

## Investors to deal with tourist recreation park plan

By Ivan Antonov

**First residents of Avgustovsky Canal special tourist and recreation park plan to inject up to \$10m to develop the park's tourist infrastructure — including Lithuanian and Polish capital**

Vadim Karmazin, Director of the Sports and Tourism Ministry's Tourism Department, notes that the 2011-2015 state tourism development programme is using 12 percent less budgetary funding, with enterprises, organisations and foreign investments meeting the difference. Over all, the Belarusian regions have prepared 153 investment proposals.

The Minsk District is the most promising for investors, with Turkish, Cyprian and Qatar investments expected. An agreement has been signed to build a hotel in Minsk involving French capital. Major tourist facilities are also to appear in the Brest Region. "The regions are developing tourist infrastructure primarily using their own injections," explains Mr. Karmazin.

# Subscribers to electronic library for schoolchildren

Contemporary schoolchildren using electronic means of learning



Implementation of experimental project using personal electronic devices at Minsk gymnasium #30

By Veronica Teplova

This year, several schools have piloted the use of tablet PCs, explains Belarus' Education Minister, Sergey Maskevich. "The experiment has aroused enhanced inter-

est from schoolchildren. Results will be analysed at the end of the academic year, as we're awaiting doctors' opinions on this use of IT; if their conclusion is positive, the experiment will be continued." He adds that the range of

books, magazines and other printed editions will be extended in electronic form — and constantly updated. "These aren't just books in digital format," he explains. "They boast supplementary illustrations and interactive

aspects, allowing us to model a situation or set up an experiment which would be difficult to organise in reality."

The Education Ministry is increasingly interested in ensuring that young people enjoy an environment filled

with contemporary IT, linked to the Internet. "We're now speaking about electronic versions of text books, as well as additional literature. There's a proposal to make audio versions of literary works, for use on computers and mobile phones, recorded by our best actors. We've already received offers in this regard," adds Mr. Maskevich. "We're now compiling lists of literary works and, I think, the idea will be ready for schoolchildren by the next academic year. The project is being co-authored with Russian colleagues, creating a full-text electronic library. We plan to create this resource for use in secondary schools within two years."

However, electronic books won't be the only focus, as the Minister stresses. "Electronic books can't replace paper editions, as each performs a different task. The former are good as reference books, enabling youngsters to find information quickly. Traditional books are more appropriate when referring to materials repeatedly throughout the academic year. I'm convinced that electronic books will act as a supplement."

# Why not adopt pretty good example?

Students to learn from book *Korea: Through the Thorns to the Stars* at Academy of Public Administration under the aegis of the President of the Republic of Belarus

By Yekaterina Medvedskaya

A fourth-year student of the Academy of Public Administration, Yelena Kovalenko, is impressed by what she has learnt from the book. She explains, "The most surprising fact is that the success of South Korea has come not from natural resources or a good geographical position but from the system of government administration: the human factor, education and discipline..."

Ms. Kovalenko was lucky enough to be chosen to read the Korean edition. Next year, Academy staff will be given the book as standard reading. "We'll include the edition in the curriculum," notes the Rector of the Academy, Anatoly Morozovich. Although Belarus and Korea are far away from each other, they share many features. Neither is rich in natural resources and both governments take an active role in economic management. According to Mr. Morozovich, the experience of the Korean state deserves special attention, since it has grown from having a GDP similar to that of an underdeveloped African country to having the 13th largest economy in the world — all within 60 years.



I. Gancherenok delivers speech

*Korea: Through the Thorns to the Stars* was initially published in English, with a Russian variant appearing last year as a result of co-operation between the Academy of Public Administration and the Korea Institute of Public Administration. Specialists from the Centre for International

Co-operation and Educational Programmes (of the Academy of Public Administration) translated the work under the editorship of Pro-rector on Scientific Work and Doctor of Physico-Mathematical Sciences, Professor I. Gancherenok.

The articles of the book are authored by both Korean and foreign scientists. According to the Head of the Korea Institute of Public Administration, Bak Yung-gyeok, this gives a more unbiased view regarding the achievements of the country.

Bak Yung-gyeok tells us that Korea has no desire to monopolise other countries and is happy to share its secrets of success. "We have experience of being in a crisis situation," he admits. "More developed countries supported us at that time."

The Head of the Korean Institute views co-operation in the educational sphere as especially important. "Successful practice can be ensured only by good theory," he emphasises. "New knowledge is especially necessary for future management staff, as the development of the state depends on their scholarship. Experience can be used to avoid strategic mistakes."

Joint projects for Belarusian and Korean institutions are underway,

with staff from the Academy of Public Administration regularly training in Korea and Korean specialists often delivering lectures in Belarus. The Koreans are also interested in the Belarusian model of education, admiring its level. It's no wonder that the Russian version of *Korea: Through the Thorns to the Stars* was prepared by Belarusian colleagues.

According to the Academy of Public Administration's Prof. Igor Gancherenok, his educational institution is keen to promote international liaisons, utilising the successful experience of other countries. The Academy has 45 agreements with foreign institutions, with greatest emphasis on co-operation with Russian, Kazakh, German and Chinese partners.

Work with Korea has its own place. "Korea has passed through the same stages of development which are now passed by us," Mr. Gancherenok mentions. "We are on the same

course but, truthfully, we don't have time for procrastination. We need to adopt the successful experience of other countries via diplomacy and international co-operation." Korea is a world leader in electronic government, which makes state procedures more transparent; the possibilities for accessing information are almost without bounds due to this model of interaction between authorities and society. People's trust in the government is exceptionally high.

The *Electronic Government* Master's degree education programme is being introduced at the Academy of Public Administration next year as a result of implementation of the EGOPRISE international project, performed jointly with partners from seven EU countries. In future, Belarus plans to set up an international centre (involving experts from Korea and Western Europe) to train specialists in the sphere of providing electronic services (including for the Central Asian states).

