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Despite the coronavirus pandemics that affected virtually all countries across the world, we hope for the better and continue preparations for Pharmtech exhibition. What should we expect after the end of the pandemics? What will the Russian pharmaceutical industry look like?

Recovery from the current crisis will not be as speedy as its onset. It will kill some but make others stronger. Even now, we can see the rethinking of the current situation both by manufacturers and by regulators. Some problems that received no response for years are now resolved in an instant, which attests both to the right framing of these problems and to the absence of any obstacles to the resolution of such problems in the past. I hope that this trend will be sustained and we will stop eating the bureaucratic dust.

What are your expectations regarding the distribution of global production capacities?

I am not expecting big changes in the short term. As opposed to a tanker sent to a different port, production capacities have to be erected before they can be redistributed. We are most likely to see certain redistribution of capacities within China and India, i.e., in the countries where such capacities are well-developed.

Will China retain its positions as the leading manufacturer of pharmaceutical ingredients? Or will India take its place?

There is no doubt that China will both retain and bolster its leadership positions. Even during peak epidemics, virtually no production operations were suspended, and currently, China is manipulating the market virtually as a monopolist. In addition, we should remember that India also consumes Chinese pharmaceutical ingredients and intermediates.

Will Russia be able to overcome its dependence on imported pharmaceutical ingredients?

That would be great, but unfortunately, this requires such programmes as Chemistry 2030, Khimmach 2030, Human Resources 2030», and may be even 2050. All of us should become aware of the concept of feedstock security. We should develop a federal development strategy for the chemical industry: oil can bring incomparably higher income to the state, if it is refined here instead of being shipped there.

Can we expect Russia to increase its exports of pharmaceutical ingredients and FPP?

The ratio of exports to domestic consumption is so negligible that even a manifold increase will not go beyond statistical error. Nobody will buy Lada until its cost/quality ratio reaches the cost/quality ratio of Kia at the very least. All manufacturers are keen to enter the European and US markets, but there is absolutely no way we could compete against local manufacturers in terms of quality or Asian manufacturers in terms of price. Therefore, the only markets where we can still hope to succeed are the Middle East, Africa, and South America. The Russian manufacturers that have successfully passed the European audit