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# ICEF Alumni Newsletter



Special edition for the ICEF 15th anniversary

## Alumni reception in honor of the 15th anniversary of the College

On the 25th September, in the British Ambassador's residence the graduation ceremony of ICEF HSE 2012 alumni and previous year graduates was held.



This time the ceremony was symbolic for various reasons. Firstly, 2012 is a jubilee year for the Higher School of Economics, celebrating its 20th anniversary, and so it is for ICEF, an institution founded by HSE and LSE, which is now 15 years old.



Secondly, the diplomas have never been awarded by such an auspicious collection of people: the ceremony was attended by HSE rector Yaroslav Kuzminov, HSE president Alexander Shokhin, LSE director Craig Calhoun, ICEF director Sergey Yakovlev, vice president of Sberbank Alexander Bazarov, chairman of the board of VTB24 Michael Kozhokhin, leading professors of both universities, and the British ambassador Timothy Barrow. Finally, in contrast to previous ceremonies, this one took place not in the British embassy building but at 'home' - in the residence of Mr Barrow, which is situated on Sofiyanskaya embankment.

Preceding the ceremony, Sergey Yakovlev recalled the developing history of ICEF, which began with the "college-based teaching of a Bachelor's programme for two diplomas" and gradually transformed into an "institution oriented towards research." During this period, ICEF have had more than 750 bachelor graduates with joint HSE and London University diplomas. The Master's programme was

later opened, and its graduates receive a special letter signed by the head of LSE in addition to the Russian diploma certificate. In the framework of cooperation between the two universities the laboratory of Financial Economics was opened at ICEF in 2010.

According to Sergey Yakovlev, 90 percent of Master's programme graduates start their professional career in leading Russian and foreign companies and banks, and part of them continue their academic career abroad. Bachelor graduates usually prefer to continue university studies.



51 of this year's graduates, went to study in foreign universities : in the UK, in continental Europe, in the USA; for the first time, one graduate went on to a university in Hong Kong. Another part of bachelor graduates were enrolled on Master's programmes at ICEF and at other HSE faculties.

"I am often asked about which skills and advantages are usual for ICEF graduates -Sergey Yakovlev said. - I think the main one is that due to studying at ICEF they acquire skills, which mostly help them to get tough competitive selection, ensuring the best professional mobility and freedom of decision-making. They work for the Global economy in foreign and Russian countries."



Timothy Barrow, welcoming the guests to the ceremony, said that those who once supported ICEF and those involved in it now, "have made a wise choice," because "the future belongs to those who care about education"."You are excellent examples of Russian-British cooperation - the ambassador said, referring to the graduates. - When I first came to Moscow in 1980, our relationships were narrow, and it was difficult to imagine that they could become so extensive. I hope that you are starting a career which will continue to strengthen the relationship between Russia and Britain. I also hope that you will become members of the British Alumni Association and meet a lot of open-minded and successful people. I'm glad to see you here today and I hope to see you again in the

future. "

Yaroslav Kuzminov, congratulating the graduates, said that every year the number of students entering the undergraduate programme of ICEF increases (this year, the College enrolled about 230). "It is a pleasing fact, - said the rector of the HSE. - This is an indication that even the most elite kind of economic education has become available in Russia and that people have much more confidence in prospects of a career in global labor and academic markets. ICEF today takes the lead in the share of graduates who continue studies in foreign universities."



Craig Calhoun, who just a month earlier, had taken over the position of LSE director, was the first head of the London School of Economics to visit an ICEF graduation ceremony. "ICEF graduates work in different areas of business, government control and science and you will soon join this vast network of professionals, - he said. - You have the opportunity to make a great career, but I hope you will not forget social responsibility. You've got the best technical skills and understanding of the world around you, use them wisely. "

Other important people also congratulated the graduates.



The head of the board of trustees of ICEF Sergey Dubinin (previously Chairman of the Central bank RF) played a key role in the formation of the board of trustees for a fundamentally new Russian higher education project. He convinced bankers to support the College creation, which was not easy, he said, but the result was worth all the effort. Sergey Dubinin's opinion was supported by Deputy President - Chairman of VTB24 Mikhail Kozhokin, who quoted Winston Churchill: "The most important thing in education - is a thirst for knowledge, the feeling of hunger" - and called on graduates not to stop at the point which they reached so far.

