

Society's potential is state's potential

Delegates of 4th All-Belarus People's Congress approve major guidelines of 2011-2015 Socio-Economic Development Programme, as stipulated in adopted resolution

The delegates have supported the major goals being proposed by the country's leadership. These envisage the growth of prosperity and the improvement of quality of life relying on better socio-economic relations, innovative development and enhanced economic competitiveness. "Human potential is the potential of the country; the richer a person is, the richer the country becomes," the resolution states.

Top priority areas include the development of human potential, including raised prosperity, birth rates and life expectancy, the promotion of a

healthy lifestyle and better education. All industries are to be upgraded, with new science-intensive and high-tech enterprises created. Entrepreneurship and business initiative are to be encouraged, boosting the export of goods and services, and promoting well-balanced and efficient foreign trade. Import-substitution manufactures are to be developed further, with sustained regional development. The construction of high quality and affordable housing is on the agenda while raised efficiency in the agricultural industry is another major accent.

State authorities are to fulfil goals and priority



Lively discussion continues even behind the scenes at Congress

directions via the comprehensive use of potential of a strong, efficient and responsible state. All forms of ownership should be further developed, reaching a balance of interests between individuals, society and the state. Moreover, Belarus intends to conduct progressive transformations to promote dynamic socio-economic development.

The key goal of the next five year period is the creation of new production facilities, enterprises and industries manufacturing high-tech and export-ori-

ented products. Of course, a new image is to be created for the Belarusian economy. Energy security and balanced foreign trade are essential for maintaining the independence of the country, its sustained development and the well-being of its citizens. "Belarus should enter the top 50 countries regarding the highest Human Development Index," the resolution states.

The delegates acknowledged the importance of the 2006-2010 Socio-Economic Development Programme for the Republic

of Belarus and the significance of prompt measures to mitigate the consequences of the global financial and economic crisis to ensure the country's economic growth and prosperity. "Most of the goals set by the Programme have been fulfilled; GDP has risen by over 40 percent, while the energy intensity of GDP has fallen by a quarter. Capital investments have more than doubled while real incomes have risen 75 percent. Over the last decade, the country's GDP has doubled," the document states.

4th All-Belarus People's Congress reports

Sharp feeling of time

Alexander YAKOBSON, the Chairman of the Gomel Regional Executive Committee:

Belarus has chosen its own development model, based on considered, thoroughly thought-out and evolutionary transformations. Everyone remembers the time when the country's leadership had to 'wreck its brains' over how to feed people and sell our manufactures. Even ten years ago, many doubted the reality of these plans; now, we're speaking about the modernisation and technical renewal of the whole production branch, building the state's 'smart economy', based on innovations and high technologies...

These tasks could hardly be solved without the major character — the nation! An intellectual economy can only be created by well trained, clever and talented people, who are able to think in a modern way.

Our national priority for the coming five years can be figuratively described as having three 'i's: initiative, innovation and investments. Development of human potential is impossible without initiative; modernisation of production and creation of high technologies rely on innovation; and sustainable development of regions requires investment.

Address of the participants of 4th All-Belarus People's Congress

Dear fellow countrymen!

The 4th All-Belarus People's Congress is a landmark event in the life of our country. Time has proven the importance of this purely democratic Forum, which represents a true mechanism of the Belarusian nation's direct participation in managing the state.

Today, on the threshold of the next five year plan, we — delegates of the 4th All-Belarus People's Congress — have approved major guidelines for the 2011-2015 Programme for Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus. It's vital that this document is guided by our citizens' desires. Accordingly, we've approved a strategy and outlined the tasks which will construct our state over the coming years.

The essence of this strategy is the state's care for each resident of Belarus.

Our goal — to build a state for the nation — remains unchanged. Such a policy, alongside ensuring the rights and freedoms of citizens and

interaction between state authorities and civil society structures, promotes national and inter-confessional accord in Belarus, while providing stability and civil peace.

A Belarusian model of development has been created, under the guidance of the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko. It has proven its efficiency even under conditions of global financial crisis. Over the last five years, hundreds of new enterprises have been constructed and modernised, with large-scale social programmes implemented. Meanwhile, salaries, pensions and allowances have risen considerably.

Following its chosen socio-political course, Belarus, according to UN data, is ranked among those countries boasting a high Human Development Index. Over the past five years, it has strengthened its position, now occupying 61st place, ahead of other CIS states.

A State Programme of Rural Revival and Development is being actively implemented

in the republic. Today, Belarus is one of the leading food suppliers among Eastern European states. Economic growth in sovereign Belarus strongly supports national security and the defence capacity of our country.

Liberalisation and structural economic reform will logically continue our Belarusian socio-economic course over the next five years. Red tape reduction in state authorities, the creation of an attractive investment climate and entrepreneurial promotion will be important areas, in addition to the development of high-tech manufactures and growing exports of goods and services. These should result in the appearance of comfortable (to the uttermost) conditions for revealing capabilities of the country's each citizen.

This is the only way to raise the population's prosperity and bring positive demographic change. It will also create conditions for worthy education for our new generations while raising stand-

ards of living for Belarusians towards those of Europe.

People are the country's major treasure. People's well-being, optimism and confidence in the future are the ultimate goals of state policy, which turns positive pre-conditions into reality. We completely support priorities in the demographic sphere, clearly defined by the President and aiming to increase life expectancy, birth rates and the size of the population.

The Belarusian nation clearly understands that our country can't fully realise large-scale projects relating to socio-economic development without partnership and mutually beneficial relations with Russia and other CIS states, as well as China, Venezuela, the EU, the USA and other countries.

We confirm the multi-vector foreign policy of our state and hope for equal and good neighbourly relations with every country of the world, regardless of its political system or state structure. Belarus will continue to de-

velop the principles of an open society, taking into account national interests while favouring trust and mutual support in its relations with other states.

We call on our foreign partners to activate and expand collaboration with Belarus in all areas of mutual interest.

Dear fellow countrymen! We — delegates of the 4th All-Belarus People's Congress — are convinced that the Belarusian nation, with its natural wisdom, talent and many years of experience, will again make the right democratic choice for the future.

The country is entering a new stage of development of Belarusian nationhood, which requires the unity and solidarity of the whole nation. We see Belarus as a strong, flourishing and economically powerful state, occupying a worthy place worldwide. We believe that the Belarusian nation will achieve its goals through purposefulness, inherent hard work, diligence, determination and tolerance.

Careful stewardship of land

Nikolay RADOMAN, the Chairman of the Minsk Regional Agro-Industrial Union:

We need the help of scientists today. Further innovative development of the agricultural sphere, with the use of science, is needed. The time has come for genetics to be applied in our work with animals and plants. It's necessary to focus more on raising the economic efficiency of agricultural production — including reducing prime cost and increasing the share of energy saving technologies. Quality also needs attention, since it raises the competitiveness of our products. Eventually, production costs should fall, while favourably influencing people's quality of life.

We, manufacturers, have many times discussed our programme, jointly with scientists. We've made additions and ask you to adopt it. It will become another landmark step for rural development and the improvement of village workers' lives.