

**WELCOME GREETINGS TO THE ORGANIZERS AND  
PARTICIPANTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY  
FOR BUILDING CULTURE OF OPEN GOVERNMENT  
(Khanty-Mansiysk, June 6–10, 2016)**

**Greeting by Ms Natalia Komarova,  
Governor of the Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug – Ugra**

Ladies and gentlemen,

I greet you at the first international UNESCO conference on Media and Information Literacy for Building Culture of Open Government in Khanty-Mansiysk.

Ugra and UNESCO are linked together by many years' partnership, joint initiatives and effective international projects, many of which have won renown and support in dozens of countries – suffice to mention the Save and Preserve international ecological action, the international IT forum, the UNESCO associated school conference, The Ob-Irtysk Basin: The Youth Studies and Preserves Natural and Cultural Heritage in the Regions of the World's Great Rivers, the international crafts festival of the indigenous peoples, and the formation of the Register of Intangible Heritage of the Ugra Peoples.

While implementing the communique signed in 2014 to summarize the Ugra Days at the UNESCO Headquarters, we have planned new fields of partnership topical both for experts and the public-at-large in Russia and worldwide: the preservation of indigenous languages, development of diversity in cyberspace, and the use of the latest tactics and technologies to attain these goals. World expert meetings on those topics in Paris and Khanty-Mansiysk promoted new Ugra-based projects, such as the establishment of a depository in 2015 on the platform of the Ob-Ugra Institute of Applied Research and Development. It aims to bring folklore materials into system, regulate their storage, and provide online public access to the intangible cultural heritage of the Ugra indigenous peoples.

This year, our international conference is dedicated to Media and Information Literacy for Building Culture of Open Government. A conference on this theme has never been convened yet. Last year, the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly



adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which envisages 17 goals and 169 related targets. It promotes dynamic international demand for development-oriented information, and systematized academic, expert and humanitarian dialogue and knowledge exchanges. International meetings on “information for development” to attain these goals are now topical and popular as never before. Every government’s work for sustainable development demands open governance, when the public-at-large, experts, public activists, the academic community and businesses are involved in decision-making and implementation. The search for the most efficient instruments of such public participation, exchange of the best practical patterns of forming the system of open regions and open government, public training to acquire media and information literacy, and efficient handling of relevant data are among the top applied priorities of this conference.

Our region is addressing these problems. Ugra has established the Open Region centre to form the culture of openness in state governance. Several educational projects are being implemented now on the basis of that centre, which also works to form pioneer approaches to information access, crowdsourcing development, and provision of dialogue venues for experts and the public-at-large. We work to put an end to digital inequality, train the population in the use of electronic services on the Electronic Citizen programme, and develop the websites of online libraries and museums and of Ugra civil society. There is a territorial geo-information system and a media school. We are interested in international experts’ knowledge and cooperation in every field of this work. I am confident that this conference will promote such contacts, and develop into a permanent and influential platform to elaborate new approaches to the formation of open government culture.

Welcome to Ugra! I wish you fruitful and successful work.