

Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

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Congress Tourism Development: Visit of Delegation from St. Petersburg and Leningrad Region to Stockholm



On 10-12 March 2005 a delegation from St. Petersburg and Leningrad region consisting of decision-makers from administrative bodies, branch organizations and academic circles interested in business and congress tourism development visited Stockholm. This tour was arranged within the scope of a series of events aiming to promote business and congress tourism development in the Stockholm-Mälars region among the target groups in Northwest Russia. The idea of the project was recently agreed upon by the Stockholm Region



Office in St. Petersburg and Silja Line via its official agent at the company Russia Baltic Tours.

The programme in Stockholm started with a visit to the Stockholm International Fairs where Ingrid Lorentzon, Head of Congress Marketing Department, and Peter Lindqvist, Executive Director, Congress Stockholm, held a presentation on congress tourism development in Stockholm.

During the meetings at Stockholm International Fairs, the parties expressed their mutual interest in developing joint projects in the field of business and congress tourism development. As it was agreed, the participants of the St. Petersburg corporate stand, which is supported by the St. Petersburg Industry Support Fund, Committee on Economic Development, Industrial Policy and Trade of the City of St. Petersburg, will receive a 20% discount on the stand rent from Stockholm International Fairs at the Scandinavian Technical Fair. The prospects of signing an Agreement between the Leningrad Region Small Entrepreneurship Support Fund *Recipe* and Stockholm International Fairs were discussed.

During the visit to Stockholm International Fairs the group also attended the Stockholm International Boat Show. Within the frames of the programme the delegation from St. Petersburg also visited the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce and met Hans Jeppson, Vice President of the Chamber.

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

The materials were received from the conference facilities on board the Silja Line

Swedish Business Days in Pskov

Swedish Business Days arranged by the Swedish Trade Council in Russia and the Consulate General of Sweden in St. Petersburg will take place in Pskov on 24-27 May 2005. The event is organized in order to develop and strengthen business contacts between Sweden and the Pskov region.

The program of the Swedish Business Days will let the participants meet representatives from companies within a number of industries, take part in various seminars and get acquainted with the Pskov region. Match-making sessions with potential partners can be arranged in advance. Key-players from the local industry and decision-makers from Pskov authorities will also participate in the event. Detailed program and registration form are available at Swedish Trade Council St. Petersburg.

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Usage of Biofuel by Boiler-Houses in Leningrad Region

20% of Leningrad region's boiler-houses will be converted to biofuel by 2010. It is stated by the programme on conversion to alternative energy sources by usage of small boiler-houses in the Leningrad region. At present time 23 boiler-houses use local fuel and 47 boiler-houses are planning to start utilizing it in the near future. According to Sergey Myakov, Chairman of the Committee for fuel and energy complex of the Leningrad region, the local authorities launched the programme in an effort to retain the region's energy safety and decrease its dependence on energy resources' suppliers from other regions.

The share of biofuel usage by municipal boiler-houses in the Leningrad region can rise from 2,7 up to 19,3 % in the coming 5 years. The region is capable of providing fuel resources required. Timber cutters and plants for wood treatment can be suppliers of splinters and sawdust used as kindlings that would let both timber companies and energy complex enterprises benefit from waste products treatment.

Source: Metro newspaper, 3 February 2005

Biofuel Production in Leningrad Region

The Leningrad region now has 9 plants producing biofuel. There also is the Russian Biofuel Association for joint supplies to Europe founded by the owners of the plants.

The first biofuel plant in the Leningrad Region was opened in Gatchina in 2000 by joint stock company *Biofuel*. It now produces 1 thousand tons of wood granules per month and occupies a territory of 1,5 hectares. Sergey Bayev,



Photo: www.interpress.ru

founder of *Biofuel* company, says that demand for biofuel

in Europe exceeds the supply in several times. "We sell biofuel to Denmark and Sweden. There is a big demand from Great Britain, Italy, Germany. Sweden, for example, produces 800 thousand tons of biofuel per year and imports nearly the same volumes".

Biofuel produced from sawdust, chips and other wood products appeared on the international market 10 years ago and is now highly demanded by the countries that signed Kyoto protocol in 1997.

On the market of today, the raw materials price lies between 200 and 800 RUR (5.5 and 22.2 Euro), while sale price varies from 60 to 120 Euro per ton.

Source: Delovoy Petersburg, 14 December 2004

Cooperation Projects within Social Sector between Sörmland County and Leningrad Region

Northwest Russia continues publishing a series of articles devoted to joint social projects carried out by Sörmland County and Leningrad Region.

Development of Psychoneurological Institutions in Leningrad Region

The Leningrad Region Committee for Labour and Social Protection expressed interest in developing the so called psychoneurological boarding-homes, special institution for disabled people. The focus of the project is both to develop the facilities and care in the institutions and to find ways to take care of those people in the ordinary society outside the institution. Two institutions, in Luga and Kirovsk districts, are included as pilots in the project together with the same municipalities.

The overall goal is to reduce the need for psychoneurological institutions for adults. Project objectives are to rehabilitate disabled people by developing the standard of living and care within the institutions and by developing different forms of housing and services. Expected results are improved rehabilitation facilities, higher standard of living and care for disabled people in the Leningrad Region and better attitudes in the society towards disabled people.

