

Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

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Stockholm-St. Petersburg: New Agreement Signed

The delegation of Stockholm-Mälardalen region headed by the Stockholm County Governor Mats Hellström visited St. Petersburg on 1-4 February, 2006. The delegation included the representatives of the Stockholm County Administrative Board, Stockholm County Council, Stockholm Region European Committee, Stockholm Academic Forum and the Council of the Stockholm-Mälardalen Region.



The new Cooperation Agreement between the Stockholm-Mälardalen region and St. Petersburg was signed by Mats Hellström and the Governor of St. Petersburg Valentina Matvienko on 2 February in Smolny. This is the first Agreement with St. Petersburg signed by the five counties of the Stockholm-Mälardalen region: Stockholm, Södermanland, Västmanland, Uppland and Örebro. The signing of the Agreement opened the series of events under the headline SWEDEN: UPPGRADE – Sweden in Russia 2006 initiated by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (for more information please see www.swedenupgrade.ru).



The Cooperation Agreement with St. Petersburg can also be regarded as an important step in the implementation of the new Baltic Sea Strategy for the Stockholm-Mälardalen region. According to Mats Hellström the Agreement opens new opportunities for practical cooperation within the new sectors and can strengthen the positions of the Stockholm-Mälardalen region in this important part of

the Baltic Sea area. "This is the frame agreement, defining the priorities and strategic sectors for cooperation" – said Valentina Matvienko.

In implementing the Agreement the Swedish party prioritizes such fields as health- and social care, environmental protection, research and higher education as well as trade and commerce. Specific plans and project ideas within these sectors will be discussed during the work group meeting in St. Petersburg in April 2006. Culture, tourism and youth issues are other areas mentioned in the agreement that will be dealt with at a later stage.



Within the frames of the visit the Stockholm Region delegation met with the representatives of the Swedish business in St. Petersburg, paid a visit to the state enterprise Lenvodhoz responsible for the environmental protection of the St. Petersburg water area, and took part in the information seminar for St. Petersburg academic and business community. Following the Stockholm School of Economics in St. Petersburg seminar on local business climate, the delegation visited the Scania buss assembling factory, as well as its Russian sub-contractor machine-engineering plant Kvadrat-SG. The signing of the agreement and the visit were arranged with the support of the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg and the Swedish Consulate General in St. Petersburg.

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

Photo: www.interpress.ru

Higher Education Reform

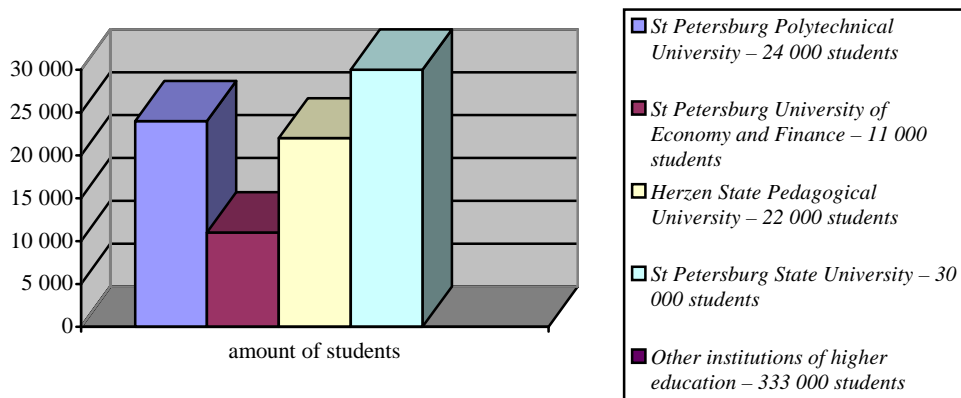


Higher education Reform will affect not only education process but the management process in the institutions of higher education as well. Among the changes that are expected within the frames of the higher education reform is the introduction of the new position of the institution's president. The president of the institution of higher education will define the main policy and development strategy, while rector is to be responsible for the operational management. The reform also stipulates the changeover to the two-tier system of higher education with bachelor and master degrees, as well as the reduction of the number of qualifications. The institutions of higher education will be divided depending on the ownership pattern into the following three categories: state, regional and other.



