*Thank you, Victor. I am actually very happy to be here, although I am connecting from Boston, and it is quite late here. Nevertheless, it came rather unexpectedly, because the Vice-President of the International TRIZ Association for Russia (Elena Redkolis) was unable to attend, and so you know, I am very happy to speak in her place. As Victor mentioned, I teach at MIT and I am a professor at Tufts University, so in my greeting, you know, I would like to mention the fact that, of course, now the TRIZ methodology is developing, it is a cornerstone of various companies, but it is also penetrating higher education institutions. And in fact, Komsomolsk-on-Amur State University was probably the pioneer of this activity in Russia, and as for outside Russia in Europe, the United States, and Asia, this movement is very strong.*

*And since I am responsible for the certification of TRIZ specialists, I would like to encourage you to go through formal certification, because the demand in corporations, the demand in academia for TRIZ experts or people who have received the appropriate education, is really growing. But you know, formalities mean a lot, and formal certification does matter, especially if you get that kind of education from a university. Because there are a lot of different courses, there are a lot of different schools that pop up here and there, but the quality of all that education sometimes leaves a lot to be desired. It's certainly quite different than when you get an academic specialization in a respected institution at a university. Basically there's kind of a quality mark here, and so university students, I would like to tell you that you're really lucky to have courses and have some aspects of TRIZ education that are included in the university curriculum.*

*And as for your conference, it's already a tradition. Professor Berdonosov has been holding it for many years. And I would like to wish your conference to be quite productive and creative. I hope that this tradition will continue, attracting students from other universities, attracting more and more participants from all over the world. Thank you very much and have a good work.*