The leader of the project is Torgerd Jansson, Social Scientist.

Contact person: Mats Forsberg, Mafo Consult AB, e-mail: mats.forsberg@ebox.tninet.se

First St. Petersburg Technical Fair



The 1st St. Petersburg Technical Fair will take place at Lenexpo exhibition center, St. Petersburg, on 15-18 March 2005.

The event arranged by Restec Exhibition Company together with the City of St. Petersburg will unite 6 specialized exhibitions, such as "Metallurgy", "Casting", "Tools", "Privex" (driving gears and elements), "PTA North-West – Progressive Technologies in Automation", "Compressors. Pumps. Valves", and "Metalworking".

This project is expected to further the science and industry market development in Northwest Russia and to improve competitiveness of the national industry and economy.

All the events of the fair are held with support of the Russian Federation Ministry of Industry and Energy, Russian Association of founders and the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of St. Petersburg. Among the participants are expected over 200 companies from Byelorussia, Belgium, Germany, Canada, Italy, Moldova, Poland, USA, Turkey, Ukraine, Finland, and Czech Republic and from 50 cities of Russia.

The program of the Fair will include scientific seminars for casting specialists and metalworkers, conferences and 2 round tables: "Regional markets. Present Condition and development perspectives. Experts' analyses" and North-West region metal trade market.

Contact person: Anastasia Sysoeva, Promotion Manager, Restec exhibition company, e-mail: interport@restec.ru

New Law Allows Economic Zones for Science Parks

During the spring of 2005, the Russian government will present the Russian parliament with a proposal on the creation of specific economic zones for science parks. The idea is that software companies operating within the economic zone will receive considerable tax reductions that will enable a 2.5 times increase in the domestic production of software in four years. If the new law is adopted, it remains to decide where the zones should be built as well as to find private investors willing to cover the part not financed by the federal budget. It has already been suggested that one of the parks in St. Petersburg should be situated on the ground of St. Petersburg State University of Telecommunications. This park would initially engage about 1000 programmers.

Source: Delovoy Petersburg, 26 January and 5 March 2005

Facts about Economic Zones

In its proposal, the government states that a new federal agency will be created to manage the new economic zones. The zones will be open to companies with charter capital of more than 10 million Euro. These companies will be banned from opening branches elsewhere in Russia. Two different types of zones are being planned for: one with an area not exceeding 10 square km for companies producing goods and one with an area no larger than 2 square km for companies carrying out industrial research.

Residents of the manufacturing zone will among other tax benefits have the possibility to freely transfer losses to the following (accounting) period. They will also be exempted from taxes on the land and real estate during five years. Residents of the research zone will benefit from a lower maximum limit of the regressive social tax (14%). The zones will be open for imports without duties and quotas.

Source: Delovoy Petersburg, 11 March 2005

Science Parks - Impulse to Region



Photo: www.interpress.ru

high technology production in such areas as medical equipment, pharmacology, engineering and mathematics.

Source: Metro newspaper, 28 February 2005

The Russian parliament will later in spring discuss the ongoing creation of a science park in Peterhof, suburb of St. Petersburg. The project that is 70% financed by the state means is planned to be self-going three years after its completion. This will result in approximately 4500 new high-paid jobs in St. Petersburg. The science park will also bring along a complex of smaller centers specializing in

Nobel Prize Winners to Meet in St. Petersburg

On 12 – 14 March St. Petersburg will host the meeting of Nobel Prize winners and the awards ceremony within the Goba Energy Youth Programme.



Both events are supported by the Global Energy International Prize Non-Profit Foundation. The Global Energy International Prize is a unique award intended to assist international cooperation in solving the most important nowadays problems in the field of power generation.

The idea of an International energy prize was put forward by a group of well-known Russian scientists led by Nobel prize winner Zhores Alferov and was backed up by scientific community, as well as by largest Russian power producing companies. The initiative was approved and endorsed by Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia. In 2004, within the frames of the Goba Energy Prize a special Youth Programme was launched. The goal of the programme is to support young scientists carrying out researches within power generation.

Photo: www.interpress.ru

This year's awards ceremony will be held during the international symposium Science and Society that will be attended by 30 Nobel Prize winners from different European countries and USA. They will talk about problems of fundamental science and global issues of mankind development in XXI century.

Source: Global Energy website www.ge-prize.ru

Scandinavian Readings 2005



On 14 – 16 February 2005 the conference Scandinavian Readings 2005 devoted to the 100th anniversary of independence of the Kingdom of Norway was held at the St. Petersburg Herzen State Pedagogical University. It was arranged by the St. Petersburg Scandinavian Centre, Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (Kunstkamera), *Fennoscandia* Centre and St. Petersburg State University.

Otto Mamelund, Consul General of Norway in St. Petersburg, participated in the conference and held a welcoming speech. The conference was also attended by Martin Hagström, Vice-Consul of Sweden in St. Petersburg.

Source: Elena Vassilieva, Fennoscandia, e-mail: vasselena@yahoo.com

The archive of the newsletters can be found at <http://www.stockholmregion.org/tpl/topic.asp?ID=457>

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