

Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

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Day of Sweden in St. Petersburg

On 27 June 2009 the Day of Sweden will be held in St. Petersburg on Malaya Konyushennaya pedestrian street where the Consulate General of Sweden is situated. The event is organized by the Consulate General of Sweden in cooperation with *ArtEast* and several Swedish companies.

The event has been already held two times before and attracted a large audience. This year the celebration of the Swedish National Day will coincide with the finish of the Volvo Ocean Race in St. Petersburg and the fact that Sweden some days after takes over the Presidency of the EU.

During the Day of Sweden about twenty Swedish companies and organizations will present their activities in St. Petersburg. Stockholm-Mälars region will be represented by the Stockholm County Administrative Board and Stockholm Visitors Board.

A Business breakfast for representatives of the companies and organisations taking part in the Day of Sweden will be held on 26 June. The plans of Swedish business in Russia within the current economic context and opportunities for cooperation will be discussed at the event.

More detailed information in Swedish and Russian: www.sweden.spb.ru

Contact person: Maria Kruchek, Consulate General of Sweden in St. Petersburg, e-mail: maria.kruchek@foreign.ministry.se

Seminar “European Experience in Running and Maintenance of Buildings and Medical Facilities”

On 2 June 2009 the international seminar “European Experience in Running and Maintenance of Buildings and Medical Facilities” was held in St. Petersburg. Representatives of the Stockholm County Council and Locum AB, one of Sweden’s larger property managers, shared experiences concerning tender procedures, audit and control of contactors activities, sorting and recycling of solid medical waste.

The event was held following the Cooperation Agreement signed between the Counties of Stockholm, Södermanland, Uppsala, Västmanland and Örebro and the City of St. Petersburg in February 2006 and the Working Plan setting up concrete collaboration steps for the period of 2008-2009 signed in February 2008.

Contact person: Lena Söderman, Stockholm County Council, lana.soderman@sll.se



Presidium of the Nordic Council Visits St. Petersburg

The delegation of the Nordic Council with Swedish, Norwegian and Danish members of national parliaments led by the President Sinikka Bohlin was visiting the Northwest Russia on 17-22 May 2009. The visit to St. Petersburg on 18-20 May was hosted by the St. Petersburg Legislative Assembly and Nordic Council of Ministers Information office in St. Petersburg.

The aim of the trip was to strengthen parliamentary cooperation between St. Petersburg, Leningrad Oblast and the Nordic Council as well as to promote the projects implemented by Nordic Council of Ministers Information office in St. Petersburg. On 20 May the delegation was continuing the visit to the Republic of Komi for talks with the Parliamentary Association of the Northwest Russia. More information about visits: <http://www.norden.ru/News.aspx?id=272&lang=en>

Contact person: Elena Golubeva, Deputy Director, Nordic Council of Ministers Information office in Saint Petersburg, e-mail: eg@norden.ru, <http://www.norden.ru>

Photo: Andrey Anisimov, NCM St. Petersburg

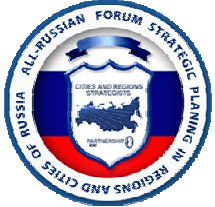


St Petersburg Economic International Forum 2009

St. Petersburg International Economic Forum took place on 4 - 6 June 2009. Participants discussed the following topics: the future of international financial institutions, prospects for the development of the banking sector, effectiveness of government measures etc.

The Forum programme is available on the link: <http://www.forumspb.com/eng/program>

Source: <http://www.forumspb.com/eng>



VIII Annual Forum of Strategic Planning Leaders

VIII Annual Forum of Strategic Planning Leaders: *Strategic Planning in Regions and Cities of Russia* will take place on 19 - 20 October 2009. Information about the results of the VII Forum: <http://www.forumstrategov.ru/eng/1.html>

FORUM ORGANIZERS:

- State Duma of the Russian Federation
- Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation
- Ministry for Regional Development of the Russian Federation
- Ministry for Economic Development of the Russian Federation
- Saint-Petersburg City Administration
- Center of Strategic Research
- ICSEER Leontief Centre

More information about Forum: <http://www.forumstrategov.ru>

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MAIN FORUM THEMATIC AREAS:

- EXPERIENCING CRISIS: ANTICRISIS STRATEGIES
- OVERCOMING CRISIS: NEW ROUND OF STRATEGIC PLANNING
- LEARNING FROM CRISIS: RENEWED APPROACH

In the framework of the Forum the annual meeting of Russian Economic Developers Association (ASSET) will be held



TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE in St. Petersburg within the framework of Russian Innovation Week

This year The II St. Petersburg International Innovation Forum will be held together with XIII International Forum "Russian Industrialist" in St. Petersburg from the 30.09 till the 03.10.2009 within the framework of Russian Innovation Week. This large-scale event (about 10 000 participants) will assemble both leading Russian and foreign industrial enterprises, and leading Russian and foreign representatives of innovation sphere.

