



Minsk-Arena to become major hockey site for 2014 IIHF Championships

Full alert has been already declared

Ice Hockey World Championship will see Minsk welcome over 20,000 tourists

By Nikolay Aliferov

The capital is expecting around 20,000 visitors in May 2014, so the Organising Committee for Championship Preparation and Conduct recently met to discuss how best to ensure their comfort, chaired by the Prime Minister of Belarus, Mikhail Myasnikov. Guests and players alike need to be accommodated and catered for with care.

Already, a number of hotels are being built across the city, including a new 'three star' hotel, sleeping 100, in Internatsionalnaya Street. The President Hotel and Hotel Polet are being modernised while a new hotel is to open at the High Technologies Park. "At the meeting, we finally decided that investors won't invest money in this project so we must build it ourselves," admitted Minsk Mayor Nikolai Ladutko. "We'll build hotels similar to those in the Tsentralny, Leninsky and Oktyabrsky



Victoria Hotel ready to warmly welcome guests

districts of Minsk, with the architecture matching that of the HTP." Student dormitories will also be

available to hockey fans, while several children's camps and resorts will also be specially prepared to

accommodate guests on a budget. "We're working hard to prepare guest accommodation by the end

of next year," notes Mr. Ladutko. "Transportation, security and the cultural programme are also being discussed."

A huge advertising campaign is to be launched to enrol volunteers to help with the Championship. Already, it has been decided that students from the Belarusian State Linguistic University are to help at hotels while staff engaged in public catering and transport may receive language lessons.

Mr. Ladutko notes, "Our goal is to invite people to Minsk. The investments are large, so we must gain maximum return."

Mr. Myasnikov believes that public feedback is vital, explaining, "Minsk City Executive Committee and the Ministry of Sports need to hear the opinions of taxi drivers, restaurant owners and others with vested interests; how can they organise everything to ensure maximum comfort for residents and visitors?"

Belarusian brands popular in Japan

Following nuclear power plant catastrophe in Fukushima, Japanese public buying Belarusian dosimeters

"We're using Belarusian technologies of radiation measurement, as designed by Atomtech and Polimaster," notes Japanese expert Sanshiro Hosaka, who has previously supervised a Be-

larusian-Japanese project in the sphere of radiation security. He notes that the equipment relies heavily on IT, with many radiation detectors and human radiation spectrometers exported to Japan.

"These Belarusian brands have become rather popular in our country — among professionals

as well as ordinary users, who began buying personal dosimeters after the Fukushima accident," he explains, adding, "We're pleasantly surprised to learn about Belarusian technologies and approaches and I'm convinced that those from Japan who visit your state will be impressed by your developments in this area."

Compliance with international standards

Romanisation of Belarusian geographical names approved at UN conference. A delegation from the Republic of Belarus has attended the 10th UN Conference on the Standardisation of Geographical Names, hosted by New York. Participants ap-

proved a system of romanising Belarusian geographical names, developed by the State Property Committee of Belarus, for international application.

Belarusian approaches to transliteration of geographical names in the Roman alphabet

are based on historical Latin, conforming to international standards of transliteration of geographical names. This system of romanising Belarusian place names will be used to compile maps and other tourist related materials for international use.

Traffic officers overcome language barrier

By Alla Golovacheva

It a few years, traffic police and regular police officers will be able to help non-Russian speakers, answering questions in English with a good grasp of grammar and a wide vocabulary. The Main

Department of Internal Affairs of Minsk City Executive Committee aims to organise English courses for its traffic patrol and ordinary police officers, using experienced tutors to teach vocabulary and grammar at an advanced level. Emergency phone line operators

will also receive lessons, allowing many to revisit their schooldays; naturally, much is forgotten over the years. Already, the emergency line (102) features one English speaker per shift, allowing foreigners the chance to speak in a language other than Russian.

Tourists to receive prompt advice

Soon, maps of Minsk are to be installed in the Upper Town, helping tourists find the nearest form of public transport, hotel, cafe, public toilet, pharmacy or local attraction. Similar info-boards have long helped visitors to navigate the maze of many European cities' streets.

A few years ago, experts began to develop the concept, dividing the capital into 32 tourist routes, with about 50 main attractions — from the St. Simon and Helena Catholic Church to Victory Square. The routes are designed to allow tourists to see Minsk without missing any interesting sites, with the help of info-boards. According to the Chairman of the Belarusian Association of Experts and Surveyors of Transport, Yuri Vazhnik, whose



organisation developed the boards, these need to be located at metro exits, since most tourists use the underground.

One such board will be set up at the exit of Nemiga metro station, with a couple more near the CiTownty Hall and the Cathedral of the Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Of course, more will be unveiled in time, since tourists who come to Mogilevskaya or Uruchie metro stations will also need help.