

## Commercial component needs to be calculated

By Galina Grishkovets

**Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Belarus, H.E. Mr. Gong Jianwei, views launch of direct Beijing-Minsk flight as commercial opportunity**

The new Chinese Ambassador to Belarus is confident that a direct Beijing-Minsk flight will be launched. "It's much needed, so should be viewed not from the point of view of policy but from the point of view of commerce and trade," notes the Head of the Chinese diplomatic mission. He emphasises that our two states' airlines should ensure that the route is run profitably, without a loss.

"I believe that the route will generate a profit," underlines the Ambassador, noting that, if Belarusian airlines are keen to launch a flight, China will welcome the decision. The Chinese Embassy



plans to promote the opening of a direct route between the Belarusian and Chinese capitals. The Ambassador adds that Chinese companies already connect China with a multitude of capitals worldwide, including those in Europe.



Nesvizh Castle in winter

# Ancient traditions given second life

**Ursula Radziwill Theatre Forum takes place in Belarus' cultural capital for 2012 — Nesvizh — for the first time**

The Forum presented performances connected with the history of the famous magnate family Radziwill. In the mid-18th century, the country's first court theatre appeared at Nesvizh Castle, existing for 70 years. Now, its glorious traditions are being resurrected by the Ursula Radziwill Theatre (of the Nesvizh District Centre of Culture and Leisure).

This year, cycles of concerts of Belarusian ancient music will be no less bright events in Nesvizh's cultural life, alongside performances by entrants of the Vladimir Spivakov and Yuri Bashmet international festivals. The Nights of the Bolshoi Theatre at Radziwill Castle Festival of Opera and Ballet Art is being

held, in addition to the 17th *Muses of Nesvizh* holiday of arts. There will be a night of museums at the Radziwill Palace and a concert from the *Golden Collection of Belarusian Song* cycle.

A UNESCO international seminar is planned for the first time, involving leading experts in protecting global historical and cultural heritage. Many more events are planned for Nesvizh, with the official opening of the 16th-18th century palace and park estate to visitors being the major focus.

During an official ceremony which launched Nesvizh as this year's cultural capital, the city was presented with a certificate and a symbol marking its cultural status.

The ceremony at the Town Hall was attended by the Belarusian *Khoroshki* State Dance Company, *Pastoral* ancient Belarusian music ensemble (from the Dzerzhinsk Children's School of Arts) and the Ursula Radziwill Theatre.

On the same day, the theatre hall of the Radziwill Palace hosted a concert of opera art, entitled *Musical Treasures of Nesvizh*. Moreover, the district central library hosted a presentation of books, entitled *Nesvizh — Echo of Times*, while a concert of leading artistic bands and performers of Belarus took place at the Nesvizh District Centre of Culture and Leisure. Amateur bands from the Minsk Region and Nesvizh District also performed.

## Co-operation for unlimited period

By Olga Bogachevskaya

**Japan to continue humanitarian co-operation with Belarus — as Charge d'Affaires of Japan to Belarus, Shigehiro Mimori, notes at ceremony to sign contract allocating grant to Vitebsk Regional Endocrinology Centre**

The \$85,500 grant is being allocated as part of a grant assistance programme by the Government of Japan, for the purchase of an 'Aloka' ultrasound system designed to diagnose endocrine pathologies.

Shigehiro Mimori noted that, after the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, the Government of Japan, the Japanese Red Cross Society and non-governmental organisations stepped in to provide assistance to those affected by the nuclear disaster. The grant assistance programme of the Government of Japan was launched in Belarus in 2004; the project to deliver medical equipment will be the 25th in a row but is the first of its kind in the Vitebsk Region. A total of \$2.2m in grants has been



Mr. Shigehiro Mimori

allocated to finance similar projects at medical institutions in the Gomel, Mogilev, Brest and Vitebsk regions. "The Government of Japan will continue co-operation with Belarus in the field of humanitarian assistance to those affected by the nuclear catastrophe," the diplomat asserted.

## Seek and you will find

**Belarus and Czech Republic look for ways to expand economic co-operation**

Bilateral co-operation between Belarus and the Czech Republic, including joint projects in mechanical engineering and the machine tool industry, was high on the agenda at the third meeting of the Belarusian-Czech working group on co-operation in mechanical engineering, held in Prague.

Participants also discussed issues regarding the organisation of a national Belarusian stand at the 54th International Engineering Fair *MSV 2012* (to be held in Brno in September). Bilateral meetings are scheduled with representatives of Czech companies to discuss the possibilities of expanding bilateral economic ties.

The working group for co-operation in mechanical engineering has been established as part of the activity of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Czech Mixed Commission on Economic, Industrial and Technological Co-operation.

# Minsk, Hanoi pleased with movement

**Vietnam plans to bolster relations with Belarus**

By Alina Sharangovich

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Vietnam to Belarus, H.E. Mr. Dang Huy Tran, noted at the opening of a photo exhibition dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Belarusian-Vietnamese relations that our countries are connected by many years of friendship, dating from Soviet times.

A new era in our bilateral relations began on January 24th, 1992, when our two countries signed an agreement to establish diplomatic ties. In 1997, the embassy of Belarus in Hanoi opened, while the embassy of Vietnam in Minsk launched in November 2003. Mr. Dang Huy Tran believes that, over these two decades, our countries have achieved a great deal. Close con-

tacts exist at the highest level and our mutual political trust grows ever stronger, ensuring support within international bodies such as the UN and the Non-Aligned Movement. We are steadily developing our co-operation in the spheres of economics, communications and transport, security, education and culture.

The Ambassador pointed out the importance of promoting trade and economic relations. Vietnam is a traditional trading partner for Belarus in Southeast Asia, with mutual trade rising considerably in recent years; it exceeded \$200m in 2011.

Vietnam exports communication solutions, office equipment, sea products, rice, fruits, tea and coffee to Belarus, while our Republic sells potash fertilisers, truck assembly sets, tractors and rock haulers to Vietnam; it is one



Mr. Dang Huy Tran

of the most important markets for the Belarusian Automobile Works, Minsk Tractor Works and Minsk Automobile Works.

Our intergovernmental and interparliamentary dialogue is vigorous, contributing to the expansion of legislation relating to Belarusian-Vietnamese co-operation. Our two countries have signed over 60 intergovernmental and interagency agreements.

Meanwhile, the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, has twice visited Vietnam: in 1997 and 2008. In May 2010, the President of Vietnam, Nguyen Minh Triet, paid a visit to Belarus. A joint declaration was signed to define our stance on international matters and bilateral relations and confirmed our mission to continue building on co-operation.

In late 2011, a delegation of the Belarusian Government — led by Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich — visited Vietnam, attending a Belarusian-Vietnamese Business Forum and signing new treaties and contracts for our two states' enterprises. From November 30th-December 3rd, 2011, Belarus took part in the 9th International *Vietnamexpo 2011* Trade Fair, hosted by Ho Chi Minh city.