

"The rapid development of the Siberian Branch owes much to its specially designed system for training personnel. Novosibirsk University had virtually no permanent teachers. Courses were conducted by associates of scientific research institutes, and they taught a living form of science. Afterwards, the students did their practical work with these same teachers. The result was a natural and very fruitful synthesis of science and education. In time, and in response to a proposal by Academician M.A. Lavrentev, Founder-President of Academy City, a school of physics and mathematics, with a dormitory, was established to work with gifted youngsters. Talented school-children from all over Siberia and the Far East were selected to come here on the basis of an olympiad. Instruction was given by lecturers and professors. This system of identifying and encouraging talent made it possible to develop rather quickly a stable and high-quality scientific potential in the eastern part of the country.

"But time passes, and those new forms of scientific organization, its links with production and its [system of] personnel training which were developed here have now become the norm and are themselves in need of being transformed in order to meet the demands of the time. In particular, I noted that the Branch has achieved good results in such spheres as microelectronics, optical electronic equipment, and computer software. These must be supported and developed in every possible way. Based on these results, it would be altogether possible to establish a new microelectronics center in the eastern portion of the country. We need to develop science-intensive research and production, and this could be done in close contact with sectors of the national economy.