

October 17, 2013

IMEMO RAN hosted the conference titled "Middle East: Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons". It was the thirteenth conference (the second one for 2013) of the joint project "The Prospects of Multilateralizing Nuclear Disarmament Process" implemented by IMEMO and the Nuclear Threat Initiative, Inc.

The conference was opened by **Vladimir G. Baranovsky**, Deputy Director of the IMEMO RAN, Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The principle reports were presented by **Viktor I. Esin**, Leading Researcher of the Institute for the U.S. and Canadian Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, General-Colonel (retd.); **Alexei G. Arbatov**, Head of the Center for International Security of the IMEMO RAN, Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences; **Vladimir Z. Dvorkin**, Chief Researcher, Center for International Security, IMEMO RAN, Major-General (retd.); **Irina D. Zvyagelskaya**, Chief Researcher, Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IVRAN).

The conference was attended by over forty Russian experts, with many of them taking part in the discussion. The discussion featured such experts of renown as Evgeny P. Buzhinsky, Senior Vice-President of the PIR Center, Lieutenant-General (retd.); Efim L. Zhigun, Director, Institute of Middle East Studies; Pavel S. Zolotarev, Deputy Director of the Institute for US and Canada Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Major-General (retd); Viktor I. Mizin, Deputy Director of the Institute of International Studies, MGIMO(U) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Natalia P. Romashkina, Researcher, Center for International Security, IMEMO RAN; Leonid F. Ryabikhin, Deputy Chair, Committee of Scientists for Global Security; Vladimir I. Sazhin, Senior Researcher, Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IVRAN); Vladimir I. Sotnikov, Senior Researcher, Center for International Security, IMEMO RAN; Anton V. Khlopkov, Director, Center for Energy Security Studies; Alexander A. Khramchikhin, Deputy Director, Institute for Political and Military Analysis.

The discussion embraced in a comprehensive manner the causes of the crisis in the Middle East, provided an assessment of Iranian nuclear program and the nuclear capability of Israel, and gave close consideration to military capabilities of the parties and the conditions and prospects of possible armed conflict. The speakers put forward possible scenarios of the emergence and development of an armed conflict between the two countries and approaches to resolving it.

A brochure in the Russian and English languages will be prepared based on the findings of the conference, which will also be published at IMEMO RAN website.