Source: Delovoy Peterburg, photo: www.interpress.ru

420 000 students study in St. Petersburg



Source: Delovoj Peterburg

Swedish Pulp and Paper Technologies in the North-Western Russia

The Swedish Pulp and Paper Technology Activities in the North-Western Russia Forum took place in St. Petersburg on 25 January 2006. 18 Swedish and 20 Russian companies participated in the event organized by the Swedish Trade Council in Russia, the Swedish Pulp & Paper Technology Group (PPT) and Giprobum-Engineering (St. Petersburg). The Swedish delegation was led by Ulf Frölander, Chairman of the Swedish Pulp & Paper Technology Group.

The event consisted of a shorter seminar and individually scheduled business meetings. During the seminar part, Anatoly Chernovol, Vice President of Bumprom – the largest branch organization in Russia – gave an overview of the Russian pulp and paper industry. Teppo Koski, Vice President, ÅF Process, presented the audience with the Swedish competence within the cost efficient environmental management. Tom Lindström, Royal Technical University, made a report on Science and technology frontiers in fibre modification for improved paper/board materials.



Among the Swedish participants there were ABB Automation Technologies, Elof Hansson, Hägglunds Drives, Kalmar Industries, Kvaerner Pulping, Somas Instruments, SEB and other companies selling products and services within the pulp and paper sector. Of 20 Russian companies, 5 were the largest pulp and paper mills in the North-western Russia (Arkhangelsk, Segezha, Kotlass, Solombala and Syas).

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St.Petersburg TV channel has got back its federal status

St.Petersburg TV channel has got back its federal status after being a local channel for nine years (since 1997). New management of the channel have renewed its techno-park, changed the format, and introduced new programs that altogether led to higher ratings and win of tender. Now TRK "Peterburg" will broadcast on the 41st frequency in all the largest regions of Russia. The Governor of St.Petersburg Valentina Matvienko considers this fact to be one of the most important strategic events, restoring historic justice and giving back to the city its federal level.

Source: newspaper "Metro", January 2006

The Russian State Historical Archive moved to the new building

A complex of new buildings for the Russian State Historical Archive was constructed in St.Petersburg, by the order and under control of the Administration of the President of Russian Federation Vladimir Putin. The President himself and The Governor of St.Petersburg Valentina Matvienko took part in inauguration of the new archive complex.

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

St.Petersburg is getting capital functions



The Governor of St.Petersburg Valentina Matvienko put forward a proposal to The State Duma about the transfer of the Constitutional Court from Moscow to St.Petersburg. The proposal was worked out by the Government and the Legislative Assembly of St.Petersburg. According to Valentina Matvienko, transfer of higher judicial or other federal authorities to St.Petersburg will allow to return federal status to the city. The idea is to place The Constitutional Court at its initial historical place – the building of Senate and Synod, where from the higher judicial body of the Russian Empire, The Senate, was located. The State Duma Council has already considered and approved the proposal. The State Historical Archive which occupied the building of the Senate and Synod during the Soviet times was moved to the new building constructed specifically for this purpose (see the article above).

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

Photo: www.interpress.ru

Opening of the First Flat for Joint Residence of Disabled in St. Petersburg

The official opening of the first flat for the joint residence of disabled took place in St.Petersburg on 26 January within the frames of the Russian-Swedish project Development of Social Work in St. Petersburg, financed by SIDA. The project has been carried out by The Stockholm University together with the City of St.Petersburg since 1998. The representatives of the City of St.Petersburg, municipalities, Consulate General of Sweden in St.Petersburg and mass media took part in the event.

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

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

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