

Trust-based dialogue always brings benefits

Alexander Lukashenko and Dmitry Medvedev discuss prospects for Belarusian-Russian co-operation in Krasnaya Polyana

During his working visit to the Russian Federation, the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, met the President of Russia, Dmitry Medvedev. They discussed Belarus-Russia co-operative prospects, including those relating to trade and economic relations, the strengthening of the Union State of Belarus and Russia and the development of interaction within the Single Economic Space. Joint responses to modern challenges and threats were high on the agenda, alongside various bilateral and international issues.

The Belarusian President emphasised that trust-based dialogue between the leaders of our two countries helped address a number of crucial issues in bilateral relations in late 2011, including those relating to the sphere of energy. Belarus is willing to maintain and expand constructive dialogue to help implement major new agreements.

During the visit, the Belarusian President planned to meet representatives of Russian political and business circles and combined his stay in Sochi with a short holiday.

Station virtually opens

Computer simulator launched at Belarusian National Academy of Sciences' Sosny Joint Institute for Power and Nuclear Research, to train specialists for future nuclear power station

By Olga Levitskaya

Modern equipment is to allow the future station's employees to gain virtual acquaintance with its basic elements and principles. Using special programmes, the simulator models the station's major processes and is perfect for training future engineers

for the reactor and turbine blocks, as well as its shift heads. "They gain the opportunity to virtually open the station and control its work — conducting certain tasks," explains Alexander Trifonov, who heads the Institute's laboratory.

The new training centre (where the simulator is installed) will be attended by senior uni-

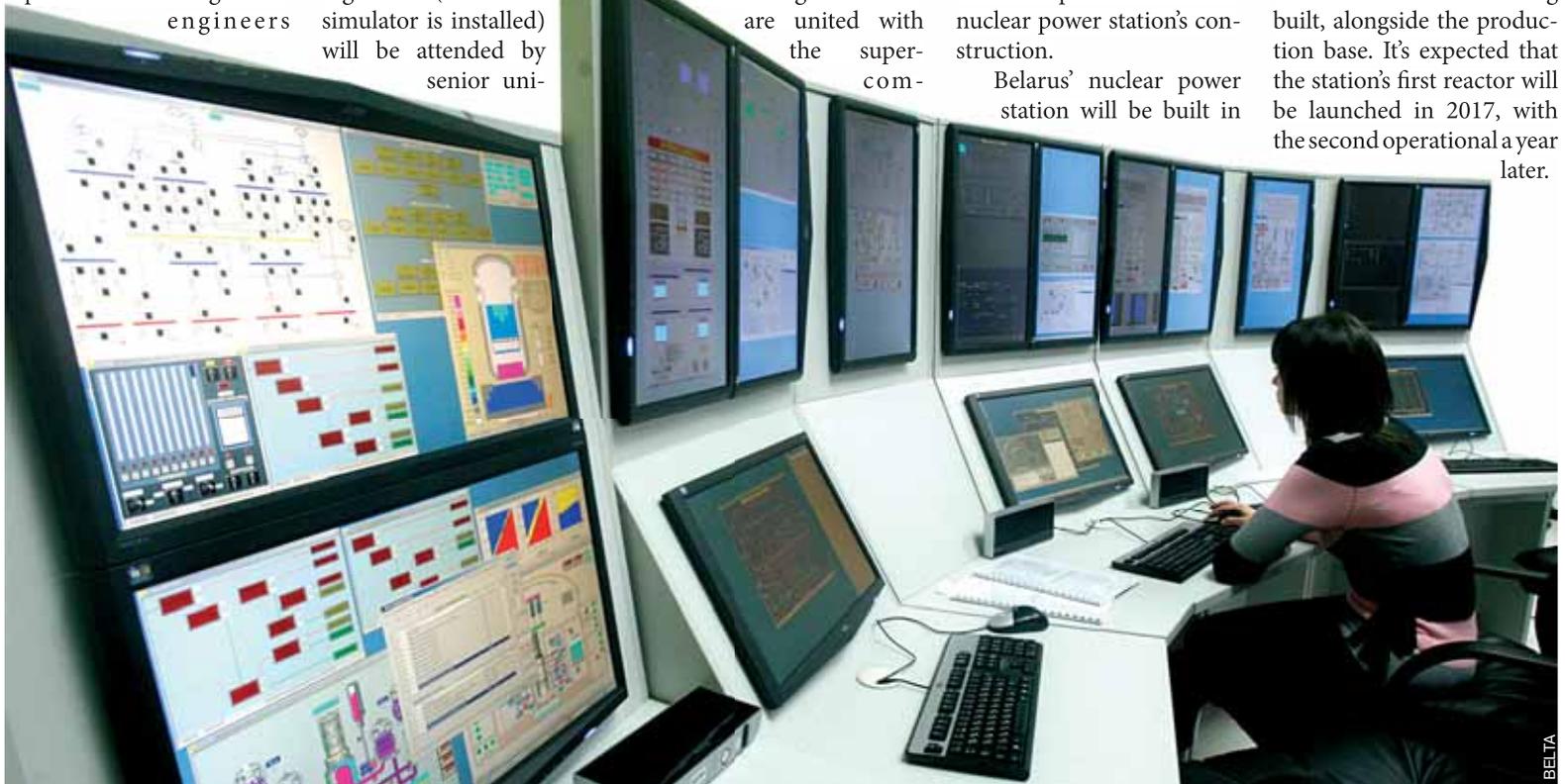
versity students. In addition, certain specialists are to train and retrain there. Sosny Institute has also set up a centre to prepare staff for managing the station's physical protection system.

