

# Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

Issue 29, 2005, week 12

## Peterhof - 300: Quiz by Radio Russia and Radio Sweden



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

<http://www.sr.se/rs/>.

Contact person: Anna Vsemirnova, Radio Russia, e-mail: [vsemirnova@rtr.spb.ru](mailto:vsemirnova@rtr.spb.ru)

Meanwhile, Peterhof continues its preparation for the 300th anniversary. Among the objects to be renovated for the tourist season of 2005 is the Pavilion of Princess Olga, daughter of tsar Nicolay I. The pavilion was built in 1846 by Andrey Shtakensneider, the famous architect, for the wedding day of Olga and Crown Prince Friedrich-Karl-Alexander von Wurtemberg. It is situated on Olga's Island, an island south of the main Peterhof ensemble, that in the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of XIX century became the place for the well-known Peterhof festivities.

Ballet performances were usually held during the visits of European sovereigns, in particular kings of Sweden, Denmark, Germany, to Russia.

The renovation of the pavilion destroyed during the Second World War started in 2001. In the coming tourist season, it will open the doors for the first visitors.

Contact person: Mila Boykova, Press center of the Peterhof State Museum, e-mail: [gms-peterhof@yandex.ru](mailto:gms-peterhof@yandex.ru)

As it was announced in the earlier issues of the newsletter, Radio Russia in cooperation with Radio Sweden continues the quiz devoted to the celebration of the 300th anniversary of Peterhof. The first 3 questions were broadcast by Radio Sweden on 20 March 2005. Deadline for the answers is 30 April 2005. The names of the winners will be announced on 3 May 2005. The

questions and additional information on the quiz can be found on the website of Radio Sweden at



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

## Peterhof Received Status of Science Park

The status of Science Park was given to Peterhof during the session of the Governmental commission in Moscow. Besides Peterhof, 7 other scientific centers of the country participated in the competition. Peterhof is already hosting 4 faculties of St. Petersburg State University, 9 scientific and research Institutes.

Development of Peterhof into a science park will start next year. 1,5 bn RUR (approximately 500 mln USD) are allocated in the budget of the Russian Federation for 2006.

Source: Delovoy Peterburg, 28 March 2005



## Music at Konstantinovsky Palace

On 20 March 2005 a series of concerts 'Music at the Konstantinovsky Palace' was launched at the State complex *Palace of Congresses* in Strelna. The organizer of the event - *Art Support Fund Sergey Oskolkov and Friends* - is striving for a renaissance of the noble traditions of the Romanov family, who patronized Russian Music Society founded in 1859.

The music of Russian composers was performed at the Marble Hall of the Palace by winners of international competitions. The organizers of the project wish to introduce the masterpieces of academic culture into mass audience and to contribute to the cultural refinement of the modern society.

Contact person: Anastasia Papenina, Director of Art Support Fund 'Sergey Oskolkov and friends', e-mail: [papenina@fundart.spb.ru](mailto:papenina@fundart.spb.ru)

## Seminar *Public Transport Reform: Swedish Experience*

On March 16 the seminar 'Public Transport Reform: Swedish Experience' was arranged at Smolny by the St. Petersburg Committee for External



Relations and Tourism. Photo: [www.interpress.ru](http://www.interpress.ru)

The seminar was held within the frames of the Russian-Swedish SIDA-financed project aiming at rendering consultative services in public transport sector development to the City of St. Petersburg.

Among the participants of the seminar were representatives of the St. Petersburg Committee for Transport, St. Petersburg Committee for Finance, St. Petersburg Committee for Justice, Legal Order, and Safety, Legislation Assembly of St. Petersburg, Consulate General of Sweden in St. Petersburg, Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg, as well as state companies working in the transport sector of the city.

Several presentations on public transport, work of transport operators and tender procedures in Sweden were made by the representatives of *Contrans* company (Gothenburg). These topics had been selected by the Committee for Transport as the most relevant and significant.

Contact person: Anna Sakharova, St. Petersburg Committee for External Relations and Tourism, e-mail:

[anna\\_sakharova@kvs.gov.spb.ru](mailto:anna_sakharova@kvs.gov.spb.ru)

## Baltic Sea Course Students Visited St. Petersburg

On 16-20 March a group of tutors and students from the Baltic Sea Course, Vaddö folk high school, made a study visit to St. Petersburg.

The Baltic Sea course is a cross disciplinary course focusing on social issues, economy, democracy, sustainable development and environment in the Baltic Sea region.

Within the scope of the cooperation between the folk high school and the Institute of International Educational Programmes, St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University, a number of students from St. Petersburg are now taking the Baltic Sea Course. The main topic of the study visit to St. Petersburg was the environmental policy in the largest city of the Baltic Sea Region.

The programme of the visited was compiled with the support of the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg. It consisted of a number of lectures at the Polytechnical University, a visit to water purification and sewage treatment plant *Vodokanal SPb*, a presentation of the Stockholm Region Office and a presentation of the St. Petersburg Committee on Environmental Protection and Safety. A meeting with Nikolay Sorokin, Vice Chairman of the Committee, was arranged at the premises of the Stockholm Region Office on 16 March. Nikolay Sorokin made a multimedia presentation of the Committee's activities and answered the questions of the audience.

Source: Vera Kozlovskaya, Institute of International Educational Programmes, State Polytechnical University, e-mail: [kmo@imop.spbstu.ru](mailto:kmo@imop.spbstu.ru)

## Parking Places for Tourist Buses in Center of St. Petersburg



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

On 17 March a meeting devoted to the issues of arranging special parkings for tourist buses in the center of the city took place at the St. Petersburg Committee for Transport.

A request on assistance in arranging special bus parking places in the center of St. Petersburg was recently sent to Valentina Matvienko, Governor of St. Petersburg, according to the decision of the North-West division Office of the Russian Union of Travel Industry. This initiative was also supported by the State Hermitage museum.

During the meeting at the Committee for Transport the list of addresses for parking places proposed by St. Petersburg travel companies was discussed. After the inspection carried out by the Committee and the state company *City Center of Parkings* 5 addresses were chosen for paid regulated parking places with security

services and a possibility for travel companies to book places beforehand and 4 addresses for free-of-charge unregulated parking places marked with correspondent traffic signs.

The Russian Union of Travel Industry together with the State Hermitage is going to continue discussion about a paid bus parking lot on the Palace Square. Special order is expected to be elaborated by the city authorities until 15 April 2005.

Source: Piter-t electronic newspaper N 48(946), 28 March 2005

## Land Reclamation Project on Vasilievsky Island



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

decreed by the City of St. Petersburg from 5 July 2004.

According to the project plan, the future territory of 450 hectares will consist of a northern and a southern part. The former will include a business center and a many-storeyed dwelling houses zone, while the latter will become a residential area with smaller buildings. The center of the district will host a new Marine Passenger Terminal with a capacity of 1.2 mln passengers per year.

Source: Delovoy Peterburg, 4 March 2005

By 2015, a new city district will have been constructed as a result of a major dredging project in the west of Vasilievsky Island, one of the central parts in St. Petersburg. According to Yury Suptelia, Deputy Director of the Vasileostrovsky district Administration, the implementation of the project will allow to increase the area of the district by 30%.

The total volume of investments into the project will comprise 694 mln USD. The main investor is the *Project and Construction Agency Perspective* that was established especially for this project. By 2020, the revenues of the budgets at all administrative levels are expected to comprise about 1 bn USD.

The concept of the project was elaborated in accordance with the

## BSH Bosch und Siemens Hausgeräte GmbH to Build New Plant in St. Petersburg



On 2 March 2005 Valentina Matvienko, Governor of St. Petersburg, and Robert Kugler, BSH Member of the Board of Management, signed an agreement *On Investments into Production of Domestic Appliances by BSH*

*Bosch und Siemens Hausgeraete GmbH in St. Petersburg.* Within the frames of the agreement BSH is provided with a plot of land measuring 250.000 square meters in Neudorf-Strelna, a suburb 20 km west of the center of the city. BSH is set to establish a production facility for fridge-freezer combinations with products primarily destined for the local market. Production start-up is planned for the first quarter of 2007.

Valentina Matvienko pointed out that St. Petersburg is one of Russia's most dynamically developing regions with favourable business conditions. The Governor mentioned that the rate of economic growth in St. Petersburg in 2004 comprised 14% which is more than 2.5 times higher than the average figure in the Russian Federation.

According to Robert Kugler, BSH considered various offers for plant building in Russia, and St. Petersburg was chosen as the one providing the best conditions.

About 50 mln Euro will be invested by BSH company in the new plant in St. Petersburg that will initially demonstrate production capacity of about 500 thousand units per year.

Source: [www.gov.spb.ru](http://www.gov.spb.ru), 2 March 2005

## Baltic SME Development Project



On 18 March a round table discussion was held within the scope of the EU funded Baltic SME Development Project aiming at export development of small and medium business in the Northwest Russia. During the seminar 20 pilot enterprises chosen for their promising export potential by the project's working group were presented to the participants of the seminar.

Among the participants of the seminar were representatives of the Swedish Trade Council, Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg, Stockholm School of Economics, Swedish - Russian Business Club and Russo - British Chamber of Commerce.

Photo: Andrey Mashoshin, Swedish-Russian Business Club, e-mail: [baltmail@mail.ru](mailto:baltmail@mail.ru)

Source: Stockholm Region Office in St.Petersburg, e-mail: [stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru](mailto:stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru)



## Draft *Local Government Law of St. Petersburg*

On 15 March 2005 a draft of the Local Government Law was passed at the session of the City of St. Petersburg. The draft law determines local governmental bodies' powers and responsibilities, financing procedures, structure of municipal property and other issues regarding the activities of local authorities.

In 2004, the revenues of St. Petersburg municipalities constituted 2,4 mln RUR. For the 8 years of the activities, the revenues have risen more than 5 times. Most part of municipal budgets is spent for court yards, parks and playgrounds. The draft law assigns current power to local authorities and sets new tasks of maintaining common city economy and providing state guarantees and population rights to implement self-government.

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

Source: [www.gov.spb.ru](http://www.gov.spb.ru)

## Tax Decrease for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises

Amendments and supplements to the law *On Single Imputed Income Tax for Certain Activities in St. Petersburg* were recently passed at the session of the City of St. Petersburg. They stipulate a decrease of adjusting rate of basic profitability and therefore decrease of single imputed income tax for certain fields of entrepreneurship, in particular, clothes' sewing and repair, dry-cleaner's, laundry, maintenance of household appliances.

Valentina Matvienko, Governor of St. Petersburg, marked that the City of St. Petersburg does its best to support entrepreneurship. "We deliberately take the decision on a decrease of the tax burden on small and medium businesses. Small and medium business' well-being is the well-being of St. Petersburg".

Source: [www.gov.spb.ru](http://www.gov.spb.ru)



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

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

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](mailto:stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru)  
[www.stockholmregion.org](http://www.stockholmregion.org)