatial aspect*

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**Formation of Interregional Process Chains to Improve the Economic Efficiency of Developing Popigai Diamond-Lonsdalite raw Materials Deposit**

The article discusses the problem of integration of new high-tech materials in the Russian manufacturing industry as an example of Popigai diamond-lonsdalite raw materials deposit located on the territory of the Arctic region. It is shown that the features of the new materials and its unique characteristics require special approaches to assessing the efficiency and cost of both the raw material and the final product. For the first time the options of interregional production chains of the complete cycle are proposed (Yakutia, Krasnoyarsk region, Novosibirsk region) – from mining to production of highly abrasive products with high added value.

*New materials, technical diamonds, diamond-lonsdalite raw materials, The Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Krasnoyarsk region, Novosibirsk region, Popigai astrobleme, cost valuation, efficiency, price, interregional process chains*

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**Economic Development and Environmental Impact in the Border Regions**

The article examines the impact of economic activities on the environment in the Eastern border regions of the Russian Federation. The main purpose of this study is to estimate the impact of modernization and environmental treatments on the volumes of sewage water and air emissions. In the present work we use statistical methods. Analysis and estimation of results were performed by STATA which was complemented by information system for selection and manipulation with panel data. The results show that

GDP and investments for modernization are the most significant factors influencing on the level of environmental impact in the some border regions.

*Environmental impact, border regions, environmental investments, current environmental costs, gross regional product*

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#### **Urbanization and Development of the Urban Agglomeration of Siberia and Northern China in the Context of the New Silk Road**

The complex analysis of current urban development conditions and urban agglomerations of Russia and China in the area of the potential impact of the New Silk Road is performed. The results of field geographical study urban settlement and, in particular, the formations of urban agglomerations in the Russian and Chinese space in September 2015 are analyzed. The comparative characteristic of the dynamics of urban settlements and agglomerations model territories of Siberia and Northern China against the background of the general Russian and Chinese urban changes is given. Agglomeration process covers the main directions of settlement changes, concentrating population, mass production, and almost all the key elements of the innovation economy into the agglomerations.

*Urbanization, urban agglomerations, New Silk Road, North China, Siberia*

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#### **Mid-Term Perspectives of the Budget of Russia**

This article concerns the current condition of the Federal budget of Russia, its structural peculiarities caused by the coexistence of exogenous and endogenous factors. The options of balancing the budget are reviewed critically. The priorities of budgetary policy which allow for the need for stimulating the economic growth and deviating from the externally-oriented model of development are represented.

*Budget, balance, privatization, taxes, oil sector, small and medium enterprises, innovations, budgetary administration, program approach, economic growth*

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#### **Structural Reform of Railway Transport of Russia: Expert Analysis and Related Issues**

The article discusses strategic issues related to further reform of rail transport in Russia. The results of a questionnaire survey of the group of experts - specialists in Economics of railway transport, known for his research on the issue of reform. The results of the survey questionnaire after treatment of the array with the help of special computer products. Indicates the most preferred options for the development of reform in a situation of fundamental uncertainty.

*Concept, structural reform, railway transport, expert survey, criteria of decision making theory, fundamental uncertainty, and IT – technologies*

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#### **Localization of Production as a Tool of Substitution of Import**

The present paper demonstrates that the localization of production includes three stages. National economy should be oriented towards the third stage because it ensures the possibility to build up national supply chain and to start production of final products for world economy.

*Supply chain, outsourcing, localization of production*

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#### **The Ease of Doing Business as a Factor of Socio-Economic Development of Cities and Regions of Russia**

Examines subnational data from the World Bank on ease of doing business in Russia, including the assessment of regulation of business activity in 30 Russian cities. Analyzes the relationship between population dynamics of enterprises registered in the cities of the Russian Federation, and the ranking of these cities on the ease of starting a business. Explores the interconnectedness between indicators average number of employees of enterprises and business climate in specific cities. Discusses the relationship between indices of physical volume of construction services in the Russian regions and regional centers for ease of doing business.

*Ease of doing business, The World Bank, Doing Business Report, Subnational Doing Business, starting a business, dealing with construction permits*

**Nizova L.M., Sannikova T.V., Volga State University of Technology, Yoshkar-Ola Social and Labor Relations as a Form of Welfare Human Labor**

The disclosed theoretical, methodological and practical issues of social and labor relations. On the basis of monitoring generalized experience of subjects of social partnership of the Republic of Mari El on the basic criteria of human well-being: the minimum wage, the ratio of wages to the growth of tariffs for housing and communal services, health and safety and protection against unemployment. For the abolition of the problems identified are proposed measures for further improvement of social and labor relations in production and social spheres of the economy.

*Social and labor relations, working people, wages, labor market, labor, minimum wage*

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**Prospects of Development of Flexible Employment in the Cis Countries**

Need of development of flexible employment as a factor of stability of economy and ensuring welfare of the population in the CIS countries is proved in this article. In this regard research develops conceptually new approach to forecasting prospects of development of flexible employment in CIS countries in modern conditions based on the accounting of integrated nature of development of key indicators of monitoring of flexible employment. With use of the regression analysis the multiple-factor forecasting model of level of flexible employment in the CIS countries on a short-term outlook is developed. Expected nature of development of indicators of flexible employment is revealed. The forecast of a taxonomical indicators of the general level of non-standard employment for 2015-2017 in the CIS countries are developed.

*Flexible employment, labor market of the CIS countries, employment, unemployment, forecast of level of flexible employment*

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**Ways of Increasing Employment Regulation Efficiency in Condition of Transition to Innovation Economy**

In the article is studied perspective directions employment regulation during period of transition to innovative development. In this respect, the task of the government, business, and regions is to create such high-tech jobs and modern job places and planned act to modern composition of the employment. The state policy in the field of employment should be flexible, measures supporting the unemployed should be targeted. Today, to stimulate the branch of science, including universities for entrepreneurial initiatives of citizens - for example, small business support, in account of integration with other programs aimed at the creation of small enterprises to increase their efficiency and targeting is very important. Three group of methods will be offered of state regulation mechanism of labour market and employment for market economy countries.

*Innovative economy, composition of employment on data, professional branch principle of public employment service, intensive methods of job selection, economic methods of employment regulation, organizational methods, administrative and legal methods*

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**Why Germans Work Better than a Russian?**

The introduction of new forms of labor organization in Russia has never been primarily technical or economic problem in contrast to, say, from Western European countries. One who misses this feature, will never be able to blame, why in the field of scientific organization of labor we are continually lagged behind the West. Apparently, the issue is primarily in the social and cultural reasons, in the conditions of development of the Russian nation, in the character of its historical formation. In the article the author tries to prove this thesis.

*Scientific organization of labor, work with lukewarm, L. Tolstoy, A. Gastev, F. Taylor, E. Mayo, peasants*