

Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

Issue 55, 2006, week 25

Stockholm-Mälardalen Region's Participation in Swedish Grand Expo Fair in Moscow



On 15-16 June 2006 the Stockholm-Mälardalen region took an active part in *The Swedish Grand Expo Fair* in Moscow, which became the culmination of *Sweden Upgrade* – a large-scale programme carried out by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Swedish Trade Council, in order to market the modern Sweden in Russia. More information on *Sweden Upgrade* can be found at www.swedenupgrade.ru.

The programme was launched with *The Swedish Brands and Senses Fair* held in St. Petersburg on 24-25 March 2006 at the Manege exhibition hall. *The Swedish Grand Expo Fair* in Moscow was opened by Ann-Christin Nykvist, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs of Sweden. A number of seminars were arranged within the frames of the programme.

Both in Moscow and St. Petersburg the Stockholm-Mälardalen region was among the exhibitors with a centrally located booth representing the region as a partner for cooperation. The Stockholm-Mälardalen region's booth demonstrated the priority sectors for cooperation, the major focus being made on environmental technologies, healthcare/social care and education.



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

The Visit of the County Administrative Board of Stockholm to Moscow

In connection with the Swedish Grand Expo carried out in Moscow within the frames of the *Sweden: Upgrade*, the County Administrative Board of Stockholm organized a seminar on environmentally safe house-building *The Sustainable City Concept*, in close co-operation with the Swedish Embassy in Moscow. On 24 March 2006 the seminar *Cities Sustainable Development: Stockholm and St. Petersburg* was held within the frames of the *Sweden Upgrade* in St. Petersburg. (See Northwest Russia: Facts and Events, week 13)

The seminar in Moscow was opened by the Sweden's ambassador in Moscow, His Excellency Johan Molander, followed by the Stockholm County Governor Mr Mats Hellström and Mr Stanislav Chramenkov, Director General of the Water Supply Company Mosvodokanal. Over 70 Russian politicians, entrepreneurs and representatives from the public sector attended the seminar. These persons also took the opportunity to establish contacts with the Swedish companies represented by Mr Henrik Berg von Linde from Sweco, a consulting firm specialized in Urban Planning, Mr Joakim Karlsson from Envac, a company manufacturing advanced systems for automatic underground waste management and Mr Erik Freudenthal from Hammarby Sjöstad – a renowned model in Sustainable City Planning.

The audience showed great interest towards presentations of Swedish solutions to problems connected with waste management, energy- and water-saving systems, re-use of materials etc. A follow-up meeting between experts from both sides is about to be planned in co-operation with our Swedish Embassy and Mosvodokanal's Director general.

During his visit, Governor Hellström and his delegation also paid a visit to the Moscow City Administration. He met with Vice-Mayor Vladimir Resin who also expressed a strong interest in developing further contacts and co-operation with the Stockholm Region on special topics such as energy and urban planning and construction issues.



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Stockholm County Council visits Moscow



In accordance with the working protocol the Stockholm County Council visited Moscow region Duma on 15-18 June.

The main purpose for the delegation led by the Chairman of the County Council Assembly, Mr Conny Andersson was to take part in a seminar of public transport organised by the Moscow Regional Duma under the chairmanship of Mr Valery Aksakov. During the seminar plans for the public transport development in the Moscow Region as well as in the Stockholm Region were presented. During the workshop in Stockholm in the end of the year there will be a deepened presentation of the Stockholm Transport company, its structure and it's cooperation with the private transport providers and financing model.

The visit took place during the culmination of the *Sweden Upgrade* programme in Moscow and the delegation from Stockholm together with Sörmland Region took part in a seminar devoted to female entrepreneurship. The purpose was to present a working method and to exchange experiences.

During the visit the first steps towards the next working plan for 2007- 2008 were taken. Besides the public transport activities it will include items related to health care and the usage of IT. The Moscow Region has been selected by the government of the Russian Federation to receive "best practice" concerning IT solutions in health care from Sweden and this will be done within the agreement on cooperation between Stockholm County Council and the Moscow Regional Duma.

