



April 27, 2009

Welcome to the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual World Russia Forum!

As we approach Barack Obama’s symbolic 100th day in office, everyone keeps asking the same question: "Will the change in U.S. – Russia relations promised by President Obama and his Russian counterpart President Dmitry Medvedev actually materialize?" We all know that deeds speak much louder than words. Although we have heard encouraging and promising words on both sides of the ocean, so far deeds are in short supply.

One thing is for certain: The challenges—both foreign and domestic—before the two presidents are daunting. Our goal at the World Russia Forum is to promote and advance a healthy and productive relationship between the two great nations. Going forward, Washington and Moscow need all the help they can get, not only from government officials, but also from policy experts, business leaders, and the public.

For the next two days you'll have the chance to interact with experts, and to hear and discuss specific proposals from top American and Russian political leaders, businessmen, policy makers, and scholars on how to reset the course of the U.S. – Russia relationship from confrontation to strategic partnership and alliance.

We hope you'll enjoy the 28th annual World Russia Forum—the premier conference of its kind. We look forward to new ideas and friendships that will last beyond the two days of the Forum!

Sincerely,

*Edward Lozansky*  
*President*  
*American University in Moscow*

*Yuri Mamchur*  
*Director, Real Russia Project*  
*Discovery Institute*

*Gerard Janco*  
*President*  
*Eurasia Center*

**The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual World Russia Forum is presented by:**

American University in Moscow • Discovery Institute • The Eurasia Center

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