

Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

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SymbioCity – Swedish Sustainability in Russia

The Embassy of Sweden in Moscow, together with the Swedish Trade Council in Russia and SEK, arranged a two-day event to promote Swedish environmental technology in Russia on 20-21 May 2010 in Moscow. The event had three segments. It combined a business component, Russian cities and regions and finally a strategy meeting between interested companies, finance institutions and relevant Swedish public bodies drawn up plans for future Swedish environmental technology promotion in Russia. The event has a rich background. Russian government has launched a policy of modernization, opening up new opportunities for Swedish companies. Two examples of priority areas are energy efficiency and water technology and management. Furthermore, the governments of Sweden and Russia signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in the energy field 9 March 2010, establishing new possibilities for increased cooperation in both the private and public sectors. The MoU foresees, for example, the creation of a business forum and energy efficiency projects in Russian cities and regions.

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EU, Russia, Norway and Iceland: Closer Cultural Cooperation

On 20-21 May 2010 high-level officials from the EU Member States, Russia, Norway and Iceland signed a Memorandum of Understanding in St. Petersburg as the result of the Joint International Forum for the establishment of new tools for cultural cooperation in the Northern Europe arranged by the Nordic Council of Ministers in cooperation with the city of St. Petersburg and the Ministry for culture of the Russian Federation.

The Forum in St. Petersburg gathered cultural operators, creative enterprises, international cultural institutions and officials from 11 countries to investigate and discuss how to boost the creative economy in the Northern Dimension area. Participants discussed a new initiative of the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture (NDPC) which should be up and running from 2011. Its main objective is to facilitate access to funding for long-term projects and enterprises which can create jobs around them and be self-sustainable.

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Russia – Europe: Cooperation without Frontiers

A business opportunities/investment matchmaking forum Russia - Europe: Cooperation without Frontiers will be held in Moscow on 7 -8 June 2010 at the premises of the Moscow city Government Exhibition Hall.

The Forum will be the second business partnerships event in Russian history focused on SMEs and organized by the MEA in cooperation with European and Russian business support institutions. This event will be devoted to bilateral negotiations between Russian industrial companies, inter alia SMEs, in production, R&D and services with business partnership proposals, including investment projects, and willing to identify potential business partners in Europe, and European companies, inter alia SMEs, and business support institutions which have interest with regard to Russian business proposals and projects or which, in their return, offer cooperation, including investment projects, to Russian business community.

This year a stand of the Stockholm-Mälars region will be arranged at the Forum. The participation of the Stockholm-Mälars region is coordinated by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg.

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New Pulkovo Terminal

In 2013 a new terminal will be constructed in the Pulkovo airport. Air Gates of the Northern Capital Ltd consortium invested 1.2 billion euros in the new airport. Although the first pile of the new terminal is scheduled for June (during the St. Petersburg Economic Forum), the tender for selection of contractor will be announced in the late summer. A contractor is to be determined by the end of the year.

New terminal construction of 130 000 sq. meters area is supposed to be finished in 3 years. Fraport AG, which owns the airport in Frankfurt, will manage the Pulkovo airport

Source: Delovoy Peterburg newspaper. Photo: www.interpress.ru



Expansion of St. Petersburg Passenger Port

The Russian Government will allocate 800 million rubles for the extension of the checkpoint of the passenger port *Marine Facade*. The main task is to build a car-passenger check-point in the third launch port complex. 400-450 thousand passengers will enjoy the changes of the *Marine Facade* port in summer 2010. Number of vessels will be increased twice.

The port is expected to reach full capacity by 2011. Then *Marine Facade* will be opened for new lines between St. Petersburg and Germany and Sweden.

Source: Delovoy Peterburg newspaper. Photo: www.interpress.ru



New Name of Ferry on St. Petersburg – Scandinavian Capitals Line

New cruise line *St. Petersburg – Helsinki – Stockholm – Tallinn – St. Petersburg* will be served by CS Atlantic – former ferry Rus. The ship will change not only the name but also a class from ro-ro passenger vessel to passenger vessel. Tourists are becoming the priority of S-Continental company.

The first trip is planned to depart from St. Petersburg on 2 July 2010. The expecting further schedule is the departure from St. Petersburg on Friday, the arrival in Helsinki on Saturday, in Stockholm on Sunday, in Tallinn on

Monday and back in St. Petersburg on Tuesday.

Source: AbNews. Photo: www.interpress.ru



New MICE Opportunities for Northwest Russia

On 22 April 2010 press conference dedicated to the opening of the first representation of Monaco's Tourist and Convention Authority was held in St. Petersburg. The representative office was opened in Moscow in February. Similar representations were founded in London, Milan, Hannover, New York, Tokyo and Shanghai. Recent openings were also celebrated in New Delhi, Sydney and Dubai.

