

“A Successful 21st Century Organization” Opening Speech

Dr. Virginijus Kundrotas, President of BMDA

Good morning, dear friends, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,
With great pleasure I want to welcome you to already 12th annual gathering of Baltic Management Development association!

Already the 12th time those who are interested in management development and organizational success are coming together from various countries in order to listen, to talk, to discuss, to analyse, to teach and to learn at the same time!

This year we are here 110 participants from 18 countries, representing business, consulting and academic communities, who are ready to spent those few days usefully and hopefully to enjoy great time together.

BMDA never had a goal to make its conferences the biggest! We all know very well that you do not need to be the biggest in order to be useful. Our goal – to have a conference, which will be relevant for the participants!

We also never had a goal to be the biggest as association. Today we unite 68 institutional, corporate and individual members from 22 countries. We are rather small, but rather international at the same time.

BMDA is trying to break stereotypes in its activities. That also applies to our membership. This is why among our members we can see not only Universities and Business Schools, but also Companies, Business and non-governmental organizations, other associations, management professionals and also Management consulting organizations. We are management development association instead of business education association. Due to this, everybody and everyone, who is interested in management issues is welcome to join us!

We are trying to be useful for our corporate members by announcing their needs – for training, partnership, recruitment, etc. – and by recommending for our academic members (Business Schools or Consulting companies) to satisfy those needs by their services or graduates and students. We also help our Academic institutions to be better in research, pedagogical skills, networking and international partnership possibilities. In other words, as it was mentioned already, we are trying to be relevant.

The title of this event is “A successful 21st century organization”! We believe that this topic is relevant for everybody as everyone wants to be successful. Everybody wants that

organization in which he or she is working will be successful too. But....., there is no one correct recipe or answer to achieve it.

There are many ways and ideas! All of them might be correct. Correctfor the particular organization, particular company! And we are going to look to some of those ways during this conference!

Still, I believe that there are some universal principles helping to achieve the success of the organization. Like for example, is our organization effective and efficient? In short and in long perspective? What those criteria mean for our organizations? What do we need to do in order to meet those criteria? How do we need to do that practically? What issues we need to address first and which can wait?

Those and other questions will be explored during the conference days!

For that we invited here professionals from all around the world, who could share their knowledge, their experiences, and their wisdom on this and other topics of leadership and management.

We also going to visit the successful companies and to see in our own eyes what did they do right to be able to achieve good results! We will listen to the leaders of the innovative companies to learn from their expertise, from their organisations, from their personal life.

And finally, we all will be able to renew or to establish a good professional relationship with our colleagues from various countries, as well as to experience Latvian culture and traditions.

As you all know, such events are not happening by itself. It is a result of long and sustainable efforts. Individuals and organizations. We will definitely be back to the individuals at the end of the conference. But today, let me just briefly thank our main organizational supporters and sponsors of this conference.

I sincerely thank Emerald Publishing from United Kingdom, who are our partners not only in management research activities within the region, but also - very important and significant help for this particular Conference too!

I thank SC Linas from Lithuania, whose fantastic linen gifts and souvenirs are making us happy already for the third year.

I am grateful for Oxford University Press from UK, Cesu Alus and Islande hotel from Latvia as well as our main publisher of this Conference, JSC Taurapolis (Lithuania), which Conference participants books hopefully you all enjoy .

Thank you for all contributors, organizations and individuals, who contributed to make this event possible!

This year BMDA annual conference is taking place in Riga not because it is a charming city! It is even not because Riga is the European Cultural capital of 2014! We are here this year, because we have a very reliable and professional partner for the Conference!

I want sincerely to thank the host of this event- Riga Technical University, which management and academic community have been supportive and enthusiastic preparing this international gathering. Especially we are grateful for the Faculty of Engineering

Economics and management at RTU for their efforts and professional work. Riga technical university is definitely the right place to talk and learn about fast changes, satisfaction of customer needs and success, about partnership between academia and corporate world!

Finally, I want to thank every participant for taking your time and coming here!

Ladies and gentlemen! Our life is continuous learning experience! One of Tibetan proverbs is saying, "Even if I know that I am going to die tomorrow, I still can learn something new tonight!"

First, I wish you all a long years of life! In addition, despite all the participants of the conference are very educated and experienced professionals, I still am sure that all and each of us can learn something new during those days, can get some new insights to make our organizations even more successful!

Have a great unforgettable time, enjoyable discussions and effective learning experiences!

Enjoy the conference!