

Bus caravan to Armenia

Armenia keen to purchase several hundred buses from Belarus

The trade potential of Belarus and Armenia is much greater than current figures demonstrate, stresses the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Armenia to Belarus, H.E. Mr. Armen Khachaturyan. He notes that, from January-July 2011, our two states' turnover reached about \$16.5m. It has steadily grown in recent years — rising over 20-fold in the past decade. Naturally, this is a true achievement, especially as there are no direct railway routes linking our countries.

Last year, Armenia launched a Belarusian trading house selling only Belarus-made products. In addition, over 20 enterprises with Belarusian capital are registered in Armenia. Belarus exports 80 varieties of goods to Armenia: primarily machinery, tractors, construction materials, spare parts, medicines, plastic goods, tyres and engines. In turn, Armenia sells Belarus mineral water, chemical products, medicines, electro-technical equipment and strong alcoholic beverages. According to the Ambassador, Armenia is now keen to buy Belarusian buses, needing several hundred; co-operation with MAZ JSC is possible.

Connected to latest computer technology

Chinese Huawei opens educational centre in Minsk

The centre is located at the Higher State College of Communications — established in line with an agreement between Bel Huawei LLC and the College. Modern 'packet switching' technologies are now available to students; as College Rector Andrei Zenevich admits, 'our future relies on such educational centres'. 'Co-operation with the Chinese company has enabled our students to use the most advanced equipment,' he notes.

According to Mr. Zenevich, the Chinese company's interest in opening the centre in Belarus is rooted primarily in the need to train specialists to operate modern equipment. Trainees will later be offered employment with Bel Huawei LLC, Beltelecom and mobile communication providers.

The Director General of Bel Huawei LLC, Xu Zhidong, stresses that the Chinese telecommunications equipment manufacturer is ready to organise further training for Belarusian specialists.

Machinery for new time

Machine building has always been a calling card for Belarus but how are MAZ, BelAZ, Gomselmash and other enterprises to preserve and develop their existing leadership on a competitive world market?

Belarus was often called 'an assembly workshop' for the Soviet Union, with its

when that huge Soviet 'assembly line' split, enterprises had to rebuild their supply

with dignity, as well confirmed by the fact that, on average, two-thirds of all domestically produced machinery is exported. BelAZ pro-

fifth for metal cord production.

"The domestic machine building complex is of great significance to our economy," asserts Belarus' Industry Minister, Dmitry Katerinich. "Our qualified staff create innovative products which have gained worthy recognition across agro-industrial and hous-

mand abroad."

How has the Belarusian machine building industry succeeded in preserving and developing its potential? Specialists from the Industry Ministry believe that co-operative ties were essential. Domestically produced engines were supplied to GAZ and ZiL, while the Minsk Tractor Works and the Minsk Automobile Works closely liaised with Russian suppliers. The import substitution policy has also played a role in supporting the machine building branch, enabling Belarusian enterprises to receive orders previously imported from abroad. Co-operative ties between plants (subordinate to the Industry Ministry) have also yielded results while the production of absolutely new machinery or machinery of a higher quality has allowed imports to be reduced.

The Industry Ministry notes that 'interaction with foreign partners is currently based on mutual benefit'. Co-operation profitable for all sides is vital, as is the raising of exports and reduction of imports. Belarus aims to only import those goods which are not manufactured domestically.



Minsk Automobile Works' innovative produce gains well-deserved recognition among customers

highly qualified staff and huge production facilities. The Republic manufactured goods using components from across the USSR. However,

and sales network independently; many failed, leading to closure.

Belarusian industrial giants survived the challenge

duces a third of the world's quarry trucks while MTZ manufactures every seventh tractor. Meanwhile, the Belarusian Steel Works is ranked

ing-communal complexes, as well as with the forestry, transport, communications and healthcare branches. Our produce is also much in de-

Advanced developments open new possibilities for medicine and industry

By Olga Borovkova

Scientists from Belarusian National Academy of Sciences' Physics Institute develop new generation diode-pumped solid-state lasers

"This is a new direction for modern laser physics, as these are absolutely new lasers in size, mass and energy saving capacity," explains the Institute's Director, Vladimir Kabanov. The sphere of application is extensive, including medicine and industry. In addition, the new lasers are safer for

eyes than previous models, allowing greater possibilities for their use in distance measuring. They are smaller and enjoy greater functional options, ensuring application across a wide range of practical fields.

Demand from abroad is evident, with India among the first to show interest in our Belarusian physicists' advanced technologies. Mr. Kabanov notes, "We've made a breakthrough in this direction, reaching an advanced position worldwide. We are now not merely developing but producing these lasers."



Laser complexes applied to diverse technological tasks

Air routes with land connections

By Dmitry Uspensky

Belavia National Airline routes considerably expanded to include almost all German cities

Passengers can now fly directly to Frankfurt-am-Main, Berlin and Hannover, with transfers to a train provided quickly and conveniently, saving money on

travel.

Olga Gerasenko, from Belavia's PR Department, explains, "Within 24 hours of arrival in Germany and 24 hours before your departure, you can use your ticket to make train transfers. There's no restriction on which trains you can use: simply select whatever works best for you."

A similar agreement was signed with Belgian Railways in late July. Railway routes between Amsterdam and Brussels and Amsterdam and Antwerp are to link to the Minsk-Amsterdam flight, with combined tickets perhaps introduced to other states.

Belarus is yet to construct a direct electric train

connection from Minsk National Airport to the railway station in the capital and the airport still lacks the necessary volume of traffic to warrant the building of an actual railway station. It's an issue which is likely to become more acute after the global reconstruction of the airport, scheduled for 2014.

Data exchange agreed

Railway administrations of Belarus, Ukraine and Lithuania agree electronic data interchange

Electronic data interchange and the efficiency of rolling stock operations were discussed at a recent session in Brest. "The parties have agreed on the feasibility of electronic data interchange for transporting cargo. It was noted that the volume of transferred information submitted by Belarusian Railways has risen sharply, which allows switching to commercial use of EDI," the Belarusian Railways Press Service has announced.

Belarusian Railways handles about 80 percent of cargo and over 40 percent of passenger transportation through Belarus. Its passenger flows connect Belarus with Amsterdam, Berlin, Warsaw, Prague, Basel, Varna, Bucharest, Sofia, Vienna and Konstanz as well as the capitals and administrative centres of Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Moldova and Kazakhstan.