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Welcome address of Dmitry Medvedev, the President of the Russian Federation, to the guests and participants of the Forum. Courtesy translation

To the guests and participants of the first Nationwide sports forum «Russia – Country of Sports»

WELCOMING ADDRESS of the president of the Republic of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaimiev to the participants and guests of the first Nationwide sports forum «Russia – Country of Sports»

To the guests and participants of the first All-Russian forum "The Sports Power of Russia"

WELCOME ADDRESS OF DMITRY MEDVEDEV, THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, TO THE GUESTS AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE FORUM. COURTESY TRANSLATION



Photo by Press Service of RF President

Today we launch the first forum "The sports power of Russia", which henceforth is going to be held annually. It means that we start a new sports tradition in Russia. Representatives from different regions and international sports organizations, famous sportsmen and sports coaches, directors of public institutions and even authorities from Moscow are present here. I'm sure that we are united by the fact that we all attend to sport and realize that without collaboration we won't be able to raise the level of development of sport in Russia properly. Success in sports is both authority and prestige of our country and also guaranty of public health.

Our country has always been famous for great achievements in sports. Our wrestlers, figure-skaters, gymnasts and representatives of other kinds of sports got winners' podiums in the most prestigious competitions, setting up hundreds Olympic and world records. It certainly inspires honor for our country and modern Russia multiplies these achievements. I won't enumerate all our sports successes; however I cannot but say that we have got the title of all-star sportsmen in hockey, football, pole-vaulting, tennis and ricewalking all over again.

It is also very crucial that grassroots sports have begun to reappear in Russia. Nowadays in our country sports palaces, swimming pools, icerinks and stadiums are being built extensively. Even today they are being equipped with the best sports facilities. This year 200 sports installations have been built and 170 will be finished until the end of the year. Even in spite of financial difficulties, the item of the budget concerning physical culture and sport must have highest priority in every region.

Not only federal center and regions of Russia must influence in the development of sports but also representatives of domestic business and public vigour which will allow to achieve notable improvements in sports policy. It doesn't matter if it is referred to a huge megapolis or a little

town all we must aspire to do that every yard had opportunities for engaging in sport activities.

Most part of the improvements in sports policy are foreseeable even now, particularly in Kazan. This is precisely why the forum is held in the city which is famous for its sports traditions and is changing before our eyes turning into a modern sports center. We are proud of one of the best Europe hockey club "Ak Bars" and a couple of days ago all of us got a huge energy boost after a marvelous victory of football team "Rubin".

I managed to visit a Kazan School No177 and understood that if such schools were established everywhere Russia would become the leading sports power. We must elaborate a system of physical culture and sport when productive trainings begin in kindergartens and schools advancing in juvenile and university sports.

Thanks to the attention to the university sports Kazan will hold the World student games 2013 but in order to make a decent show Russian universities must turn into study centers where physical trainings are as important as major subjects. This is why I'm glad to inform you precisely in Kazan that recently I have signed a decree about establishment of federal universities and henceforth Kazan State University is granted a status of the federal university confirming its high quality level.

I'm sure that the forum "The Sports Power of Russia" will become a good field for debates on domestic and international problems and prospects of sports; a place where we will meet with the purpose of sharing our impressions and telling about achievements.

Press Service of Ministry of Youth affairs, sports and tourism of the Republic of Tatarstan

TO THE GUESTS AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE FIRST NATIONALWIDE SPORTS FORUM «RUSSIA — COUNTRY OF SPORTS»

On behalf of the Ministry for sports, tourism and youth politics of Russian Federation I would like to welcome participants and guests of first National-wide sports forum «Russia — Country of Sports». The current Forum is a grand sport event of the year, so as among its participants there are prominent figures of the international and Russian sports movement, i.e. representatives of sports and physical culture organizations, sports goods producers, statesmen, scientists as well as mass media representatives, such a worthy quality of the Forum participants illustrating the prestige of Russia when discussing actual issues on development of sports and physical culture, trends of top sports and Olympic movement development. The Sports Forum is established to become the platform for sharing experience and integration for the top sports and mass sport world practice. The Forum program is to provide the opportunity to introduce solutions to the actual problems of management for sports and physical culture, as well as in the field of technical and provisional support, normative and legislative regulations, scientific support for the top sports. I believe, that all the suggestions and recommendations, introduced by the participants of the Forum, will serve for the benefit of the most important issues increasing the role of the physical culture and sports in the social-economic tasks, set with the view to bring up the young generations and improve the living standards of the citizens. I wish good luck and fruitful work to all the participants of the Forum.

Minister of sports, tourism and youth politics of Russian Federation Vitaly Mutko

WELCOMING ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TATARSTAN MINTIMER SHAIMIEV TO THE PARTICIPANTS AND GUESTS OF THE FIRST NATIONALWIDE SPORTS FORUM «RUSSIA — COUNTRY OF SPORTS»

Dear friends! I welcome with all heart on the hospitable land of Tatarstan the guests and participants of such important and respectable sport forum. We sincerely glad to receive visits from the leaders of the Russian Federation and its regions, eminent sport organizers of the international level, famous sportsmen, and numerous foreign partners. Forum "Russia-Country of Sports" demonstrates the recognition of the high public and state significance of the sport by our country which unites representatives of all nationalities, religions, social and age groups of the population. Holding of the forum will serve the noble cause of sport and fitness development, attractiveness of healthy life style, improvement of the infrastructure and strengthening of the investment potential of the sport. Kazan was chosen to be the host of the forum not accidentally. For many years Kazan is one of the leaders in construction of the comprehensive, hi tech sport venues. The Republic of Tatarstan more often becomes the location of sport competitions, conferences and symposiums of the Russian and world levels. Sport fame of Tatarstan is enriched by such well known teams as "Ak-bars", "Rubin", "Unics", Zenith-Kazan", "Sintez", "KAMAZ-Master" and others. Convincing international confirmation of the success of Tatarstan in the field of the realization of the sport policy has become the decision to hold XXVII world summer Universiade 2013 in Kazan. I hope that first Russian sport forum "Russia - Country of Sports" will give a substantial impulse to the development of the sport, will become a strong impetus for the great interest of the population in sport movement and will commemorate new stage of the preparation to the winter Olympic Games in Sochi and Universiade in Kazan. With all my heart I wish success to all the respectful participants and guests of the forum and new achievements to the Russian sportsmen to the glory of our great sport state. I believe that this forum will leave a lot of pleasant and useful impressions of the communication and our wonderful capital!

President of the Republic of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaimiev

**TO THE GUESTS AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE FIRST ALL-RUSSIAN FORUM
"THE SPORTS POWER OF RUSSIA"****Courtesy translation**

On behalf of the Russian Olympic Committee I greet the participants and the guests of the first All-Russian forum "The Sports Power of Russia". The Forum is a momentous event for Russian sports precisely during the active preparation for XXII Winter Olympics and XI Paralympics in Sochi in 2014.

Russia is a great sports power and plays an outstanding role in the Olympic movement. It is important not to weaken efforts for maintenance and development of both grassroots sports and excellence in sports. I'm sure that the Forum will help to see and discuss de-facto the most important current problems, define methods how to resolve them. It will contribute to the progress in improvement of physical education, outspread of the Olympic philosophy and improvement of the health of juvenile health.

President of the Russian Olympic Committee, Leonid Tyagachev



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