

It is clearly the hope of Western countries that Ukraine keep its considerable pool of talented scientists in Ukraine, rather than have them leave to other countries, possibly to those where their presence may not be particularly desirable. Of no lesser importance is the other desire to contribute significantly to the conversion of Ukrainians - those former weapons scientists - not only in the orientation of their scientific work but, more importantly, in the conversion of their attitudes and ways of working from those in the Former Soviet Union, to those prevalent in competitive, market-driven economies.

The STCU has, in its very short existence, already achieved an enviable degree of public recognition, independence and effectiveness.

The STCU is an intergovernmental organization, the first such, resident in Ukraine, that was established by an Agreement signed on 15 Oct. 1993 by its four founding parties: Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and the United States. The signed Agreement was put into force by Presidential Decree. The STCU began its first organizational steps in November 1994 and, after the arrival of its Canadian executive director, became fully registered in Ukraine on 14 February 1995. Its main purpose is specified in the Agreement: To support R&D activities by Ukrainian scientists and engineers, formerly involved with weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, as part of the general process of conversion from a largely centralized planning military to a civilian, market-driven competitive environment, more useful for Ukraine.

For the initial period the donor countries allocated the following funds: Canada 2 million; Sweden, US\$1.5 million and the U.S.A. US\$15 million for an initial total of US\$18.5 million. Canada's total contribution, including its share of the STCU's operating costs, and Canadian costs, is \$5.0 million CDN. As its contribution, Ukraine pledged to provide suitable office premises, their maintenance, security and facilities for telecommunication.

The STCU is governed by a Board whose members include: Prof. W. Janischewskyj (Canada, University of Toronto), Ambassador M. Hallqvist (Sweden), Dr. V. Baryakhtar (Ukraine, V.P. National Ukrainian Academy of Sciences), and Dr. John Boright (U.S., former Science Advisor to the President). The Board, on behalf of the four Parties to the STCU Agreement, is responsible for the general actions and directions of the STCU. The STCU's executive and administrative officer are to be from Canada. Currently they are Prof. Ostap Hawaleshka and Lubomyr Banias, both of Winnipeg. Most of the staff (up to 30) are Ukrainian, with scientists and other professionals making up about one-half.

Under very difficult and convoluted circumstances, caused by the fact that the STCU was, and is, the very first intergovernmental agency in Ukraine, resulting in uncertainties on behalf of the Ukrainian bureaucracy as to how to handle such an unfamiliar type of organization, its management was able to eventually succeed in getting the STCU officially registered and recognized. After very difficult negotiations, essentially all rights and privileges accorded to the STCU in the signed four-country Agreement were secured. The STCU enjoys a tax-free and duty-free status, equivalent to a diplomatic mission, with respect to its working staff (expatriate and Ukrainian), all Ukrainian scientists and research staff involved in R&D projects the STCU funds, as well as all equipment and supplies purchased for its own use and for the use of those projects. This is extremely important as it allows the STCU to spread its funding resources over more R&D projects, thus redirecting more former weapons scientists towards peaceful activities.

At the same time, the STCU's management was able to obtain a free-standing building suitable for its use. The original empty, unfinished concrete shell, was, in a matter of less than five months, completed to close to Western standards, furnished with extremely modern, specially-tailored modular office furniture from Herman Miller in London, and equipped with the latest type of computers (one for each staff member) and modern photocopying and communications equipment. Anyone, familiar with the difficulty of obtaining telephone lines in Ukraine will surely appreciate the fact that the STCU has secured 22 separate phone lines!

On December 15th 1995, the STCU held its very first meeting of its Board of Governors. Here 30 Ukrainian R&D projects were submitted by Ukrainian scientists formerly involved with weapons of mass destruction, were reviewed and 12 approved for financing (an abnormally high success proportion of 43%). In addition, a special Canadian project designed to support Ukrainian scientists to work and collaborate with Canadian organizations was also approved. Total project funding was US\$1,700,000.

It was at this point that the Ukrainian bureaucratic and scientific community realized that the STCU was for real, that it was there to fund them and their projects, and not simply fund Western consultants to tell Ukrainians what to do, as is common with many aid projects! Until then, most people dealing with the STCU were quite skeptical, indeed cynical, about its mission. Today, they realize it is on their side, that it actually wants to help them help themselves. In fact they have realized that its entire establishment is really a service



Prof. Ostap Hawaleshka

organization designed not to hinder their activities but to help them to achieve the best chance possible in having their project approved and financed. Realizing that such an organization actually exists is a quite a novel experience for the Ukrainian scientists.

The second Board meeting in May 1996, reviewed 62 additional projects and approved an incredible 37 of them! An unheard-of 60% success ratio! Many comments were heard regarding the extremely high caliber of the Ukrainian R&D proposals that had been submitted. This is particularly notable because their scientific reviews and evaluations was done by normal Western procedures and strict international peer review in each donor country independently. This proves to the Ukrainian scientists there is no reason to fear exposure of their scientific capabilities to the judgement of an international forum of their peers. The funding approved, including a Swedish cooperation-travel grant, was for US\$4,400,000.

