

TO THE READERS OF *SCIENCE AND INNOVATION JOURNAL*



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DEAR COLLEAGUES,

The scientists of Ukraine are concerned with the future of our country, because it largely depends on the development of science and technology.

At the beginning of 2014, I wrote, «... there is some threatening anxiety in the sky above Ukraine. I shudder to think what will happen to our country in 10–20 years. Therefore, the top officials do not think of this, but live being governed by the rule of today: to take as much [wealth] as possible for themselves...».

Today, despite the threat of the war, the situation is changing for the better. The growing civil society and the new leadership headed by President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko are looking for a way out of the crisis. We hope for the effective work of the new parliament and the government of Ukraine. Civil society leaders get more and more involved in the public

management. In this situation, the academic and scientific community must not stand aloof. It has to be actively engaged in the discussion of changes in our life.

In this regard, I would like to remind the readers of *Science and Innovation* journal of the most important long-standing issues I have mentioned many times.

In the twentieth century, in the world, a new type of society, the postindustrial one, is formed based on a new model of the economy, the knowledge economy in which priority is to generate new knowledge, to develop advanced technologies, and to optimize the efficiency of utilization of natural resources.

Unfortunately, we recognize that our country has not joined this process: the economy is mostly a raw-oriented rather than an innovative one. This significantly limits the development of research and production of high-tech products.

Why did it happen and which factors were restraining the intensity of innovation development over the past 20 years? Out of many reasons I briefly describe one of them (in my opinion, it is among the key ones): the development of education and science. The education, in general, and especially, the higher education, on the one hand, is a major source for corporations to improve the qualifications of their staff and for the general population to master the advanced knowledge and, on the other hand, is a provider of scholars and researchers for the science as industry.

The new Law of Ukraine on education is a promising means to prevent a significant drop in the quality of higher education. However, how could we prevent the degradation of secondary and vocational education? More than ten years ago, at the time when Vasyl Kremin was the Minister of Edu-

cation and Science of Ukraine, I supported the idea of 12-year secondary education. At that time, some measures to strengthen the vocational education were developed. Unfortunately, later the idea of 12-year secondary school was refused. However, in my opinion, we will have to return to it ...

As regards the state and prospects of the development of Ukrainian science, I mentioned many times the poor funding and the lack of real support from the government since the 1990s. As time went by, the situation worsened as qualified human resources of research organizations decreased, material and technical facilities got out of date, and the amount of commercialized innovative projects declined, etc.

In 2014, the situation became critical. Now, it requires effective changes and reforms.

First of all, it is necessary to stimulate open-minded perception of innovation by the business sector and to further develop information and communication technologies. For this purpose, it is advisable to use the administrative instruments for creating an institutional environment for the innovation infrastructure (science parks, technological clusters, transfer centers, etc.) as well as the economic tools for innovation development (government financial aid, benefits, intellectual property protection, etc.).

And, of course, there is an urgent need to reform the scientific, research, and technical sphere. Now, the amendments to the Law of Ukraine on scientific, research, and engineering activities are being discussed. These amendments should be effective and ensure good prospects for the development and implementation of innovative economic model in Ukraine.

The *Science and Innovation* journal provides a platform to involve a wide range of authors and readers in the discussion of these issues.

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