

Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

Issue 104, 2008, week 38



Visit of Eskilstuna Municipality to St. Petersburg

On 4-7 September the delegation of Eskilstuna Municipality, headed by Hans Ekström, Chairman of the Municipal Executive Board, visited St. Petersburg. The programme included meetings with representatives of the Consulate General of Sweden in St. Petersburg, Government of the Leningrad region, the Leningrad Region Association of Municipalities, and the Leningrad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. On 6 September the

delegation visited the City of Gatchina twinned with Eskilstuna. The visit was arranged by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg.

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

New Helsinki Centre Starts Operations in St. Petersburg, Representing Helsinki, Tampere and Kotka



Helsinki Centre will start operations in St. Petersburg. The mission of Helsinki Centre is to promote urban relations, communication and industrial policies of Finnish cities in northwest Russia and St. Petersburg. The cooperation partners of Helsinki in the Centre are the cities of Tampere and Kotka with their regional partners. Helsinki has agreed on regional cooperation with Greater Helsinki Promotion and Uusimaa Regional Council. Some focal fields of co-operation are traffic connections, logistics and car industry, know-how based co-operation in the fields of research and culture, tourism and culture as well as communication and media contacts.

On 16 September Mayor Jussi Pajunen of Helsinki, Mayor Timo P. Nieminen of Tampere and Mayor Henry Lindelöf of Kotka signed an agreement in St. Petersburg concerning Helsinki Centre and the cooperation within its framework. The objective is to

intensify the three cities' operations with the cooperation networks of St. Petersburg and Northwest Russia through coordination and joining resources. The central objectives of Helsinki, Tampere and Kotka include closer cooperation with the City of St. Petersburg. The three Mayors also met Governor Valentina Matvienko during their visit.

Source: City of Helsinki, www.hel.fi

Visit of St. Petersburg Vice-Governor to Nordic Countries



St. Petersburg Vice-Governor Ludmila Kostkina paid a visit to Denmark and Norway on 7 – 12 September 2008 at the invitation of the Nordic Council of Ministers. Ludmila Kostkina is responsible for social and health issues. The aim of the visit was to present the Nordic welfare system, to exchange views on the existing social policies and practices of St. Petersburg government, Denmark and Norway as well as to promote a dialogue between Northwest Russian and Nordic authorities.

The programme included visits to Danish Ministry of Social Affairs, Norwegian Ministry of Healthcare Services, governmental and non-governmental organisations, and foundations providing social services to vulnerable and risk groups: women at crisis situation, children, elderly people, and others. Apart from the national social models, existing and potential cooperation programmes between St. Petersburg and Nordic countries were in focus of the visit.

Source: Information Office of the Nordic Council of Ministers in St. Petersburg, www.norden.ru

Photo: www.gov.spb.ru

BEN-East Project's Round Table "Development of Tourism in Border Regions"



BEN-East project's Round table devoted to development of tourism infrastructure in border regions will be held on 30th September 2008 within the IVth annual international conference "Cross-Border Cooperation: the Russian Federation, the European Union and Norway". During the Round table it is planned to discuss specifics of promotion of border regions' tourist products, regional target programmes on tourism development, role of international cooperation in tourism sector for socio-economic development of territories and other relevant questions.

A series of annual conferences on cross-border cooperation between Russia, EU and Norway has been held on the territory of the North-West Federal District since 2005. This year it will be organized in Pskov region, the unique subject of the Russian Federation bordering three states, two of which – Latvia and Estonia – are the European Union states-members.

Wide range of questions important for cross-border cooperation of Northwest region of Russia will be considered at the conference, e.g.: promising areas of interregional cooperation, role of cross-border cooperation for development of the territories, regional strategic planning, projects of transport infrastructure development, and many others. The focus of this year's conference will be economic and political cooperation between Russia and Latvia.

The main organizers of the conference are Office of the Plenipotentiary Envoy of the President of the Russian Federation to the North-West Federal District and Ministry for Regional Development of the Russian Federation. One of the coorganizers is the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Source: Information Office of the Nordic Council of Ministers in St. Petersburg, www.norden.ru; BEN-East project, www.beneast.net

Photo: www.interpress.ru



Swedish Tourist Workshop

On 8 September the eighth Swedish Tourist Workshop took place in St. Petersburg. This year the workshop was organized by VisitSweden in cooperation with VisitDenmark. The aim of the workshop was to further develop contacts with local travel operators arranging tours to Sweden and Denmark, as well as introduce new products and programmes to them.

