

# Space information to become more available to researchers

Belarusian and Russian scientists plan to unite two states' supercomputer networks



Head of Supercomputer Technologies Department at Belarusian State University, Victor Kuchin, is pleased with 'SKIF' supercomputer

The measure will allow scientists to efficiently process the huge volumes of data from the Earth's orbiting satellites, for processing and further distribution. Data is stored in e-archives, as ordinary computers lack enough processing power. In fact, multiple supercomputers are needed for the task, provided by the Belarusian

National Academy of Sciences' United Institute of Informatics Problems and the Russian Skolkovo Foundation. As a result, Belarusian scientific institutions will be able to use data from Russian satellites, while that from our Belarusian satellite — after its launch — will be shared with Russian researchers.

Our two countries' interested agencies eagerly await the project, which is among many agreed during the Belarusian-Russian forum, recently held in Minsk. It was the largest event within Belarusian Innovation Week, with about 800 promising sci-tech developments on show. A hundred are expected to generate a real economic return

in the near future, which inspired interest from 15 countries.

The Chairman of Belarus' State Science and Technology Committee, Igor Voitov, notes the many agreements signed during the forum, including the establishment of a consortium which is to include the Kurchatov Institute. Several projects in

the field of petro-chemistry are planned jointly with Finmash Group, in addition to the establishment of a centre of nanotechnologies (with participation from the Planar State Scientific Production Association of Precise Mechanical Engineering and several Russian companies). New liaisons in heavy machine building are being negotiated, with the heads of Minsk's High-Tech Park meeting Russian Skolkovo for the first time. Belarusian specialists already participate in several projects in the field of information-communication technologies, medicine and energy efficiency, while the High-Tech Park is ready for interaction in the IT industry.

Belarusian-Russian co-operation is developing dynamically via sci-tech and production programmes financed from the Union State budget. A special sitting was devoted to them, featuring representatives of the Union State Standing Committee. "A dozen joint programmes are already operational, with fourteen new ones outlined for the coming year," stresses Mr. Voitov. "The concepts for ten have been approved, with others under development."

The CIS Interstate Council on Co-operation in the Sci-Tech and Innovative Spheres discussed existing Union State programmes and Kazakhstan noted its readiness to contribute its effort. The three states — members of the Customs Union and the Single Economic Space — plan to establish a EurAsEC venture fund by the end of the year, with each side injecting \$1m at the initial stage — to facilitate the realisation of joint projects.

## Childhood hobby turns into serious occupation on achieving adult age

By Nadezhda Radivon

**Geography teacher from Slutsk, Leonid Vecher, gathers Belarus' largest collection of irons**

The collection includes over 370 exhibits, covering Belarusian, Ukrainian, Polish and French irons. Several types are on display: cast-iron (heated on the stove), hollow irons and those using coal. Some have their inserts removed, placed on the fire and then placed inside once more; the most interesting is from 1827.

The collector admits that he became keen on collecting in childhood, having first collected postage stamps, then jubilee roubles, banknotes and match boxes (he still boasts an impressive collection of match boxes). His irons are gathered from across

the country, with some brought from his foreign trips, assisted by friends, colleagues and relatives.

He has donated part of the collection to Belarus' only museum of irons — located at Minsk's Regional Cadet School. Each has undergone thorough preparation before being displayed.

In fact, several museums dedicated to the history of irons exist around the world, with the most famous situated in French Roubaix. In Russia, a museum of irons can be found in Pereslavl-Zalessky. There is a bronze cast press iron in the shape of a lion, once used in the household of Empress Yelizaveta Petrovna. A rare whale-shaped iron, from the 1960s, is another unique find. There is even a miniature 10g iron with an ivory handle — a child's toy from the 18th century.

## Friendly meetings on court

Max Mirny becomes Goodwill Ambassador for UN Children's Fund



Maxim Mirny offers master class in Svetlogorsk

By Irina Primakova

The well-known tennis player was given his new title in Svetlogorsk — a member of the UNICEF

Child Friendly City Global Initiative since 2010. "Max Mirny has been awarded this status for several reasons," explains Yulia Novichonok, a UNICEF Information Programmes

Co-ordinator. "He has been liaising with us for a decade already and, despite being busy, has eagerly taken part in charity events at least 3-4 times a year." Mr. Mirny sees this as a 'landmark in his life' and has promised to make every effort to raise children's wellbeing.

Svetlogorsk hosted a sports and cultural event, with Max taking a master class, initiated by Valentina Kovaleva, a deputy at the House of Representatives from Svetlogorsk electoral district. She explains, "It was a true holiday for children! Each young tennis player was able to play with Max Mirny, have their photo taken with him and receive his autograph. He also gave his time to those with physical disabilities, visiting Svetlogorsk's District Correction and Development Education and Rehabilitation Centre. He has a natural way of chatting to children, being a father himself."