

Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

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Vodokanal St. Petersburg Received Swedish Water Award



Photo: www.interpress.ru

Vodokanal, the municipal water utility in St. Petersburg, and its General Director Felix Karmazinov, were announced winners of the 2005 Swedish Baltic Sea

Water Award. According to the Nominating Committee, Felix Karmazinov and Vodokanal are acting as "role models in the international efforts to achieve a cleaner Baltic Sea through sound wastewater treatment solutions".

In September 2005, Vodokanal St. Petersburg is planning to complete the construction of the Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant that will allow to avoid sending 700 000 cubic meters of untreated wastewater into the Baltic Sea via the Neva and the Gulf of Finland daily (see Northwest Russia: Facts and Events, week 14, 2005).

Source:

http://www.siwi.org/press/presrel_05_SBSWA_Winner_Eng.htm

Stockholm and Sweden Participation in Kaliningrad's 750th Anniversary

In 2005, Kaliningrad – the most western city in Russia- is celebrating its 750th anniversary. Sweden is also participating in the celebrations with Stockholm Days in Kaliningrad that will manifest the Swedish interest in the economic and social development of Kaliningrad. The Swedish celebrations will take place on 11-12 October with Mats Hellström, Governor of the Stockholm County, leading the delegation. The activities are coordinated by the Stockholm Region European Committee. The Stockholm Chamber of Commerce holds the principle responsibility for the events aiming at commerce and investments.

The Swedish delegation will consist of both public sector representatives, companies with an interest in business in Kaliningrad, and some branch experts on Swedish import.

Among the events planned to be held in Kaliningrad are the opening ceremony with VIP participants from Kaliningrad, seminars for decision makers in the Kaliningrad region, workshops for Kaliningrad companies wanting to export to Sweden and some cultural events.

In the coming issues of *Northwest Russia* newsletter, we will keep you informed about the preparation of Stockholm Days in Kaliningrad and come back with a detailed programme.

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Presentation of Russian Edition of World Bank's Annual Report



The presentation of the Russian edition of the annual report of the World Bank *Better Investment Climate for Everyone* took place in St. Petersburg on 23 June. The event was organised in cooperation with the Leontief Center - the International Centre for Social and Economic Research. The presentation was done by one of its lead authors Warrick Smith.

The World Development Report is produced on an annual basis and is the Bank's major analytical publication. It has the largest circulation of any international economic report in the world. Each year it provides in depth analysis of a specific aspect of development. Previous reports have covered such topics as the role of the state, transition economies, labor, infrastructure, health, environment, and poverty. *Better Investment Climate for Everyone* focuses on what governments can do to improve the investment climates of their societies to increase growth and reduce poverty.

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Strengthening Cooperation with EU

On 15 June 2005 Valentina Matvienko, Governor of St. Petersburg, met Marco Franco, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to the Russian Federation.

The interaction between St. Petersburg and EU was discussed. Valentina Matvienko pointed out that development of cooperation with EU had always been one of the priorities for the Russian foreign affairs. Trade turnover between St. Petersburg and EU has during the last 5 years increased 2.4 times reaching 5.4 bn USD in 2004. It comprises more than 50% of St. Petersburg total trade volume.



Valentina Matvienko mentioned that EU had always considered St. Petersburg and Northwest Russia in general as one of the most perspective regions for technical assistance within the scope of the Tacis programme. Since 1991, more than 200 Tacis projects have been implemented in St. Petersburg. It is with the help of EU and the financial support of Finland and Sweden that the construction of the Southwest waste water treatment plant will be finished in September 2005. Valentina Matvienko said that St. Petersburg is also interested in the development of the cooperation with EU within other sectors, in particular, culture and education.

Source: www.gov.spb.ru

Official Visits to St. Petersburg

- On 15 June Valentina Matvienko, Governor of St. Petersburg, met Paulo Lehtomäki, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development of Finland. Cooperation prospects between Finland and Russia and, in particular, Finland and St. Petersburg, were discussed at the meeting. The Governor of St. Petersburg said that cooperation is developing very rapidly and mentioned several successful projects that are being implemented with the Finnish participation, such as Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant, construction of Elcoteq plant etc.



Later that day Valentina Matvienko and Paula Lehtomäki met a group of Finnish consultants that started working at the City of St. Petersburg 8 years ago in order to support the implementation of joint projects between Finland and St. Petersburg. The Governor of St. Petersburg appreciated the input of the group of consultants into the establishment of mutually beneficial relations and expressed her assurance that the activities of the group would henceforth be as successful.

- On 21 June 2005 Valentina Matvienko met Michael Häupl, Governor of Vienna.

The prospects of further cooperation between the cities were discussed. As it was marked by Valentina Matvienko, St. Petersburg and Vienna are among the largest cultural centers of the world and cooperation in this sphere continues to strengthen. Housing and communal services as well as waste recycling were mentioned among the key sectors for cooperation development. Foreign trade turnover of St. Petersburg with Austria constituted 70 mln USD in 2005. Total volume of Austrian investments in 2004 has double in comparison with 2003 and constituted 2.8 mln USD.



Source: www.gov.spb.ru

Agreement on Cooperation Between Leningrad Region and County of Århus (Denmark)

On 17 June a new Agreement on cooperation between the Leningrad region and the County of Århus was signed by Valery Serdukov, Governor of the Leningrad region, and Johannes Flensted-Jensen, Mayor of the Århus County. Close relations between the regions have been developed since middle 1990-s. The Agreement not only corroborates the previous Agreement signed in 1999 but also widens the range of fields for the interregional cooperation. Valery Serdukov mentioned that cooperation is been developed in such sectors as education, social security, healthcare and SME support. Besides traditional fields of cooperation, housing and communal services, new technologies in agriculture, waste management and sewage treatment are considered to be among the priority directions of cooperation development.

