



Victoria Olymp Hotel opens its doors in preparation for the Ice Hockey World Championship

There's room for everybody

Prices in hotels and hostels of Minsk will not frighten off those who want to stay during the Ice Hockey World Championship

By Yuri Chernyakevich

The Ice Hockey World Championship clock has already begun its countdown. Just a few months remain until thousands of visitors will arrive in Belarus. The sports holiday will begin in May, but already, tourists and fans are reserving rooms in hotels and calculating how much they will pay to stay in the Belarusian capital. So how much will foreigners be spending to stay in a Minsk hotel? The answer to this question can be found by means of the popular sites Booking.com or Hotel.by.

A single room in a Minsk hotel without a category will cost from \$16 a night for one person. Two and three star hotels offer rooms starting

from \$60 to \$150 a night. By comparison, a five star hotel will cost from \$250.

Those who want to rest, not only in comfort, but also wish for prestige, will certainly choose the President Hotel. The cheapest hotel rooms, the Double and Double Premium are \$330 and \$350 respectively, whilst a double, two-room Suite costs \$510. All rooms of the hotel come with minibars, climate control systems, floor heating, two phones and free Wi-Fi.

It is clear, that not every tourist could fork out that kind of money for similar rooms. Therefore, low-cost rooms will certainly be in no less demand. Sport Time Hotel, which is near Minsk-Arena has such accommodation. The hotel has 134

rooms, and nearly 300 people can stay here simultaneously. The cheapest room costs under \$35, the most expensive is around \$85.

One more, rather cheap accommodation option is a hostel, where visitors can pay as little as \$14 per night. The Jazz hostel, which is located near Komsomolskoye Lake and Dream Land Entertainment Park, is \$17 per person for a room for 5 people and \$14 for an 8 person room. In another hostel, Postoyalets, where each room has Wi-Fi and a TV, the prices are about the same. A cot in a room for 8 will cost \$17.

Besides this, hockey fans could also rent a room in the so-called 'fan-villages'. These are hostels in the student quarter on Dzerzhinsky Avenue. Potential tenants will be at-

tracted by the prices which range from \$10 to \$30 a night.

However, these are today's prices. It is difficult to say what will happen to them in the spring. We know that, during Euro-2012, the prices for accommodation in the capital of Ukraine, Kiev, went sky-high. But experts predict that in Belarus such greed will not happen. "If the prices for hotel rooms in Minsk rise for the Ice Hockey World Championship, it will be to a very little degree," the Director of the Tourism Department of the Ministry of Sports and Tourism, Vadim Karmazin, said at recent press conference. "The matter is that, last year the official operator TsentrKurort and the basic municipal hotels of Minsk concluded the



memorandum in order not to raise prices during the World Championship by more than 10 percent in Dollar terms. In total, more than 30 hotels and 12 hostels will be involved in accommodating fans."

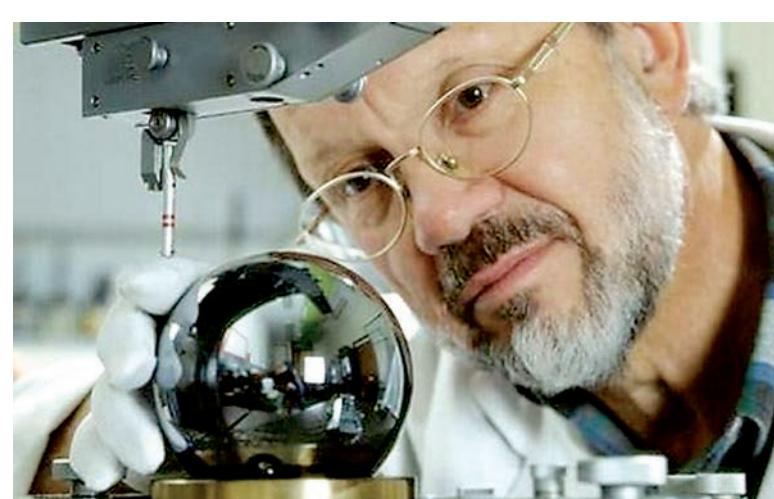
Hockey fans from other cities will not remain without a shelter. Now there's only one thing left for them to do — arrive in Minsk and support their favourite team.

A simple, and therefore effective, idea for science

Grodno scientists have developed the technology of thermal explosions using plasma energy

By Vladimir Samsonov

By means of this technology, suggested by physicists, it is possible to destroy concrete or stone constructions during the performance of rescue and salvage operations. This new method of dismantling concrete blockages has a number of advantages: it does not constitute a threat for people nearby, it considerably accelerates the process and moreover, it does not produce harmful chemical substances. According to the Deputy Dean of the Physical and Technical Department of Grodno State University, Vikenty Tarkovsky, the developed process



Scientists 'tame' plasma energy

of 'electrohydraulic thermal explosions' is rather simple, but highly effective and very safe.

Last year the technology was introduced at both the St. Petersburg forum and the Hanover industrial exhibition. One Belarusian drilling company has become interested in it. The method has successfully passed tests in the field. One tenant of the Grodno Techno-park, Tech-

noLab enterprise, intends to convert this technology into super-powered, compact mobile device.

According to Mr. Tarkovsky, electrohydraulic thermal explosion technology is very effective for a range of applications, including the rescue of people who are under blockages, for use in the mining industry, mechanical engineering, agriculture and medicine.

Theory will be soon studied in practice

Polesie State University, jointly with Centre of Banking Technologies, launch preparation of specialists in IT

By Vladimir Samsonov

"For several years the market has been evidently experiencing the lack of labour resources in the IT sphere, though five years ago it was very difficult to forecast the size of the staffing deficit. However, the demand for IT specialists is currently extremely high, and this also fully includes the banking sphere," notes Director of the Centre of Banking Technologies, Victor Kosobudsky.

At present, in his opinion, Belarus experiences a big lack of competent IT specialists. The Head of the Centre of Banking Technologies explains this by stating that sometimes the education system simply doesn't catch up with the training needs in this area. "Moreover, not every teacher is interested in busi-

ness problems, therefore it's often necessary to retrain graduates after recruitment," he added.

Long-term, mutually beneficial co-operation between the educational establishments and potential employers may become a significant step in solving this problem. Starting from this year, preparation of IT specialists will be conducted by the Polesie State University with active participation of the Centre of Banking Technologies.

Polesie State University was opened at the Pinsk State Banking College of the National Bank of Belarus and at a branch of the Belarusian State Economic University in Pinsk in 2006. In 2013, the university invited enrollees to study a new specialism, popular in the market, 'Information Technologies in Financial Credit System'.