

# High European level

Chinese experts highly appreciate quality of Belarusian education

By Yulia Vegero

For the first time in Belarusian history, rectors of Chinese universities have paid a three week visit to the country. Many inter-university agreements have been signed as a result, enabling our two states to exchange specialists and students, form joint infrastructures with China's innovative centres and profitably sell Belarusian technologies to this country.

The Chinese guests visited the capital's major universities (worthy of being the educational flagships of any country) and regional educational establishments. The head of the Chinese delegation, a pro-rector from Xian University of Architecture and Technology, commented that the quality of education offered to foreign citizens in regional educational establishments 'meets the high European level'.

The Chinese rectors met heads of Belarusian universities, discussing how best to develop closer con-



Rectors of Chinese universities visit Vitebsk's State Technological University

tacts and conduct joint research. "Chinese universities train specialists in various areas and are keen to develop interaction with industry, implementing modern technolo-

gies in production," stressed the head of the Chinese delegation.

About 2,000 Chinese students attend Belarusian universities at present, with the figure rising every

year. To date, 26 Belarusian higher educational establishments enjoy 105 direct agreements regarding educational and scientific co-operation with Chinese universities.

## Possibilities for wider application

**Belarusian research and education network integrated into GEANT pan-European data network, with boundary optical frequency transition between Belarusian and Polish research networks**

"Belarus' research and education community is now integrated into Europe's electronic infrastructure, with a high data throughput of 1 Gb/s," explains the Deputy Director General of the United Information Technologies Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Vladimir Anishchenko. He adds that GEANT enables us to carry out research and educational programmes jointly with Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Ukraine and other EU members, via cross-border co-operation. This is in line with the 7th Framework Programme of the EU (FP7) and the *Eastern Partnership* initiative. The pan-European network provides data and materials for computer studies, space programmes, healthcare, nuclear research and more. Moreover, our Belarusian scientists have the opportunity to take part in European projects regarding elementary particle physics, genetic engineering and telemedicine. "Belarusian research has been granted high-speed access to European electronic resources. Meanwhile, Belarusian students can take advantage of GEANT's e-education technologies," notes the expert.

In turn, the Chief Technical Officer of the Trans-European Research and Education Networking Association (TERENA), Valentino Cavalli, stresses that the EU is ready to develop research co-operation with Belarus and carry out joint projects. He explains that one project will help Belarusian students gain wireless Internet access in Belarus and across Europe.

## Place for photo exhibition

Vilnius hosts photography exhibition about National Library of Belarus

By Yelena Yurkyavichene

The *National Library of Belarus* photo exhibition has arrived at the Frantsisk Skorina state school in Lithuania, where teaching is conducted through the Belarusian language. Works by famous Belarusian photographers explore the unique architectural and socio-cultural site of the Belarusian capital.

The exhibition has already toured Warsaw and Riga and will go on to Tallinn, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Germany, after Vilnius. "This is a good opportunity to show current social achievements in Belarus, with the National Library as an example," notes the Ambassador

Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Lithuania, H.E. Mr. Vladimir Drazhin. "I believe that this socio-cultural centre is a unique site within the post-Soviet territory, allowing us to improve our education, expand our knowledge or research our own projects. I'm glad that close contacts have been set up between the National Library of Belarus and Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania. The President of Lithuania, Dalia Grybauskaitė, who visited the library during her recent trip to Minsk, praised it greatly as a powerful socio-cultural project."

According to Mr. Drazhin, the Frantsisk Skorina school is the ideal venue for such an exhibition,

since it boasts an obvious continuation of traditions and history. A monument stands at the school entrance, dedicated to the first printer from Polotsk, Frantsisk Skorina, who also printed books in Lithuania. The Frantsisk Skorina school is ranked among the top schools in the Lithuanian capital.

The exhibition will, no doubt, be attended by teachers, pupils and their parents, representatives of the Belarusian diaspora and school guests. The display, depicting the National Library of Belarus, showcases 25 works by famous Belarusian photographers: Anatoly Dribas, Loly Makedonsky, Victor Suglob, Sergey Plytkovich, Alexander Zhernosek and Valery Kharchenko.

## Invitation for winter walk



Greenhouse open to public at Central Botanical Garden

By Irina Bogomazova

**National Academy of Sciences' Botanical Garden open to visitors throughout winter**

Previously, the garden was closed to visitors during the win-

ter season but will now open its gates to all, allowing us to wander its avenues whatever the weather. If it snows, we can even don our skis. "We're planning a 'green ski track' to allow guests to enjoy the sport while admiring our natural

winter garden," explains Scientific Secretary Mikhail Motyl.

The garden's greenhouse is also to stay open, allowing visitors to view orchids, palms, camellias and other warmth loving plants. Special facilities have been installed to ensure the temperature and micro-climate remain constant.

The National Academy of Sciences' Botanical Garden keeps a gene-pool of plants, being the leading scientific centre of the country for the introduction and acclimatisation of plants, as well as the environmental protection of plants and the study of their physiology and biochemistry. It has received wide recognition and is among the largest botanical gardens in Europe — covering 153 hectares and boasting a large number of collections (over 9,000) from different climatic zones of the planet.

## Accent on virtual services

By Andrey Asfura

**First agro-tourism business incubator to open in Belarus this December**

Business incubator specialists are to offer consultations to agro-ecotourism entrepreneurs regarding the construction and decoration of their rural homesteads, giving advice on how best to care for guests. The incubator is to be located in Minsk, but will offer Internet access via its own website, allowing people countrywide to make use of its services.

"We plan to primarily focus on virtual consultations. Anyone can use our website, receiving answers to their burning questions," explains Valeria Klitsounova, the Chair of the Republican Public Association Country Escape. This should encourage even the most far flung homesteads to make use of the business incubator.

## Wunderkind from grade 11G unequalled

**Mogilev Lyceum (Belarusian-Russian University) student Kirill Bukato wins prestigious 15th International Constellation of Talents Contest**



Kirill Bukato in love with physics

"I'm pleased that my scientific artistry has been so highly acknowledged," says Kirill. "I'm in love with physics and am now interested in two projects: studying the growth of crystals — such as diamonds — and searching for alternative energy sources. We've named our small device a Kelvin's dripper, since it generates electricity from dripping water."

On November 30th, Kirill Bukato is to travel to St. Petersburg to attend a solemn awards ceremony, hosted by the Russian Academy of Sciences' House of Scientists. However, the award is not the only acknowledgement of the young physicist's achievements, as he has also won a 1st degree diploma from the Russian scientific conference for schoolchildren: *Revelation*. Additionally, he has been given a special diploma from the *Sakharov's Readings* international scientific conference and a 2nd degree diploma from Moscow's *Scientists of the Future-2010* contest (for senior schoolchildren).

Kirill has recently been invited to apply for a scholarship from the newly established Young Talents' Support Fund, set up by Nobel Prize laureate Zhores Alferov.