

# Scientific evolution utterly reliant on dynamic action

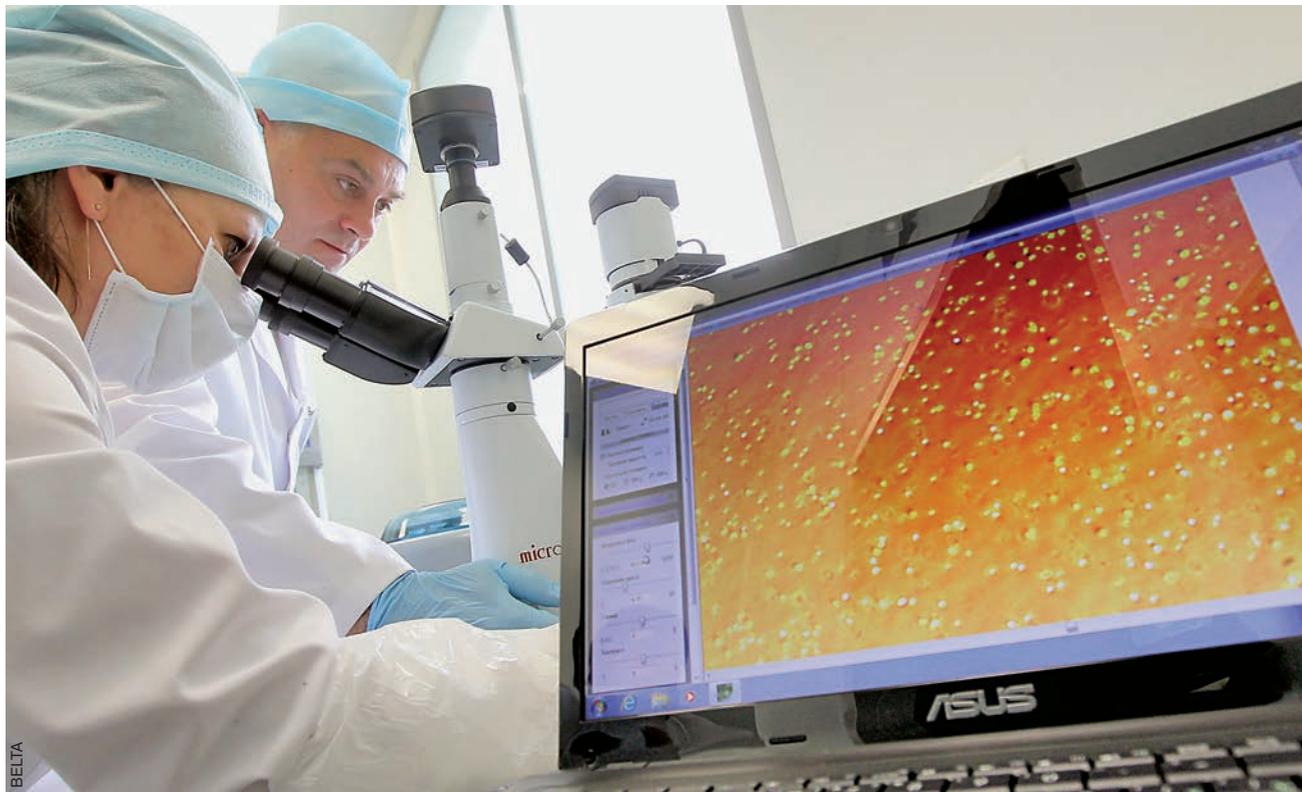
Scientists discuss and approve draft programme to update scientific policy

By Olga Bobrovskaya

Nearly four hundred representatives of academic, institutional and specialised science organisations have joined young scientists from all regions at a general meeting of the National Academy of Sciences. The new programme is now being directed to the Council of Ministers, before submission to the Head of the State.

According to the Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Vladimir Gusakov, Belarusian science has progressed, acquiring a modern, highly effective character, and is a major element of the Belarusian social and economic model. The new regulatory document provides measures for the reform of the scientific sphere, addressing today's challenges — such as raising the status of science and improving mechanisms of management and financing.

“The programme is important not only for the Acad-



Scientists from Institute of Biophysics and Cell Engineering solve range of practical tasks

emy of Sciences, but for the entire scientific sphere,” Mr. Gusakov asserts. “The document relies on the creation of scientific research labora-

tories and centres, scientifically-technological clusters, the development of state-private partnerships and the attraction of foreign capital.

In addition, it envisages a system of social guarantees for particular categories of scientists, as well as the introduction of a personal bonus

scheme — and a number of other measures.”

According to Vladimir Gusakov, the programme has three stages. The first (op-

erating until 2015) tackles salaries and the foundation of national research laboratories and centres, using a cluster principle. This will include the creation of the Bel-Biograd national scientific and technical park.

The second stage (operating until 2020) should see the cluster fully established. The action plan for the scientific sphere will also be revised as needed, to meet current requirements, and scientists' salaries will be revisited, looking at bonuses and flexibility of payments. Young researchers will be offered additional measures of social protection, as will retired candidates and doctors of sciences.

The third stage is due to be implemented by 2025, or earlier if the initial stages are fulfilled well. Belarus will join those countries known for designing and manufacturing hi-tech goods, meeting Central European indicators for development in the scientific sphere.

