

Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

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Stockholm County Council visits Moscow region



A delegation headed by the chairman of the Stockholm County Council Mr Conny Andersson visited Moscow Region Duma on 27-29 November. The main aim of the visit was to study regional development and economic growth in accordance with the action plan signed in June.

A corresponding seminar chaired by Mr Valeriy Aksakov, chairman of the Moscow Region Duma and Mr Vladimir Alexeev, vice chairman of the Duma was held at the *Arbat* hotel. At the seminar several presentations of the Moscow Region describing different aspects of the region development were made. The delegation from Stockholm

presented the regional planning process in its region. The seminar was highly appreciated by the delegates. In particular, the issue of how to engage and promote the business sector was of mutual interest for the both regions.

The delegation also visited Pushkino district and was welcomed by its mayor Mr Afanaskin. Within the frames of the programme a visit to Sofrino iconic manufactory, where the participants were showed the icon painting section, the candle light fabric and the sewing section, took place.

During the lunch the representatives from Pushkino district described the guests the plans of the district development. In particular, energy and waste management were named among the topics of mutual interest.

In the end of the visit the delegates from the Stockholm County Council declared their great satisfaction with the visit and marked the outstanding hospitality, the concrete and useful discussions and inputs for the forth coming cooperation.

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Welcome to Stockholm



A seminar *Welcome to Stockholm* was arranged by Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg in cooperation with *Phennoscandia* Center of Herzen State Pedagogical University at the photo exhibition *Stockholm – St. Petersburg: Two Portraits in One Frame*. The seminar was targeted at a group of schoolchildren from a number of St. Petersburg high schools, who also had a guided tour of the exhibition, which was opened on 3 November (see *Northwest Russia: Facts and Events Issue 42*). The presentation materials for the seminar were provided by Stockholm Visitors Board.



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

St. Petersburg Defined Priority Trade Fairs



The list of priority trade fairs for 2006-2008 was approved by the St. Petersburg City Executive Board on 21 November. It contains 53 domestic and 30 foreign trade fairs where the City of St. Petersburg will act as an exhibitor and/or support the participation of St. Petersburg based companies. The Scandinavian Technical Fair is listed among the priority fairs. This is a result of long-term cooperation between Stockholm International Fairs, Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg and the St. Petersburg

Committee on the Economic Development, Industrial Policy and Trade. The Agreement on Collaboration between Stockholm International Fairs and the St. Petersburg Committee for Economic Development, Industrial Policy and Trade, signed in 2002, will be prolonged next year.

The Presidentship of Tom Beyer, Managing Director of Stockholm International Fairs (on the photo at the left), in the UFI (Global Association of the Exhibition Industry) will give an extra impetus to the development of cooperation with St. Petersburg. Tom Beyer stepped into the President's position during the UFI Congress in Moscow on October 19th 2005.

Sources: the City of St. Petersburg, www.gov.spb.ru, Stockholm International Fairs, www.stockholmsmassan.se, Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg, stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru

Photo: Stockholm International Fairs, www.stockholmsmassan.se

Baltic SME Development Conference

The conference finalizing Tacis funded project *Baltic SME Development* was held in St. Petersburg on 29 November. The goal of this project, implemented by the consortium of European consulting companies, was to build up the export potential of SME's in Leningrad and Kalinigrad region. The project encompassed market studies, benchmarking, training and consulting of both selected SME's and regional support organizations.

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

Social Work with Juvenile Delinquents at Kolpino Penitentiary

The conference Social Work with Juvenile Delinquents at Kolpino Penitentiary took place on 22-23 November in St.Petersburg within the frames of the joint Russian-Swedish project. The project Social Work with Juvenile Delinquents in St. Petersburg, financed by SIDA, has been carried out by the Stockholm University and the St. Petersburg Committee on Youth Policy and Cooperation with NGO since the end of 2000. In 2002 GUF SIN (Central Administrative Board of the Federal Office on Penalty Execution) in St.Petersburg and Leningrad region joined the project.

The conference was opened by May Andersson, Consul General of Sweden in St. Petersburg, Alexandr Voloh, Head of the Department, Penal Executive Inspection in the Northwest Russian, Ludmila Markina, Deputy head of the Committee on Labour and Social Security of the Leningrad Region, and Eva Holmberg-Herrström, Project Manager, Stockholm University. Nearly 100 representatives of GUF SIN, the City of St. Petersburg and the Government of the Leningrad Region as well as the representatives of the Stockholm University, The National Board of Institutional Care (SiS) of Sweden, The East Europe Committee, Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg etc participated in the discussion. 3 workshops devoted to "social inquiry", "networking" and "supervision" approaches to the work with Juvenile Delinquents were arranged.



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New Concert hall in St.Petersburg



On 17 November a new Concert hall was inaugurated after reconstruction in the St.Petersburg Children Music and Art School named after Mravinsky. The official ceremony was opened by Valentina Matvienko, the Governor of St. Petersburg.

The renovated Concert hall now possesses a unique acoustics, which allows not only to hold classic music concerts, but also to conduct international festivals and contests on the highest level.



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Photo: www.interpress.ru, www.gov.spb.ru

Malevich in a Square

Painter Michail Shemjakin's fund together with the Arts Support Fund *Sergey Oskolkov and Friends* continues a series of so-called experimental evenings. On 25 November the evening called *Malevich in a Square* introduced its guests a unique composition of music, video, dance and fine arts. The main idea of the event was to widen the frames of emotional feelings, giving possibility not only to hear, but to see musical images in colors, light and action.



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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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