

Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

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Gazprom-City Project in St. Petersburg



A 300-meter high business centre is planned to be constructed by Gazprom Company on the right coast of the Neva River, in the Malaya Okhta district of St. Petersburg. The competition for the best project consisted of six different architectural concepts and was won by the English architectural bureau *RMJM London Limited* which presented a tower resembling a flame tip by its shape.

According to Valentina Matvienko, the Governor of St. Petersburg, the construction of Gazprom-City will radically change the situation in the depressive Okhta district, introducing new working places, better roads, street lighting and in general a totally new district appearance. It will be also a source of substantial investments in the budget of St. Petersburg. As for preserving the historical heritage of the Nyenskans fortress ruins, it is planned to carry out archeological examinations and to create a museum.

The construction programme is intended for the period of 10 years with a total financing from the city budget amounting to 60 billion RUR. According to the chairman of Gazprom's board of directors Alexey Miller, the company will make an annual contribution of 7 billion RUR into the budget of the city. The total area of the administrative-business centre is planned to occupy approximately 70 hectares, only 4,6 hectares of which will be used for construction of the headquarters of Gazprom company.

Source: City of St. Petersburg, www.gov.spb.ru, Delovoy Peterburg Newspaper, Metro Newspaper, December 2006

Photo: www.interpress.ru

Higher School of Management in St. Petersburg National Project

The St. Petersburg State University launched a national project of establishing the Higher School of Management in St. Petersburg. The project is aimed at creating a world-standard business school designed for educating national administrative elite, able to raise the competitive capacity of Russia. Another objective of the project is to create a powerful brand of the Higher School of Management in the world system of business education.

The education process is planned to be held in English, which is needed to obtain a share of foreign students amounting to 25% and no less than 30% of lecturers by 2015. The project will be financed from the following sources: paid education services, publishing and consulting activities, fundraising and special-purpose financing.

Source: School of Management, St. Petersburg State University, www.som.pu.ru

Federal Investment Projects in St. Petersburg

The government of Russia adopted 7 projects that will be financed by the Investment Fund. Three of the latter concern St. Petersburg: namely the toll highway between Moscow and St. Petersburg, the Orlov Tunnel under the Neva River and the Western Throughway.

Source: Metro Newspaper, December 2006

Agreement between the City of St. Petersburg and the World Bank

The Governor of St. Petersburg Valentina Matvienko and the Managing Director of the World Bank Graham Willer signed an Agreement. According to the Agreement the World Bank will financially support St. Petersburg in implementation of infrastructural projects. Such an agreement is the first in the history of the Russian Federation.

Source: Metro Newspaper, December 2006

Seminar on Cooperation between EU and the Russian Federation in St. Petersburg

On 18 December 2006 a seminar on Cooperation between EU and the Russian Federation at the Local and Regional Level took place in Tavrichesky Palace, St. Petersburg. The seminar was organized by the Committee of the Regions of the European Union RELEX Commission in cooperation with the North-Western Academy of Public Administration, with the support from the Congress of Municipalities of the Russian Federation and the Parliamentary Association of Northwest Russia.

With the EU enlargement, the seminar presented an opportunity to examine the extent of cooperation between local and regional authorities in Russia more closely and to evaluate the various aspects of cooperation between the EU and Russian authorities, as well as to discuss how this cooperation could be further developed.

The Head of Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg, Lada Illarionova made a presentation on *Cooperation between local and regional authorities in the EU and Russia: Example of the Stockholm-Mälars region*.

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

PAP-FOR Exhibition Has Grown by a Quarter



The IX international PAP-FOR exhibition of timber and pulp-and-paper industry took place in November in St. Petersburg. Its considerable development

is impressive: the quantity of exhibitors encompassing 20 countries has grown from 200 to 250. The increased interest to the exhibition is explained by the growth of paper demand in Russia and therefore the necessity to extend and upgrade its production. According to the experts' estimations there are no enterprises in Russia, able to produce hi-tech equipment for pulp-and-paper industry, which leads to foreign companies taking their orders. Some segments of the pulp-and-paper industry market grow by 70% per year.

