

Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

Issue 62, 2006, week 44

Official Visit of the Governor of St. Petersburg to Helsinki

The official visit of the Governor of St. Petersburg Valentina Matvienko to Helsinki, Finland, took place on 29-31 October.

On 29 October Valentina Matvienko had a meeting with the President of Finland, Mrs. Tarja Halonen. During the meeting the intensive development of co-operation between St. Petersburg and Finland was discussed. Among other issues, the parties have touched upon the large-scale transport project on construction of an express railway between St. Petersburg and Helsinki.



The official visit of the Governor of St. Petersburg Valentina Matvienko was continued by the meeting with the Mayor of Helsinki, Mr. Jussi Pajunen, where the Letter of Intent on Cooperation in 2007-2010 was signed between the Cities of St. Petersburg and Helsinki. The Letter of Intent aims at developing the cooperation potential between the cities within the priority sectors, such as environmental protection, energy, transport infrastructure, tourism, social sector, trade and economic cooperation, education and others.



The programme of visit included participation in the Baltic Metropolises Mayors' Meeting on 30 October. The Mayors of the cities being the members of this informal network gathered together to assess the achievements and agree on priority projects of the network. Valentina Matvienko presented St. Petersburg's top projects to be included into the Baltic Metropolises priority list.

Source: www.gov.spb.ru

Stockholm Stroll Photo Exhibition at the Museum of Carl Fredric Andersson and Johann-Friederich Lidval

The inauguration of the *Stockholm Stroll* photo exhibition took place on 27 October at the Museum of Carl Fredric Andersson and Johann-Friederich Lidval. The exhibition comprises photos of Stockholm by Igor Voevodsky, director of Eclectica travel agency and editor-in-chief of *Avtobus* historic magazine for kids. Among the guests of the opening ceremony were the representatives of the Consulate General of Sweden in St. Petersburg and Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg. The inauguration was concluded by fireworks in Malaya Konjushennaya Street.



The exhibition is open to the public at the Museum of Carl Fredric Andersson and Johann-Friederich Lidval, which was founded in St. Petersburg on 7 December 2005. The initiative was taken by the local Partnership of Dwelling Owners. On 3 October the latter was awarded a Diploma from the Ministry of Regional Development of Russian Federation for the successful implementation of the Federal Program on Housing and Communal Services Reform.

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

Electrolux to Establish a New Plant

On 15 September a delegation of the Electrolux company representatives visited Leningrad region during their tour throughout Russia in search for new industrial places. The Swedish company has already opened a plant producing washing machines in Strelna and now plans to establish a new factory, focusing on ovens, refrigerators and dishwasher production.

The final choice of location will be made in the beginning of 2007, but Leningrad region is already in the short-list of potential places for factory construction. At the present moment Electrolux is considering districts of Vsevolozhsk, Gatchina, Tosno and Kirovsk, but according to the vice-governor Grigory Dvas other locations will also be available.

The amount of investments in the future factory as well as its productive capacity is left unsaid, but will definitely exceed those of the Strelna plant.

Source: Government of the Leningrad region, www.lenobl.ru



Science Park in Pulkovo



The Finnish company Technopolis Plc. will purchase a territory of 4.6 ha near the Pulkovo airport for constructing a science park. According to the company press-release the transaction cost is 7.4 million EUR.

Office buildings, occupying 80 thousand sq.m., are to be constructed at the Pulkovo highway by 2008 and will be leased mostly to the companies working in the field of aviation, automobile and electronic industry. Investments in the project are assessed to constitute 140 million EUR (the average cost of construction being 1,8 thousand EUR per 1 sq.m.).

Technopolis Pulkovo will be the first project of Technopolis implemented in St. Petersburg. Two other projects initiated by the company – the establishment of industrial parks at the territory of The Bonch-Bruевич St. Petersburg State University of Telecommunications and at the Noydorf special economic zone were suspended as no investment agreements have been signed yet.

