

# All-Russian Social Organization RUSSIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

## THE PRESIDENT

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Dear Mr. President,  
Dear Colleagues and Friends!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the official ceremony dedicated to the opening of Development Center of Russian Geographical Society in Serbia.

Serbian geographers have been cooperating with Russian Geographical Society for more than one and a half centuries. Members of Imperial Russian Geographical Society were known scientists and researchers, including Vuk Karadžić, Valtazar Bogišić, Jovan Cvijić. During 2014, the agreement on cooperation between geographical societies of Russia and Serbia was signed, which gave the opportunity to these relations to be raised to a higher quality level.

Our countries have a lot in common - historical roots, religion, and most importantly - centuries of friendship and mutual support among the fraternal nations. A close cooperation of social organizations of Serbia and Russia is one of the most important conditions for strengthening this friendship.

Development Center of Russian Geographical Society in Serbia has several primary responsibilities. Certainly, it is an exchange of young people - young people should not learn only through stories about nature, history and culture of friendly countries. Special attention would be devoted to the organization of joint expeditions, both in Serbia and in Russia, because Russian Geographical Society has been famous for this type of research. We also plan to have cultural and educational activities: exhibitions, lectures, festivals.

Sincere thanks to the leadership of the Republic of Serbia, to representatives of the Serbian business society on supporting important initiatives of Serbian geographers such as the formation of Development Center of Russian Geographical Society in Serbia. I wish a lot of success to Russian and Serbian geographers in their mutual work and all the best to all participants.

Sergey Kuzhugetovich Shoygu