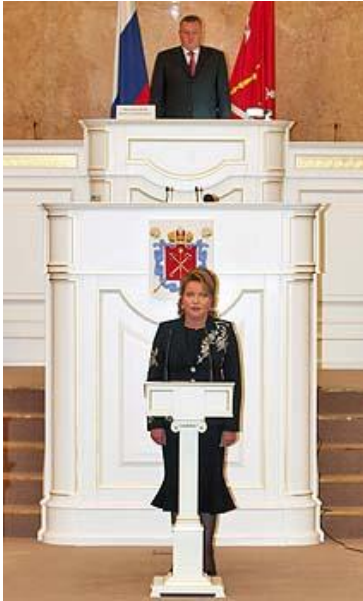


Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

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Second Term of Valentina Matvienko



On 20 December 2006 Valentina Matvienko was confirmed in office for the second term of 5 years. Prior to this, the Official Representative of the President in the Northwest Federal District Ilya Klebanov made a suggestion that Valentina Matvienko puts the question of confidence to the president, which she did on 6 November. This very day the President adopted a resolution of confidence, which was followed by the Legislative Assembly of St. Petersburg appointing Matvienko the Governor for the second term. In her speech addressed to the members of the Assembly, Valentina Matvienko noted that during her previous 3-year-term she managed to accomplish all the promises given during the pre-election campaign 2003.

The inauguration of the Governor took place on 22 December 2006 in Mariinsky Palace. In presence of honorary citizens, heads of city committees and city districts Valentina Matvienko took her Governor's oath. The ceremony was followed by the telegram of congratulations from the President of Russia

Vladimir Putin, who wished Matvienko an active and fruitful work during her second term. The Governor expressed her hope and intention to make St. Petersburg a world business and financial center.



Source: City of St. Petersburg, www.gov.spb.ru; *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* Newspaper, December 2006, www.rg.ru; *Delovoy Peterburg* Newspaper, December 2006, www.dp.ru

Photo: www.interpress.ru

St. Petersburg Celebrated Christmas



Photo: www.interpress.ru

The Export-Oriented SMEs in Leningrad Region Start to Benefit From State Support

The State Institution *Leningrad region business support center (SI LRBSC)*, being in charge of the activities listed in the Regional Programme "Development and state support of small business in Leningrad Region 2006-2008", closed the year with positive results regarding support of export-oriented SMEs. In 2006 SI LRBSC provided two long-term free-of-charge training courses for SMEs. One of them introduced the basics of import-export operations including such aspects as export strategy, export accounting issues, logistics, international contracts, banking, etc. The second one focused on customs procedures providing information on customs legislation and practical information on customs documents, tariff calculations and payment procedures etc.



Besides the trainings, SI LRBSC implemented some new financial support measures. 15 SMEs acquired compensation of their expenses for participation in fairs and exhibitions in 2006. It is estimated, that next year the number of beneficiaries from this measure will double. Another effective measure was the dissemination of business start-up grants: 51 applications out of 80 were approved. Three TACIS projects aiming at export-oriented SMEs are being implemented now on the territory of Leningrad region with the assistance from the SI LRBSC.

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Village of Kudrovo in the Leningrad Region to Become a Town



In the end of 2006 the biggest construction project was started in Kudrovo,

a village in the Leningrad region, at the intersection of the St. Petersburg ring road and Murmanskoe high road. The Governor of the Leningrad region Valery Serdukov laid down the first symbolic brick into the foundation of the future town. On the area of 500 hectares it is planned to construct 1,6 million square meters of buildings including schools, kinder gardens etc., and about 220 thousand square meters of commercial real estate. The population of Kudrovo is planned to grow to approximately 50 thousand people by the end of 2009, and the whole project is scheduled till 2015.

Source: *Metro* Newspaper, December 2006

Photo: www.interpress.ru

The Danish Cultural Institute in St. Petersburg



The Danish Cultural Institute comprises the headquarters in Copenhagen and 10 departments in Europe and China. The Danish Cultural Institute in St. Petersburg was opened in summer 2003 as one of Denmark's contributions to the tercentenary of the city.

For the last three and a half years of activities in St. Petersburg, the Danish Cultural Institute has obtained two beautiful locations: the office on the bank of Moika river and a long term scholarship residence apartment for Danish workers of culture at Pestelja Street. The organization has also managed to create an extensive partnership network with the cultural institutions of St. Petersburg and Leningrad Region.

The main theme in 2006 was the reburial of Empress Maria Fedorovna (Princess Dagmar), and therefore program's highlights of the Danish Cultural Institute was the visit of the Band of the Royal Danish Life Guards and Copenhagen Royal Chapel Choir, as well as the exhibition *Dagmar and Denmark*.

In 2007 the Institute is planning to continue presenting the best of modern Danish culture and arts at international festivals in Russia as well as introducing modern Russian artists to a wide Danish audience.

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Innovation Business in St. Petersburg and Leningrad Region: Development of Industrial Sector in 2007-2008

On 11 December 2006 a conference "Innovation Business in St. Petersburg and Leningrad Region: Development of Industrial Sector in 2007-2008" took place in St. Petersburg. Among the priority topics of the conference were: the industrial sector of St. Petersburg and Leningrad Region in 2006, administration of decisions regarding the developments in industrial innovations, people ware of industrial innovations, venture investments in Russia and abroad, Russian and international experience of cooperation in the field of innovation developments in industrial and scientific enterprises. The conference was organized by *Kommersant Newspaper*.

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Indoor Trial World Championship Grand Prix Russia 2007



On 20 January the *Indoor Trial World Championship* will take place in St. Petersburg, where 7 world best riders will perform incredible acrobatic feats overcoming challenging obstacles. The World Championship starts on 14 January in Grenada (Spain) and will be followed by the performance on the stage in

St. Petersburg, which is considered one of the toughest for passing. Among the participant of the event are Adam Raga (Gas Gas), Albert Cabestany (Gas Gas), Dougie Lampkin (Montesa), Toni Bou (Montesa), Takahisa Fujinami (Montesa), Jeroni Fajardo (Beta) and Tadeus Blazusiak (Scorpa).

The Trial World Championship Russia is arranged by St. Petersburg Open Company, organizer of prestigious sports-entertaining events in St. Petersburg, having more than 10 years of successful work experience in sports business.

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Joint Russian-American Information Seminar at the Government of Leningrad Region

On 8 December a joint Russian-American seminar *Role of Public Institutions' Information Services in Forming a Civil Society (in the period of reforming the system of local governance and preparation for the national elections)* took place in the Government of Leningrad Region. Among the speakers at the seminars was the US Deputy Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy Colin Grafy, Public Affairs Officer of the US Consulate General in St. Petersburg Mary Ellen Countryman, Chairman of the Leningrad Region Elections Committee Vladimir Zhuravlev and others.

The participants of the seminar had an opportunity to discuss the following topics: legislation and national traditions in providing the right to obtain information in the USA and Russia; contemporary system of information cooperation of governing bodies, mass media and citizens; guaranties of access to the state information in the USA and Russia; systems of civil supervision of the authorities and mass media in the USA and Russia; double standards in information policy etc.

The seminar was jointly organized by the St. Petersburg Association PR Specialists and the Department on public affairs of the US Consulate General in St. Petersburg, with the support from the Clipping Service of the Leningrad Region Legislative Assembly and the Clipping Service of the Leningrad Region Elections Committee.

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The archive of the newsletters can be found at http://www.stockholmregion.org/websites/stockholm/sd_page/274/3/index.php?

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