

Debate substantial and easily understood by all

Teams from 17 countries expand knowledge on taking part in finals of 6th International Law Competition — *Youth for Peace*

By Galina Vaneeva

The Justice Minister, Viktor Golovanov, welcomed the competition's participants, saying that Belarus views this event as a demonstration of knowledge and the chance to exchange experience in the field of humanitarian rights. A team from the Belarusian State University represented our country at the *Youth for Peace* Competition. The event is among the most prestigious in Europe and, this year, its finals gathered 15 teams from 17 countries — including Russia, Georgia, Latvia, Macedonia and Singapore. Students of leading universities from over 30 states have taken part over the past five years.

The International Law Competition is overseen by the Commission on Implementation of International Humanitarian Law under the Council of Ministers of Belarus. It is organised with support from the Federation of Belarus' Trade Unions and the Regional Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross for the Russian Federation, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. In 2011, the competition has become one of the first projects realised as part of the UN *Academic Impact* Initiative, which unites higher educational institutions and the UN, with the aim of supporting the ten globally acknowledged principles relating to human rights, literacy, sustainable development and conflict resolution.

A team of students from Singapore has won the 6th International Law Competition — *Youth for Peace*. A student from Serbia's Belgrade University, Yaniya Simentich, was named the best orator. During the week, the best law students from all over the globe demonstrated their knowledge of international humanitarian law, role playing the settling of military



Law students demonstrate their knowledge at International Youth for Peace Competition, in Belarus

conflict, solving intricate political issues and unusual legal situations, while enjoying each other's company. All appreciated the high level of the competition's organisation and its unique spirit.

The International Law Competition — *Youth for Peace* — is organised by Minsk's International Institute of Labour and Social Relations. Its place can hardly be overestimated, as the competition is unique in Eastern Europe, being among the top three European international law contests.

The event solemnly opened at the Federation of Trade Unions' Sports Complex in Ratomka, near Minsk — as is traditional. Many officials and foreigners were in attendance, with honourable guests stressing the special significance of the forum. As in previous years, all rounds took the form of role play. The final was organised as a TV chat show, with Singapore and India assessing invented events in front of a huge audience.

The cultural programme was also rich, allowing the competition's participants to see Belarusian landmarks

— such as Minsk's historic sites and the Dudutki Folk Museum of Ancient Crafts and Technologies. The sports programme included a football match between Belarus and a team composed from the rest of the world. The Rector of the International Institute of Labour and Social Relations, Valery Tolkachev, noted that a friendly and informal mood reigned at the 6th *Youth for Peace* Competition. The event finished symbolically, with participants freeing white doves into the sky.

Valery TOLKACHEV, Rector of the International Institute of Labour and Social Relations:

We can say for certain that we've achieved success. However, it takes time to see results. We aimed high, sparing no effort. Importantly, a friendly and informal atmosphere reigns at the Olympiad, as befits the name of the contest and our traditions.

Jury member Emiliano BUIS, a professor at the University of Buenos Aires and Argentina's National Defence School, and an expert in law of the Argentinean Government:

I was participating in the Olympiad for the second time, coming first three years ago. It's a great experience for young people. On the one hand, they can deepen their knowledge of international humanitarian rights; on the other, they receive the unique opportunity to exchange experience with foreign colleagues and learn something new. Accordingly, the contest is very interesting and its popularity grows each year. I've previously taken part in similar international events as a jury member but the Belarusian contest boasts a special mood and character.

Jury member Vladimir VARDANYAN, a candidate of law, the Head of the International Treaties Department at the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia:

From the point of view of jurisprudence, the Olympiad gives valuable experience for the students to apply back home. Moreover, they have the chance to make inter-cultural connections, improving mutual understanding. This allows students and law researchers alike to expand their knowledge.

Receiving true sign of international recognition

Nurse from Belarusian Red Cross Society awarded with Florence Nightingale Medal

By Yelena Prus

The International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva has chosen 39 nurses from all over the world for the prestigious medal. "Awarding a nurse from Belarus with the Florence Nightingale Medal is a great honour for our country," asserts Victor Kolbanov, Secretary General of the Bela-

rusian Red Cross Society. "Six legendary nurses from Belarus — who took part in the Great Patriotic War — have been given the medal for their wartime deeds: Hero of the Soviet Union Zinaida Tusnolobova-Marchenko, Sofia Golukhova, Yevgeniya Shevchenko, Yekaterina Sirenko, Sofia Kuntsevich and Maria Garachuk. In peace time, the award is a true

sign of international recognition of the merits of nurses."

Lyudmila Lelikova has worked for almost 35 years as a nurse, being truly professional, as well as generous and sympathetic.

The Florence Nightingale Medal is the highest and most prestigious international award for nurses. This is the second time in recent years that nurs-



Nurse Lyudmila Lelikova

es of the Belarusian Red Cross Society have been honoured with international recogni-

tion. In 2009, Nina Bliznyuk was awarded with the Florence Nightingale Medal.

Education attractive in all senses

By Veniamin Glukhov

More students than ever in Belarus are paying fees for their education

According to the Education Ministry's Department for Higher Education, about 57,000 students are expected to enrol at state universities this year, for full-time and correspondence courses. Another 15,000 are to enter privately, with the number of those studying free of charge, on state scholarships, halved.

Specialists say that payable education is gaining popularity, being among the cheapest in the CIS. Students in Russia and Ukraine pay far more. Moreover, Belarusian students pay less than the real cost of their education. "At present, around 30 percent — on average — of educational costs are compensated in the Republic," notes the Education Minister, Sergei Maskevich.

Affordable prices are attracting foreign students to Belarus, with over 10,000 currently attending higher educational establishments. The Belarusian State University has about 2,000 international students; the executive secretary of its admission board, Vyacheslav Molofeev, admits that they pay almost double the fees of Belarusians. He stresses that the popularity of higher education is growing, with around 60 percent of BSU students pay for their studies. This year, over 2,600 full-time students will pay for studies at the BSU (with about 2,100 studying free of charge). In turn, fee-paying correspondence students will number about 1,500 (against 440 studying free of charge). Another 714 will receive a second higher degree.

Forecasts for the air

Pilots to gain better notice of thunderstorms over Belarus

The doppler weather surveillance radar, as yet unrivalled in Belarus, has come into operation at Minsk's National Airport, determining the presence, evolution, direction and speed of movement of thunderstorms and other dangerous weather conditions. It will considerably expand availability of meteorological data, while enhancing the accuracy of measurements.

At present, aircraft from over 930 air companies from 92 countries fly through Belarusian air space. Last year, 169,000 transit flights were performed over the territory of our country.