## THE THIRD ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF RUSSIAN SOCIAL GEOGRAPHERS (ARGO)

On 29–30 September, 2012, in St. Petersburg, at St. Petersburg State University, a regular session of the Annual Scientific Assembly of the Association of Russian Social Geographers (ARGO) was held.

Launched in May 2010, ARGO now bands three quarters of the professional community working in the field of socio-economic geography and is represented by 28 regional offices that together cover almost all Russia's space from Kaliningrad to Vladivostok.

During the Annual ARGO Assembly held in St. Petersburg (the previous two were held in Rostov-on-Don and Kaliningrad), the international conference, "The Evolution of the Socio-Geographical Cogitation" took place, which was attended by leading Russian social geographers (including 35 Doctors of Geographical Sciences), as well asbycolleaguesfromBelarus,theNetherlands, Lithuania, Serbia, and Ukraine. The focus of the conference were such issues as the balance of continuity and modernization in social geography, the transformation and deformation of the Russian space, as well as the prevailing variety of names of our science. Presentations of S.S. Artobolevskyi, V.L. Baburin, P.Ya. Baklanov, Yu.N. Gladkov, N.V. Kaledin, K.V. Mezentsev, A.N. Pilyasov, V.N. Streletskyi, A.I. Treyvish, G.M. Fedorov, and numerous subsequent discussions in the format of "round table" aroused lively scientific debate

A special discussion, "Ethnogenesis as a Factor of Regional Development," was devoted to the 100th anniversary of the birth of an outstanding Russian historian, geographer, and ethnologist L.N. Gumilev. His scientific heritage and the potential of its application to understanding the post-Soviet Russia's ethnogeographical realities were the subject of presentations by A.D. Badov, D. Burneyka, N.I. Bykov, T.I. Gerasimenko, A.G. Druzhinin, V.N. Streletskyi, A.I. Chistobaev, N.A. Schitova, V.A. Shuper, etc.

At the Assembly, there was a presentation of new scientific and educational developments and publications, including the first edition of the annual "Social and Economic Geography. Bulletin of the Association of Russian Social Geographers (ARGO)" as well as the collective scientific ARGO-sponsored publication "Space of Modern Russia: Opportunities and Constraints of Development (Reflections by Social Geographers)"<sup>1</sup>.

An important component of the Assembly was a joint meeting of the Coordination and Advisory Councils of the ARGO, where specific objectives and priorities for the future of the Association were actively discussed and identified.

### Alexander G. Druzhinin

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Space of Modern Russia: Opportunities and Constraints of Development (Reflections by Social Geographers). Eds.: A.G. Druzhinin, V.A. Kolosov, and V.E. Shuvalov. M.: Vuzovskaya Kniga. 2012. – 336 p.

# SOCIALLY SCIENTIFIC MAGAZINE "GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY"

No. 04(v. 05) 2012

FOUNDERS OF THE MAGAZINE: Faculty of Geography, M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University and Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences

The magazine is published with financial support of the Russian Geographical Society.

The magazine is registered in Federal service on supervision of observance of the legislation in sphere of mass communications and protection of a cultural heritage. The certificate of registration: ΠИ MΦC77-29285, 2007, August 30.

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### **DESIGN & PRINTING**

Advertising and Publishing Agency "Advanced Solutions" Moscow 105120 Russia Nizhnyaya Syromyatnicheskaya, 5/7, 2 Phone 7-495-9167574 Fax 7-495-9167673 E-mail: om@aov.ru

Sent into print 05.12.2012 Order N gi412

Format 70 × 100 cm/16 8.45 p. sh. Digital print Circulation 700 ex.