By this time, the STCU had managed to have 50 R&D projects, out of 92 sent out for donor country reviews (an amazing 54% success ratio) approved, for a total of US\$6,100,000. This funding will support nearly 1000 high caliber Ukrainian scientists on research and development projects directed towards peaceful uses.

The STCU is thus clearly fulfilling its mandate and delivering vital assistance in the scientific field where, at the moment, there is essentially no real funding available in Ukraine. Most Ukrainian scientists, with nominal average salaries not exceeding \$100/month, haven't been paid in months (some from February/96). Hence, the average STCU grant support of about \$300/month to an individual STCU project scientist, becomes an extraordinarily important element in maintaining Ukrainian scientists in Ukraine, converting them to peaceful and market-oriented activities and to

critical "conversion" point, since it changes old-style behavior patterns and minimizes the chances of misusing funds.

Another 72 projects have again been sent out for impartial Western peer reviews and final review by the STCU Board at its next meeting in Kyiv in mid-November 1996. With any luck, Ukrainian scientists can expect another successful series of approvals!

In many ways, the STCU is now considered as a model, show-piece, international project/organization that effectively and efficiently delivers its mission task. This is true for its organization, its degree of independence, its influence, its recognition factor, the physical office facilities it has developed, its very effective professional staff and, most importantly, for the actual work and results it has achieved towards the support and conversion of Ukrainian scientists and science in this very difficult time of transition for Ukraine. From the point of view of the Western donors, the STCU has made an invaluable contribution to the reduction of the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, while keeping the scientists in Ukraine.

The success of the STCU and the value of its contributions, can be pointed out by some very interesting, if intangible, measures. One is the fact that the Ukrainian government, after a review of the 2-year existence of the STCU Agreement, agreed to extend it without any time limitation, offering full cooperation and understanding. The STCU also receives many invitations to participate in conferences and symposia to tell about its work, about Ukrainian scientific potentials, and technology transfer opportunities and cooperation with interested Western organizations. Dr. E. Paton, President of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, recently praised the STCU "for its invaluable work and contribution to the maintenance, support and conversion of Ukrainian scientists at this very difficult time in Ukraine's transition from a totalitarian to a market-oriented economy."

Major steps forward were the recent

presence of a Japanese delegation as observers at the STCU's second Board Meeting in May, as well as Japan's announcement of its intention to seek membership in the STCU with an appropriate funding contribution.

An interesting and important point is that the projects that the STCU is funding come from all regions of Ukraine: from Kharkiv, Sumy, Dnipropetrovsk, Lviv, Chernivtsi and Kyiv. Thus, no region is neglected - an important consideration in the political environment of present-day Ukraine.

From a Canadian perspective, Canadian participation in the STCU is a very visible and very worthwhile contribution. The entire range of the STCU's influence on the conversion of Ukrainians (scientists, government officials, citizens) in terms of not only "weapons-to-ploughshares" but in terms of their thinking processes, behaviors and attitudes as well as their understanding and acceptance of competitive "Western" methods fall directly in line with present thinking that underlines Canadian aid and participation in international organizations by Canada. In line with that thinking, a special effort was made at the STCU to contribute to the training and increase in professional status of its female staff which, in fact, forms the majority of the STCU's complement.

It is time to get Ukraine's real
and important contributions to
science and technology recognized
internationally.

Ukrainian science and technology deserves international recognition, and so the STCU has commissioned a Canadian-Ukrainian co-production of a one hour video program highlighting its achievements and capabilities. This video will be produced in English and Ukrainian, in European



Four founding parties now meet as STCU Board members.

and North American TV stations and several 10-minute shorts on various subjects. It will provide an informative and elegant vehicle for getting the message out to the world, and western organizations and individuals working with Ukraine for their common benefit.

For example: How many of the world's largest rocket engines are produced in Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine? That the FSU's rocket and space program was born in Ukraine? That the FSU's premier Computer (Cybernetics) Centre was in Kyiv? That continental Europe's first digital computer was developed there? That the world's first automatic docking mechanism was developed for missions to the Mir space station and produced in Ukraine? That the world's largest aircraft - the Antonov Mria - is designed and built in Kyiv? That Europe's largest chemical complex is in Koblevo, West Ukraine? That the former Soviet Union's largest shipyards are all in Ukraine? That enormous potential exists in developing Ukrainian scientists in the area of exotic materials such as titanium?

Through its various programs and projects, the STCU will continue to make a significant contribution to supporting Ukraine's science and the conversion of its weapons industry, all as part of the international effort to help Ukraine along its difficult path to becoming a real and prosperous market-oriented, competitive economy.

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ВІТАЄМО З НАГОДИ П'ЯТИ РОКІВ НЕЗАЛЕЖНОСТІ УКРАЇНИ!

Остап Гавалешка,
виконавчий директор



STCU
Science and Technology Center in Ukraine

BEST WISHES ON THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF UKRAINE

Ostap Hawaleshka
Executive Director

