

import licensing; subsidizing of external operations. However, even now they agree in principle that the Russian legislation is in accordance with the WTO's rules and norms in these areas of the foreign trade regulation.

There are no apparent opponents to Russia's accession to the WTO, since the world trade, especially in the area of trade in raw materials, cannot be regulated without participation of Russia. However, the admission of Russia may be surrounded by a number of additional obligations not directly following from the WTO requirements. Bilateral consultations held in Geneva have shown that Russia will face some complications in the course of tariff negotiations.

CONSUMER COOPERATIVES AS AN ELEMENT OF GLOBAL ECONOMY

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the 3d course

BTEU

Consumer cooperatives are generally recognized to be the subject of market relations in the world practice of industrial activities division and cooperation.

Cooperatives exist in the same competitive environment as other companies. That is why they have to work efficiently and gain profit. The main principle and feature of cooperative movement is believed to be permanent care about its members. Management of cooperatives has to take constant care of the members' rights observance; establish new ways of service; to observe the time of the general meetings; inform members of the cooperative about results and perspectives of its activity.

Consumer companies use different forms of economic relations for realization of commercial functions including joint-stock companies (close and open), united businesses, filials. Cooperative companies cannot be replaced by joint-stock companies. The principle of cooperative societies is "one member is one voice". The principle of joint-stock company is "the number of voices depends on the share package".

Cooperative organizations may create unions of any level and give them plenary power according to their needs. The superior union is the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) founded in 1895. ICA is an independent association that unites, represents and serves interests of cooperatives all over the world. Nowadays ICA unites more than 230 national cooperative societies. It has a wide international recognition; it has been given consulting status "A" – a first category institute in the Economic and Social Council of OUN and some of its specialized establishments such as IOL, UNESCO, UNIDO, FAO. ICA has a development program directed on rendering assistance to cooperatives in different countries.

"Swiss model" of cooperative movement is called one of the most developed and efficient cooperative systems in the world practice. Studying of the Swiss experience is actual because it shows common tendencies of countries' development with social oriented economics, demonstrates ways how to survive in the cruel competition of the modern market.

Swiss cooperative societies work according to the Law about cooperative societies (1987). Parliamentary group has been working on the cooperative movement problems in Swiss Parliament since 1976. Deputies of the Social Democrats were initiators of the parliamentary group creation.

Consumer cooperatives have a good reputation in Sweden. It's prestigious to be a member of the cooperatives and to take part in their work. Shareholders are interested economically in cooperatives' activity as dividends are added on their personal accounts after membership dues are paid.

Many goods are produced on specifications which elaborate special subdivisions of cooperative societies. Such goods enter the market under cooperative trade mark. Swiss cooperative union has three trade marks: "Signum" (used from 1995), "Anglomark" (from 1991), "Blue-White" (from 1979). Estonian, Finnish, British cooperative organizations use their own trade marks.

The centre of the world cooperative movement moved from Europe to Asia for amount of shareholders. Cooperative movement is believed to be advanced in Japan, South Korea and China. Economic spheres that are free from government and private ownership have been founded for cooperatives in India, Thailand and some other countries. But European cooperative organizations score the first place for value of economic activity and level of profits. Part of cooperative sector is 70% of production output, and 69% of workers are employed by cooperative societies in the European Union. European cooperatives work successfully in such spheres as house-building, banking, crediting, insurance, fishery, tourism.

It is possible to pick out the following features in development of the world cooperative movement:

- 1) Guaranteeing of social orientation of economic activity with the observance of the principles of self-paying and self-finance;

- 2) Trade is the main form of economic activity with preservation of diversified character of cooperative systems;

- 3) Preservation of indivisibility and collective character of capital.

New tendencies have appeared in cooperative economics in last 10 years. They are:

- 1) Activation of collaboration with government structures;

- 2) Widening the sphere of activity by the way of development of new advanced forms of economic activity;

- 3) Development of international collaboration by the means of creating new international structures and by the means of realization of international cooperative programmes.

Our consumer cooperative system faces a lot of problems. One can believe that it needs structural reconstruction. Therefore it is useful for Belarusian economists to study the experience of the cooperatives in other countries.