

# Only youngsters embody the future

President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko supports young people being involved in construction of Belarusian nuclear power station, speaking at *Traditions .Youth. Future* Forum

By Vasily Kharitonov

The Head of State has promised to soon discuss the initiative with the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, since the construction of the Belarusian nuclear power station will involve Russian specialists. The President of Belarus has advised youngsters not to seek quick and easy wealth but to work hard with their own brains and hands. He emphasised that true professionalism relies on skills and experience, as well as deep knowledge of our chosen field and dedication — since these enable us to think originally and creatively, bringing innovative ideas and discoveries. “View your education as serving you in the long-term: a beneficial investment into yourself,” he underlined.

Mr. Lukashenko suggested at the forum that 2015 be declared the Year of Young People in Belarus. He noted that many people regret that the younger gen-



Participants of *Traditions .Youth. Future* Forum, at Independence Palace

eration seems more focused on pragmatic acquisition but he pointed out that this is a ‘sign of the times’ and that he was undecided as to whether such ambition was an advantage or disadvantage. “Pragmatism brings not only personal profit and egoism but common sense and freedom from illusion: a sense of responsibility for the present and the future,” he noted.

According to the Presi-

dent, these traits have always been characteristic of Western young people, who learn early in life to compete in a tough market. “Meanwhile, our young people are used to relying on their parents, the state and sheer luck, lacking these traits,” noted the Belarusian leader. He added that there is good money to be earned in Belarus, saying, “You can find a job to suit any taste here if you wish to do

so.” He advised young people against trying to start their own business right away, since being a businessman is not as easy as it might seem and not everyone is suited to being an entrepreneur. “Gain a profession and it a try. Take your time before quitting,” he advised. Mr. Lukashenko stressed that the state relies on the Belarusian Republican Youth Union (BRSM), since it unites almost 500m

members, or one fifth of the country’s young people.

“We in no way hide the ideological and political tasks that we set the BRSM,” said the Head of State. “However, these tasks don’t aim to create ‘hawks’ and ‘falcons’; the main aim is to shape patriotic feelings among our young people. You can’t accuse me of urging someone to take up arms against another; throughout my presidency, I’ve tried to prevent young people from doing so. Rather, we need young people who love their Motherland.”

Mr. Lukashenko also mentioned BRSM’s *100 Ideas for Belarus* project, which the President views as vitally important, using the resources of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the innovative funds of ministries. The Head of State has instructed the National Academy of Sciences and the Government to select a dozen of the most promising ideas for launch in the near

future.

Mr. Lukashenko noted at the forum that Belarusian youngsters should receive ‘eternal vaccination’ against destructive ideologies and stressed that the entire history of Belarus speaks against radical action. He added, “In the last century, our country had its fill of wars, revolutions and shocks.” Sadly, no generation of Belarusians was lucky enough to live a peaceful, calm and safe life. “Although young people always wish for radical transformations and immediate change, I call upon you to think over the lessons of history. Did these shocks make anyone happy? No, they only brought confusion, misery and destruction. Never did they go without bloodshed.”

The President reminded everyone that the Palace of Independence is a symbol of Belarusian statehood, built by Belarusian specialists from local raw materials and embodying the capabilities of Belarusians.

# Modernised Privalka now coming into operation

International checkpoint at Belarusian-Lithuanian border opens after reconstruction

By Yelena Stasova

The solemn opening was attended by representatives of the State Customs Committee of Belarus, the State Border Committee of Belarus, local authorities and construction organisations, as well as representatives of the Customs Department under the Lithuanian Finance Ministry.

Deputy Chairman of the State Customs Committee of Belarus Sergei Borisyyuk underlined that the renewed border checkpoint will be a hallmark of the country. With Belarus-EU trade turnover on the rise, it is important to increase the throughput capacity of border checkpoints. In the last five years, a number of border checkpoints at the Lithuanian, Polish, and Ukrainian borders of Belarus were reconstructed, enabling to increase the total throughput capacity 3.5-fold. With the Privalka border checkpoint reopened, the throughput capacity of Belarusian border checkpoints will increase even more.

Reconstruction of the



Border checkpoint of Privalka — the country’s hallmark

border checkpoint was also important taking into account the IIHF World Championship that will take place in Belarus in 2014. The number of vehicles that cross the border in the Baltic direction is expected to rise substantially.

First Deputy Chairman of the State Border Committee of Belarus Igor Butkevich underlined that the border checkpoint meets present-

day requirements. Premises have been built for auditing services, and the necessary equipment has been installed: video surveillance and voice announcement systems, vehicle number plate recognition systems, alongside intruder detection and fire alarm systems. The customs and border service building now has areas for passenger inspection and freight vehicle clearance.

Modules have been built to verify the weight and external dimensions of vehicles, to process transport vehicles, in addition to parking lots and all necessary for the smooth operation of the border checkpoint.

It should be mentioned that the reconstruction of the Privalka border checkpoint is in progress in line with the complex programme aiming to enhance the infrastruc-

ture of automobile border checkpoints at the Belarusian state border in 2011-2015. It was launched three years ago. The border checkpoint was closed on September 1st, 2013 for the sake of completing the final part of the reconstruction. Taking into account the intensity of the vehicle traffic and the number of people, who cross the border from Belarus into Lithuania and the other way, the authorities decided on completing the reconstruction as fast as possible.

After the complete reconstruction the throughput capacity of the Privalka border checkpoint has tripled from 340 vehicles to 1,000 vehicles per day. Within 24 hours the border checkpoint can process 570 passenger cars, 400 trucks, and 30 buses. The border checkpoint now has eight traffic lanes while pedestrians can still cross the border.

Construction works are still in progress at the border checkpoint, but they are no longer a problem for those willing to cross the border.

## Above Russia and Ukraine

**Belarus takes 58th place among 142 in terms of prosperity, in list published by British independent Legatum Institute**

The Legatum Prosperity Index has placed the Russian Federation on 61st place, with Ukraine ranked 64th, Azerbaijan 81st and Georgia 84th. Among former Soviet states, the Baltic countries are ranked above Belarus (Estonia 36th, Lithuania 43rd and Latvia 48th) while Kazakhstan is placed 47th.

The ‘prosperity index’ is calculated for each country individually, based on 79 indicators within eight categories: economy, entrepreneurship, management, education, public health services, safety, personal liberty and social capital. Statistical analysis, sociological research and expert estimation are employed, with data gathered from the United Nations, the WTO, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Gallup and other sources.

Norway tends to top the rankings, followed by Switzerland and Canada, Sweden, New Zealand, Denmark, Australia, Finland, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. The lowest positions this time were taken by Benin, Uganda and Cameroon.