

On behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, I would like to welcome the exhibitors, visitors and organisers of MIOGE 2009, the 10th Moscow International Oil & Gas Exhibition, and RPCG 2009, the 7th Russian Petroleum and Gas Congress.

The oil and gas industry serves as the basis of the socio-economic development of our country, providing stable revenue to the federal budget and ensuring the development of a number of manufacturing sectors.

Today, global economic processes and unstable prices for natural resources are creating new challenges for the development of the industry. The government is reacting to these, exerting great efforts to reduce companies' costs. Administrative barriers for business, taxes and customs duties are being reduced.

I am confident that these measures will maintain the positive trends in the oil and gas industry.

I hope that these events will produce concrete proposals for addressing existing problems, including improving the regulatory and legal framework.

I wish the participants of MIOGE and RPGC 2010 every success.

Y.P. Trutnev

Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation