

# Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

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## Valentina Matvienko Visited China

The official delegation of St. Petersburg headed by Governor Valentina Matvienko visited China on 13-14 May.

In Shanghai, Valentina Matvienko and Han Zheng, Mayor of Shanghai, signed a Declaration on Cooperation between the City of St. Petersburg and the National Government of Shanghai. On the same day, an Agreement on land lease was signed with the *Baltic Pearl* company, subsidiary of *Shanghai Industrial Investment Company*. The agreement stipulates the conditions for the implementation of the Baltic Pearl project that involves the construction of a multi-functional district with an area of 180 hectares, in the Southwest of St. Petersburg,. In particular, according to the agreement, the Chinese investments into construction will amount to 1,25 bn USD.

According to Valentina Matvienko, with China being one of Russia's main strategic partners, the Baltic Pearl project will stimulate the cooperation between our countries. The Governor of St. Petersburg also emphasized that China is willing to invest 12 bn USD in different projects in Russia until 2020. It was agreed that potential investment projects would be discussed at the Second Russian-Chinese Forum planned to be held on 9-10 June in St. Petersburg. In 2006, within the frames of the Russian Year in China, the St. Petersburg week will be arranged.

Source: [www.gov.spb.ru](http://www.gov.spb.ru), Metro newspaper, 16 May 2005



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

## Valentina Matvienko Met Tarja Halonen



On her way to China Valentina Matvienko, Governor of St. Petersburg made a short stop in Helsinki, where she met Tarja Halonen, President of Finland. During the meeting Valentina Matvienko and Tarja Halonen exchanged their views on the present stage of the development of relations between Russia and Finland, St. Petersburg and Helsinki. Environmental issues and, in particular, the construction of the Southwest sewage plant, where Finland is taking part, were discussed. Tarja Halonen accepted the St. Petersburg Governor's invitation to attend the opening ceremony of the plant that is planned for September 2005.

The construction of the Northern collector in St. Petersburg, that will allow channeling of 100% of the city sewage, was also discussed during the meeting. Tarja Halonen confirmed the willingness of Finland to assist in the international fundraising for the project. The Governor of St. Petersburg and the President of Finland also talked about the recent celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Victory in the Second World War. Tarja Halonen, who attended the celebrations in Moscow, highly appreciated the organization of the event.

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

## International Fair Power Industry and Electrical Engineering- 2005



The 12th international specialized fair "Power Industry and Electrical Engineering" opened its doors on 17-20 May 2005 at Lenexpo Exhibition Center in St. Petersburg. This year the joint project of Restec Exhibition Company and Lenexpo gathered over 290 companies from Russia, Finland, Poland, Italy, China, Ukraine, Byelorussia and other CIS countries. The official support to the fair was given by the Ministry for Industry and Energy of the Russian Federation, the City of St. Petersburg, the Leningrad Region administration, the Legislative Assemblies of St. Petersburg and Leningrad Region.

This year's programme included the conference "Energy safety of Russia 2005", and a number of seminars, in particular "Energy safety Problems. New Energy Resources and energy saving" and "Fuel and energy resources effective use by industrial enterprises in St. Petersburg."

Today "Power Industry and Electrical Engineering" exhibition is a significant event that annually gives its participants an opportunity to overview Russian power industry development, to establish business contacts between professionals introducing innovations and advanced technologies in the branch of power industry.

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### Support to Small and Medium Enterprises in St. Petersburg

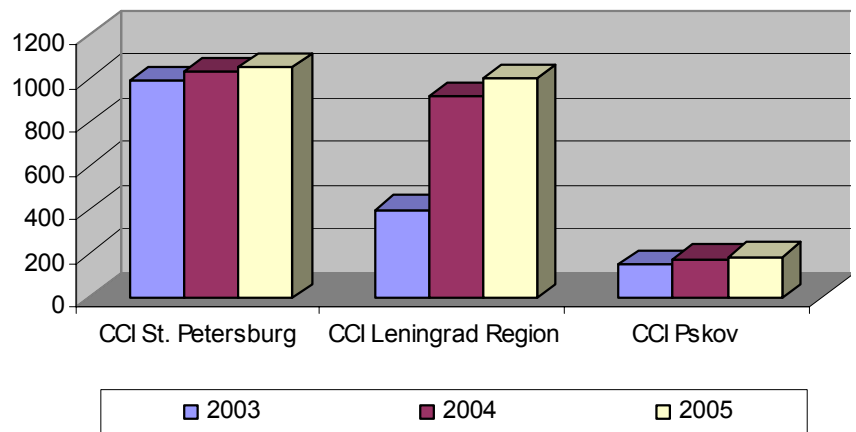
In May-June 2005 the St. Petersburg Committee on Economical Development, Industrial Policy and Trade will hold the competition as to who will be entrusted with the budget means, allocated by the City of St. Petersburg for small enterprises support in 2005.

The total amount of money is 45 mln RUR (about 1.6 mln USD) It is divided into 15 shares, which will be handed out to organizations and businesses, ready to carry out the actions approved by the City of St. Petersburg. Among the shares provided by the Committee on Economic Development, Industrial Policy and Trade are, for instance, a permanent exhibition *Small business for the City*, an Innovation programme aimed to support companies within science and technique, and a Start programme meant to support entrepreneurs-beginners.

Source: Delovoy Peterburg, 21 April 2005

### Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Northwest Russia: Positive Development

During the last three years, growth of the number of members is being observed in all major Chambers of Northwest Russia:



The most rapid development speed is demonstrated by the CCI of the Leningrad Region. Founded in 2003, it has almost caught up with the CCI of St. Petersburg that was established 84 years ago.

Apart from the three major chambers, there also are Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Kronshtadt (more than 80 members) and CCI of Pushkin and Pavlovsk (more than 250 members).

Source: Delovoy Peterburg, 8 April 2005, [www.cci.pskov.ru](http://www.cci.pskov.ru)

## Music at Konstantinovsky Palace



On 20 March 2005 a series of concerts 'Music at the Konstantinovsky Palace', devoted to 145 years anniversary of the Russian Music Society, was launched at the State complex 'Palace of Congresses' in Strelna (see Northwest Russia: Facts and Events, week 12). On 11 May the music of Russian composers was performed at the Marble Hall of the Palace by the winners of International competitions, in particular Marianna Tarasova (mezzo-soprano), Sergey Levitin (violin) and Sergey Oskolkov (piano).

Organizer of the event is the Art Support Fund *Sergey Oskolkov and Friends*. On 3-12 June International Art Festival *Sergey Oskolkov and Friends* will be held in St. Petersburg and its suburbs – Peterhof and Oranienbaum



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## Official Opening of XIII International Music Festival *The Palaces of St. Petersburg*



During the entire month of June classical music will be performed in the Hermitage Theatre, Rotunda of the Mariinsky Theatre, Catherine, Peterhof, Marble and Konstantinovsky Palaces within the frames of the XIII International Music Festival 'The

Palaces of St. Petersburg'. The annual festival was founded by the famous pianist and conductor Konstantin Obelian, and have been headed by St. Petersburg violist Maria Safaryants since 1997.

On 7 June the International Music Festival *The Palaces of St. Petersburg* will be opened in the Grand Hall of *St. Petersburg Academic Philharmonic named after D.D. Shostakovich*. For the first time the Handel composition *Solomon* will be presented to the audience. It will be performed by the Latvian chorus and soloists from Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Ireland. Rewarding of the world famous opera singer Dmitry Khvorostovsky as well as a concert with his participation will take place on 13 June within the frames of the *Musical seasons at Konstantinovsky project*.

The XIII International Music Festival *The Palaces of St. Petersburg* will be organized with the support of the Committee on Culture and Committee on External Affairs of the City of St. Petersburg, Consulate General of Finland, Consulate General of Poland, Ministry on Culture of Mexico and Cultural department of the Basque Government.

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## Viennese Piano Ball in Peterhof

On 25 June the Viennese piano ball dedicated to the 300<sup>th</sup> - anniversary of Peterhof will take place. The organizers of the event are the International Music Festival *The Palaces of St. Petersburg*, International Fund Konstantinovsky and the Peterhof Museum and Park



The ball will take place at the Peterhof Palace. The idea of the event was

developed in accordance to the will of one of the worlds oldest piano factories - *Bösendorfer Klavierfabrik* to present *Bösendorfer* piano to the favorite summer residence of Peter the Great. It is the grant ceremony that will become the key part of the event. The guests will also get an opportunity to listen to the viola of Johann Straus as well as enjoy fountains and fireworks.

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

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