

Venue for business meetings

Lida welcomes participants and guests of 6th regional exhibition-presentation

By Yelena Kabaeva

“The region is joining an international level and is confidently proclaiming itself,” noted the Chairman of the Lida District Executive Committee, Alexander Ostrovsky, on opening the event. “We are enhancing volumes in all branches, while relying on business co-operation and new projects. Innovations, investments and initiative will guarantee sustainable economic growth this year.”

Lida's House of Culture and its grounds richly demonstrated dairy products and pancakes made from local flour (cooked on the spot), bedroom furniture and pine tables. New acquaintances were made while talks were conducted. Guests and participants of the fair were attracted by diverse agricultural machinery, showcased in the open air. Over 70 leading enterprises from the Lida and Grodno districts took part, while delegations from twenty countries attended, including 25 representatives of foreign missions in Belarus and those from Russian and Lithuanian twin cities.

Vitalur shop and the multifunctional sports-recreational Olympia complex were launched during the event. The latter is designed for both sportsmen and ordinary city residents, offering a modern swimming



Lida becomes venue for business meetings and international level negotiations for two days

pool, a hall for team sports, a gym, a hall for fighting and another for aerobics and other sports. In fact, Olympia is not the last sports facility to be built in Lida; by July-August, a new stadium will be ready, featuring a football pitch, running tracks and

a place for track and field athletics. Over 20 sports will be available in this mini-town.

The district centre was a venue for business meetings and international level negotiations for two days. The Lida District's partners

— old and new — seem endless in number: Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Poland, India, Romania, Latvia, Germany, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Vietnam, Italy, Iraq, Korea, Palestine, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Slovakia, Armenia and China.

As part of the fair, the 4th International Economic Forum was held, gathering representatives of business circles and diplomatic missions from 20 countries. The forum's plenary sessions tackled numerous issues: *The Economic Development of the Regions via Innovations and Investments; Investment Attraction via Regional Partnership; Marketing of Regions — Global and Domestic Experience; Electronic Trade on Global Markets. How to Raise Exports of Belarusian Goods and Services; and Potential for Entrepreneurship, Private-State Partnership and Business Initiative.* The largest enterprises of the Lida District took part in discussions and round table talks on various topics.

The organisers of the event are convinced that such meetings inspire co-operation between cities, regions and companies, while promoting export and investment potential and assisting in the realisation of investment projects. During the recent fair, a co-operative agreement was signed with the administration of twin city Dimitrovgrad. Moreover, the Lida District Executive Committee plans to participate in international projects worth over 9m Euros. Protocols of intentions were concluded with a range of organisations during the International Economic Forum.

Polish investors show their interest

By Sergey Kucherov

Polish Decora S.A. invests around \$3m in expanding activity and establishing new production facility for construction materials within Vitebsk free economic zone

An agreement has been concluded following negotiations between the Head of the Vitebsk FEZ Administration, Sergey Stashevsky, and representatives of the Polish investor — a founder of the FEZ

resident company Decora East. The new venture is to produce backer board for laminated flooring, with the investor eager to buy technological equipment and revamp a production facility on loan from a Vitebsk company this year. If all rent related issues are settled promptly, then production should launch in Q1 2012.

The Polish company is currently implementing an investment project to manufacture decoration materials — worth over 7.5m Euros — at the Vitebsk FEZ.

Special status for conscientious carriers

By Olga Badueva

Authorised logistical operators could appear in Belarus as logistical system develops

“We are considering special status for conscientious logistical companies, with less customs control over their movement of transit cargoes,” explains Maxim Gubsky, Belintertrans' Deputy General Director. “This would allow the most competitive market participants to enjoy a simplified regime of cargo transportation.”

According to Mr. Gubsky, similar companies success-

fully operate in many European countries; in Russia and Poland, there are several dozen authorised logistical operators while, in Ukraine, there are only ten and five in Lithuania. It is expected that such operators will appear in Belarus by late 2011.

At present, our Republic is realising 23 investment projects dealing with the construction of logistical centres — as part of its logistical system development programme, running until 2015. The total volume of investments exceeds Br3 trillion, with Br226bn already mastered.

Partnership to ensure development

By Olga Butrimovich

Asahi Glass Company keen to launch joint glass industry projects with Belarus

The Concern's Director General for the CIS, Vladimir Shigaev, has announced his company's plans on meeting Belarus' Prime Minister, Mikhail Myasnikov. He

notes that Asahi Glass Company boasts huge experience in both reorganising existing glass companies and in creating new plants. “We see our contacts with Belarus as another step in bringing investments to the country,” asserts Mr. Shigaev, adding that he admires Belarus' potential in the glass industry. Asahi Glass Company is keen to in-

vest in promising projects in this field.

In turn, Mr. Myasnikov stresses that Belarus is open to co-operation, noting, “It's better to develop in partnership. Our meeting highlights prospects for co-operation and joint projects. You have 100 years of experience in this field, while accounting for 30 percent

of the world's glass. Belarus also occupies a significant segment of this market.”

Asahi Glass Company is a transnational corporation headquartered in Japan. Founded in 1903, it sells 30 percent of the world's glass and 70 percent of hi-tech glass for electronics. In 2010, it sold about \$12bn of products.

Co-operation expands

Turkish Taysad eager to co-operate in Belarusian car building



Taysad's representatives gain acquaintance with Mogilevtransmash machinery

On meeting representatives from the Mogilev Regional Executive Committee, the President of Taysad Association, Celal Kaya, noted his interest in co-operation with Belarusian car producers. He explains that Turkish

companies producing parts and components are eager to set up joint ventures and establish close co-operation. “In recent years, Turkey's industry has been vigorously developing. We now aim to branch out into Europe and the CIS.

We see Belarus as a reliable partner for investments and promoting mutually beneficial co-operation. We also view your country as a unique gateway to Russia's automobile market,” Mr. Kaya asserts.

Taysad representatives are

convinced that information on the capacity of Belarus' economy and its automobile manufacturing industry, collected during their visit to Belarus, will encourage Turkish businessmen to enhance further co-operation.

The Mogilev Regional Executive Committee has promised to render all possible assistance in realising investment projects for new and joint companies with Turkish investments in the region. Several companies with Turkish capital already successfully operate in the Mogilev Region, mostly selling their manufactures abroad.

Taysad hopes to collaborate with the Mogilev FEZ Administration, Mogilev Automobile Plant and MAZ's Mogilevtransmash Plant.