## New face for historic site

Brest-Tsentralny Railway Station opens after reconstruction

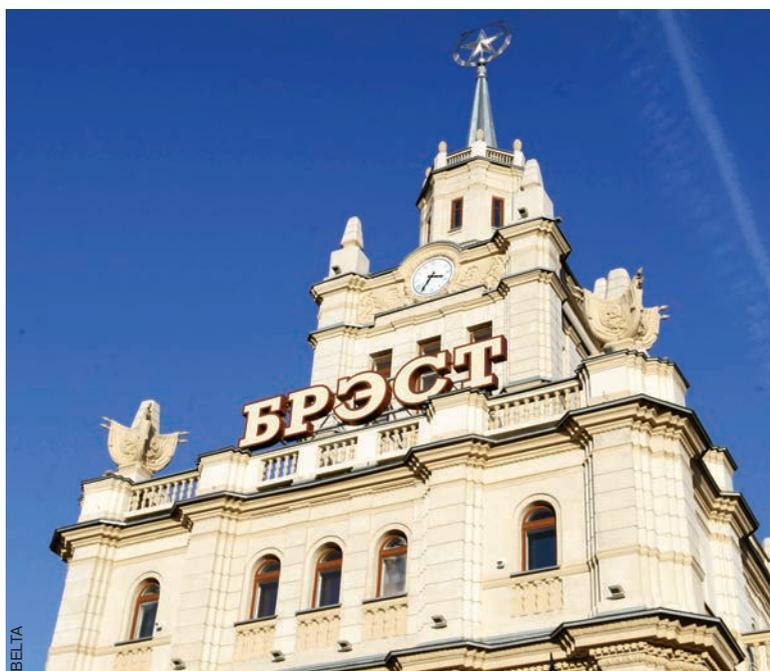
By Sergey Ivanov

The major investment project began in 2008, including the reconstruction of Brest-Passazhirsky Station's passenger complex. The platforms serving Moscow and Warsaw have received attention, as has the station building itself. The First Deputy Head of Belarusian Railways, Vladimir Mikhailuk, tells us that the total cost of the project exceeds Br300bn.

The Chairman of the Brest Regional Executive Committee, Konstantin Sumar, who took part in the official opening ceremony, notes that the project is of special importance, since Brest railway station is the entry point of many to Belarus. Of course, it is also of great historical and cultural significance and will play a huge role during the forthcoming IIHF World Championship.

Brest-Tsentralny railway station serves over 11,000 passengers daily; over the first nine months of 2013, around 3.5 million people departed from its platforms, with half a million headed to foreign destinations.

The repairs have given the building a new façade and its 240-



Brest-Tsentralny station's new building

seater departure lounge — with VIP waiting room for 50 people — has been refurbished. The station now boasts a new bar and bistro, automated baggage lockers, a lounge area, a pharmacy, a first-aid post, ATMs and an exchange office.

The station now boasts automatic sliding doors and a spatial orientation system, with information on boards and signs written in Belarusian and English. Visual and address information is presented on panels, enabling data to be given in various formats, promptly. A waiting room and bathroom for those will less mo-

bility, with room for wheelchairs, has been designed to accommodate six people.

The first stage of reconstruction finished in 2010, with the Moscow side of the station updated. This included new low and high platforms, with roofs, and a new tunnel linking platforms to the main station. The former luggage area was also revamped, as were utility networks and services. Tracks have been improved and ticket offices are now being revamped, while the Warsaw side of the station receives attention. All works are due to be completed by May 2014.

## Ancient philosopher expands his presence

Confucius Institute for Science and Technology to open at Belarusian National Technical University

An agreement has been recently signed in Beijing, with BNTU representatives, to launch the third Confucius Institute in Belarus.

The first such branch of the Institute opened to great success at the Belarusian State University, followed in September 2011 by a second at Minsk's State Linguistic University, supported by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, Wu Bangguo.

## Fairy tale journey

Map of Fairytale Tourist to appear this year in Russia and Belarus

Map of Fairytale Tourist, called 'Semiskazie', is to unite popular places across Russia and Belarus, connecting parks, fairytale estates and residences, such as Belarusian

Father Frost's village in the Belovezhskaya Pushcha and the Valley of Fairytales Park, which is being created in the Moscow Region, within the National Rus Equestrian Park. Fairy-tale travellers will also receive various discounts and gifts.

## Hospitality in all forms

Accredited guests of World Ice Hockey Championship, hosted by Minsk this May, to access public transport free of charge

Minsk's public transport is being extended, to include an additional 13 routes connecting such sites as the railway station and student village with Minsk-Arena and Chizhovka-Arena. About 200 additional buses will run during the World Championship. “Accredited guests of the World Ice Hockey Championship will be able to use public transport around Minsk free of charge,” underlines Valery

Shkuratov, the Head of the Capital Transport and Communications institution.

The work of fixed route minibuses, which have already changed image, will be also improved on the eve of the World Ice Hockey Championship, with comfortable models appearing on the capital's streets.

Meanwhile, Minsk National Airport is to gain a closed-type taxi stand, with drivers working on a competitive basis. Another project envisages complete reconstruction of the Privokzalnaya Square (Railway Station Square).