IESE CREATES

New Alumni Chapter in Russia

Russia

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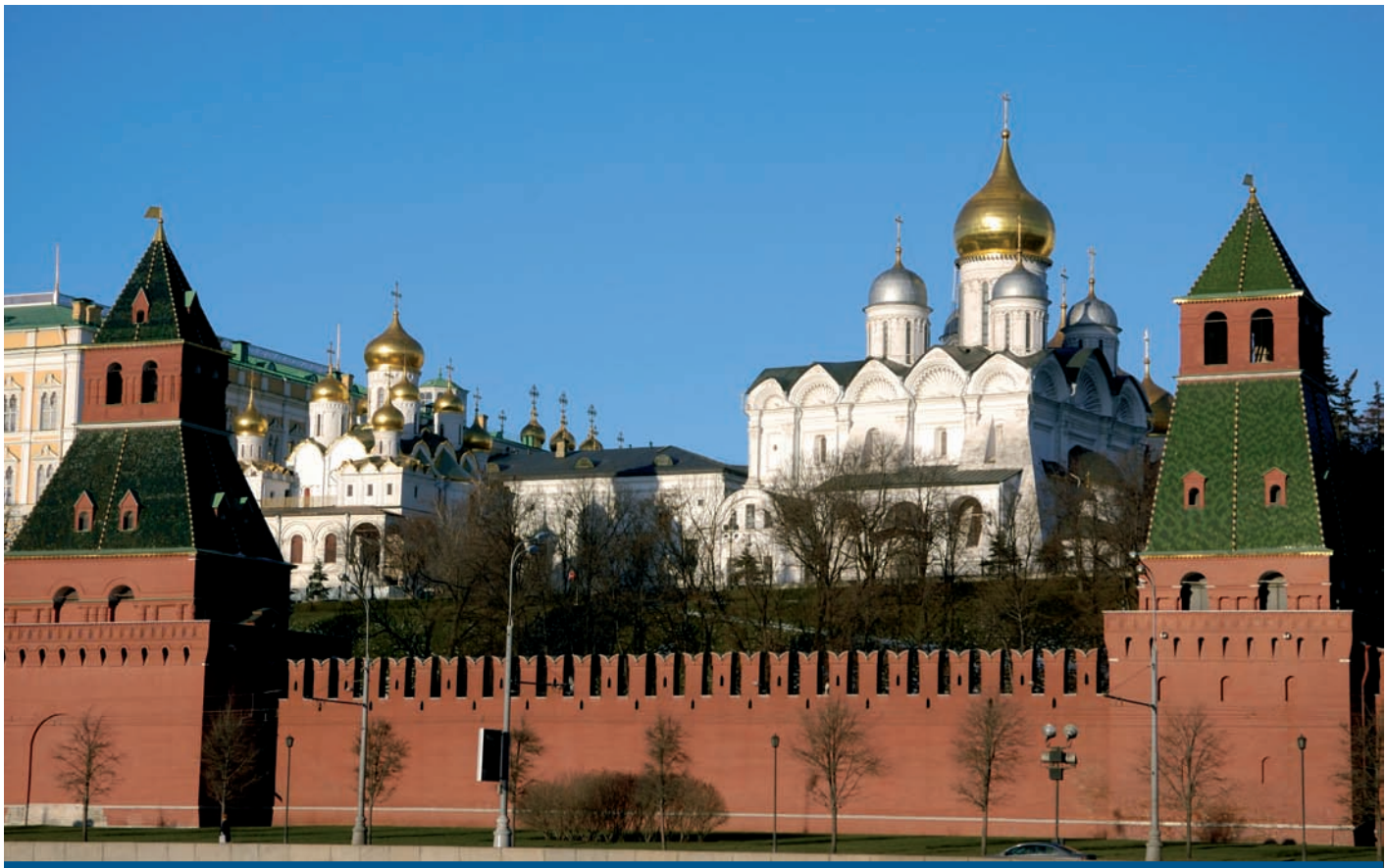

IESE has established a new Alumni Chapter in Russia to serve the school's 140 alumni. Most of them are senior executives or entrepreneurs based in Moscow or St. Petersburg, as well as a few sprinkled throughout the vast country.

Chapter President **Andrey Smirnov** (Global EMBA '07) said: "It is in our collective interest to maintain and strengthen our social and professional relationships across programs and graduate years to share experience and to exchange ideas," he said. He urged all IESE alumni to get involved.

The Global Executive MBA class of 2007 included five Russian students who have provided much of the impetus for the local alumni chapter. Smirnov's Moscow-based classmate, **Adam Blanco** (Global EMBA '07) said: "During the program, we all got along so well that when we finished, we knew that we needed to do something to cement our network."

Originally from the United States, Blanco is a 15-year veteran of the Russian business scene. He paints a promising portrait of the country's business climate. "It is very dynamic and still full of opportunities, particularly in banking, insurance, healthcare and property development," he said.

The new chapter aims to develop alumni events and activities in Russia such as Continuous Education sessions with IESE professors and guest speakers. Prof. Albert Ribera got the Continuous Education ball rolling with a session titled, "The Business of Managing Oneself." Ribera discussed topics such as emotional intelligence, stress management and interpersonal skills.

Smirnov and his team also plan to organize monthly social gatherings for IESE alumni and friends as well as networking events with the Russian chapters of other business schools. Once firmly established, the chapter's activities will include IESE faculty visits and seminars on Russian and global trends.