

Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

Issue 40, 2005, week 38

Opening of the Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant



The official opening ceremony of the Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant (SWTP) took place on 22 September. According to Valentina Matvienko, the Governor of St Petersburg, the opening of the SWTP is a significant event not only for St. Petersburg but for the whole Baltic Sea region. Catharina Tarras-Wahlberg, Deputy Mayor of the Stockholm City, Göran Persson, the Swedish Prime Minister, Tarja Halonen, President of Finland, were invited by Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, to participate in the opening ceremony.

In 2005 Vodokanal has become the winner of the Baltic Sea Water Award 2005 for the implementation of this project. (See also: Northwest Russia: Facts and Events, Issue 36, 2005, week 26). With SWTP in operation, 85% of St.Petersburg's wastewaters will be treated enabling the city to fulfill its international obligations. A new environmental project on construction of the Northern collector is planned to be launched.

Source: www.gov.spb.ru

St Petersburg Days in Japan

On the 14 September the St. Petersburg Days were opened in Japan within the frames of the international exhibition EXPO-2005. The official delegation from St. Petersburg consisted of the representatives of the City of St. Petersburg, as well as business and cultural circles.

The main goal of the event was to present St. Petersburg as a dynamic developing center of global importance which is open for international cooperation. St Petersburg businessmen introduced the city economic achievements, business environment and investment projects to their Japanese colleagues.

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Delegation of Veneto Region Visited St. Petersburg

On 23 September the delegation of the Veneto region together with St. Petersburg Committee on External Affairs and Tourism arranged a press-conference in St. Petersburg. The delegation headed by Davide Zoggia, President of the Province of Venice, announced a charitable Venetian carnival to take place on 24 September in St.Petersburg. Business and leisure tourism development as well as cultural exchange were mentioned among the priorities for cooperation.



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Leningrad Region and Finland Develop Cooperation

The third meeting of the Commission on cooperation development between the twinned cities Imatra and Svetogorsk (Leningrad region) took place in the beginning of September 2005. The official delegation of the representatives of the local authorities, headed by Vladimir Kirillov, First Vice-governor of the Leningrad region, visited the town of Imatra. During the meeting the parties discussed the activities undertaken within the frames of the Agreement and the prospects for future cooperation.

25 projects within the fields of public health, agriculture and forestry, energy, transport and telecommunications, nuclear safety and environmental protection are carried out. The projects are financed in particular by TACIS and INTERREG programmes.

Source: www.lenobl.ru

City in Your Hands – New Start!

Last autumn the City of St. Petersburg and the *Metro* newspaper organized a competition to support initiative of the citizens who enthusiastically grow flowers in the yards, repair and decorate the entrances of the houses and adjoining areas (See also *Northwest Russia: Facts and Events*, Issue 16, week 37 and Issue 23, week 51). The competition was highly appreciated by both officials and citizens. This year *Metro* newspaper decided to give a new start to the competition. As it was mentioned by Margarita Ostashevskaya in her interview to Radio Russia, one of the winners of the previous competition, it is very important that more and more people take care of the city's outlook. "In my opinion environmental issues are of the highest priority." – said Margarita.

Source: *Metro* newspaper, August 1, 2005

Federal Government Changed the Housing and Communal Service Payment System



Nikolay Fradkov, Prime Minister of the Russian federation, signed a Decree on federal standards of payment for living quarters. The Decree sets a federal standard

of the citizens' payment at a rate of 100% of economically sound expenditures on maintenance and renovation of dwelling as well as provided communal services. The Government also determined the federal standard of the citizens' maximum permissible own payment share for the housing and communal service at the rate of 22%. The Government also set the minimum of dwelling space at the rate of 18 square meters per person. As a result, the maximum monthly cost of the provided housing and communal service in Russia in 2006 constituted 41.6 RUR (approximately 11 SEK) per square meter of total area (See also *Northwest Russia: Facts and Events*, Issue 32, 2005, week 18, and Issue 19, 2004, week 43).

Source: *Metro* newspaper, September 2, 2005

Photo: www.interpress.ru

New Electricity Payment Order Enacted

The new order of electricity payment, stipulated in the Governmental Decree of the Russian Ministry of



Economic Development, will take effect on 1 January 2006. Only a certain part of the used electricity (its rate is defined by regional authorities) is to be paid at low cost tariffs. The energy used above this rate is to be paid at economically sound tariffs, which in some regions are much higher than the ones currently charged. RAO "UES of Russia" suggests setting social limit of no less than 100 kWh per flat monthly. These measures are aimed at protection of those who can not afford paying much for electricity use.

Source: *Metro* newspaper, September 2, 2005

Photo: www.interpress.ru

St. Petersburg New Concept on Waste Removal



On 2 August the City of St. Petersburg accepted a new Concept for improving garbage and solid waste removal in the city for 2007 – 2014.

The Concept stipulates the development of the wastewater management model, computerized system of wastewater registration, new technologies of waste collection and disposal, as well as budget optimization. The concept also covers the issues of new garbage disposal plants construction as well as reconstruction of the existing ones.

According to the Governor's Order separate collection of household refuse will be introduced in the city in 2006.

Photo: www.interpress.ru

Source: www.gov.spb.ru

International conference *Housing and Communal Services Modernization – 2005*



On 7-8 November International conference “Housing and Communal Services Modernization – 2005” will be held in the frames of the International fair “Housing and communal services in St Petersburg - 2005”.

The Conference will be organized with the support of the Ministry of Regional Development of the Russian Federation, the City of St. Petersburg and the government of the Leningrad region. Such issues as the prospects

for housing and communal services development and modernization of this sector with the help of the international cooperation and exchange of experience are to be discussed during the Conference.

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Photo: www.interpress.ru



International Forum “The World of the Bridges”



On 12-13 October the second International Forum “The World of the Bridges” is to be held in St Petersburg.

Forum participants will have an opportunity to find out more about the regional and state projects on reconstruction of the bridges and bridge crossings, review of the technological innovations and

perspectives of the international cooperation.

A wide range of projects is to be presented within the frames of the Forum, including in particular, construction of new bridge crossings in Russia, development of the regional infrastructure, road and junction construction.

Representatives of the city and regional authorities, leading road-building enterprises, financial institutions and design companies, educational organizations and insurance companies will take part in the Forum.

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Changes in International Telephone Codes

Starting from 1 December 2005 the international telephone codes of some regions in Russia are to be changed:

- Kaliningrad region +7-411
- Moscow city +7-495
- Moscow region +7-496



Photo: www.interpress.ru

Source: Metro newspaper, August 2005

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

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