Alexander Shokhin congratulated graduates in two positions - as President of HSE and as head of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, which are both employers willing to





accept ICEF graduates to work in their companies. However, he advised the graduates not to forget about "the opposite building" (the residence of the British Ambassador is located directly opposite the Kremlin); able professionals,



he reminded us, are required not only in private business, but also in public administration.

After solemn speeches and congratulations were over, the main event began - distribution of the diplomas - after which graduates, professors and special guests talked together in an informal atmosphere.



## Congratulations from the MSU and NES

For its 15th Anniversary ICEF received lots of nice and pleasant congratulations from business officials, government representatives, and, especially from other universities colleagues, including the New Economic School and Lomonosov Moscow State University.



**Sergei Guriev**, the Rector of the New Economic School, in his speech mentioned the academic excellence of the faculty that is famous for its continuing success in training of the young generation of the professionals in the fields of Economics and Finance. 'ICEF has become the unique institution, attracting not only diligent students but also world reknown academics who play important roles at the national and international levels' .

The Deputy Dean of Science and Research of the MSU Faculty of Economics, **Leonid Tutov**, appraised high educational standards at ICEF. 'Apart being a young department, ICEF managed to reach international educational levels. The great number of ICEF academic and administrative staff is our fellow graduates that brought best MSU traditions to ICEF, and keep friendly relationship with their colleagues from our Faculty of Economics. The main ICEF pride is its graduates who were able to

continue their education in the world top-ranked universities, and are holding leading positions in economic, political and business spheres'.



### Honorary award of HSE



During the graduation ceremony, held at the Residence of the British Ambassador on 25 September 2012, the rector of the Higher School of Economics, Yaroslav Kuzminov, awarded an honorary HSE medal of the second degree to Professor Richard Jackman, ICEF Project Director from the London School of Economics (LSE).

The honorary award was granted to Richard Jackman for his contribution to the development of cooperation between ICEF HSE and LSE for his personal, teaching, and organizational achievements.

Since the establishment of ICEF (in 1997) Richard Jackman has been co-chair, from the LSE side, of the International Academic Committee (IAC) of ICEF, the main body of academic governance, development and monitoring of ICEF HSE.

In his reply, Richard Jackman observed that when ICEF first began 15 years ago, the first enrollment was only 36 students. The first graduation was of only 13 students, none of whom received a first class honors degree. Since then, a lot of things

### The visit of LSE director to ICEF



On the 24th-25th September 2012, ICEF was visited by the new Director of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), Professor Craig Calhoun. The visit of such an important guest was organised in conjunction with the 15th anniversary celebrations of the founding of ICEF. Mr. Calhoun met with teachers, students and graduates of ICEF. The meeting was held in the informal atmosphere of a round table.

The director of the LSE asked students about their experiences from learning on the double-degree programme, and graduates about where they work or continue their education after the ICEF and what benefits they received from the College. Craig Calhoun also discussed research projects and the nearby Laboratory of Financial Economics with ICEF teachers.



Professor Calhoun - is a world renowned sociologist, whose work is associated with the sociology of politics, economy, culture and philosophy. Before taking the post of LSE director (September 1, 2012), Craig Calhoun has been a professor at New York University and a president of the Council of Research in the Social Sciences (Social Science Research Council - SSRC).

Great interest was aroused by the public lecture by Craig Calhoun on «Social and Political Challenges Facing Global Capitalism». This lecture was held at ICEF and it was one of the first public appearances of the LSE director in his new capacity.



have changed. Today ICEF has outstanding academic and managerial achievements in the field of education, which would never have been achieved without the help and support of HSE.

### Economics Annual Review



Now, the annual report of the Department of Economics of the London School of Economics the "Economics Annual Review" is available online. An article about the history, ICEF activities and important events that took place at the College in the 2011-12 school year was published in the first annual report.



The lecture was chaired by the HSE rector Yaroslav Kuzminov, and the first HSE prorector Vadim Radaev. The lecture attracted more than 300 people, many of whom were students, teachers, researchers and sociologists.



In his introduction, Professor Calhoun firstly said that economic science, in the view of the LSE, like no other science is practice-related, it acts as a connecting link between the real business world and the world of

theoretical research. The aim of studying this subject and the purpose of the development of economics as a science is to make social life better for the next generation. After the lecture, the audience did not let Professor Calhoun go for a long time, asking him numerous questions

### Graduates are always welcome at ICEF!

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