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

Photo: www.interpress.ru

Inauguration of St. Petersburg Passenger Sea Port



On 10 September the new Passenger Sea Port of St. Petersburg (part of Marine Façade strategic project) accepted its first vessel, the Italian cruiser Costa Mediterranea, 300 metres long and 60 metres tall. The cruiser carried over 2000 tourists.

The Governor of St. Petersburg, Valentina Matvienko, who participated in the inauguration ceremony, commented that by 2010 the marine passenger terminal is to become the world's largest specialized sea port.

Marine Facade is a strategic project of St. Petersburg being implemented within the framework of Public Private Partnership. The project envisages creation of a new district with a unique marine passenger port, residential area and business center.

The project is to be implemented in three stages: the 6th and the 7th berths are to be put into operation in 2008, the 3rd, the 4th and the 5th – in 2009, the 1st and the 2nd – in 2010. The passenger port is to occupy 33 hectares of reclaimed territory in the western part of Vasilievsky Island. The ports water area is to make 77 hectares. The federal budget is to allocate RUR 8 billion (app. SEK 2.15 billion) to the project implementation while RUR 27 billion (app. SEK 7.2 billion) is to come from off-budget sources.

Source: Port News Information Agency, <http://en.portnews.ru/news/12411/>; City of St. Petersburg, www.gov.spb.ru

GLASSGOLDRUBBERANDRECYCLING



On 12 September the Design Gallery/bulthaup, St. Petersburg, opened the exhibition of Danish jewellery, displaying the works of glass designer Bettina Schori, designer Lone Villaume, jewellers Gitte Helle and Jeanette Lopez-Zepeda, textile designer Ellis Hinz-Berg, and goldsmith Lisbeth Nordskov.

The central theme of the exhibition, entitled GLASSGOLDRUBBERANDRECYCLING, is the use of non-traditional materials and recycling in design. Five artists - Bettina Schori, Lone Villaume, Gitte Helle, Ellis Hinz-Berg, and Lisbeth Nordskov came to St. Petersburg to present their innovative approach to jewellery accessories

and decorative objects, and on September 13 they gave a master class on Danish applied art.

The project is realized with the support of the Consulate General of Denmark in St. Petersburg and the Danish Cultural Institute. The exhibition is open until October 12.

Contact person: Rikke Helms, Director, Danish Cultural Institute, e-mail: rhsp@mail.wplus.net

Photo Vernissage “Birds. Animals. People...”



Over the last five years the St. Petersburg Photo Vernissage has been surprising citizens and city guests with characters of photographic art. This year's topic of Photo Vernissage is “Birds. Animals. People...” The world of nature in photographs of Russian and foreign photographers appears endlessly various, surprisingly harmonious and attractive. Through their lenses wild, domestic, rare, importunate, nice and bloodthirsty birds and animals is shown in their greatness and brilliance.

The exposition of Photo Vernissage includes more than 1000 pictures, which hardly fit in two floors of the central exhibition hall *Manege*. The exposition demonstrates not only the art of wildlife, but also touch on ecology and relationships between

human and animals (wild and domestic). St. Petersburg Photo Vernissage traditionally shows two main sections: retrospective and modern photography.

The Photo Vernissage will be open from 26 September to 4 October. The 13th St. Petersburg Photo Fair will continue the second part of the same photographic project on 23-26 September.

Contact person: Marina Jigarkhanyan, Exhibition Curator; e-mail: jigarkhan@manege.spb.ru; web: <http://real-fair.ru/photograph/en>

The archive of the newsletters can be found at http://www.stockholmregion.org/website1/sd_page/16/1/index.php

STOCKHOLM REGION OFFICE in ST PETERSBURG
Visiting address: Nevsky 1, St. Petersburg
Postal address: BOX 1005, 190000, St. Petersburg
tel.: +7-812-314 68 18, fax: +7-812-314 68 53
e-mail: stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru
www.stockholmregion.org