



*Tatyana Roskoshnaya & Tamara Chistyakova,  
founders of Ekograd*

### **Ekograd Founders Study Land Economics with U.S. Experts**

On the week of July 12th, Tamara Chistyakova and Tatyana Roskoshnaya, the founders of the *Ekograd* research institute in St. Petersburg, spent a whirlwind week gathering data, expertise and good connections in New York, Washington, DC and finally at the Los Angeles Conference. The St. Petersburg School of Urbanism, of which Ms. Chistyakova is Director and Ms. Roskoshnaya is Head of Research and Coordination, was established to teach Georgist economics and to conduct research in land assessment and taxation. After working in their city with such visitors as Nic Tideman, Ted Gwartney and Steve Cord, they determined that their visit to the U.S. should be used to gain as much knowledge of economic options and analysis as possible.

They had a packed itinerary on the New York leg of their trip. On July 13th they toured the United Nations with Pat Aller in the morning, and spent the afternoon consulting at the New York HGS with a group of diverse Georgist-leaning group of economists, chosen to provide the most relevant and useful range of specialties and professional experiences to aid in the critical decisions that Russia and St. Petersburg must face. It included Professors Michael Hudson (economic historian and debt specialist), William Vickrey (policy analyst specializing in market-oriented public revenue sources) Stephen Sussna (urban planner and lawyer), and C. Lowell Harriss (author of many works on free trade and land economics), as well as Dr. Oscar Johannsen (Schalkenbach Foundation Director; money & banking expert), Dr. Cay Hehner (HGS faculty member) and Drew Harris (management consultant).

The following morning, Tamara and Tatyana visited City Hall and discussed the nuts and bolts of land valuation with New York Deputy Assessor Douglas Layne. They also met with the General Counsel for historical preservation, gaining insights on how best to preserve the architectural treasures of St. Petersburg. *(continued on back page)*

### **Ekograd Founders... (from page seven)**

The visit was not all business, though - on the evening of the 14th, students, trustees and friends of the HGS gathered for a convivial reception, at which Ms. Chistyakova and Ms. Roskoshnaya discussed their progress and assessed the huge work they had yet to do. Further discussions and tasty treats were shared by all.

Then, after a University Club luncheon with Prof. Lowell Harriss, they ran to catch a train for Columbia, Maryland and further

consultations with Dr. Cord, before heading for California!

When the L.A. Conference was done, they traveled to British Columbia, to meet with Olaf Klasen and his team of land assessors. Then, back to the big Apple, where Residential land value mapping was demonstrated by Research Director Jack Eichenbaum, at the assessor's office. Finally, with a suitcase full of data and huge challenges ahead, they flew off back to St. Petersburg. [E]