

Valerii Sudakov - his lungs froze. Tell me, do we need research at that price? Is it worth risking one's life?

- My answer is: in order to understand, to unravel a secret of nature, in order to offer it to one's people, to one's country, to humanity at large, one must knowingly face the risk and the sacrifice. One must renounce comfort, one's circumstances, distractions, even sleep. Sometimes the price to be paid is even higher.

- And so much more painful - after the expressions of recognition and enthusiastic articles in the newspapers - is the realization that perhaps your work was not necessary. Whomever you approach, nobody is interested in it. What stamina and what nerves are needed at times to see one's project implemented and one's invention put into practice!

Why does that happen? Apparently, because among the people who preside over the fate of the inventions there are many indifferent individuals. It is for the same reason that my ice structures are not being put to use, although everybody understands that we must accelerate the exploitation of the Arctic's riches. But shipping goods and building materials to those areas has so far proved to be an arduous task. It means that utilizing ice is simply unavoidable. The non-thawing structure may become a mooring for ships, an ice landing strip, a dike or a drilling platform.

- Boris Aleksandrovich, I have been told that you also are interested in the problem of utilizing ice in outer space.