

Qualified managers are still highly appreciated

Some salaries offered by Belarusian companies can reach up to \$10,000 equivalent

By Yuri Chernyakevich

According to popular wisdom, as fish seek the deeper water, man seeks a better life. Therefore we should always salute the search for a new job on which you can unlock your professional potential.

Today it is very easy to change a job. After all, the Internet or specialised magazines can help you to find hundreds offers from recruitment agencies, large domestic and foreign companies. Many employers are generous, offering attractive benefits in order to get the needed expertise.

As we know, the average salary in Belarus at the end of the last year was approximately \$560 equivalent. According to impartial statistics, programmers, financiers and oilmen were most highly paid. Their salaries began from \$1,000.

But, it appears that some Belarusian companies are ready and willing to pay experts much more. By looking at the well-known Internet portal jobs.tut.by it is easy to find such potential for highly paid workers.

On the site I found a vacancy for the head of one private com-



Working as a top manager is both interesting and profitable

pany which promised a salary of up to \$10,000. The role included representation of Belarusian goods in the territory of Kazakhstan.

A similar vacancy was available in another company, engaged in development of software to order. The salary level was from \$2,500 to \$10,000. Job seekers needed experience in sales, must have a proficient command of English and a readiness for business trips.

The second highest position, according to salary levels, is occupied by pilots. To support this I will mention one fact. At the beginning of January, the National Airline Belavia placed an announcement that they have a vacancy for an aircraft captain. The position for a highly educated pilot is offering a

salary starting at Br45 million, or more than \$4,500. The successful candidate must have knowledge of Russian and English languages, and also experience of flying in European air space.

The third place in a salary rating is occupied by high level accountants. Several private companies offer these experts high earnings — from \$3,000 a month.

However, it is not obligatory to become a pilot or an accountant to earn big money. It is enough to be an expert in the sphere of road building. An engineer/geodesist or head of a building site may expect a salary of around \$2,000-4,000.

The rating of highly paid experts is closed by directors of enterprises. For example, one of

Minsk's plants needs a Director General. The salary is from Br17 million, or \$1,800 a month. Applicants must have knowledge of English, German and French, an economic and technical education, and more than 10 years' experience in supervising posts for a foreign company or a company with foreign investments.

In a word, it is not difficult to find high salaried vacancies in Belarus. However, sometimes it is not so easy to fill such a vacancy. Applicants need excellent knowledge in a chosen field, a lot of work experience, knowledge of foreign languages, and should certainly be hard working. Without these qualities, job seekers are unlikely to be offered such high salaries.

Innovations to assist in search for 'black gold'

By Vladimir Samsonov

Belorusneft Production Association keeping volumes of extracted oil

Oil extraction on Belarusian territory peaked in 1976, but has fallen each year since. However, experience and the latest innovations may help reverse the process, improving oil recovery volumes and maintaining levels of hydrocarbon production.

Contemporary drilling units allow us to 'see' to a depth of 5-7 thousand metres, which is an important factor in this process. Moreover, the joint Belarusian-Italian enterprise will be annually producing 5-6 highly-efficient stationary and mobile drilling units of greater capacity, enabling more efficient surveying of oil deposits.

Accumulated knowledge and skills can be successfully used in other oil regions of the world — such as Belorusneft assets recently acquired in Russia. Over the next three years, the PA plans to increase extraction of oil and gas condensate by at least 50 percent, bringing the volume to 200,000 tonnes per year.

Sunrays generate clean electricity and profit

By Andrey Fiodorov

Photovoltaic power plant to be built at Sporovsky Reserve

The relevant agreement has been signed at the Belarusian Representative Office of the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), to fulfill the *Green Reinvestments* project in Belarus. It will follow the example set in the Brest Region, and be financed by a budget of about \$250,000; international contributors will cover most of the cost.

A photovoltaic power plant is to generate electricity from the sun's rays, with all profits from sale being reinvested in environmentally-friendly projects, to promote eco-living. "According to preliminary calculations, the 100kW power plant will bring a profit monthly of about Br30m. This will be used at our reserves, helping with nature protection measures," notes Vadim Protasevich, Head of Sporovsky Reserve.

Engineering works are underway, with building works expected to commence in late January. All local authority permissions have been received and matters coordinated, so that the power plant can come into operation this year.

Meanwhile, within the project, the Training Centre for Biological Resources and Alternative Energies is to open at Sporovsky Reserve's Ecological Centre.

Business determined for co-operation

Belarus to present its economic potential in Madrid and Barcelona

During the meeting between the Belarusian Ambassador to France and Spain, Pavel Latushko, and representatives of Spain's Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, the sides discussed the details of holding a presentation of Belarus' economic potential. The parties have also agreed to facilitate contacts between the economy ministries of Belarus and Spain, while organising mutual visits of business circles. The meeting also touched upon Belarus' accession to the World Trade Organisation, and the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness of Spain is ready to support Belarus in this issue. Moreover, Mr. Latushko also met with Javier Sangro, the Deputy Head of the General Directorate of International Economics Relations under Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation. The meeting noted the importance of starting bilateral relations.

Security above all

By Yuri Pinchuk

By the end of the year, all national banks should switch clients to chip cards

In November of last year, the National Bank of Belarus announced their intention to forbid the issue of plastic cards with a magnetic strip by 2015. The motivation of their decision is simple; to increase the security of carrying out of non-cash payments.

"The main advantage of bank payment cards with the built-in chip is the high level of security when compared to cards with a magnetic strip. For example, the decoding and copying of information from the chip via skimming equipment is impossible. Besides, when using the new cards for payment, the input of a PIN code is obligatory. That also increases safety for its holder," said the Director of the Department of Bank Cards of BelVeB Bank, Sergey Romashko.

"Chip cards will be now given



Such chip cards to be introduced by all banks of the country

to all clients during the replacement of existing, or receipt of new cards. If desired, we can replace someone's old card, with a magnetic strip, for a new one with the microprocessor. Tariffs for issue and service remain the same."

"In parts of Western Europe some people are already seeing problems when trying to pay using cards without chips. Therefore, we recommend to all who plans to travel abroad, to consider this fact," say the workers of BelVeB Bank.

Experts consider that chip cards are one of the safest ways of carrying out non-cash payments in shops or

cash dispensers. Unlike a magnetic strip card which can be read by 'skimmers'; almost unnoticeable devices used by swindlers that are placed on cash dispensers. The skimmer receives the personal information of the user, which is then used to make a duplicate of a card which, in turn, is used to withdraw money from an account.

On a chip card, the magnetic strip is still often present, however, it contains only the information that this card has a chip, and that all operations are to be made through it. Therefore the account information remains unavailable for criminals.