

Studies move to stronger gear

Education Ministry proposes 50-100 scholarships for foreign students

By Yulia Vaneeva

According to Belarus' First Deputy Education Minister, Alexander Zhuk, the scholarships will allow our country to attract the best students to Belarus: purposeful, talented and motivated. "They'll help us attract students from the East and Africa, as well as from European states," notes Mr. Zhuk.

In 2010, Belarus boasted 475 students per 10,000 residents, rivalling levels in developed European countries. Last year, taking into account economic and social needs, 15-50 percent more personnel were trained for the real sector of the economy. "Recently, special attention has been paid to training specialists for innovative and foreign economic activities," explains Mr. Zhuk.

By 2014, those with higher engineering-technical education from Belarusian state universities will account for 28 percent. Those with degrees in communication, law and economics will drop to 30 percent, matching the structure of professional education in European states.

Mr. Zhuk believes that universities' efforts to certify their educational and scientific activities will aid the attraction of foreign students. Certificates meeting international ISO:9001 standards were received by 26 universities last year. Moreover, two new universities were set up within the educational system of Belarus: the Border Service Institute of Belarus and Mogilev's Higher College of the Interior Ministry. At present, Belarus has 55 universities.



ALEXANDER RUZICHKA

Investments into education are safest of injections

Popular resource in demand

By Inna Shuvalova

Over the last three years, the number of people using electronic resources at the National Library of Belarus has risen 33-fold

According to Roman Motulsky, the Director of the National Library of Belarus, 68 percent of the library's readers visit online, although traditional books still boast a loyal following. Belarus is currently preparing a project to create a virtual database of national editions, covering manuscripts from the earliest days to present days.

National Library employees have prepared a portrait of the typical library reader: a young female university under-graduate, who is curious and can speak at least one foreign language. "She is interested in lectures by teachers from her university, as well as editions being read by students abroad," stresses Mr. Motulsky.

Bringing nations together

Honorary guest Germany at 18th Minsk International Book Fair donating its exhibited editions to Belarusian libraries and institutions

Peter Dettmar, the Deputy Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Germany to Belarus, believes that culture and arts unite us. He stresses that culture should be viewed separately from politics and that culture and arts should bring us together rather than dividing us. He hopes to see our ties extend and grow, emphasising that participation in Minsk's trade fair will greatly contribute to this.

The German diplomat is confident that Belarus and Germany

boast huge potential for co-operation in book publishing and translations. Being an honorary guest at the Minsk exposition, Germany aims to promote interaction in these areas. Mr. Dettmar is convinced that Belarusian and German specialists will propose interesting new initiatives and projects for joint realisation during the event.

Germany plans to present over 700 books, released by 250 publishing houses, at the 18th Minsk International Book Fair. The country is to share its rich inventory under the slogan 'Germany: Wealth of Colours and Flowers' at its 250 sq.m stand. The major topic

of the German stand will be *Solar Prospects. Green Architecture*; it is a theme also acute for Belarus, according to Mr. Dettmar.

A wide variety of editions are to go on show, including new releases and several German classics translated into Belarusian. Beautifully illustrated editions from Germany will be also displayed, as well as comics and children's books. Teenage fiction, books exploring human rights, editions teaching the German language, and those dedicated to country studies, art and design are to be displayed. Books devoted to Herta Müller, the winner of the 2009 Nobel Prize for Literature, are also to go on display.

Publishing house profile influenced by nationwide priorities

By Yevgenia Yulianova

Belarusian Encyclopaedia Publishing House aims to revive artistic and moral traditions

Rarities and book treasures of Belarus, prepared by the Petrus Brovka Belarusian Encyclopaedia Publishing House, are to promote the revival of our historical memory, explains Director Tatiana Belova. This year, the publishing house has been honoured with the Presidential 'For Spiritual Revival' Award. Ms. Belova sees the revival of artistic and moral traditions and the preservation of our national cultural legacy as the ultimate goals of her publishing house. Encyclopaedias, elite editions and photographic collections also allow foreigners and Belarusians alike to learn more about Belarus, helping promote tourism.

The creative team of the publishing house has won 'For Spiritual Revival' Award for creating *Land of Power: Belovezhskaya Pushcha* and *The Radziwills: 18th-19th Century Album of Portraits*. The former is an encyclopaedia of Europe's largest forest, the most titled reserve in the world. It covers the history of the site, from the first days that people appeared on its territory to modern times. The unique edition is full of original photos, published for the first time; these are supplemented with calligraphic texts from *Carmen de Statura Feritate ac Venatione Bisontis (The Song about the Bison, Its Stature, Ferocity and Hunt)* — a poem by Mikola Gusovsky, written according to 16th century traditions. The book also contains 12 legends of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha.

The Radziwills: 18th-19th Century Album of Portraits is the first edition of a new series entitled *Encyclopaedia*



BELTA

Work at publishing house

dia of Rarities. Representatives of the Radziwills family — Maciej and Konstanty Mikołaj Radziwills — helped with the book, while the Royal Castle of Warsaw, the National Museum of Kraków, the National Art Museum of Lithuania, Vilnius University Library, Volyn Local History Museum (Ukraine) and the State Hermitage Museum (Russia) all donated materials.

Ms. Belova notes that the theme of Belarusian history and the preservation of our cultural heritage is a priority for the publishing house. The second volume of the *Culture of Belarus* encyclopaedia is scheduled for release in 2011, in addition to photographic albums entitled *Contemporary Belarusian Sculpture: 21st Century* and *Contemporary Belarusian Graphics: 21st Century*. The *Encyclopaedia of Rarities* series is to be supplemented in the first three months of this year with *Live Faith — Vetka* (a photo album dedicated to the Vetka old believer icon). Such books as the *Military Encyclopaedia of Belarus* and the third volume of the *Encyclopaedia for Schoolchildren and Students*, entitled *The Earth: The Universe*, are also to appear.

Everything checked before planes set off from runway

By Olga Belyavskaya

Connecting new logistical park and runway at Minsk National Airport

Belgian AOI NV is one of the investors in the new Airpark Minsk transport-logistical park. At a recent meeting with the Belarusian Ministry of Transport and Communications, the interrelation of infrastructure was discussed. The Belgian investor has submitted a detailed plan regarding construction and notes that a decision should now be made on the development of external elements, 'to avoid a possible mismatch in the future'. Road layout needs to be planned carefully, linking the park to Minsk National Airport's second runway in an efficient fashion.

Specialists from corresponding organisations are to conduct talks and, as soon as the park's external infrastructure is agreed, detailed de-



VITALY GIL

Minsk National Airport's infrastructure expanding

velopment will begin. According to the Ministry, ratification will be the next serious step.

Belarus and Belgian AOI NV (Antwerpse Ontwikkelings en Investeringsmaatschappij NV) have concluded an investment agreement to establish the Airpark Minsk transport-logistical park at Minsk

National Airport, costing 288.6m Euros. A logistical park with universal infrastructure is planned, able to process, collect and store cargo for transportation by air, road and rail and offering various logistical services. The park's first facilities should open in 2013, with work fully completed by 2021.