

## “Partnership of Science and Spirituality for Peace and Happiness”

seminar organized by St. Petersburg Brahma Kumaris Centre  
within the framework of XVIII International Congress “Science, Information and Spirit”  
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“Higher, spiritual forms of reality do exist and modern physics is now on the threshold of recognizing that. In today's cosmology there are numerous problems that are absolutely unsolvable within the framework of the existing scientific paradigm. It is certain that this paradigm will expand through including the notion of consciousness in it.”

This quote belongs to Prof. Konstantin Korotkov, a world famous Russian researcher, president of “Kirlionics Technologies International”. Speaking at the seminar, he noted that the results of latest studies were so compelling that the humanity would have to re-think the entire philosophy of its life in the nearest future.



About 150 scientists, researchers, educationists and medical professionals attended the event at the Brahma Kumaris. “Lighthouse” (BK centre in St. Petersburg) welcomed guests from France, Germany, UK, Italy, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Ukraine, Belarus and Singapore. The special guest of the event was Rev. Buda Badmaev, head monk of Datsan Gunzechoinei, Buddhist temple in St. Petersburg.

(L to R) Mr. Alexi Demidov, Chair of the Board "Information for All ", Rev. Buda Badmaev, imam Mukharam Ibragimov, BK Santosh, Mr. Leo Borkin, Prof. Konstantin Korotkov

### Glimpses of the Dialogue Between a Physicist, a Biologist, a Religious Leader and a Spiritual Teacher

#### Prof. Konstantin Korotkov:

“Just two decades ago the topic we are discussing today was considered either a fallacy or quack science. Today the science of consciousness is growing fast, and it gives us hope to make this world a better place to live. The shift in the attitude of scientists has occurred due to new technologies. Computed tomography enables us to observe in the real-time mode the processes taking place in the brain of a person who meditates or prays, or gets some divine experiences. The studies show that people in a deep state of meditation or prayer (so called “altered states of consciousness”) have the same areas of brain activated. There are some common patterns observed. We have developed devices that are able to register and analyze human thoughts and emotions even at a distance. The impact people have on one another is interesting, however the impact that human consciousness has on material sensors is much more intriguing. We have got colleagues in Germany, Japan and USA, and when they meditate at their respective places we register their thoughts and emotions here, in St. Petersburg. It is important to underline that our experiments are repeatable, and measurements take place in tens of laboratories across the globe. Most sophisticated modern equipment is used. These experiments show that our thoughts and emotions are spread out there, in the outside world as well! They permeate the world we are living in, and therefore it is an established fact that we can influence and transform the world around us with our thoughts and feelings.”

#### Rev. Buda Badmayev, head monk of Datsan Gunzechoinei, Buddhist temple in St. Petersburg:

“Researchers say that science is now coming close to the issue of including the notion of consciousness in their research. However religion has been studying consciousness since millenia. According to Buddhism, consciousness can be understood by consciousness itself. No material gadget is able to measure the level of, say, kindness or other spiritual qualities. However science can measure the traces that consciousness leaves in the material reality. Consciousness is like a fleeting moment between the past and the future, and

to get hold of it is an extremely challenging task. Spirituality shapes most of the things happening around us. Spirituality is primary, all the physical phenomena described by corpuscular theory, atomic theory or theory of fields are just its derivatives. It does not mean, however, that science should not do what it is doing. It is important to understand and categorize even the material traces of consciousness, or at least to prove that they do exist. Scientific studies enrich the humankind, giving an additional impulse for understanding the world around us. Essentially there are no contradictions between science and spirituality. We can study these phenomena with scientific methods, and it will enhance our moving forward to spiritual enlightenment.”

**Mr. Leo Borkin**, honoured chairperson of St. Petersburg Union of Scientists, official representative of the Union of Scientists in “Consortium of Affiliates for International Programs” (Washington, DC, USA), president of the Centre for Himalayan Research:

“When we speak of science, we should not forget that the scientific approach to understanding the world is just one out of many approaches. And having appeared in XVIII century, it is the youngest of all of them! The most ancient approach was a mythological one that led to development of numerous religions. We can cognize the world through arts as well. It is proved and well-documented that a good artist, for example, can discriminate 5 to 6 times more colour shades than an average man. The scientific approach, used alone, is doomed to be incomplete. Imagine the area of our ignorance as a circumference. In this case our scientific knowledge is it's radius. The bigger the radius (that is what we already know), the bigger will be the circumference (that is the area of the unknown)! If we see the scientific method as “observation of facts – creating a hypothesis – conducting an experiment – and forming a theory”, then of course we don't find any similarities between this method and religious practices. Biology cannot be studied from a position of Buddhism or Christianity. It does not mean, however, that co-operation of science and other forms of understanding the world is not possible. Science has two major goals. The first one is accumulation of new knowledge, and this area belongs exclusively to scientists. But there is another area as well: raising the quality of human life. It is the social mission of science. This is where partnership is possible and even desirable. These are, for instance, the issues of war and peace and those of respecting all forms of life on this planet (this includes vegetarianism as well). If we do not accept the essentially spiritual vision of the absolute value of life and non-violence, the humanity will just perish.”



**B.K. Santosh**, Brahma Kumaris director, St. Petersburg:

“If we think deeper, we can see that the apparent opposition of science and spirituality proves to be non-existent. All the links in the chain of the scientific method (*observation* that leads to *curiosity*, making *assumptions*, *interpreting* the data received, etc) constitute the work of consciousness. Therefore it is consciousness that is the primary reality. And since we, living sentient human beings, souls, are the primary reality, science and technologies should serve the higher purpose of raising the quality of human life. We develop science in order to solve man's problems, forgetting that human beings themselves are the problem. If we do not understand and change ourselves, our efforts to help humanity through developing new technologies will fail. For instance, technologies have provided us hundreds of modifications of mobile phones having changed the world into a global village. But it is spirituality alone that can teach us how to communicate properly, what, when and how to speak and where to keep silent. Science has given us sophisticated medical devices, best food supplements etc, but humans continue to harm their health through their greed and carelessness. If science grows and develops merely for the sake of growth and development, it reminds of a car without a reverse gear. Spirituality brings us the message that the only criterion of proper growth and development are peace and happiness of the global family of human beings and other lifeforms. This is where spirituality calls upon people of science: will they accept the spiritual domain of our life and combine it with their scientific methods in order to liberate this world from sorrow and sufferings?”