

Serious help for the economy

Belarus' cement industry shifts from gas to coal

By Tatiana Kovalevskaya

Not long ago, the Belarusian Cement Plant (BCP) and China's Citic International Co-operation CO, Ltd signed an acceptance memorandum for a coal preparation workshop at the plant. BCP General Director Vladimir Kiselev notes modestly that 'this is only the first tiny step'; further work lies ahead regarding the launch of a second line to produce cement by the 'dry' process.

The new coal preparation workshop is a huge help to the plant and the economy overall, as highlighted by Belarus' Deputy Prime Minister, Anatoly Kalinin. Speaking at the document's signing, he noted

that specialists have been working day and night to ensure the facility comes into operation ahead of schedule. Impressively, by reducing gas consumption by 25 percent, this saves around \$3m every month.

Three cement plants are realising similar projects in the Republic at present: the Belarusian Cement Plant, Krasnoselskstroyaterialy and Krichevsementnoshifer. "We've approached a final stage at two of these sites, ensuring additional production of 3.6m tonnes of cement next year," Mr. Kalinin announced. "The figure is to reach 5m tonnes once the third plant is complete in the first quarter of 2012." He stressed that this should reduce the acute need for this raw material



Cement branch enterprises increase sales volumes abroad

for the construction branch, while increasing exports. Mr. Kalinin added that there are no problems regarding financing for innovative projects, with all loans arriving on

time. He has invited Chinese Citic to continue collaboration via joint facilities with construction and engineering companies.

Mr. Kiselev emphasised that,

this year, the cement plants aim to raise production volumes, with sales ensured immediately rather than goods being sent to warehouses.

Technologies of zinc valley

Over Br17.6bn directed to finish construction of HD galvanising plant for large-size metal constructions in Grodno Region's Lida District

The contest commission of the State Science and Technology Committee has decided to allo-

cate funds from the Belarusian Innovation Fund to set up a facility to galvanise large-sized metal constructions. The factory will be unrivalled in Belarus, boasting a capacity of up to 40,000 tonnes per year and will create additional jobs.

HD galvanising is known as the most efficient way to prevent rust, with protection lasting 25-30 years. However, Belarus currently lacks galvanising technologies and facilities, being obliged to use the services of enterprises in Russia and Poland.

One's own image, built on decades of traditions

High-rise buildings to create new skyline for Belarusian capital while suburbs to embrace low-rise buildings



Architects use high-rise buildings to create memorable city skyline

By Maria Dragunova

Throughout Belarus, there are 205 towns and similar sized settlements, yet only 70 (one third) have a true plan for future development, having a town-planning policy. The Architecture and Construction Ministry notes that a range of issues surround property construction; solutions will be required over the coming five years. What is likely to have changed in our towns and cities by 2015?

According to statistical data, Belarus is one of the most urbanised countries in the CIS, with around 75 percent of the population residing in cities. Increasing numbers of Belarusians aim to settle in the capital, as

well as in regional and large centres. The creation of almost 2,000 agrotowns in the last five years has not considerably changed the situation, although the quality of life in rural areas has risen significantly.

Minsk, like other cities, requires a greater volume of safe, comfortable accommodation. The Presidential Decree 'On Approving the Major Guidelines of the City-Planning Policy of the Republic of Belarus for 2011-2015', signed in late August, should change the situation.

According to the Architecture and Construction Ministry's Main Department for Project Works, City-Planning and Architecture, the adopted document continues the

old programme while taking into account new approaches towards the transformation of towns and settlements. In particular, the image of towns is being given importance, with traditions to be used to shape the identity of each one. A detailed plan of the historical part of each settlement, where these exist, is vital.

Pedestrian zones are to be highlighted while small and medium-sized towns are to be given low-rise housing: town houses and two- and three-storey buildings. In contrast, Minsk is to receive 16-20-storey buildings, creating a recognisable skyline for the Belarusian capital. Planners have no intention of expanding the footprint of the city however.

Sunrise for solar energy sphere

Foundations for development of this branch established in Belarus

By Olga Belyavskaya

The Deputy Academician-Secretary of the National Academy of Sciences' Department for Physics, Mathematics and Informatics, Sergey Kilin, recently announced at the 3rd Congress of Belarus' Physicists that 'it's possible to continuously transform solar light into electricity', adding that 'our task is to do this efficiently'. On establishing the foundations of solar energy development, Belarusian scientists are keen to reduce the price of available technologies.

"The cost of the elements we currently use is rather high, so the transformation of solar light into electricity is correspondingly costly. Our physicists are working to make these elements cheaper and, accordingly, more accessible to consumers," noted the scientist, adding that success directly depends on fundamental research.

In developing technologies and innovative solutions for solar energy, our domestic scientists are closely liaising with European colleagues (primarily, from Germany and Spain). They're sharing experience and jointly realising sci-tech projects.

According to Mr. Kilin, physics is the focus of modern science, tackling almost every sphere — including machine building and medicine. Belarusian developments in the field are highly appreciated by the international scientific community, including



Solar panel production

unique medical devices for treating a wide range of illnesses and a laser system to allow heavy trucks vision under severe climatic conditions. Scientists are now preparing proposals for the future Belarusian nuclear power station, while continuing studies in the fields of molecular physics and nano-photonics.

Participants of the Minsk Congress debated fundamental knowledge, materials, technologies and methods of diagnosis, in addition to physics' contribution into such spheres as energy saving, ecology and medicine. The role of this science in human life was discussed and about 250 reports were delivered by scientists from Belarus, Ukraine, Estonia, the USA, China, Japan, Germany and the SAR.