

# Desires coincide with possibilities

Prime Minister of Vietnam, Nguyễn Tấn Dũng, makes official visit to Minsk

Belarus expects to surpass half a billion dollars of trade with Vietnam in coming years, emphasised the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, on meeting the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Nguyễn Tấn Dũng.

Mr. Lukashenko stressed that Belarus is ready for close liaison with Vietnam, saying, "We really appreciate your cooperation in entering neighbouring, third country markets. This is greatly beneficial to us while being far from detrimental to Vietnam." The President expressed confidence that the Vietnamese PM's visit to Belarus will enhance our relations in all spheres, helping raise today's turnover of almost \$200m. He believes even greater volumes

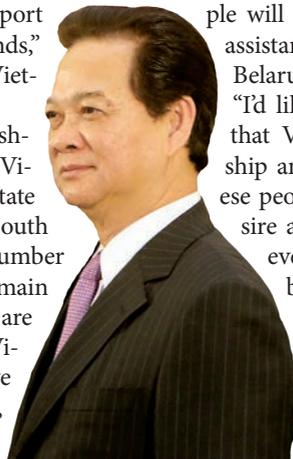
to be possible, noting, "Current turnover does not meet that which is surely possible with such a gigantic country, of 90 million people; Vietnam is also a country with which we have no problems." The Head of State added that there are no closed topics in our bilateral relations, commenting, "We do not hide anything from anyone and can work in all areas — from the supply of commodity goods to civilian military-technical co-operation," said Mr. Lukashenko.

The President drew attention to the fact that Belarus and Vietnam have no disagreements on the international agenda and have always adhered to the same position. "We consider your proposal for Vietnam to be elected onto UN bodies to be reason-

able and will support you as your friends," he assured the Vietnamese PM.

Mr. Lukashenko added that Vietnam is a key state for Belarus in South East Asia for a number of reasons. "The main reason that we are focusing on Vietnam is that we are old friends, having known each other for a long time; we were with you in the most difficult times you've experienced," said the President.

The Prime Minister of Vietnam stressed that our nations enjoy strong, long-standing ties of friendship and that the Vietnamese peo-



ple will never forget the assistance provided by Belarus in hard times. "I'd like to assure you that Vietnam's leadership and the Vietnamese people have the desire and ability to do everything possible to co-operate with Belarusian friends in all spheres, taking bilateral relations to a higher level," said Nguyễn Tấn Dũng.

Belarus and Vietnam have signed commercial contracts worth over \$100m and, next year, a free trade zone agreement may be signed between the Customs Union of Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan and Vietnam. Belaru-

sian Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich and the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Nguyễn Tấn Dũng, have discussed the move previously. Of course, Vietnam is known as one of the most powerful members of the economic block of South East Asia: ASEAN.

Mr. Myasnikovich believes that Vietnam will be interested in purchasing Belarusian unmanned aircraft and in joint projects in the field of biotechnologies and information technologies, and computer-aided design of micro- and nano-electronic systems. Belarus offers various mechanisms of financial support for joint business projects, including export credits, insurance and international leasing. Belarus is ready to as-

semble its top selling automobile and tractor agricultural machinery in Vietnam, as well as setting up local production of food and agricultural products. Joint ventures could also see the production of coffee in Belarus and dairy products in Vietnam.

Without doubt, both states will benefit from a free trade zone agreement between the Customs Union and Vietnam, since Vietnam would be the first country in the Asia-Pacific region to commence such a relationship. The Belarusian PM views this as having global significance, making 'an economic bridge between two world economic blocs: the CES and ASEAN'. The initiative has extra impact taking into account the slump in the European market.

## Distinct contours of promising joint projects

Belarus ready to set up base in Indonesia for trade across South-East Asia

By Vladimir Khromov

Alexander Lukashenko recently met the Speaker of the People's Representative Council of the People's Consultative Assembly of Indonesia, Marzuki Alie, in Minsk. He emphasised that our country views Indonesia as a major, promising partner in the region and that he hopes to see bilateral relations become more efficient following the opening of the Indonesian Embassy to Belarus. A range of bilateral projects are expected to be forthcoming.

