

# Experience of collaboration is yielding tangible results

By Denis Krylov

## Visits by delegations from Russian regions to Belarus bring ever rising levels of co-operation

Meetings between the Belarusian President and the heads of Russian regions have set the tone for liaisons. Speaking to the President over recent visits, the heads of regions and republics have discussed strategic areas of interaction to guide fruitful contacts with state and private enterprises. With time, all issues have been solved and meetings between the Belarusian leader and Russian governors have acquired a friendly character.

Previous agreements are still in force while some technical issues have been solved quite successfully in the regular course of business.

This was a keynote of the meeting between Mr. Lukashenko and Alexander Mikhailov, Governor of the Kursk Region. Welcoming his guest, the President noted that Belarus has been successfully collaborating with most Russian federal districts but that more opportunities are opening up for even more intensive co-operation. The Customs Union and the Single Economic Space should be used to the utmost.

According to the Belarusian President, restoration of pre-crisis levels of trade turnover is a vital goal for interaction with the Kursk Region. Already, trade has tripled within a decade, which is a significant result. However, mutual business interest remains high, indicating that figures can grow further. Mr. Lukashenko believes that the structure of mutual trade should be assessed to identify the potential of high-tech and science-intensive goods. Our agricultural and quarry machinery may also find application in the Kursk Region and our agrarian scientists are ready to liaise with Kursk

colleagues.

Additionally, Belarus is offering goods and services in the construction sphere. The President believes, "Our range of mutual interests could be extended, with innovative projects bringing an especially positive effect in stimulating the intensive development of our economies."

Mr. Mikhailov clearly agrees with such approaches, since existing experience of collaboration is yielding tangible results. He told Mr. Lukashenko that, in recent years, the region has managed to considerably raise its grain yields from Belarusian seeds. Kursk Region

residents are also pleased with the launch of an assembly line to manufacture our trolley buses. Now, we need not only to expand these production facilities but to launch the assembly of trams. Such technology is of interest to Kursk Region customers, as well as those from neighbouring regions. Another proposal is to set up a fully-fledged Belarusian trade house in Kursk, allowing our goods to be displayed to best effect. Undoubtedly, these and a number of other initiatives are interesting to Belarus; the President has promised to support all similarly sensible endeavours.

## Presidents share opinions by phone

### September 4th sees Alexander Lukashenko chat with President of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov, on the phone, discussing wide-ranging bilateral relations

The heads of state have agreed that our countries have achieved serious success in the 20 years since establishing diplomatic relations — celebrated next January. Good progress has been made in implementing agreements signed during an official visit of the President of Turkmenistan to Minsk this April.

Mr. Lukashenko underlined the importance of the newly created joint Belarusian-Turkmen Business Council and proposed that its first meeting be held in Ashgabat in October, when the Belarusian delegation will participate in the 4th International Investment Forum.

The presidents also discussed a major joint project to construct the Garlyk mining and processing factory. Mr. Lukashenko assured his colleague that Belarus attaches priority to the timely fulfilment of its obligations and upholds the highest standards. He also suggested opening a joint educational establishment at a Turkmen university to train qualified mid-tier personnel to work at the factory.

The two presidents are scheduled to attend the CIS Heads of State Summit in Ashgabat this November.

## Holding to appear by end of year

By Maxim Osipov

### By year's end, Belarus and Russia to reach definite agreements on establishing Belarusian Gomselmash-Russian Rostselmash holding

According to Belarus' First Deputy Prime Minister, Vladimir Semashko, our two countries are negotiating, with the topic especially acute in the light of Russia's impending WTO membership.

Belarusian-Russian Holding RosBelAuto is almost ready to begin operations, with details being discussed by a working party. Mr. Semashko notes that definite proposals and a draft document on this issue are soon to be submitted to the President of Belarus.

# Year of Belarusian books presented in Moscow

The Belarusian stand was situated at the centre of the huge exhibition pavilion at the 25th Moscow International Book Fair, displaying editions already displayed in India and China

By Fiodor Nikonorov

There are plans to showcase them at an upcoming fair in Germany but this particular event in the Russian capital had special importance. Belarus' First Deputy Information Minister, Lilia Ananich, presented the national booth at the Moscow International Book Fair, noting that 2012 is seeing national book printing in Belarus receive significant state support, in keeping with it being the Year of Book. Annually, notable funds are being allocated from the country's budget for book publishing purposes, with school textbooks printed free of charge, alongside socially important literature. Over the first six months of 2012, around 5,000 titles were released in the Republic with a total circulation of 18m.

Belarusian book publishers brought various interesting projects to the Moscow event, with several business meetings arranged. Ms. Ananich stresses, "We expect contracts to be signed promoting our books in Russia. We already have definite agreements that Belarusian books will be launched in Moscow shops."

Sergey Naryshkin, Speaker of the Russian State Duma, was an honor-



Presentation of national stand at book fair in Moscow proves diverse

ary guest at the Belarusian national stand. Showing him a few Belarusian editions, Ms. Ananich noted that the advent of the common Eurasian Economic Space will see a single support system of book publishing established and hopes that the Union State will financially support the libraries of Belarus and Russia in holding editions published in both states.

Mr. Naryshkin sur-

veyed the Belarusian stand with true interest and was presented with two unique editions: a book dedicated to Polotsk's 1150th anniversary and one detailing Belarus' contemporary heraldry. That honouring Polotsk's 1150th jubilee was given pride of place.

A contest is planned for young writers from Belarus and Russia, with the best submissions released in a collection using

Russian and Belarusian. Meanwhile, the Belarusian Information Ministry and Rospechat (the Federal Agency for Press and Mass Communications within the Russian Federation) aim to launch four major publishing projects to mark the 70th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War. A third, extended edition of the bibliographic reference book *Famous Belarusians in*

*Russia. Famous Russians in Belarus* is also planned.

During the Moscow Book Trade Fair, a round table discussion took place entitled *Book Publishing in the Context of Preserving and Developing the Common Cultural and Historical Space of Belarus and Russia*.

Russia will be an honorary guest at the 20th Minsk International Book Fair next February.