

# Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

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## Russian Red Cross Study Trip to Finland and Sweden



The Severodvinsk Committee of the Russian Red Cross visited Finland and Sweden to learn about Nordic public health and social care systems, to compare them with the relevant Russian systems and to network with Nordic partners.

The destinations visited by the Russian delegation included central health care organizations at highest national levels (e.g. the Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare and the Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs). There were also many visits to organizations operating at the practical level of health and social care: for instance the service center for HIV-positive drug addicts in Munkkisaari, and schools for disabled children in Helsinki and Stockholm.

According to the participants the study trip was very interesting and rewarding. Not only did it help to improve methods of disease prevention in Severodvinsk, but the experience from the trip was also presented and discussed at Russian seminars with a total of approx. 150 participants including staff physicians of Arkhangelsk health institutions. There were also publications in local mass media and scientific journals. The information was widely shared and used to enhance the competence of Russian health- and social care experts. And it has already led to some concrete results: the system of social care wards for the elderly is to be implemented at the Severodvinsk Hospital #1.

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## Conference: Stockholm and St Petersburg as Water Cities of the Baltic Sea



On 29 September an introductory conference for developing collaborative strategies and EU project planning in a technological and cultural-historical societal perspective with a focus on strategic challenges is going to take place in Stockholm.

Stockholm and St Petersburg are two very important water cities in the Baltic Sea Region. They also have a significant responsibility for the environmental status of the Baltic Sea. Jointly coordinated efforts needed to handle water and environmental challenges can be effective for the two Cities and ultimately also for the Baltic Sea Region.

Therefore the introductory conference sponsored by Sida, Baltic Sea Unit, will open up for discussions on both the historical and cultural perspectives as well as strategies for water and environmental management related to different long-term challenges particularly more intensive weather situations and significant sea level rise. This will then provide a platform for planning of possible joint projects and networks related to different connections between water, environment and health in Stockholm and St. Petersburg.

The objective of the conference is to elaborate on the historical perspectives of the two Baltic Cities as well as on the more long-term strategies for their sustainable development.

The conference will be organized by SVR, The Swedish Association of Civil Engineers in close contact with Stockholm Vasa Rotary Club with the financial leverage from Sida, Baltic Sea Unit.

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Photo: [www.stockholmtown.com](http://www.stockholmtown.com)

## Vodokanal of St. Petersburg Stops Using Liquid Chlorine



The last chlorine container was eliminated from the territory of SUE "Vodokanal of St. Petersburg" in the end of June, 2009. This event, held with attendance of Mr. Boris Gryzlov, Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, and Ms. Matvienko, Governor of St. Petersburg, symbolized that Vodokanal stopped using liquid chlorine for water disinfection. Today, it is completely substituted with sodium hypochlorite.

Chlorine was used for water disinfection in St. Petersburg for 100 years. Although, chlorine fulfilled its task, it caused a range of serious problems. As chlorine is an extremely poisoning substance, there was a potential risk of an emergency situation connected to its leakage. It also required complex and expensive system for city transportation and protection of chlorine storage. Sodium

hypochlorite is of the same disinfection efficiency as chlorine, but its production and transportation is safe and nontoxic. Two low-concentrated sodium hypochlorite solution preparation plants were constructed.

Currently, St. Petersburg applies the unique two-stage technology of potable water disinfection including use of sodium hypochlorite (chemical method) and UV water treatment process.

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International Forum for  
City-planning and Architecture

## International Forum for City Planning and Architecture

On 9 - 12 September the 2nd International Forum for City Planning and Architecture A. CITY will take place in St. Petersburg. The forum will be held alongside the 13th International Building and Interiors Exhibition, BalticBuild. The forum is aimed to create a constructive dialogue between city planning, architecture and interior design experts,

representatives from government bodies and public organisations to discuss key plans for city planning development and many important subjects such as social, economical and ecological issues of city planning.

A. CITY is not only a conference but also an exhibition where models of Russian and foreign architectural projects, city development plans etc. will be demonstrated. Project presentations and master classes from Russian and foreign architects are also included in the programme.

In 2008 over 500 experts from 30 Russian regions and 12 foreign countries took part in the International Forum for City Planning and Architecture.

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## Travel Industry Events in St. Petersburg, 13-19 October 2009



13-19 October – Convention of the Russian Union of Travel Industry (RUTI) in St. Petersburg

14-16 October – *Inwetex – C.I.S. Travel Market – 2009*. XVI International exhibition of travel industry

15 October – International Tourism Forum in the frames of *Inwetex* (co-organized by the City of St. Petersburg)

16 October – Seminar "Institutionalized Design of MICE Industry: European Experience" (organized by the Baltic MICE-Tourism Training Centre in the frames of *Inwetex*)

18-19 October – Travelling seminar in the Baltic Sea Region "Institutionalized Design of MICE Industry and Business Ergonomics" (organized by the Baltic MICE-Tourism Training Centre)

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## **Nordica and Technopolis Joint Project: North European Experience of Developing and Embedding Innovations**



On 11-14 October the Northwest Business Development Center Nordica and Technopolis, the largest technology center operator in Europe, are taking a group of Russian companies, universities, regional authorities, industry associations and innovation infrastructures to Finland and Sweden. The business programme is aiming at communication of experience in the field of technological innovations, introduction to business support infrastructures of Finland and Sweden, and new business contacts for Russian participants.

The agenda includes: visit to the Scandinavian Technical Fair 2009 in Stockholm; study visits to Kista Science City in Stockholm (t.b.c.) and two Technopolis sites in Helsinki; study visit to a Swedish industrial enterprise in the Stockholm region;

and match-making activities for Russian companies.

The business programme is arranged with the support from the Leningrad Regional Entrepreneurship Support Centre, the Leningrad Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Pskov Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the First St. Petersburg Business Incubator, the Northwest Technology Park Hi-Tech Industry, the Welding Alliance and the EU Tempus Project "Baltic MICE Tourism Training Centre". Information support to project is provided the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg and Stockholm International Fairs.

Source: Northwest Business Development Centre *Nordica*, website: [www.nordica.spb.ru](http://www.nordica.spb.ru), e-mail: [info@nordica.spb.ru](mailto:info@nordica.spb.ru)

Photo: [www.stofair.ru](http://www.stofair.ru)

## **Technopolis: Roof Raising Event in Pulkovo**



The biggest technology centers operator in Europe *Technopolis* held the traditional Finnish Roof Raising Event at the Pulkovo Technopark construction site on the 27 August 2009. The guests enjoyed guided tours around the site, speeches of Saint-Petersburg regional authorities and representatives of organizations, associated with technopark construction. And there was also a good chance to try out dishes of traditional Finnish cuisine.

Phase 1 of the *Technopolis Pulkovo* technology center in St. Petersburg is due for completion in spring 2010. *Technopolis* St. Petersburg arranged the Roof Raising Event to familiarize the public: Russian and international IT community, potential clients, St. Petersburg regional authorities and mass media with the project, to prove that the project is still real and relevant, and all promises are being kept.

For more details: <http://www.technopolis.fi/russia>

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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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