

EDITORIAL

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V.A. Ilyin – Journal Editor-in-Chief – Celebrates His 80th Anniversary



On January 19, 2021, V.A. Ilyin – Scientific Director of the Vologda Research Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, RAS Corresponding Member, Honored Scientist of the Russian Federation, Editor-in-Chief of the journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast” – celebrates his 80th anniversary.

The scientific and expert community knows him as a talented manager, the founder of the first subdivision of the Russian Academy of Sciences in

Vologda, and a person with a huge life experience, who can predict promising things and correctly set priorities, combine and direct efforts to achieve an intended goal.

V.A. Ilyin’s path to science was predestined by twists of fate that guided him from a small Ural town, where he finished school, to Leningrad and then to Vologda. After toughening work at the Leningrad Optical Mechanical Association (LOMO) and gaining experience in a Komsomol

organization as a deputy secretary of the Komsomol Committee, he went through several stages of the production process management in 20 years and became a deputy head of the planning and production department of a large enterprise. As a member of the LOMO administration, he came on a business trip to coordinate work with the Vologda Optical and Mechanical Plant and stayed in Vologda. V.A. Ilyin was the director of the VOMZ production association for more than ten years. In the first 30 years of work in the defense industry, he managed to build a great career – from a worker to a head of a large production association. V.A. Ilyin learned to think in economic categories, build an effective management system, create a favorable psychological climate in a large team, and, most importantly, work systematically. This background turned out to be useful when V. A. Ilyin founded and headed a scientific organization in December 1990, which initially was a regional subdivision and later became an independent institute, reorganized into a research center – VolRC RAS.

He is a founder and a supervisor of the Scientific School “Problems of the comprehensive study of economic and social processes”. Members of the school prepared and defended 30 dissertations in 2006–2020: V.A. Ilyin scientifically supervised four of them. He actively works on the integration of scientific and educational activities. He was an initiator of a unique project – Research Educational Center created at ISEDT RAS (now – FSBIS VolRC RAS) that implements an integrated education system for school children, master students, postgraduates, which provides training of highly qualified specialists for science, education, and economics.

V.A. Ilyin prepared or supervised more than 380 published academic works. The scope of his research interests is determined by regional problems with a special focus on social issues. He is actively engaged in a study and search for solutions to problems of improving public administration efficiency, reserves

for revenue growth in federal, regional, and local budgets, rationalizing their revenues, increasing the role of leading industrial corporations in strengthening all budgets, regional and national security. V.A. Ilyin’s articles and monographs always include constructive thoughts on the acceleration of the growth rate of self-organization in the domestic economy. They clearly show the author’s concern that the current development of the socio-economic situation in the country threatens the processes of Russian society’s real democratization.

The key feature of VolRC RAS is the only regional information base in Russia that includes a set of socio-metric indicators for nearly 20 years. It emerged due to the residents’ public opinion monitoring, initiated by V.A. Ilyin, about the country and region’s socio-economic transformations.

The professor founded several academic journals published in the Vologda Research Center of RAS. He has been an Editor-in-Chief of the journal “Problems of Territory’s Development” for more than 20 years. He also supervised the publishing of the online journal “Territorial Development Issues”. However, V.A. Ilyin’s key publication is the journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast”: he has been its Editor-in-Chief since 2008. A topic of the journal is selected in accordance with the requirements of the time. The issues for various years have become some kind of a chronicle, showing key milestones of the economic and social development of Russian and several foreign regions. In 2015, it became the first Russian economic journal to be included in the international scientometric database Web of Science: it was selected for the new Emerging Sources Citation Index, which covers the most important regional journals.

V.A. Ilyin is an organizer and ideological inspirer of most scientific studies in VolRC RAS, but his personal work, a form of expression of his point of

view on a wide range of processes taking place in the world, the country, and the region, is the “Editorial” section which is included in each issue of “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast”.

Editor-in-Chief’s articles of the leading periodical of VolRC RAS represent the quintessence, a concise form of presentation of ideas, thoughts, and observations that emerge in a critical analysis of the country’s socio-political and socio-economic situation. Despite the fact that V.A. Ilyin is the author of these articles, they represent a conceptual opinion of the journal’s Editorial Board and the entire researcher center.

It is a view of not just a scientist, but a person who himself “lives” through the entire spectrum of a current socio-political agenda and experiences personal feelings about it. That is why the “Editorial” section is much more than a general series of academic articles. As many respected Russian science experts noted, it is “a new genre for academic social science periodicals; a diary of a scientist and a person deeply concerned with not only understanding a complex social fabric of the country in an era of rapid social and economic changes, but also with a desire to influence these ongoing changes”.

Moreover, we can name three more “success components”, which are the foundation of the “Editorial” section:

first, a wide, but, at the same time, very precise range of thematic aspects, raised by the author, which, in each new material, touches upon the most acute current problems of public administration effectiveness, interaction between society and government in Russia, and complex issues related to the national and cultural characteristics of Russian society, its history, the specifics of international political relations, and, in general, global trends in the world civilization development;

second, a scrupulous approach to the selection of information sources, the purpose of which is to

achieve the most objective view on the current situation in the country and the world; for this purpose, we use assessments of independent experts from various fields, official speeches and legislative initiatives of decision-makers, as well as data of international, national, and regional sociological studies that represent their point of view about society;

finally, publishing regularity of “Editorial” articles is also important (5 times a year); it allows the author to “keep his eyes on the ball” of global events and processes and act as the “all-Russian watchman” discussing the problems of political governance in the country” (as it was once mentioned in a review of his publication).

In conclusion, more than 50 articles about the most resonant events, published in the “Editorial” section over the past 8 years, provided a comprehensive, scientifically based, and, most importantly, ideological picture of the current trends in the development of Russia and the world. It was also reflected in the publication form – two volumes of “Public Management Efficiency: Editor-in-Chief’s Opinion”, which was rightfully called a “monument and chronicle of the era” by the reviewers.

Directorate, Trade Union Committee, Editorial Board of the journal, and entire staff of the Vologda Research Center of RAS wish the anniversary celebrant strong health, great mood, infinite creative energy, and new bright victories!

Dear Vladimir Alexandrovich! We express our deep gratitude to You for all the years of keeping a competitive spirit and creative potential of our team, purposefully passing on your unique experience and knowledge to young people. You have a lot of grateful students! Let your excellent scientific and organizational talent contribute to the economic science development for many years to come!

Director of VolRC RAS,
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