

of universal opportunities



President of Ecuador Rafael Correa Delgado meets Alexander Lukashenko in Quito

a joint venture is to be launched manufacturing construction equipment.

The next TV link showed a new residential district, constructed with help from our builders. Hundreds of people have already received their keys for their new flats, while thousands will soon be able to move in. The next link showed a factory producing construction materials while another revealed a Caracas district, where Belarusian specialists have helped lay gas lines, sharing their knowledge and skills with the Venezuelans. A better quality of life is being created with our assistance and many plans are yet to be fulfilled.

The visit resulted in the signing of over twenty joint documents, foreseeing more housing construction, production facilities and infrastructure. The two sides agreed on the building of a heat power station, also involving China (our strategic partner) and a second line is to be launched at our construction materials plant, to meet growing demand. Meanwhile, a new gas pipeline is to be laid between the cities of Barquisimeto and Barinas. More ideas were discussed, with Mr. Lukashenko suggesting that Belarusian furniture and household appliances could be made directly in Venezuela — to furnish the new flats (rather than importing from Belarus). Mr. Chávez appeared very interested in the proposal.

Addressing Mr. Chávez, President Lukashenko noted sincerely, “Anyone who knows me well will vouch for my lack of flattering ways. I’d like to let you know that, were it not for you, we

wouldn’t have implemented these projects and enjoyed such success. Probably, Belarus wouldn’t have a presence in Venezuela. I don’t exaggerate.”

Mr. Lukashenko delicately tackled the forthcoming Venezuelan Presidential elections, at which the nation will make its choice. He commented, “Most Venezuelans support what we’re doing with Mr. Chávez. However, some doubt the intentions of our collaboration, as may be natural in these times of politics. However, I’d like to repeat that Belarus is here as a brother — at the request of your president-patriot. He is my friend and the friend of the Belarusian nation. You should know that whatever is said, our country will do whatever is asked by my friend Chávez. I’m convinced that, within a few years, we’ll be talking about more serious projects — despite our enemies. No one will stop us on this path. This is my short answer to those who doubt us.”

The presidents bid farewell, agreeing to meet again within a few years. By then, new projects will be underway in industry, agriculture and power engineering. Meanwhile, new countries are joining these large-scale endeavours and bilateral collaboration is acquiring a more global scale.

The Belarusian President next flew to Ecuador, and immediately after landing in the capital of Ecuador — Quito the delegation went to Plaza Grande Square — to the Heroes of Independence Monument: symbolic to Ecuadorians. The site has a long and complicated history, linked to Ecuador’s independence. There, President Lukash-

enko laid a wreath.

The decree to build the monument was issued by President Caamaño in 1888. However, even ten years later, nothing had been done. In 1898, a special common fund was created, to which all the municipalities of the country sent one percent of their income for 5 years. The monument was built in Italy, requiring a com-



President of Belarus lays a wreath at the Heroes of Independence Monument in Ecuador

plex journey to Quito, where it was unveiled in 1906.

Even five years ago, the idea of Belarusian-Ecuadorian co-operation would have seemed strange to many, since we are located so far apart. Last year’s \$47m turnover is a drop in the ocean — rather as the Pacific washes the west coast of Ecuador. However, it is more than has been achieved in the past, despite our countries clearly showing poten-

tial for growth. We are certainly in a position to complement one another.

Back in 2006, turnover with Venezuela stood at a mere \$6m, with few prospects for immediate growth. By 2011, rapid development had been seen, with trade rising over 200-fold! Our trade and investments over the past two years are estimated to be worth nearly \$1.5bn. It is clear that we are enjoying more than simple trade. Building plants in Venezuela have been provided with Belarusian technologies and expertise, rather than just products. What can be more valuable?

The President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, and the President of Ecuador, Rafael Correa Delgado, are determined to promote bilateral relations, as confirmed during their meeting in Quito. Discussing the economic element of our relations, Mr. Lukashenko mentioned that we have a true opportunity to raise trade volumes, which he believes to currently be ‘rather small, taking into account the potential of our countries’. He added, “We have no closed topics and are ready to carry out any wish, if we can, relating to science, new technologies and certain areas of economic organisation. We’ll show you everything you are interested in and, if it is profitable, we can share our experience with Ecuador.”

Mr. Lukashenko noted that Mr. Chávez first introduced him to the leaders of nearby countries in Latin America and that this visit to Ecuador was taking place under his protection. Caracas holds status and significance in Latin America.

well, offering mutual support of initiatives and promoting candidates to UN elected bodies.

In turn, the President of Ecuador is convinced that Mr. Lukashenko’s visit will strengthen friendly relations between our two countries. He noted, “We’re happy that you chose to visit Ecuador during your trip through Latin America. We know that Belarus is a much-developed country, with high technologies, occupying a solid position in the world.” He stressed that Ecuador is eager to acquire contemporary technologies in Belarus’ possession. “We’re aware that your state is highly-developed in science, technologies and industry. We need new technologies, so we’d like to see Belarus’ suggestions regarding sci-tech co-operation.”

Rafael Correa Delgado believes that Ecuador also has something to offer Belarusian specialists. He tells us, “We have the largest natural laboratory in the world: the Amazon Basin. Belarusian specialists are welcome to come and conduct scientific research here.” He added that a sci-tech research university is being created in the country and considers that Belarus could help greatly with this. “Everything is ready for our joint work. We would like this visit to become a new starting point in relations between our two states. How can we help each other economically? We are ready to offer Ecuador highly desirable competitive industrial goods and services, at reasonable prices: quarry, agricultural and road construction machinery, tractors, trucks, buses, mineral fertilisers, chemical fibres, machine tools, tyres, op-

What binds Belarus and Ecuador? We are incrementally building our political superstructure of partnership, with both states pursuing independent dialogue within the world arena and seeking out constructive-minded countries. We also share a socially-oriented domestic policy. Although high-level visits haven’t been evident until today, we have liaised within a multilateral format and understand each other

tics and electronics. Belarusian specialists are also ready to help set up telecommunications and computer systems, with joint ventures encouraged. Joint mineral extraction is a promising sphere, as proven in Venezuela. Without doubt, there are great advantages in importing our technologies.

During the visit, documents were signed in the above mentioned spheres. Now, action is required.