Participation in the event is a unique chance for foreign companies – suppliers of innovation technologies, materials, progressive equipment present themselves at the St. Petersburg and Russian market, establish long-term connections with potential Russian partners.

The St. Petersburg Industry Support Fund on the instruction of the Committee on Economic Development, Industry Policy and Trade of the St. Petersburg Government has elaborated the special complex programme "Industrial Subcontracting", which will be realized within the framework of Russian Innovation Week. TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE (TE) - the main action of the Programme - a number of preliminary prepared "Supplier-Customer" negotiations. Participants of TE: suppliers of innovation technologies, materials, progressive equipment and potential customers of innovations - St. Petersburg enterprises, incl. members of professional associations and units, and companies from Russian regions. Spectrum of offers: machine building, motoring, shipbuilding, aircraft building, instrument-making, railway transport, metalworking, power supply).

The idea of TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE is to attract new innovation products into St. Petersburg with the aim to transfer them into real industry.

The St. Petersburg Industry Support Fund invites Western companies - suppliers of innovation technologies, materials and progressive equipment to take part in TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE.

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Tender for Pulkovo Airport Upgrade

The beginning of the investment tender for Private-Public-Partnership agreement covering creation, reconstruction and operation of the Pulkovo airport property objects started on the 21st of April 2008. At this stage three of seven applicants continued taking part in the tender procedure:

- LLC «Nevsky Airport» (Main operator— Changi Airports International Pte. Ltd., Investor — affiliated company to group of companies «Basic Element»)
- LLC «Air Gates of Northern Capital» (Main operator —Fraport AG, Investor — VTB Bank Europe PLC)
- JSC «Petroport-concession» (Main operator — Flughafen Wien AG, Investor—JSC «Lider» and OJSC «Gazprombank»)

Winner will be decided on 25.06.2009. The winner of competition will acquire the right to operate the airport to 30 years. Planning airport passenger traffic is 17,3 million per year.

Source: *Delovoy Peterburg* newspaper and www.pulkovoairport.ru Photo: www.interpress.ru



FLY LAPPEENRANTA

Lappeenranta Airport and the scheduled flight to Helsinki-Vantaa Airport are essential to the South-Karelian economy and the attractiveness of the region. Being a strongly local transport operator, Fly Lappeenranta is committed to understanding and meeting the needs of South-Karelian passengers through reliable operations, excellent customer service and active development of air transport. Next year the carrier is going to expand the operations not only in Finland. New flying destinations are to be developed, among them is St. Petersburg. Lappeenranta Airport is excellently located in between of Helsinki and St. Petersburg metropolis-areas at approximately 200 km distance from both cities. The possible link can become the first low-cost option to Russia for tourists and a new gate to Europe for inhabitants of Northwest Russia.

Source: Oy Fly Lappeenranta Ltd, Lappeenranta Airport, www.flylappeenranta.fi, www.amadeus.fi



Visit Russia without visa

On 7 May 2009 the Russian Government made a decision that groups of foreign cruising passengers can stay in the city up to 72 hours without visa. The list of ports with an independent visa mode included ports in St.Petersburg, Vyborg and other cities of Russia: Kaliningrad, Vladivostok, Novorossisk, Sochi and Korsakov.

Last year about 500 000 foreign tourists visited St.Petersburg by ferry. It is expected, that in 2010 this figure will increase twice, and the profit will make 100-150 million euro.

Source: *Piter-T* e-newspaper for tour operator



Nissan car plant started work in St. Petersburg

On 2 June 2009 Nissan car plant was opened in St. Petersburg. "The company has suspended a number of the projects in the world, but however a factory in St. Petersburg has decided to start in time. We consider, that the Russian market will be quickly restored after crisis ", said the president of the Nisasan company Carlos Ghosn.

The maximum capacity of the plant at work in three production shift is 50 000 cars per year. Now the plant works in one production shift.

Source: *Delovoy Peterburg* newspaper



H&M enters St. Petersburg market

Hennes&Mauritz plans to enter the St. Petersburg market this year. Appr. area of retail space will be about 1.5 thousand square meters. Earlier it was planned, that the company will start to work in St. Petersburg in 2010 or 2011.

Source: *Delovoy Peterburg* newspaper



“Interaction in Coastal Areas: Baltic Sea” program

The international “Interaction in Coastal Areas: Baltic Sea” program held in St. Petersburg, Russia, on April 15 - 17, 2009, was dedicated to the issues of establishing the international cooperation model. Representatives of organizations of St. Petersburg and the region expressed opinions on the cooperation model and possibilities for developing health care, education, tourism and environment.

The events were held with participation of representatives of European organizations and consulates, members of The Legislative Assembly of St. Petersburg and representatives of Administration of St. Petersburg and the region, business and non-commercial organizations, professionals in different areas.