Source: www.lenobl.ru

New Law on Green Plantations of Public Usage in St. Petersburg

In December 2003, Fellowships of Dwelling Owners in St. Petersburg were vested the powers to obtain adjacent territories of the houses where grass plots, playgrounds and open parking are usually located. Now there are 770 houses in St. Petersburg which have officially registered ownership of the adjacent territories.

In June 2004 the Legislative Assembly of St. Petersburg in the first reading passed a Bill *On Green Plantations of Public Usage in St. Petersburg*. According to the Bill, the front gardens and other correspondent territories are not allowed to be privatized. Mikhail Amosov, Member of the Legislative Assembly of St. Petersburg, emphasized that the objective of the Bill is to prevent building up territories of public usage.



Photo: www.interpress.ru

Source: Delovoy Petersburg, 15 June 2005

German Delegation from Federal Ministries of Transport, Construction and Housing Services of Germany to St. Petersburg

On 7-8 June 2005, a German delegation from the Federal Ministries of Transport, Construction and Housing Services of Germany, the Bank of Reconstruction (Kreditanstalt fuer Wiederaufbau / KfW) and the non-commercial organization "Housing Services Initiative in Eastern Europe", visited St. Petersburg. Within the scope of the visit, meetings and negotiations with members of the Legislative Assembly of St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg Committees on Housing and City services, External Relations and Tourism, Finances as well as with Mikhail Oseevsky, Vice-governor of St. Petersburg, were held. Among the topics of the discussions were the German-Russian cooperation in general and the German-Russian pilot project within housing and communal services in particular. At the meeting with the Committee on Housing Services, the possibilities of setting up a German Educational Center in St. Petersburg in order to transfer the German experience in the field of management, maintenance and financing of housing services were discussed. During the visit the parties also signed the Agreement on realization of the German-Russian pilot project on reconstruction of dwelling houses in St. Petersburg in 2005-2006.

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Pilot Project on Separate Garbage Collection in Moscow District



Photo: Dmitry Ruchkin, e-mail: dmitry@rata.spb.ru

In case of successful realization of the project a system of separate waste collection will be introduced in other districts of the city.

According to the figures, up to 80% of garbage is recyclable, but only on condition of separate organic and non-organic waste collection.

Source: Metro newspaper, 16 May 2005

Scandinavian Equipment for Garbage Recycling

The St. Petersburg company *Europress* sells Scandinavian equipment for garbage recycling to small trade- and manufacturing firms. The set consists of a container with a press that squeezes waste material into cubes of cardboard, plastic, glass etc. The cubes are thereafter either sold to companies that use them in their production or transported away at a lower cost. The supply of this kind of equipment in St. Petersburg is so far limited to 3-4 firm due to a low demand. Many companies still prefer throwing the garbage away instead of taking care of it. However, Europress reckons that the market will grow, allowing them an increase in sales from today's 2-3 machines per month to 10, with the first potential new customers being supermarkets.

Source: Delovoy Peterburg, 15 June 2005

President Management Training Program: Development Prospects

On 23-24 June the III International conference *Prospects of the Development of the President Management Training Program* (PMTP) took place in St. Petersburg. PMTP was launched by former Russian President Boris Yeltsin in 1997. Nearly 2000 managers have graduated from the Program during these years.

On 24 June Valentina Matvienko, Governor of St. Petersburg, and Vladimir Blank, Head of the St. Petersburg Committee on Economic Development, Industrial Policy and Trade, handed out Governor's Diplomas to the winners of the Competition for the best projects developed during the study period on the PMTP.

The conference was arranged by the St. Petersburg Interregional Resource Centre created within the scope of the TACIS MTP project as a new format of the President Program. The Center develops interregional and international communications and, in particular, arranged a study visit of the delegation from the region administrations of Northwest Russia to Finland and Sweden in November 2004 (please, see Northwest Russia: Facts and Events, week 47, 2004).

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

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Business School of the World Level



On 16 June Valentina Matvienko, Governor of St. Petersburg, visited the Department of Management of the St. Petersburg State University. She met lecturers and the administration of the department and was presented with the strategy of the Department's development.

The Governor supported the idea of establishing of a Russian School of Business on the basis of the Department that should meet the highest world standards. It is considered to enhance the prestige of St. Petersburg as the largest educational center in Russia.

Source: www.gov.spb.ru

St. Petersburg – Kotka: Cooperation in Educational Sector

On 14 June Sergey Tarasov, Vice Governor of St. Petersburg, met Pertti Lintunen, Deputy Mayor of Kotka, and discussed the possibilities of Russian-Finnish cooperation in the sphere of education. The representatives of the education departments of the Cities of St. Petersburg and Kotka also participated in the meeting. Facilitation of the exchange of those who study and teach Finnish and Russian languages, cultural exchange of youth groups, cooperation on vocational trainings, in particular in tourism, were discussed.

Today, there are 4 schools in St. Petersburg which have Finnish language included in the curriculum and over 20 schools which have cultural programmes, related to the Finnish language but only one school has close bilateral relations with a particular Finnish school.

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*The next issue of the newsletter will be sent out on week 32, 2005
The Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg wishes You a pleasant summer!*

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

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