

Secure and tolerant country

By Mikhail Malashenkov

Sholeh Safavi, of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, has told the *New Horizon International Contest on the Rights of Refugees at the Belarusian Interior Ministry's Academy that Belarus offers a safe haven for refugees, since it does not choose to immediately return them to their country of origin.*

The country considers their petitions carefully and provides schooling for the children of those applying for refugee status, as it does for Belarusian citizens. Asylum seekers are also granted equal rights to seek employment and social protection. According to UNHCR data, over the last 2-3 years, 150-160 people have annually applied to the Belarusian authorities for refugee status. Moreover, 5-10 percent of these receive this status; the others are granted additional forms of protection or residence permits. Belarus primarily remains a transit country for those who see themselves as refugees.

Ms. Safavi underlined that Belarus is a secure and tolerant country, adding that refugees are primarily seeking safe asylum. Representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan took part in the international competition in Minsk, featuring Sholeh Safavi.

Ultra high technologies

Alexander Lukashenko meets top executives of China Great Wall Industry Corporation, promoting new avenues for Minsk-Beijing strategic co-operation

By Igor Slavinsky

The Great Wall Industry Corporation is among the largest Chinese state-owned companies, employing over 100,000 people. It makes satellites and renders services for their launch, while building ground control complexes. Alongside manufacturing space industry products, the company has recently become involved in alternative energy sources, petrochemistry and electronics — aiming to diversify its production.

“We are well aware of the operation of your company and the ambitious projects that you have been implementing since 1980. We're interested in co-operation,” Alexander Lukashenko told his guests. “We already have projects upon which we have agreed collaboration; these are worth millions of Dollars in the field of high technologies.” As the Presidential Press Service explains, Chinese specialists take part in creating the national system of satellite communication and broadcasting.

The President also assured the Chinese that he is ready to study any proposals regarding Great Wall's activity in Belarus. He is also ready to propose a range of projects to the Chinese, for joint realisation, on mutually beneficial terms.



Alexander Lukashenko meets top executives of China Great Wall Industry Corporation

Chinese business is coming to Belarus en masse, supplying a wide range of consumer products (as seen worldwide). Our bilateral turnover reached \$2.3bn last year but, importantly, Chinese investments are also arriving in Belarus. Among the most successful examples of co-operation are the production of white goods at Horizont, the reconstruction of Minsk's heat and power stations and the

construction of cement plants. Beijing has also opened a \$15bn credit line to Minsk, to be used to pay for Chinese equipment and services.

China is competitive on the global technologies market. It began by producing 'Great Wall' canned stewed meat but is now mastering the cosmos, being among the top three cosmic states worldwide. Its expenditure on defence and space technologies is growing faster than

its GDP. Experts admit that China is now ahead of Russia in many spheres.

Yin Liming, the President of China Great Wall Industry Corporation, notes, “We have great hopes for starting co-operation with Belarus in the field of satellite communication, remote Earth sensing and other high-tech areas — in order to advance our bilateral interaction.”

Partners make important move

Chinese Bel Huawei Technologies implementing \$200,000 project to create and test intellectual video surveillance system at Belarusian state border

Dmitry Shugai, the Deputy Chairman of the State Border Committee of Belarus, notes that the creation of the intellectual video surveillance system is the most promising avenue regarding the protection of security at the Belarusian border.

The project is to be implemented

within 8-12 months, studying how video can be used to record violations at the border. Information will be automatically delivered to border subdivisions, with time and place recorded. Trials are running along two sections of the Brest border, located near the Varshavsky Most border checkpoint.

“It's no accident that we've chosen this company for co-operation. Bel Huawei Technologies has long worked on the Belarusian market and has gained a good reputation.

\$200,000 has been allocated by the company to the State Border Committee as gratuitous technical assistance,” stresses Mr. Shugai.

Bel Huawei Technologies' Director General, Xu Zhidong, notes that his company views the Belarusian market as attractive and important. “We're aware of how vital this project is for Belarus, so have decided to make something important and useful for the country where we've been working for several years,” he explains.

Scientific views expressed on integration processes

Mentality of Slavs and Integration Processes international scientific conference held at Pavel Sukhoi State Technical University in Gomel

The forum has taken place for the seventh time, with the cultural capital of Belarus and the CIS hosting scientific debates on various aspects of integration, in a broad format. The event gathered over 200 leading university representatives from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Po-

land and Lithuania.

The forum's plenary and sectional sittings studied problems relating to integration, giving recommendations on how best to develop geopolitical, economic and socio-cultural interaction between Slavonic states, while preserving their unique national identities. The conference's organisational committee collected 190 reports ranging from philosophy, sociology, history, economy and culture, for further publishing.

Novopolotsk to become truly child friendly city

By Darya Rimasheva

Novopolotsk to join UNICEF Child Friendly City initiative

The initiative aims to care for children, creating favourable conditions for their birth and education, healthcare and wellbeing, including support for children's and youth initiatives.

Novopolotsk is the first city in the region whose local authorities provide material aid to families with newborn infants and has proclaimed 2011 to be the Year of Youth. Its city authorities are eager to open a youth job centre, while promoting secondary employment for students, helping school-leavers choose professions



Child friendly city

which may benefit the city.

Novopolostk City Executive Committee has signed an agreement with UNICEF, whose global initiative — *Child Friendly City*

— aims to reduce the negative impact of urban living on children, maximising the opportunities of city life. Participation in the initiative contributes to the fulfilment of obligations taken on by a country in signing the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The *Child Friendly City* initiative is being realised in London, Paris, Munich, Buenos Aires, and in such countries as France, Spain, Italy, Holland, Sweden and Brazil. All are uniting under national and international networks. In Belarus, Pinsk, Pruzhany, Borisov, Dobrush and Soligorsk are already taking part, with Minsk, Brest, Lida, Novopolotsk, Gomel and Shklov joining this year.

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