Source: Delovoy Peterburg Newspaper, November 2006, www.dp.ru

The Automation of Business Operation

On 7 December 2006 the conference and exhibition *The Automation of Business Operation* was held at the Government of Leningrad region. The event was arranged for managers and senior staff of IT-departments responsible for the automation on industrial enterprises, financial organizations and trading networks by the Government of Leningrad region together with the publishing centre Baltika.

Source: Committee on Economic Development of the Leningrad region, www.lenobl.ru

Business Contact Exchange within the St. Petersburg Technical Fair



On 13 March 2007 the Business Contact Exchange activities will be held together with the St. Petersburg Technical Fair (LenExpo, hall 7).

It will become a meeting point for industrial products' suppliers and customers. Following the requests of the Russian enterprises and international companies the organizers will make matchmaking for potential partners. The companies will get a possibility to choose the most appropriate contacts in good time and organize negotiations.

In 2006 18 companies from 8 Russian cities – Moscow, St. Petersburg, Volgograd, Kaluga, Nizhny Novgorod, Rostov, Chelyabinsk, Yaroslavl as well as from Germany, Sweden, Finland became the participants of Business Contact Exchange.

Source: The Organizing Committee of Petersburg Technical Fair, interport@restec.ru, www.ptfair.ru

Exhibition Dedicated to Carl Linnaeus Tercentenary



In 2007 the scientific world will celebrate the tercentenary of the outstanding Swedish scientist and traveler Carl Linnaeus. The anniversary will be also celebrated in St. Petersburg.

The Consulate General of Sweden in St. Petersburg, in cooperation with The State Russian Museum and MEGA Company already presented a mini-exhibition, dedicated to the anniversary of Carl Linnaeus: 10 huge banners were placed in MEGA shopping centre (see Northwest Russia: Facts and Events, week 46)

This exposition in MEGA had preceded a larger exhibition HERBARIUM AMORIS officially inaugurated at the Mikhailovsky

Palace on 15 December 2006. The exposition presents the works of the Swedish photographer Edvard Koinberg, whose masterpieces were inspired by the Linnaeus theory described in the book *Praeludia Sponsaliorum Plantarum*; Fiodor Tolstoy's illustrations for botanical atlases, as well as Pavel Filonov's drawings. All of the above display the interest of the artists to the researches of Carl Linnaeus.

The exhibition was organized by the Consulate General of Sweden in St. Petersburg, the State Russian Museum and the Swedish Institute. HERBARIUM AMORIS is open to the public from 16 December 2006 to 5 February 2007.

Source: Consulate General of Sweden in St. Petersburg, www.swedenabroad.com



Exhibition at the Former Nyenskans Fortress

The inauguration of the exhibition *Okhtinskaya Shipyard – Pages of History* took place on 30 November at the 700 Years - *Landskrona, Nevskoye Ustye, Nyenskans Museum*. Among the exhibits one may find models of the most famous vessels built at Okhtinskaya Shipyard as well as original sketches of ships. Okhtinskaya Shipyard was founded in 1806 at the place of Nyenskans fortress, in the mouth of Okhta River.

The exhibition was arranged in cooperation with the Central Naval Museum of St. Petersburg. The project was financially supported by Gazprom company, which is going to construct Gazprom-City business centre on the right coast of Neva-River, in the very place of the 700 Years - *Landskrona Museum's* location. The management of Gazprom promised to preserve the museum as a part of the to-be-constructed business centre.

Source: 700 Years - *Landskrona, Nevskoye Ustye, Nyenskans Museum*, www.museum700.org

The Day of Saint Lucia in St. Petersburg

On 10 December the Consulate General of Sweden in St. Petersburg organized the traditional celebration of the Saint Lucia day in the Swedish church of Saint Catherine in St. Petersburg. The programme of the evening included Lucia procession singing, Christmas songs, a traditional Christmas buffet with snaps and sweets, saffron-flavored buns shaped like curled-up cats and glögg.



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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

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

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