

Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

Issue 23, 2004, week 51

St. Petersburg and Stockholm – Centers of Congress Tourism Development



The teleconference *St. Petersburg and Stockholm – Centers of Congress Tourism Development* organized with the support of the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg took place on 14 December at the Herzen State Pedagogical University. The goal of the conference was to promote Stockholm and St. Petersburg as centers of events and business activities.

Tom Beyer, Managing Director of Stockholm International Fairs, and Peter Lindqvist, Director, Congress Stockholm, participated in the conference from the Swedish part. The Russian part was represented by Viktor Pakhomkov, Head of the Tourism Department of the St. Petersburg Committee on External Affairs and Tourism, Sergey Alexeev, General Director of Lenexpo exhibition company, Sergey Korneev, Vice-President of the Russian Union of Travel Industry, Anatoly Lantsov, Director of the Arbat hotel, Sergey Goncharov, Pro-rector of Herzen University, and Larisa Gromova, Dean of the Faculty of Management of Herzen University.

The possibilities of joint product elaboration on the international congress tourism market as well as the role of the scientific community in the congress tourism sector were discussed. As it was marked by Tom Beyer, Stockholm is already working with other Scandinavian cities and it is very important to develop cooperation with St. Petersburg region. 'We are open for cooperation and interested in the resource integration of the Northwest Russia and Stockholm-Mälars region for the competitiveness raise of the Baltic Sea region. This process is difficult to imagine without active cooperation between the authorities, business and academic circles of both regions', - said the rector of Herzen University.

The conference attracted much attention among the Russian audience. The material, devoted to the event, was, in particular, broadcasted by Russian tv-channel "1".

Source: Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg, stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru, Photo: Herzen State University

Nobel Day at Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg



The seminar devoted to the 175th anniversary of Robert Nobel and 145th anniversary of Emmanuel Nobel, was arranged on 10 December by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg at Nevsky 1.

The programme of the event consisted of three reports on the history of the Nobels in St. Petersburg and the performance of the children's choir from Mravinsky School of Arts. The choir opened the seminar by performing the hymn written in the XIXth century especially for Emmanuel Nobel

and several Lucia songs in Swedish. The reports were given by Baron Georg Levenstern, Arkady Melois, Director of publishing house *Publicistics*, and Sofia Kudoyarova, Director of the Museum of St. Petersburg State Technological Institute.

After the lectures the guests were invited to the Philharmonics to attend the concert arranged by Consulates General of Sweden and Norway in St. Petersburg.

Source: Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg, stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru, Photo: Andrey Mashoshin



Social Work with Juvenile Delinquents in St. Petersburg

The second part of the project *Social Work with Juvenile Delinquents in St. Petersburg* successfully finished on 16 December 2004 at the premises of the State Center for Prevention of Minors' Neglect and Drug Abuse, St. Petersburg Committee on Youth Policy and Cooperation with Non-governmental Organizations. The Sida-financed project has been carried out since 2000 by the Department for Social Work of Stockholm University and the City of St. Petersburg. The goal of the co-operation is to work out an up-to-date system of qualified social support, examination and rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents in St Petersburg.

The second part of the project aimed at development of an open rehabilitation system for certain groups of adolescents. The work was focused on reinforcing the potential of the family for providing care and upbringing for adolescents. Social workers of the Center underwent a three-semester training course in methods of open rehabilitation for juvenile delinquents. The training course was based on a specialized programme called Intensive Home-based In-Family Rehabilitation and developed by FamiljeForum i Lund. The Programme specially aims to support socially unprotected children and their families and is an alternative to putting an adolescent into a closed institution - an investigative jail or into a penitentiary. 11 social workers who completed the whole course were awarded diploma stating the acquired skills. Diplomas were handed in by Sergey Grishin, Chairman of the Committee on Youth Policy, and Martin Hagström, Vice-consul, Consulate General of Sweden in St. Petersburg.



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Co-operation between St. Petersburg and Sweden to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings



Two seminars were held in St. Petersburg in December as part of the ongoing process to improve Russian-Swedish joint efforts to combat trafficking in human beings and to improve the support to its victims. Two social NGOs based in St. Petersburg, Crisis Centre for Women and Malookhtinsky House of Diligence, take an active part in the Sida-financed co-operation project Safe Return and Recovery - Building capacity, creating networks and formulating a protocol for repatriation and rehabilitation for trafficked persons.