A supercomputer is to assist young people in mastering new knowledge. Its calculating resources are united with the super-com-

puter centres of the National Academy of Sciences and the Belarusian State University. Additionally, the Belarusian supercomputer network is integrated into that of Europe, which opens additional opportunities for domestic specialists in the field of staff training and scientific provision for the nuclear power station's construction.

Belarus' nuclear power station will be built in

Ostrovets (Grodno Region), following the Russian 'AES-2006' project — developed by the St. Petersburg Scientific-Research and Design Institute Atomenergoproekt (part of Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation). Preparatory works are underway on the site, with road and rail links being built, alongside the production base. It's expected that the station's first reactor will be launched in 2017, with the second operational a year later.



Post graduate student of NAS' Sosny Joint Institute for Power and Nuclear Research, Victoria Radkevich

Live interest from both sides

Belarusian Embassy to Paris hosts meeting with French Foreign Ministry

By Galina Rishkovets

Acute issues of Belarusian-French co-operation have been discussed by Belarusian diplomats and representatives of the French Foreign Ministry in Paris. The event at the Embassy marked the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Belarus and France.

Attending the event was Eric Fournier, Director of the Continental Europe Department of the French Foreign Ministry, alongside directorate staff. The meeting was held as a round table discussion tackling the most vital issues of bilateral interaction.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to France, H.E. Mr. Alexander Pavlovsky, made a brief report on the history of the establishment and development of diplomatic relations between our two countries, outlining milestones in such areas as politics, trade, culture and science. The results of Belarusian-French interaction were mentioned and priority areas for further development stipulated. Most of these coincided with French opinion and were positively received. Issues still under discussion were determined, alongside solutions.

Taking into account Belarus' Year of Book, the Belarusian Embassy's library, which contains editions in Belarusian, Russian and French, launched the new *Belarus: Belovezhskaya Pushcha* edition. In addition, *Mir Castle* documentary was screened in French, as were other films dedicated to Belarusian history and folklore.



Useful meetings in Paris

The presentation and film aroused great interest among French diplomats, who showed their eagerness to learn more about Belarusian culture and history during conversation.

The meeting included a presentation on Belarus' economy, particularly relating to exports. Basic data on socio-economic development in 2011 was presented, alongside an eight volume catalogue on Belarus' export po-

tential — donated to the French with some other informative materials.

The two parties exchanged views on certain issues of bilateral economic co-operation, with the French particularly keen to find out about the light and timber processing industries.

Areas for further development were debated, including legislation to govern Belarusian-French interaction, and collaboration in the spheres of culture, science and humanitarian aid. Mr. Pavlovsky noted the importance of further development of bilateral relations between our two countries and identified key priorities for the near future, including the organisation of thematic consultations.

The meeting with the leadership and representatives of the French Foreign Ministry was held in a constructive and benevolent atmosphere. Both sides expressed mutual interest in further fruitful development of bilateral collaboration across a wide range of issues. In particular, this year, the Belarusian Embassy is preparing a round table discussion involving students from Lyon University, planning to discuss *Belarus as a UN Founder* topic.

Guaranteeing protection of freedoms and rights

By Irina Reutova

Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman may be established in Belarus, notes Piotr Miklashevich, Chairman of the Constitutional Court of Belarus

The Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman is operational across Europe and the CIS, performing the functions of a parliamentary or people's protector. It deals with human

rights offences and upholds rights.

"I support the idea of establishing such an institution in our country. It will act as an additional guarantee for the rights and freedoms of our people," notes the Chairman of the Constitutional Court of Belarus. "We may come back to this issue in the near future, to discuss it at governmental level. A corresponding law will be passed to define the Institution of Ombudsman in our country."

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