

**WELCOME GREETINGS TO THE ORGANIZERS AND
PARTICIPANTS OF THE VII INTERNATIONAL IT FORUM
AND THE GLOBAL EXPERT MEETING ON MULTILINGUALISM
IN CYBERSPACE
(Khanty-Mansiysk, July 4–9, 2015)**

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

Ladies and gentlemen,

Since times immemorial, dialogue has always been a tool of bridge-building between nations, cultures and individuals. Such dialogues are impossible unless we make steady efforts to preserve multilingualism and promote all languages of the world. We residents of Ugra, or the Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, realize this point perfectly well, with the conglomeration of languages and traditions on which our identity rests. Symbolically, our area's name combines the names of two major Northern ethnic entities.



Ugra is one of the universally recognized world centres of the preservation, development and promotion of profoundly original cultures, arts and customs of the indigenous Northern population. Every tribe's mother tongue is its cultural code, the basis of its moral values. This code can be digitized now. That's what makes multilingualism in cyberspace so important.

Ugra is implementing a programme to put an end to digital inequality by providing access to Internet to remote and hard-of-access villages. The area is among Russia's regional leaders for the use of information technology and the development of information society. We host an annual international IT forum to pool in efforts and exchange pioneer experience in the use of IT for improving the population's life. Certainly, the opportunity of communication in one's native language is one of the inalienable aspects of life's quality.

It is essential to overcome linguistic inequality alongside digital one. That is why we attach tremendous importance to UNESCO efforts to extend the atlas of endangered languages to the point when it turns into an atlas of all languages in

the world. No less crucial is the study of open and inclusive resolutions toward an efficient system of linguistic monitoring through the IT.

I am sure that the upcoming conference in Khanty-Mansiysk will help us to make progress on all these points and come at new forms of the dialogue which brings all nations of the world closer together.