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The III International Forum on SME Support



The III International Forum on SME support in the Northwest Russia took place in St. Petersburg on 9 June 2006. The Forum was

organised by the Office of the Plenipotentiary representative of the President of Russian Federation in the Northwest Federal District, Representation of the European Commission in Russia, TACIS programme *E-skills for Russian SMEs*, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation, St. Petersburg Foundation for SME Development, Academy of National Economy under the Government of the Russian Federation, The International Centre for Social and Economic Research Leontief Centre.

The main objective of the Forum was to discuss the priority guidelines and main instruments of state and international support, aimed at higher competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Northwest Russia, as well as to discuss the results and prospects of TACIS *E-skills for Russian SMEs* programme realization.

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Forum of the Partner Regions of the Leningrad region

On 22 June the Forum of the Partner Regions of the Leningrad region took place at the Tavrichesky Palace. This year the plenary session was devoted to the issues of interregional economic cooperation. The Forum was opened by Valery Serdukov, the Governor of the Leningrad region, and Kirill Polyakov, the Chairman of the Leningrad region Legislative Assembly. As it was marked by Valery Sedukov, such regular meetings with "the regions which have over 50 cooperation agreements with the Leningrad region have become a good tradition. Interregional cooperation has influenced such spheres as economy and trade, environment and energy, transport and agriculture, ICT, culture and social security, education and healthcare etc. For example, the Swedish SME support model was introduced in the elaboration of the First-Time Entrepreneurs' Support programme. Finnish, Danish and Dutch technologies have been applies in agriculture".



Among the participants of the Forum were the representatives of the regions of Norway, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Byelorussia, Poland, China, Germany, Korea, Denmark, Italy etc.

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St. Petersburg Has Won an Opportunity to Host the World Largest Sail Races



St.Petersburg has been chosen to be a port of call of the Tall Ships' Races. On 11 July 2009 the fleet of over 120 sailboats with 4 thousand people will come to St.Petersburg in the finish of the Race 1. Over 200 journalists will follow the races. The City will pay 100 thousand euro registration fee, organise a PR campaign and the cultural programme. According to the organisers of the event on a normal sail training voyage a good port of call adds to the voyage experience for the trainees, and 'sail training friendly' ports can help considerably with the provision of needed facilities and services.

The City will also pay for the participation of 25 young people in the races apart from the Russian sport team.

Source: Delovoy Petersburg, April 2006

Photo: Interpress, www.interpress.ru

Russian scientists and divers are exploring Swedish ships from 18th century

The *Secrets of Sunken Ships* project (www.baltic-sunken-ships.ru) is a non-governmental, non commercial initiative, targeted at the search of sunken objects in the waters of Russian Federation. The program is financed by *Gazprom* company. With this article we are starting publishing a series of interesting stories about some of the successful findings.



Scientists from St. Petersburg, Moscow, Novgorod and Vyborg, working within the frames of the *Secrets of Sunken Ships* project have been carrying out a successful research of the Swedish ships, which fell on 3 July 1790 in the battle, known in Sweden as *Viborgska gatloppet*. It was one of the largest, or even the most large-scale battle in the Baltic history. About 550 ships of different classes and up to 75 000 people took part in the battle. In historians' opinion, over 60 vessels fell in the battle.

Having scrutinized logbooks of the Russian ships, the scientists have fully reconstructed the course of the battle and determined the places of wreck of the most of ships. Nine hulls are found and identified; their analysis confirmed the accuracy of the reconstruction. Basing on these findings, the scientists managed to make some episodes of the battle in the form of a computer animation which allows observing up to 300 ships in movement.

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*The next issue of the newsletter will be sent out on week 32, 2006
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/websites/stockholm/sd_page/16/1/index.php?*

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