The program was initiated and held by The Dutch-Russian international center, Legislative Assembly of St. Petersburg, the Apparatus of Ombudsman in St. Petersburg, The Russian State Pedagogical Herzen University and SUE “Vodokanal Sankt-Peterburga”.

On May 14, it continued at the Apparatus of Ombudsman with the roundtable “Right for Information: Problem of Credibility of Information in Light of Interaction Between Ombudsman and Consular Corps in St. Petersburg.”

Events resulted in the resolution; it is proposed to establish annual forum on EU – Russia interaction.

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“Baltic MICE Tourism Training Centre” Final Conference

On 5-7 May the “Baltic MICE Tourism Training Centre” Final Conference took place in Riga at the premises of the Baltic International Academy. The event was designed to finalize the active phase of JEP_27137_2006 EU-TEMPUS project (started in 2007 with the objective to consolidate the network of tourism industry and provide updated training courses on MICE-Tourism for non-academic sector in the North-West Russia) and to disseminate its results.

There conference attracted over 50 participants from Russia and the EU, including project consortium members, representatives of academic and non-academic sectors, as well as students of the Bonch-Bruевич St. Petersburg State University of Telecommunication and the Baltic International Academy, who contributed greatly to the project implementation.

As a result of the Final Conference the consortium members signed a Letter of Intent regarding the establishment of the “Baltic MICE Tourism Training Centre” network for education that will comprise best academic and non-academic experts in MICE sector.

Contact person: Elena Vassilieva, Project manager, Baltic MICE-Tourism Training Centre Joint European Project 2007-2009, e-mail: elena.vassilieva@mail.ru

European-Russian InnoPartnership – Further Cooperation



On May 5, 2009 in St.-Petersburg the presentation of the perspective international program *EU-Russian Innovation Corridor* (ERIC) has taken place. The event was organized by InnoPartnership (see *Northwest Russia: Facts and Events*, April 2009) with support of St. Petersburg City Committee on the Economic Development, Industrial Policy and Trade in Information-consultation centre *Innovation*.

The following topics were discussed:

- stated on ERIC realization stages, InnoPartnership role and related projects in this process.
- world trends of technological and science parks development
- “Oasis” project based on Joensuu science park (<http://www.globaloasis.fi/>)
- “Oasis” concept realization in St. Petersburg in Innovation Center based on the The Bonch-Bruевич St. Petersburg State University of Telecommunications.

As a result “Oasis” in St. Petersburg was accepted as one of the elements of ERIC implementation.

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NORDIC LOOK - Nordic fashion days in St. Petersburg



Theme of NORDIC LOOK-2009 – Colours of North

In 2006 the Information Office of the Nordic Council of Ministers in Saint Petersburg initiated the annual NORDIC LOOK. The main goal of the NORDIC LOOK project is to support establishing contacts between Russian and Nordic fashion professionals within the creative industries, and to promote Nordic design in St. Petersburg. NORDIC LOOK brings together famous Nordic designers from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden who present modern fashion trends from these five Nordic countries to Saint Petersburg. The project is supported by the Consulates of Nordic countries, Nordic organizations in Saint Petersburg as well as by local companies.

The annual NORDIC LOOK event includes a Nordic fashion exhibition, as well as a program for Russian and Nordic fashion professionals.

Every year the NORDIC LOOK project is devoted to a particular issue – a certain aspect of Nordic fashion which the organizers want to emphasize. In 2006 NORDIC LOOK was dedicated to the idea of multifunctional clothes, i.e. clothes which can be used both at the office and for a party. In 2007 textiles were emphasized as a crucial aspect of Nordic fashion design. In 2008 the theme of the year was Traditions&Innovations.

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XI International Dance Festival OPEN LOOK – 2009

OPEN LOOK is an annual international event offering training and performance programs that cover a wide range of contemporary dance forms. Along with master classes for amateur and professional dancers and choreographers, OPEN LOOK presents an exquisite concert program featuring performers from abroad and Russia on several stages of St. Petersburg. The main aim of the festival is, with the help of all these projects, to share the best of Western culture with Russian public and dance society, to provide atmosphere and space for international artistic collaboration, knowledge, and experience exchange, creative work, and education.

The evening performances program of OPEN LOOK 2009 will take place in The Theatre for Young Audiences from July 26th to July 10th.

The Festival programme is available on the link: http://www.kannondance.ru/project_e.php?razd=fest&st=tekyear

Contact person: Vadim Kasparov, Kannon Dance Center, e-mail: info@kannondance.ru

St. Petersburg Festival Statistics



Music	102
Dance	9
Theatre	22
Cinema	23
Arts	26
Others	77
Festivals total:	259

Source: <http://www.spbculture.ru/en/statistics.html>

Photo: www.interpress.ru

The archive of the newsletters can be found at <http://www.stockholmregion.org/website1/1.0.1.0/16/3/index.php>

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