Monaco offers different opportunities for business circles including the organization of incentive tours, conferences, congresses, etc. The representation of Monaco's Tourist and Convention Authority in Russia will contribute to developing of MICE industry between two countries by providing wide-range consultations concerning business events, seminars, exhibitions in Monaco free of charge.

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Developing Self-regulating Organizations in Russia

Nonprofit partnership «Baltic Construction Complex» has become the second largest construction SRO in Russia. It consists of more than 1900 construction companies, its branch offices operate in 27 regions of Russia. Partnership realizes beneficial cooperation with social organizations, state and educational institutions for the purpose of support and protection of its members.

Partnership combines such companies as *Van Oord ACZ Marine Contractors* and *Van Oord Offshore B.V.*, *Boskalis B.V.*, *Shanghai Construction Co. (North-West)*, *American House Inc.*, *WERFAU Medical Engineering* and others. Members of the partnership take part in different projects: construction of housing estates and industrial projects, shipyards, «Nord Stream» gas pipeline units, «Baltic Gas line System-2», «New Harbor», etc.

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Expert Council on Pre-judicial Trial of Customs Disputes under the Leningrad Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

On 2 April 2010 at the initiation of LRCCI, Expert Forensic Service of St. Petersburg Regional Branch of the Central Expert Forensic Customs Administration and Regional Association of Customs Brokers *Severo-Zapad* under the LRCCI was established the *Expert Council on pre-judicial trial of customs disputes*. The Council was founded for the creation of a system of uniform approach to customs examination of goods, assistance in development of business and protection of interests of representatives of foreign trade activities, efficiency

increase customs procedures. It is operating as a specialized expert group on the problems of customs control of goods and as an independent expert body for the examination of draft legal regulations and laws, as well as for the commission examination.

The Council is interested in attraction of the experts from both Russian and foreign organizations who would like to be included in the Register of professional experts and to take part in the activities of the Council.

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Foreign Business Club opens the door in St. Petersburg

The Foreign Business Club (FBC) was founded on 18 February 2010 by six Foundation members, the top-managers of global companies, working in St. Petersburg. It operates under the wing of the Leningrad Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LRCCI). The Club is opened to foreign individuals only, who are in senior and managerial positions in business, diplomacy, education, science, and related fields.

The club serves as an international forum for social and cultural exchange, and for sharing working and living experience in Russia and elsewhere, provides social, cultural, business and educational events and tours of Northwest Russia and beyond, supports foreigners - especially newcomers - with community information, and with advice on legal, educational and other matters, gives Members group access to State and Municipal structures and NGO's, and develops dialog between them with the help of LRCCI.

On the photo: **Sebastian FitzLyon**, Chairman of FBC. Anglo-Australian citizen, in Petersburg since the 1990's. Worked before in Australia, France and UK. Valuer and estate agent (own firm, 'S.Zinovieff & Co. – Chartered Surveyors'). Australian Honorary Consul NW Russia.

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3G-Club: Joint Project of *ICT-Online* and *Sky Link*



In summer 2009 *ICT-Online* information news portal and *Sky Link* mobile operator started a joint project devoted to development and promotion of 3G wireless communication in Russia. The project includes a section on *ICT-Online* website 3gclub.ict-online.ru and a thematic community on Livejournal community.livejournal.com/3g_club/.

The website contains a wireless communications «encyclopedia» with information about 3G, subsequent generations and their advantages. The website is constantly updated with interviews, analytics and the latest news about wireless communication development in Russia and worldwide. 3G-Club community became an expert platform gathering major analysts of the telecommunications market from St. Petersburg and Moscow, professional journalists and representatives of companies developing wireless communications. Expert notes on corresponding subjects often lead to interesting online discussions.

The project has already had good response in Russia, Finland and the UK. Now the project team is looking forward to cooperation with the rest of Europe and Sweden in particular.

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Premium Awarding of Young Russian Scientist

On 28 April 2010 an official ceremony of rewarding of young scientist with premiums in the name of professor



Boris Ovsievich was held in the House of Scientists in St. Petersburg. The ceremony was organized by the Science centre of Russian Academy of Science, St. Petersburg Economic and Mathematical Institute of Russian Academy of Science, Foundation of Support of Science and Education (Alferov foundation) and the Leontief Centre.

Premiums in the name of professor Boris Ovsievich are founded by St. Petersburg Economic and Mathematical Institute of the Russian Academy of Science for support of talented young Russian scientists. The premiums are rewarded for fundamental economic and mathematical research undertaken in Russia. The initiator of the premium was professor Ovsievich's follower PhD A. Kokh.

In 2009 there were 4 thematic areas for research: theoretic economics, theory of games and operations analyses, mathematical methods of economic process analyses, theory of optimization. By the results of the competition and the Council's decision the winners are Anna Trubacheva, Aleksandr Surkov, Ilya Kartsev, Maksim Solovov for fundamental works in the field of economic and mathematical analyses.

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The archive of the newsletters can be found at <http://www.stockholmregion.org/website/1/1.0.1.0/16/3/index.php>

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