High Level Training for law enforcement representatives from Leningrad Region and a two-day workshop for psychologists working with traumatised women and children were arranged by the two NGOs together with Kvinnoforum in Stockholm and the Russian anti-trafficking consortium Angel Coalition on 1-3 December 2004.

The High Level Training for representatives from the Ministry for Internal Affairs and foreign Consulates was held at the St. Petersburg Committee for Labour and Social Security. The Swedish experts in the meeting were Veronika Lindstrand Kant, Deputy Director, Migration Board, Stockholm, Lise Tamm, District Prosecutor, Public Prosecution Authority in Stockholm and Mats Paulsson, Police Inspector in the Anti-Trafficking Unit, County Criminal Investigation Division, Västra Götaland County Police, International Unit. The Swedish experts shared experience of dealing with trafficking cases, and discussed opportunities of international co-operation between Sweden and Northwest Russia.

The psychological workshop held in the Malookhtinsky house of diligence, was led by Luis Ramos Ruggiero and Brita Hännestrand from the Swedish "Kris- och Traumacentrum". It was devoted to different psychiatric and psychotherapeutic methods in work with women with extreme post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The trainings in St. Petersburg is a part of a series of similar High Level and Safehouse trainings taking place in Petrozavodsk, Murmansk, Kazan and Yaroslavl.

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New Opportunities for Investments in St. Petersburg

The briefing *New Opportunities for investments in St. Petersburg* arranged by the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce took place at the Angletterre hotel on 8 December. The issues of investment policy of the City of St. Petersburg, legal issues of investment activity as well as investments in St. Petersburg commercial real estate were discussed. Presentations were made by Mikhail Oseevsky, Vice-Governor of St. Petersburg, Artyom Zhavoronkov, legal expert of *Salans* consulting company, and Igor Kokorev, marketing manager of *Knight Frank* consulting company.

Source: Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg, stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru

Investments in St. Petersburg

The exhibition *Investments in St. Petersburg* was held at the Shuvalovsky Palace on 8-9 December. The event was arranged by the St. Petersburg Committee for Economic Development, Industrial Policy and Trade together with the Northwest Russia investment agency. The main objective of the exhibition was the development of an attractive image of St. Petersburg, discussion of recommendations in the sphere of investment policy as well as presentation of St. Petersburg investment projects. Round tables held within the frames of the exhibition were devoted to the development of industrial areas and reduction of administrative barriers. Representatives of the City of St. Petersburg, investors and consulting companies were among the participants.

Source: St. Petersburg Committee for Economic Development, Industrial Policy and Trade

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Facts and Figures

- St. Petersburg is ranked second among cities in Russia attracting most investments.
- St. Petersburg is ranked 22nd in the legal securing of this activity.
- In 2005, St. Petersburg is planning to receive 1,5-2 million USD from investments.
- The Russians keep approximately 2 billion RUR in Russian banks. In general, bank investments rose by 18,7% between January and October 2004. Most of this money went to commercial banks, whereas the share of savings kept in state-owned banks, for example Sberbank Russia, decreased with 0,8% from January to October 2004, constituting 61,9% compared to 64% in 2003.

Source: Metro newspaper, 06.12.04, 29.10.2004

New Scania Bus to be Produced in St. Petersburg

Due to increased demand on its production, the bus factory Scania-Peter is planning to increase the sales volume and expand the cooperation with Scania retail dealers. Therefore, a seminar for retail dealers called "The dynamics of development" was recently held at the factory in St. Petersburg. At the seminar, the dealers were presented with more detailed information about Scania products and could personally meet with the leaders of the company as well as with representatives from the sales unit. At the end of the seminar, the parties agreed on the development of the cooperation.



The republic of Karelia is also considering further cooperation with Scania. During the official visit to St. Petersburg, the members of the Karelian delegation visited the factory and discussed the cooperation possibilities with the top managers.

Before the New Year the first bus of the new modification will be produced.

Scania IL941B 4x2 Omni Line is the new inter-city bus with diesel engine Scania DC903, that corresponds the environmental standards Euro 3.

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White Days in St. Petersburg



Photo: www.interpress.ru

White Days 2004 – 2005, winter tourist season in St. Petersburg, were opened at Konstantinovsky palace in the beginning of December.