This was the first visit to our country by a high-level Indonesian delegation and indicates Indonesia's wish to continue the dialogue begun in early March during Mr. Lukashenko's state

visit to Jakarta. At that time, the heads of our two states agreed to activate collaboration across all areas, raising bilateral turnover from today's \$133m; the figure could certainly be tripled.

Our portfolio of mutual contracts already exceeds \$400m and the Indonesian economy is growing at a record-breaking pace, outstripped only by China. For Belarus, this is a huge sales market for various types of goods. Indonesia is rich in natural minerals and the world's biggest exporter of tin and palm oil. Meanwhile, Indonesia is attracted by Belarus' industrial potential and agricultural technologies.

"We're pleased with the outlined prospects for Belarusian-Indonesian co-operation," noted the Belarusian



Marzuki Alie visits Nesvizh Castle

President. "We'll be doing everything possible to gain a foothold for trade in South-East Asia through Indonesia." He added that, without the support of parliamentarians and the strengthening of diplomatic collaboration, including the opening of the Indonesian Embassy to Belarus, it would be difficult to move forward.

Undoubtedly, the memorandum on co-operation between the National Assembly's House of Representatives and the People's Representative Council of Indonesia, signed in Minsk, will be an important step towards achieving our goals. "We've discussed the opening of the Indonesian Embassy to Belarus and the granting of visas to Belarusian citizens at the airports and seaports of Indonesia. We've also

agreed to accelerate the ratification of the agreements signed during the visit of the Belarusian President to Indonesia," noted Vladimir Andreichenko, the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Definite projects are taking shape, with Indonesia keen to set up a joint enterprise to produce fertilisers. Mr. Alie noted in Minsk that, while actively developing its own infrastructure and developing large coal deposits, Indonesia is ready to purchase a variety of Belarusian machinery. On its part, Belarus hopes to see an inflow of Indonesian capital into the manufacture of food products. Moreover, Belarus' participation in the Customs Union opens up additional opportunities for joint work.

## More joint programmes

Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich emphasises to UN Resident Co-ordinator / UNDP Resident Representative in Belarus, Sanaka Samarasinha, that our country is keen to expand co-operation

Meeting Mr. Samarasinha, the Head of the Government praised the effectiveness of joint projects with the UNDP and expressed his hope that his work as UNDP Resident Co-ordinator in Belarus would be successful. Last year, with the assistance of the UNDP, Belarus implemented technical assistance projects worth over \$18m.



Sanaka Samarasinha

Mr. Samarasinha noted that one of the priorities for the UNDP in Belarus is healthcare. He emphasised, "We're working on tuberculosis and AIDS." Another area of partnership is environmental protection, with a large-scale programme being currently implemented for energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and waste management.

Mr. Samarasinha is hopeful that collaboration between the United Nations and Belarus will continue to develop successfully. "We're working on a number of areas: from human trafficking to combating family violence and migration issues. Our interaction is expanding," he concluded.

Co-operation between Belarus and the UNDP began in 1992, with the opening of the UN/UNDP Office in Minsk and the development of a short-term programme for Belarus for 1992-1994. The fourth UNDP country programme for 2011-2015 was launched in Belarus in January 2011, with funding for international technical assistance projects expected to exceed \$80m.

## Uniting efforts in solving sharp problem

By Anatoly Vetrov

UN thanks Belarus for leadership in issues of struggling against human trafficking

UN's Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, noted during his meeting with Belarus' Deputy Foreign Minister Valentin Rybakov special role of the Belarusian side in the issues of counteracting human trafficking.

The Belarusian representative spoke at the high-level session of the UN General Assembly on the appraisal of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. This event, organised upon the initiative of Belarus, aroused



UN evaluates Belarus' role in struggle against human trafficking

wide response worldwide. Mr. Rybakov noted at the session in the UN Headquarters in New York that in line with the Global Plan, once

proposed by official Minsk, the Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking was created. The Belarusian diplomat also in-

formed international community that President Alexander Lukashenko adopted a decision to allocate the second contribution of our country — worth \$50,000.

Mr. Rybakov has also met the Head of the UN Executive Office of the General Secretary and UN Under-Secretary-General, Susan Malkora, who noted that the UN Secretariat highly praises Belarus' activity on the intentional arena dealing with human trafficking and passed down the words of gratitude from the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to Belarusian authorities for the organisation of this important international event under the UN aegis — the first of such high level and scale.