

billion tons — gets lost or wasted. Meanwhile over 840 million people worldwide (12% of the world population) are undernourished.

In developing countries food waste and losses occur mainly at early stages of the food value chain and can often be traced back to financial or technical constraints in harvesting and storage. In medium- and high-income countries food is wasted and lost mainly at later stages in the supply chain, in supermarkets, restaurants and households.

3. GMOs. Slow Food is against the commercial planting of genetically modified (GM) crops and works to promote GM-free food and animal feed.

GMOs are unreliable from a scientific point of view, inefficient in economic terms and environmentally unstable. Little is known about them from a health perspective and from a technical standpoint they are obsolete. They have severe social impact, threatening traditional food cultures and the livelihoods of small-scale farmers.

In many countries labeling of GMO-containing food is not obligatory, and people cannot be sure that they are avoiding these foods. Slow Food supports mandatory labeling of all products containing GM ingredients, including meat and dairy products where animals have been fed with GM feed, thus giving consumers the freedom to make an educated choice about what they eat.

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CURRENT TRENDS OF DEVELOPMENT OF WORLD ECONOMY

The modern world economy is growing enormous pace. Rapid development is connected with the improvement of technology, the development of the processes of integration and globalization, with rapid and unlimited flow of information.

More and more significant role in the system of international economic relations is played by transnational corporations and banks, international financial and economic organizations. The system of the modern world economy is in process of infinite development and improvement, there are new organizational structures, old economic formations adapt to the current conditions of the economic environment and transform

to steadier and viable organizations. The economic relations become more complex and various, the role of the companies introducing innovative solutions increases.

Analysis of the current global economy and its place in the integration process reveals two main trends. One of them is the quantitative growth of the countries united in a variety of international economic associations and other international economic alliances, which is evidence of the increasing globalization of the economy. Another trend is the continuous improvement of forms and methods of realization of world economic integration that speaks about the profound high-quality changes happening in this process.

By the end of the 20th century almost all countries, the number of which is about two hundred, have become members of various international economic organizations. So, by 1998 members of the International Monetary Fund were 183 countries, 180 States were composed by members of the World Bank, more than 130 countries have joined the World Trade Organization, more than one hundred countries have become members of the International Labor Organization, etc.

In addition to these economic organizations representing a global economy in the modern world, in almost all parts of the globe are a variety of international economic institutions, representing a wide range of local forms of international economic integration. Among them: the European Union, the Caribbean Community, the Central American Common Market, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Organization of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, etc. It should be noted that international law does not preclude the participation of any country in several international economic organizations.

As organizational and economic basis of all new phenomena in world economy, as a decisive factor of the modern international relations serves constantly developing and going deep process of the international integration.

At the present stage the international economic integration has reached global proportions. Economic globalization is the highest form of international economic integration. It is expressed in the organization and activity of interstate and international

economic associations, as well as in the emergence and development of international economic institutions and transnational companies in modern community.

If nearly only one form of its realization – international trade was inherent in early steps of the international economic integration, then the globalization stage along with it assumes movement of labor, capital, scientific and technical knowledge and information in planetary scale.

Thus, at the globalization stage international economic integration gets not only more significant quantitative characteristics but also the new, more developed forms.

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FORMATION OF TOURIST CLUSTER IN THE ASTRAKHAN REGION AS A TOOL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNAL TOURISM IN RUSSIA

One of the priorities of economic development of the Russian Federation is development of tourism activities. The tourism industry is a source of financial income, means of increasing employment and quality of life. The main issue for discussion at the tourist and economic conferences, and scientific and practical conferences is to create a unified tourist space in Russia. The development of tourism is very valuable not only for the country as a whole, but also for the subjects of the Russian Federation.

Today tourism is one of the most important areas of import substitution in our country. Russians are increasingly choosing Russian resorts for holidays. According to the Ministry of Culture, last year the internal tourist flow amounted to almost 50 million people.

Russia has a huge potential for the development of internal, inbound tourism, but at the same time it must be noted the gap between the tourism industry and international standards. The creation of tourism clusters is one of the solutions to this problem.

Clusters are closely related industries which complement each other and contribute to the growth of their competitiveness. Efficient operation of all elements of the tourism cluster helps to supplement the budget area significantly, form the new