

# Good summer involves work

Belarusian university students prefer 'working semester' instead of easy going beach holidaying

By Marina Shumilo

Dressed in dark blue uniform bearing the national flag, these young people go to work each morning. For their strong character and determination, they are seen as true 'fighters'...

The student movement is almost 50 years old, having been formed in 1963 — when young people came to Kazakhstan from Belarus and other Soviet republics. Later, they moved to Moldova, Lithuania and Georgia. In Soviet times, students helped construct today's famous international Artek Camp in Crimea and Minsk National Airport. Several generations of young people have worked as part of student squads, with the movement remaining popular even now.

Working on a student team is a good opportunity to spend summer holidays usefully. "Every year, I work on a Belarusian State University student squad," notes BSU Radio-Physics and Computer Technologies student Andrey Voloshin. "It's an easy way to earn money while receiving a hostel place — much cheaper and more convenient than renting a flat. The hostel is even situated near the University building."

Students receive salaries equal to those paid to qualified staff while being exempt from income tax. They quite often work in this way rather



**Participation in student movement provides youngsters with chance to develop themselves**

than taking ordinary jobs, since no experience is required to work with a student team; special preparatory courses are organised for new-comers. Moreover, it's always more interesting to work alongside your peers, with some even able to travel abroad.

This summer, Russia's Zapolzharie Camp was a destination for

those from the Respublika teaching team — working as housekeepers, cooks and, even, DJs. Respublika is among the largest student teams countrywide, being founded 17 years ago. Almost 10,000 youngsters from Belarusian universities have worked with it to date. Belarusian State Economic University student Ksenia Derkach tells us,

"Working at a camp offers a different life, with its own joys and, of course, problems. I decided to work as a housekeeper since no other job brings as much joy as working with children."

Other occupations on offer are those on construction sites and working as train conductors; there are even jobs helping university en-

rolment commissions. The Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics helps teach computer literacy, while a local history team is aiding the restoration of a 17th century castle and church in the village of Lyubcha (Grodno Region).

Naturally, students are encouraged to develop their own personalities. "I've learnt to take responsibility for myself and for those around me," stresses Ksenia Derkach. "I've also learnt to trust people. It's an experience you find nowhere else."

Neighbouring countries are always pleased to receive help from Belarusian students. This summer, many are working in Russian Sochi, helping prepare the city for the forthcoming Olympics. Jointly with peers from the CIS and Baltic States, they're building a railroad and a motorway. Another two squads have headed for the Yamal Peninsula (Chita Region). Others have remained in Belarus this summer, some helping construct the new Great Patriotic War Museum building in Minsk — a job requiring huge responsibility. Others are working on Grodno's new hydroelectric station.

Summer is in full swing but these young people are not afraid of heat or rain. They've chosen jobs which will yield dividends: financially and in life experience.

## Ability to work hard helps bring all dreams to life

Teachers and youngsters from Oshmyany boarding school (Grodno Region) have long worked together on *School-Factory* project as one big family

By Lyudmila Minokova

The 'factory' boasts timber processing facilities, as well as sewing and knitting lines, a hairdressing salon and the editorial office of *Rodnik* newspaper. Some items are used to improve the school's everyday life while others are sold; the factory often receives orders for beds, chairs and tables — all made by the children. In fact, their quality is just as good as that seen in commercial factories, as is evident by the canteen tables and benches and classroom cabinets. It's no wonder that they're in such demand. The school also has its own farm, with rabbits and quails, in addition to its own mill, greenhouses, glasshouses, a garden and courtyard.

"Each child has the opportunity to explore their skills and talents," explains Director Vladimir Bizuk. "The most important thing is for children to view their life with different eyes, understanding that they've not been thrown away — that they can do something. Youngsters feel part of the

school revival, although it's not obligatory to produce anything. They can be involved in designing, modeling and drafting. Some eagerly take care of animals and our vegetable garden while dreaming of becoming farmers."

*Praleski* choir, headed by Olga Yemelyanova for over 50 years, embraces all those keen on singing. Olga's choir has attended various international festivals and regularly performs on the stage of the Belarusian State Philharmonic. Last year, it even sang at the Gnessins' Academy of Music.

Oshmyany's boarding school also hosts a range of entertainments for its pupils, organised by sponsors and partners. For instance, in 2010, the Italian Aiutlamoli

a Vivere charity conducted a master class by Italian clowns. The Rotary Club of

Minsk took the children to BOX CAR international competitions, held in Lithuanian Kaunas (the cart uses four bicycle wheels, with no engine,

brakes or accelerator, and is sent down an incline, traveling under the momentum of gravity before being pushed aside by two assistants at the bottom). Members of the Rotary Club of Kaunas have donated eight such handmade 'vehicles' to the boarding school and, this year, the school hosted its own international competition.

Of course, problems arose, since the competition was a new one for Belarus. Difficulties arose at the Belarusian-Lithuanian border, with customs officials unsure of whether to incur duties on the carts (being used to calculating fees depending on engine capacity). Oshmyany's administration stepped in to help settle the issue and the contest finally took place.

Oshmyany now plans to expand the event, creating several more box cars in the school workshop. As computer tables and built-in cabinets are easily produced there, the youngsters will undoubtedly be able to cope with making the box cars.



**Winners of Oshmyany competition**

## Greenplaza to offer road-side services

By Yelena Mishenkova

**Four-star hotel to be built in Minsk Region in two years' time**

The future Greenplaza Hotel is to be constructed seven kilometres from Minsk National Airport, at the crossroads of the M1 and M2 motorways. It is to welcome its first guests in 2013. "The hotel will offer 97 rooms, in addition to a swimming pool, a sauna and a restaurant," explains Lyudmila Nichayuk, the Director of the building company — Agorabel JSC.

"Those wishing to holiday independently can stay in traditional wooden cabins and we

are planning a barbecue zone, with a Russian stove."

Prior to designing the hotel, foreign experience of road-side services was studied, with a German company participating at the development stage. Agorabel JSC has already received construction documentation and has concluded an investment agreement with the Minsk Regional Executive Committee. Work has begun, envisaging \$12m of investments (the company's own funds and loans).

The company has previously constructed a business centre and now acts as a subcontractor for several Minsk housing sites.

## First energy block to become operational in six years' time

**Platform with administrative building will be first stage of Belarusian nuclear power station**

Representatives from interested ministries recently met at the National Press Centre to announce that the nuclear power station is to be a Russian 'AES-2006' project, developed by St. Petersburg's Scientific Research and De-

sign Institute Atomenergoproekt (part of Russia's Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation).

In September, foundations will be dug; preparations are now underway, with road and rail links being constructed and a production base being formed. The nuclear power station's first block should launch in 2017, with the second following in 2018.