White Days is a brand of St. Petersburg as a tourist destination in winter. Several years ago the concept of *White Days* was presented by the group of city's top hotels as a winter alternative to the well-known *White Nights*. Angleterre, Astoria, Grand Hotel Europe, Corinthia Nevsky Palace, Pulkovskaya, Radisson SAS Royal and Renaissance St. Petersburg Baltic Hotel participate in the project.

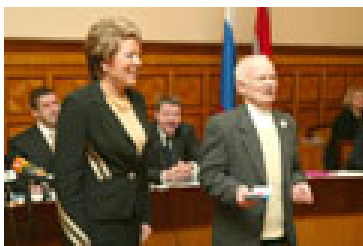
The project is supported by the State Hermitage, Mariinsky Theatre, the Russian museum, Park and Palace Ensemble Peterhof, Boris Eifman Ballet and St. Petersburg Philharmonic Hall.

Visiting St. Petersburg in winter has many advantages, as the prices on tourist packages in this season are more favorable than in summer and most of the tourist objects offer a lot of interesting programs. Along with traditional festivals, such as *Arts Square* and *Mariinsky* the project for the first time includes events specially developed by the Hermitage, the Russian museum, Mariinsky theatre and Philharmonic Hall.

According to Sergey Korneev, Director of the Northwest Division Office of the Russian Union of Travel Industry (RST), promotion of St. Petersburg during the low season is one of the main objectives of RST. The Northwest Division Office is going to arrange a series of study visits for Russian and foreign travel companies called *Just Russia Petersburg Voyage – White Days*. First groups will visit the city in February.

Source: RATA-news, 6 December 2004.

Valentina Matvienko Awarded Winners of Competition *City in Your Hands*



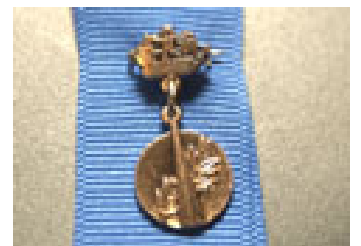
Valentina Matvienko, the Governor of St. Petersburg, has awarded the winners of the competition *City in Your Hands*, carried out by newspaper *Metro* and the City of St. Petersburg. Honorable medals *For Care For the Beauty of the Native City* were handed out to the citizens who enthusiastically contributed to the St. Petersburg accomplishment. Apart from the medals, the winners

received the prize of 15 000 RUR (about 550 USD).

Rano Vasilieva, Alla Sokol Yuri Habarov and Margarita Ostashevskaya were among the winners. In particular, Margarita Ostashevskaya was awarded for the ecological experiment *Flower-beds on the garbage* that participated in the TACIS programme Eco-effectiveness in 2002-2003 (please, see *Northwest Russia: Facts and Events*, week 37)

As it was emphasized by Valentina Matvienko, the City of St. Petersburg needs citizens' support. Without their initiatives and advice it is difficult turn St. Petersburg into a city with European life standards.

Source: the City of St. Petersburg, www.gov.spb.ru



Conference *Regional Area: Communication and Social Security Issues*



The VI International scientific-practical student conference *Regional area: Communication and Social Security Issues* was held on 10-11 December in St. Petersburg. The conference was arranged by the Faculty of Humanities of the State Bonch-Bruевич University of Telecommunications together with the Permanent Moscow Representative Office in St. Petersburg, Northwest department of the Russian Public Relations Association, Popov Central Museum of Communication. Representatives of the Permanent Moscow Representative Office, Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg Institute for Cultural Programmes and St. Petersburg State University were among the speakers at the plenary session of the conference. The Stockholm Region Office presented, in particular, its newsletter *Northwest Russia: Facts and Events*. Representatives of the Swedish Trade Council, Stockholm Region Office, New Horizons magazine participated in the round table within the conference. Such issues as economical and ecological regional security, cross-cultural

regional researches, political technologies, IT were discussed at the sections. The conference was visited by representatives of Sweden, Ukraine, Belorussia as well as such Russian cities as Kirov, Krasnodar, Penza, Volgograd, Tomsk, Novgorod, Arhangelsk etc.



Source: Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg, stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru

Photo: Bonch-Bruевич State St. Petersburg University of Telecommunications



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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

The next issue of the newsletter will be sent out on 14 January.

The archive of the newsletters can be found at <http://www.stockholmregion.org/tpl/topic.asp?ID=457>

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