

Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

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Business Visit to the *Scandinavian Technical Fair 2008*



On 20-21 October a business delegation from Northwest Russia, comprised of companies operating in the fields logistics, machine-building and marine engineering, visited the Scandinavian Technical Fair 2008. The programme included work at the fair, study-visits to Scandinavian enterprises, as well as a visit to the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce. Since 1998 it has been the 10th business mission to the *Scandinavian Technical Fair*.

The business delegation was followed by a group of students from the Bonch-Bruевич St. Petersburg State University of Telecommunications, who conducted an academic marketing study at the Scandinavian Technical Fair to evaluate the interest of Scandinavian enterprises in

cooperation with the Russian market. The study was a part of the exhibition marketing course, realised in the frames of TEMPUS-funded *Baltic MICE Tourism Training Center Programme*.

The visit was organised by the Leningrad Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with the Northwest Business Development Centre *Nordica* and the Bonch-Bruевич St. Petersburg State University of Telecommunications.

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VII All-Russia Forum on Strategic Planning in the Regions and Cities of Russia



On 20-21 October the VII All-Russia Forum on Strategic Planning in the Regions and Cities of Russia was held in St Petersburg. The overall goal of the Forum is to strengthen cooperation networks and to share experience between regions and cities - strategic planning leaders with discussion of best international and Russian practice, achieved practical results, and key-factors constraining sustainable development and implementation of strategic plans. This year's goal was to support the development of common vision on the system of strategic planning in Russia, to share international best practice experiences and strategic planning tools, to improve the coordination of sectoral and territorial priorities of state regional policies in the context of long-term Concept of Development in Russia till 2020.

The Forum attracted over 1000 participants from Russia and the EU: namely representatives of federal and regional authorities, local self-government, donor organizations, business communities, NGOs, socially responsible investors, infrastructural companies and experts both. The proposals of Forum's participants will be processed and submitted as recommendations to federal, regional and municipal authorities.

The Forum was organised by the State Duma of the Russian Federation, Ministry for Regional Development of the Russian Federation, Ministry for Economic Development of the Russian Federation, City of St. Petersburg, Center of Strategic Research and Leontief Center.

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Photo: www.forumstrategov.ru

EKE's Pulkovo Sky Sets New Standards in St. Petersburg Office Market



On 23 October Finnish *EKE Group* announced the completion of main construction phase of the *Pulkovo Sky* business centre (<http://www.pulkovo-sky.ru/eng>), located next to St. Petersburg international airport Pulkovo II. The project is a good example of successful collaboration among 30 leading construction, design and engineering companies.

A 76 thousand sq metres Class B+ business centre includes three 14-storey buildings and an 850 car parking garage. The total project costs are estimated at EUR 115 million.

Overlooking the runway, *Pulkovo Sky* will provide modern office space and conveniences to its tenants. Well financed by *Danske Bank* and slated for commissioning in April 2009, *Pulkovo Sky* is expected to become a new landmark office centre constructed in line with highest international quality standards.

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Finnish Retail Giants to Occupy Russian Market

Three Finnish corporations *SOK*, *Kesko* and *Nestle Oil*, running their business in St. Petersburg, are planning to take advantage of the world financial crisis and the subsequent crisis of Russian retail to occupy the market. Recently their negotiations with Russian partners have been much more fruitful dynamic than they used to be several month ago.

According to Arja Talma, CFO *Kesko*, lately the owners of regional retail chains have been coming up with proposals to sell their business at lower prices than before. Ingmar Dahlblom, Vice President *Neste Oil Retail*, comments that the financial crisis brings positive changes. *Neste* is planning to open 5-6 petrol stations in Northwest Russia annually. In 2009 the investments will expectedly amount to EUR 20-30 million.

Russian experts comment that major European retail chains haven't been heavily in debts and therefore they enjoy a distinct advantage over the Russian companies. Recently many bargains have been closed with considerable discounts.

Source: *Delovoy Peterburg* newspaper, October 2008, www.dpgazeta.ru

Norwegian Developers Investing in Hotels

On 24 October the St. Petersburg City Planning Council approved the project of a 13-storey building, submitted by Norwegian *Weenas* holding company. It is going to be the second phase of *Pulkovskaya Park Inn* Hotel, belonging to *Weenas*. There will be 568 rooms in the new building filling the area of 237 thousand sq. metres (in *Pulkovskaya Park Inn* there are now 840 rooms). The investments in the project amount to EUR 700 million.

Source: *Delovoy Peterburg* newspaper, October 2008, www.dpgazeta.ru

St. Petersburg – Helsinki Ferry Connection May Be Renewed



The ferry connection between Helsinki and St. Petersburg may soon be renewed. Currently the possibility is being negotiated by *Stella Lines* Company and two Russian investors, namely *Inflot Worldwide St. Petersburg* and the *Marine Terminal of St. Petersburg*, planning to acquire a bunch of stocks in the Finnish company.

On 8 October *Stella Lines* announced that the ferry connection between Helsinki and St. Petersburg, which had been renewed after a long brake in August 2008 (see week 32), was closed. The reason for that was the world financial crisis, which left the Finnish company without loan funds, needed to

cover the deficit of EUR 2-3 million.

Source: *Metro* newspaper, October 2008.

Photo: www.interpress.ru

OPEN LOOK 2009, XI International Summer Dance Festival in St. Petersburg



OPEN LOOK is an international event offering training and performance programs that cover a wide range of contemporary dance forms. Held each summer during the beautiful St. Petersburg white nights, the festival gathers Russian dancers, choreographers and students for a series of intensive master classes held by well known dance masters from all over the world.

Aside from training, OPEN LOOK presents an exquisite concert program featuring performers from Russia and abroad 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 the Russian audience and dance society, to provide atmosphere and space for international

artistic collaboration, knowledge, and experience exchange, creative work, and education.

The festival started off in 1999 with workshops and performance of Bill Young and Dancers Company (USA) a New York company, and ever since introduced over 50 dance companies from all over the world to Russian audiences.

The list of artists that took part in the OPEN LOOK festival includes DCDC (USA), Doug Varone and Dancers (USA), Nai-Ni Chen (China-USA), David Dorfman Dance (USA), Eiko & Koma and Margaret Leng Tan (USA-Japan), Aurinko Ballet (Finland), Russell Adamson (Finland), Granhøj Dance (Denmark), Kitt Johnson (Denmark), Dance Works Rotterdam (the Netherlands), Jo Strømngren Kompani (Norway) and many other choreographers, teachers and dancers.



The festival received official support from the St. Petersburg Committee for Culture, Consulate General of the USA in St. Petersburg, Consulate General of Norway in St. Petersburg, Danish Cultural Centre, French Institute in St. Petersburg, Goethe Institute, Pro Arte Institute, Trust for Mutual Understanding (USA) and other organisations.

OPEN LOOK 2009 program will include master classes and workshops for dancers, and choreographers. Evening performances will take place in Baltiysky Dom Theatre and other venues of the city. There will be a big gala concert featuring guest performers and presenting international dance projects created during the festival.

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

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