

Know-how helps keep touch with the world

TIBO demonstrates technologies to make life more convenient

By Roman Afanasiev

IT is helping Belarusian residents receive many new services: monitoring car security, starting and blocking of an engine from the other side of the city and medical observation during foreign trips, 24 hours a day.

Traditionally, the Interna-

tional Forum on Telecommunications, Information and Banking Technologies (*TIBO*), held in Minsk in late April, gives us a glimpse into our 'technological tomorrow'. This time, over 200 companies from 12 states presented their exhibits at the show.

Beltelecom demonstrated the latest 3D interactive television,



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TIBO international exhibition demonstrates possibilities of 3D interactive television

allowing viewers to feel as if they are at the centre of events. The company's stand also exhibited a special home telephone, designed to allow videocalls and control electrical devices. Meanwhile, MTS mobile operator joined leading foreign manufacturers to show how mobile subscribers

can 'protect' their cars remotely, monitor their blood pressure and sugar content, or receive online consultations from their doctor while travelling abroad.

Traditional services are improving all the time, with Belpochta already offering electronic postage stamps and hybrid

mail, combining electronic and ordinary 'paper' mail. Last year, it also created catalogues, allowing customers to select and order goods from domestic manufacturers; over 5,000 orders have been fulfilled so far. Online ordering is possible from Belpochta's website now.

Honouring the living and revering the memory of those who died

By Olga Bogacheva

Exhibition of Latvian photographer at Vitebsk's Regional Local History Museum dedicated to Great Patriotic War veterans

Memory of Soul, by photographer Alexander Bulygin, unites over 30 shots taken on Victory Day near the Monument to Liberators in Riga. Annually, on May 9th,

thousands of Latvian residents assemble there to honour the memory of those who never returned from the battlefields, while congratulating those who survived with flowers. His photo reportage was inspired by the atmosphere of the day and became the basis for the exhibition, depicting the emotions of veterans, youngsters and all those who gathered for Victory Day.

The project aims to demonstrate the real attitude of Latvians towards the events of the Great Patriotic War, as well as their respect for the memory of soldiers who died. The project has been supported by Riga City Council, the Belarusian Embassy to Latvia, the Belarusian Culture Ministry, Minsk and Vitebsk Regional Executive Committees and entrepreneurs from Latvia and Belarus.

High level control

Belarusian border guards to acquire mobile radiometric laboratories

Specialised radiation safety equipment and four radiometric mobile laboratories have been donated to our border guards as part of an international technical assistance project entitled *Modernising the System of Counteracting Illegal Movement of Nuclear and Radioactive Materials across the State Border of the Republic of Belarus (RADBEL)*. Costing \$1m, an agreement was signed last July between Japan's Technical Secretariat of the Committee on Co-operation for the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the State Border Committee of Belarus.

The event was attended by the Chairman of the State Border Committee, Igor Rachkovsky, joined by the Executive Director of the Technical Secretariat of the Committee on Co-operation for the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of Japan, Hajime Sasaki, and the Charge d'Affaires ad interim of Japan to Belarus, Kiyoshi Matsuzaki.



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Japanese mobile laboratories to help Belarusian border guards

Mr. Rachkovsky stresses that such laboratories are essential for public safety, enabling us to monitor and evaluate the radioactivity of food and cargo (and people) crossing the Belarusian border. He notes that ten dangerous cargoes were detained at the Belarusian border last year, forbidden entry as they posed an objective threat of radioactive contamination.

Speaking of international collaboration, Mr. Rachkovsky explains that, despite everything, Japan has fulfilled its obligations under the *RADBEL* project. "We are deeply saddened by the Japanese tragedy and are ready to send our specialists to help at any moment," he asserts.

Mr. Sasaki underlines that Japan is aware of the work conducted by Belarusian border guards to prevent radiation contamination and is confident that the implementation of the *RADBEL* project will promote an integrated system to combat radioactive contamination.

The *RADBEL* project envisages the creation of strategic mobile laboratories able to offer a prompt response to illegal smuggling of nuclear and radioactive materials across the border. Moreover, simplified border crossing checkpoints are to be further developed, with coast-guard boats and aircraft equipped with contemporary monitoring units.

Stable growth among those seeking relaxation

By Yelena Prusova

In 2011, Belarusian spas should earn \$100m from export of services

Sanatorium style resorts have been promoting themselves to foreign guests for the past three years, with increasing success. This indicates their competitiveness, with about 200,000 foreigners expected to visit in 2011.

Last year, 178,000 travellers from throughout the CIS and beyond holidayed in Belarus, most coming from Russia, followed by those from the Baltic States, Poland, Germany and Israel. The latter even arrive by charter flights.

Foreigners account for almost 25 percent of all those staying at Belarusian sanatoriums, each spending around \$500 on top of charges for medical services, since they tend to buy souvenirs and other products. "Despite the tragedy of April 11th on the Minsk metro, foreigners continue to arrive for stays at Belarusian sanatoriums," notes the Director of the Republican Centre for Recuperation and Sanatorium-Resort



ALEXANDER RUZNECHKA

Recuperation during holidays

Treatment under the Council of Ministers, Nikolay Mazur. "This indicates their trust in our country and their assurance in having their safety protected."

Foreigners are attracted by Belarus' natural beauty, high quality food, premium medical services and comfortable living conditions.

Married couples see children as priority

By Anton Avgeev

National Statistical Committee reports on how life has changed over the past decade

Comparing the results of the population censuses of 1999 and 2009, the total number of families in the country has fallen by 5 percent. "Married couples with children prevail," notes Alexey Yarkovets, the Head of the National Statistical Committee's Main Department of Demographic Statistics. "These ac-

count for 38 percent of the total number."

In Belarus, the average size of family is constantly falling, with increasing numbers of couples choosing not to have children. According to the results of the 2009 population census, these accounted for 24 percent (against 23 percent in 1999). Meanwhile, the number of families with three or more children has risen in the capital alone, with this number falling in other regions of the Republic.