

# Ecology dictates its own rules of behaviour for everyone

Possibilities of 'green economy' development studied with active participation of ministries, agencies, enterprises and businesses

By Anastasia Levkovich

The Deputy Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Minister, Galina Volchuga, has attended a round table discussion in Minsk, stating that — while moving towards sustainable development — Belarus is forming a 'green economy'. She notes that these are only the first steps and, in line with the Prime Minister's order, a working group has been established to define national policy — for use at international talks relating to eco matters. A strategy is also being formed to guide

the economy's technological development, taking into account 'green principles'. "We've already reached the formation of Belarus' position on the issue," Ms. Volchuga tells us.

Among our ecological priorities is the attraction of businesses to projects designed to protect sites of natural beauty and to use ecologically friendly technologies. "Certain progress is evident," she explains, adding, "We've formed a database of the best available

technical methods; any businessman can use them — proceeding from nature protection goals and economically feasible technologies."

Ms. Volchuga is convinced that, besides efforts made by ministries, agencies, state and private companies, every Belarusian citizen can contribute to protecting the environment. "Recent polls conducted in Germany indicate that 65 percent of its residents take part in eco-activities — such as recycling waste materials," Ms. Volchuga notes. "In Belarus, only

5 percent of people do so."

The Head of the International Co-operation Department at the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Ministry, Alexander Rachevsky, notes that, at present, each country is independently choosing its approach to the development of a 'green economy'. Some focus on energy issues and climate protection, while others view the use of eco-technologies in industry as a priority, or highlight organic farming. No shared strategy exists. Rachevsky explains that some attempts have been made — such as in South Korea, where a governmental document was adopted to implement the principles of this economy.

The main aims of ecopolicies are to soften the effects of climate change and save energy via ecologically friendly transportation and power generation and use. The processing industry is receiving attention, as is the healthiness

of our food sources. High-tech infrastructure is being formed, including business-incubators and innovative clusters.

Belarus needs to adopt an action plan for its 'green economy', with the necessary legislation drawn from the best global experience. A campaign is needed to inspire interest among businesses and the public. Mr. Rachevsky believes it would be useful to introduce

a system of ecological purposes.

chases by the state sector. "We should set an example to the community, buying ecologically friendly products — such as paper, machinery and other things for daily use."



Belarus needs to take several measures on its path to 'green economy'

## Energy of change generates clear results

Chinese partners commence construction of new generator at Lukoml hydro-electric power station

By Kirill Overyanov

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Mr. Gong Jianwei, joined Belenergo Production Association's Deputy General Director, Mikhail Luzin, in laying the first symbolic bricks of the future steam-gas power station. It is being constructed by the China Machinery Engineering Corporation, with Chinese investments exceeding \$750m. The modern cost-effective facility will have a greater capacity than others, while consuming 30 percent less gas to generate electricity.

"This is a paramount event for the country's energy system and is a breakthrough in the field of high technologies. Around 50 percent of all Belarusian electricity is generated by cogeneration plants, with Lukoml hydro-electric power station leading energy production," stressed the Deputy Energy Minister, Yuri Rymashevsky,



Boris Pashkevich, operator of the 1st energy block at Lukoml hydro-electric power station, at work

at the opening of the construction site. "Regardless of steadily working to enhance the efficiency of equipment, traditional energy reserves are depleted, so we're thankful to our Chinese partners for their co-operation, which will take the Belarusian energy sphere to a new level."

The new block will come into operation in 2014, with cost-effectiveness among its major advantages. At present, 335 units of conventional fuel are needed to generate each kilowatt of electricity; this should fall to 212 after work is complete, saving up to \$90m yearly.

Moreover, the new technology is more environmentally friendly, consuming less water per unit of generated electricity and leaving less waste.

Jointly with Chinese energy specialists, Belarusians have already modernised Minsk's heat power station,

also building a wind facility and commencing the modernisation of Berezina electric station. Mr. Gong Jianwei is confident that the Lukoml hydro-electric power station's new block will become a worthy example of economic collaboration between our countries.

## Overseeing economic disputes

By Vladimir Fiodorov

EurAsEC Court begins its work in Minsk

A new international judicial agency is to preside over economic disputes and check that international agreements signed between EurAsEC countries are upheld uniformly.

Moreover, the Court is to settle economic disputes within the Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. Business entities can apply to have disputes settled, as Belarusian representative Yevgeny Smirnov, who currently chairs the EurAsEC Court, explains. He notes that many telephone calls have been received already regarding the new economic conditions.

Two representatives of each of the five EurAsEC member states comprise the Court; however, only those from Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan can settle disputes regarding the Customs Union. In distinction from the conclusions of the CIS Economic Court, which are advisory in nature, the EurAsEC Court's decisions must be obligatorily upheld by those who apply for judgement.