# Intellectual products may be perfect commodity

## Bestowing Doctors of Sciences diplomas and Professor certificates, President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, notes that the country expects talented young people to enter the scientific sphere


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Alexander Lukashenko bestows Doctor of Sciences diploma to the Head of the Republican Scientific and Practical Centre for Organ and Tissue Transplantation, Oleg Rummo

**By Vladimir Khromovsky**

Mr. Lukashenko believes that we need to significantly enhance the role of science within our socio-economic development plan for the country, solving major tasks through innovation. Contemporary creative thinkers are needed for the scientific industry, with the younger generation particularly requiring encouragement.

Doctors of science in higher educational establishments are aged 61 on average, while candidates are around 10 years younger. Meanwhile, fewer people are applying for scientific postgraduate studies. The President wonders whether modest salaries and other material factors are discouraging scientists or whether science lacks enough prestige to attract young people.

"Around 1 percent of our GDP is directed into science in our country while this figure reaches 2, 3 and, even, 4 percent abroad. Contributions by commercial firms account for a significant portion of these finances, being directed into the most profitable areas," explained the President. "At present, our scientists tend to conduct pure, theoretical research, which doesn't always find practical application. Researchers and manufacturers aren't making full use of the Innovation Fund."

Mr. Lukashenko is pinning hopes on recruiting scientific personnel via the Higher Attestation Committee; this oversees the scientific sphere, assisting young scientists in entering the profession while maintaining standards for thesis works and encouraging promising ideas. It also aims to enhance the prestige of scientific jobs.

In 2012, scientific doctorates were awarded to 46 people, while 33 candidates received professorships. The President told them, "You've inherited a legacy of knowledge and experience which you must now pass on to future generations. Develop the traditions of our educational research schools, which have made Belarus famous all over the world, and help us raise enthusiastic scientists. Their talent can help our homeland."

Mr. Lukashenko detailed the achievements of Vladimir Kalinov, from the Physics Institute of the National Academy of Sciences, who has been working on nuclear reactors and space technology. He also mentioned Dmitry Migas, from the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radio-electronics, whose work in the field of optics and nano-electronics is opening new doors.

"The Head of the Republican Scientific and Practical Centre for Organ and Tissue Transplantation, Oleg Rummo, has been developing surgical methods to save lives and improve patients' health all over the globe," emphasised Mr. Lukashenko. He believes that the thesis of Denis Duk, who heads Polotsk State University's Chair, is a valuable contribution to archaeology, revealing the origins of one of the most ancient centres of Belarusian and world culture.

The President congratulated all those present on obtaining their scientific degrees and titles, as well as on their professional holiday: the Day of Belarusian Science.

# Creative ideas gain their practical implementation

**By Irina Sudilova**

**On the eve of the professional holiday for Belarusian scientists, the Day of Science, the Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Sergey Chizhik, tells us about the most important research projects countrywide**


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Belarusian scientists' developments are on display at the Academy of Sciences

### Belarusian spacecraft launch

The remote Earth sensing satellite, which was launched last year from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, has a resolution of 2.1 metres, providing full coverage of the country from space. It is more manoeuvrable, being able to quickly rearrange its orbit, to shoot from the right angle. The images produced are being used domestically and are sold abroad, generating revenue.

### Technology for creating thermal expanded graphite

Belarus is producing large volumes of thermal expanded graphite: a highly efficient packing material, which is light and porous. One cubic metre can be easily held in one hand. The future of highly capacitive energy storage development is connected with such materials and they can also be used for nano-electronic devices.

### Centre for Cell Technologies

By mid-2013, the Institute of Biophysics and Cell Engineering will have opened its cell technology centre, providing services in the field of stem cells. Many tests have already been conducted on animals, with treatment of vascular diseases and healing of skin wounds of particular interest.

### Determination of lymphocyte genome integrity

Belarusian genetics can now determine blood lymphocyte genome integrity, thanks to research carried out on single cells using DNA comet assay.

This enables early diagnosis of the possible harmful effects of environmental factors on human health.

# QR-code and Black Lady

**By Maria Boguslovska**

### Nesvizh continues to enhance its tourist attractiveness and promote itself widely

The town has become one of the first in the country to use QR-codes with its sites. The Nesvizh National Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve aims to raise the town's tourist attractiveness while making information on its attractions accessible to domestic and foreign tourists.

QR-codes can be scanned to hear an audio-guide or to visit the relevant section of the Nesvizh Museum-Reserve website. Information is available in four languages: Belarusian, English, Russian and Polish. The Radziwill Palace, Corpus Christi Catholic Church, the Town Hall, the Slutskaya Brama (Slutsk Gate), the House of Craftsmen, and former monasteries of the Bernardians and Benedictines are the first to be placed within the system.

The Nesvizh Museum-Reserve has also acquired its first officially registered trademark, which will only be used where specific permission has been granted.

'Black Lady of Nesvizh' chocolate has also appeared in the town's stores, depicting her image on the packaging — as chosen through open contest.