Source: Delovoy Peterburg

Paulig to Build a Plant in St. Petersburg

The Finnish company *Paulig*, world leading real coffee producer, plans to open a plant in St. Petersburg. According to the *Severo-Zapadnaya Kofeinaya Kompania* (North West Coffee Company) the time for such decision is right as 7.5 thousand tons of coffee is consumed in St. Petersburg every year (which includes about 1,5 thousand tons of real coffee) and the figures are likely to increase.



Source: Delovoy Peterburg



St. Petersburg is the Leading Cruise Port

St. Petersburg is the Baltic Sea leading port in cruise calls. Despite the cancellation of ferry lines by Estonian Tallink and Finnish Silja Line, as being unprofitable in 2005, St. Petersburg port receives 16% of all cruise calls in the region, leaving behind Tallinn, Copenhagen, Stockholm and Helsinki.

The number of cruising tourists coming to St. Petersburg has doubled since the year 2000 constituting 319 thousand people in 2005 and contributing 200 million USD to the city budget annually.

International cruise operators predict favourable situation in the field of cruise communication. Still St. Petersburg remains the only Baltic port with no all year round cruise tourism.

Source: The City of St. Petersburg, www.gov.spb.ru, and Delovoy Peterburg

Photo: www.interpress.ru

St. Petersburg Open Results



The XII International Tennis Tournament St. Petersburg Open-2006 was finalized. The winner of the singles circuit is the tournament newcomer 22-year-old Mario Ancic, who was seeded third at the tournament. He took the Cup and 142 thousand dollars of prize money. The second place and 83 thousand dollars prize money went to the twice champion of St. Petersburg Open Thomas Johansson. The 31-year-old Swede should be given due to – he fought with his young opponent with dignity and lost very little, giving two sets at 5-7, 6-7. Moreover, it seemed in the second set he could change the course of the match, Thomas led 5-2 but Mario overtook and carried the set to a victorious tie-break.

The result of the doubles final match turned out similar to the singles final. Just as in the singles, the pair of tournament newcomers fought for the Cup (Aspelin (Sweden)/Perry (Australia), against the pair defending their last year title (the Austrian Knowle/Melzer team).



Contact person: Elene Bolsheva, St. Petersburg Open. Sport Management and Marketing, e-mail: abolsheva@spbopen.ru

Scandinavian Readings



The Danish Cultural Institute hosts the biannual international scientific conference dedicated to historical and cultural ties between Northern Europe and Russia. After the launch at the House of Architects on October 31, the conference held three sections - from the history

of Scandinavia and Finland, Scandinavian literature and languages, and ethnic culture, arts and music. Among the conference organizers are St. Petersburg Association for International Cooperation, St. Petersburg Research Center on History of Culture of Scandinavia and Finland, Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, Union of Russian Architects in St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg State University, Bonch-Bruевич St. Petersburg State University of Telecommunication, Fennoscandia Center of Herzen Russian State Pedagogical University

Contact person: Rikke Helms, Director of the Danish Cultural Institute in St. Petersburg, e-mail: rhsp@mail.wplus.net

Delegation of the Öresund Region Visited St. Petersburg

The delegation of the Öresund region made a study-visit to St. Petersburg as a part of the work on forming a joint Baltic Sea Strategy for the Öresund region. The delegation encompassed representatives of local and regional authorities, universities and private associations. The programme included a series of meetings with various Committees of the City of St. Petersburg, as well as the Consulates General of Denmark and Sweden in St. Petersburg. The activities of the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg were also presented to the group. The programme was arranged by the Nordic Council of Ministers Information Office in St. Petersburg and the St. Petersburg Committee on External Relations.

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

The archive of the newsletters can be found at http://www.stockholmregion.org/websites/stockholm/sd_page/222/3/index.php?

STOCKHOLM REGION OFFICE in ST PETERSBURG
 Visiting address: Nevsky 1, St. Petersburg
 Postal address: BOX 1005, 190000, St. Petersburg
 tel.: +7-812-314 68 18, fax: +7-812-314 68 53
 e-mail: stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru
www.stockholmregion.org