

would you like to have with the United States?

With the United States, we are currently negotiating in the area of general infrastructure projects, i. e., on global support for nuclear power through elements of infrastructure which provide developing countries access to these technologies, without violating the non-proliferation system. And, second, I think we will arrive at a certain cooperation in science, particularly as related to breeder reactors.

**Question:** Lyndon LaRouche has proposed economic cooperation among Russia, the United States, India, and China to create a new financial system with fixed exchange rates. Because we have problems—speculation on energy prices is a factor that

wrecks development. Can you say something about the potential for stabilizing the international financial system?

I am not a specialist on the financial system. I have read LaRouche's books, but, frankly speaking, I prefer to speak about things in my area of competence.

INTERVIEW: JOHANNES PENZKOFER

## On Joint Russian Development Projects: 'We Are Sitting in One Boat'

*Johannes Penzkofer, a vice president of the Russian engineering company, GCE Energy Consulting Group, was interviewed by 21st Century correspondent Ilko Dimov. This is an abridged transcript of the interview.*

**Question:** Since October of last year, the Chinese and Russian governments signed a strategic agreement for collaboration in the development of the Far East, including access to raw materials, building high speed rail, and development of nuclear energy. And Russia is building a breeder reactor right now in China. What is your long-term view? What do you see as areas where you need collaboration with Canada or the United States? What are the areas where we can design joint projects to work together?

I think, as we are here at the World Energy Congress, this is a very important topic. We can collaborate with all, or let's say, with the four countries that you have talked about: China, Russia, the U.S., and Canada. Especially on the tech-

nical and the equipment side, there is very much knowledge in Canada, and the U.S., and in Canada, especially with hydro energy and hydroelectric. This is what we really have to share, and use, to create a more efficient use of energy in the industry.

**Question:** One of the traditional problems in the Soviet Union, and in Russia, has been that things move slowly. You start building something, and it takes centuries to be accomplished. Now, there is a very surprising speedup: the modernization of the rail system. Prime Minister Putin said in a recent report, "We just doubled the rail system in Russia!" Wow, that's impressive! How were you able to achieve this success?

It's typical for Russia, that, if they make a commitment, they really do everything to fulfill this. And when the government said, "this is our strategy, our plan," the whole country was trying to follow this, and this is how it was achieved.

**Question:** One of the projects which



Rosatom

Rosatom's design for its first floating nuclear power plant.



has existed since the strategic collaboration between Czar Alexander II and Abraham Lincoln, is the development of Siberia and of Alaska. Now we have the potential of building the Bering Strait link. We are working in the United States towards this project, and we would like to make it a reality in the visible future, in 10 years. Is there the political will in the Russian government, the friendly hands, to get people on the ground to start moving in this direction?

I think, frankly speaking about Putin and [President] Medvedev, that both of them are, let's say, practical people. So, they are realistic people. And I think they are very open to all kinds of alliances and partnerships, which will bring us forward. So, I think this can be taken for granted that, the hand is open.

**Question: With the development of fusion energy over the next 20 to 25 years, the fuel for our economies will be helium-3, the isotope of helium, which will be mined from the surface of the Moon. And without collaboration in the life sciences, this will be very difficult. Because, we know that Russia, with its long-term space exploration, has had the longest stays in space.**

And with the ISS, the International Space Station.

**Question: Yes, your experience is maybe 10 or 15 years ahead of us in the life sciences, and we are looking into areas where we can collaborate with this....**

This collaboration, I agree with you,

INTERVIEW: BERNARD BIGOT

## We Need International Cooperation for Nuclear Power

*Bernard Bigot, is Chairman of the French Atomic Energy Commission (Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique), CEA. He was interviewed by 21st Century correspondent Ilko Dimov, and this is an abridged transcript. The interview was translated from the French by Matthew Ehret-Kump.*

**Question: In France, we are associated with Jacques Cheminade, who has just announced his candidacy for the next Presidential elections.**

I know him well.

**Question: One of Mr. Cheminade's programs is based upon nuclear development, using the expertise of France with nuclear and great projects in making the nation a motor for global development, and returning France to de Gaulle's vision, with nations collaborating together,**

only can be on, really a global basis. Let's say, the big nations have to work on this together, because it's one of the big future questions of mankind. And I agree, neither Americans, Chinese, or Russians can fulfill this question themselves, or alone....

**Question: I have a couple of economic questions. Since 2007, when the economic derivatives market exploded, we have had decision by the Bush Administration, and a commitment by the Obama Administration as well, to commit the U.S. government and the Federal Reserve to a bailout of the U.S. banks—already \$26 trillion. And I know this is a concern of the Russian government as well, because if the dollar collapses you will lose your savings. So, the belief that you are rich because you have "money," will disappear; you are going to discover that you don't have anything.**

It could be a real implosion!

**Question: We have had serious economic crises since the Versailles treat-**

**er, not competing.... But there is an absence of credit for the development of industry and, in particular, science. What are your thoughts about what is necessary for providing the financing and vision required to accomplish the necessary miracle of rebuilding the world?**

Listen, I think that with the problems which are occupying us today, here, in Montreal, that is to say, energy, there are no solutions if we do not develop solidarity. Resources are, as we know, limited. They are not necessarily equally distributed. There isn't one legitimate reason why a country which has easy access to one or another resource, should not share it with the rest of the world. Otherwise, we will move towards tension, we will move towards conflicts, without anyone benefiting globally. No one will win.

Thus, we should try to build mecha-

**ty.... We had a successful solution by the Bretton Woods conference, which established a fixed-exchange rate system, capital controls, exchange controls, stable raw material prices, which, until 1974, were determined by governments. We are organizing now internationally, to reestablish a fixed exchange rate. And Russia is an essential player—**

Of course.

**Question: What do you think about the prospect for a conference, as we have proposed, to deal with these economic questions?**

I think, it is a need, and I think that Russia will play an active role in this conference, and will collaborate in this discussion. Because, as you said before, it is in our common interest. And, it's about keeping the world going. I mean, we are all in the same boat in that. That's another side of globalization. You can't divide from the rest, or say: "It's not my ball game." It's the same for the Chinese, for the Russians, the Europeans, and the Americans. So, we are sitting in one boat.



CEA

nisms which maximize solidarity. So, the first point which you bring up, is the access to financing. *Voilà*: It's clear as we saw earlier with the speaker from the Congo, and we see it in many other countries. One of the major handicaps to the development of energy production to the scale many countries need, is the obstacle of financing, that is to say, the power to obtain financial channels, to obtain loans at reasonable rates. This is the chief obstacle.

For me, this is a first priority. It is absurd, for example, in the domain of nuclear, that the World Bank cannot contribute anything to a country which