

Programming facts without difficulties of translation

Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno specialists trained in English language for IT

By Dmitry Anikeev

The Faculty of Mathematics and Information Science, which is traditionally at the forefront of introducing modern trends into the educational process, is conducting a bold experiment. Combining innovative technologies with classical education, the Faculty is considered to be the leading educational and research centre in the sphere of basic and applied research in mathematics, computer science and programming.

Second and third year students specialising in 'Software Supply of Information Technologies' are taking English classes, with particular focus on IT vocabulary. This reflects the desire of students while aiming to equip them for the modern world. Any student failing to keep up is asked to leave the English course however.

The following subjects are being taught in English: 'Higher Mathematics', 'Information Theory', 'Programming Languages', 'Document Mark-up Languages', 'Foundations Computer Networks Theory' and 'Development of Platform-Independent Applications'. Lectures are also planned on 'Methods of Computer Information Protection' via the Belarusian-Indian Training Centre, with workshops held 'live' online.

To make it easier for students to understand difficult mathematical and programming facts, they are invited to attend the same courses simultaneously in Russian language — which has proven popular. Third-year students are able to undertake internships at foreign enterprise EPAM Systems, with classes in English held there, conducted by company specialists. Emphasis is placed on practice-oriented teaching, with the university working closely with many IT-companies across the Grodno Region, including IntexSoft



English language is already the norm for future programmers

LLC and Soft-Service LLC. The Faculty has been co-operating with Cisco Inc. (the world's largest manufacturer of networking hardware) since 2007, with its specialists training in designing and operating modern computer networks. One training programme is also conducted in English there.

Many professors of the State University of Grodno have been able to teach in English after passing foreign internships in India. Today, their high level of qualification is confirmed by international certification.

"Programmers, mathematicians and IT specialists should know English perfectly, showing easy fa-

miliarity with specialised vocabulary, to allow them to help develop computer technology," asserts the dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science at the State University of Grodno, Yelena Livak. "The whole world speaks English, while the Belarusian IT industry is becoming more attractive to foreign investors. Our professional staff is in demand in Belarus and abroad as our innovative development is declared at the highest level.

In order to ease access to higher education, students are being allowed more flexibility in their schedules, while passing internships in Poland, India and Macedonia. Non-resident students working with

IT companies over the summer are being given hostel accommodation. The Faculty is particularly pleased with its training methods, which are oriented towards practical skills.

Last year, the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science worked with the Hi-Tech Park and the largest IT-companies to hold a regional Olympiad for cryptography and information security. The event now has national status. In 2011, the SW Group students' academic research and practical centre opened, serving tomorrow's IT-professionals. The students even have their own e-magazine, which is a worthy alternative to Faculty printed newsletters.

Tours to suit every taste

Turkish resorts continue to be most popular among Belarusians

To tourist operators' surprise, Greece and Bulgaria are also among the top three destinations this summer. In 2012, 1.5 times more people are choosing Mediterranean coast breaks (compared to 2011) and 100 percent more are staying on the Black Sea. Interestingly, many of those who have decided to go to Bulgaria have chosen bus tours.

Montenegro, Lithuania, Spain and Cyprus, as well as the Crimea, are still popular choices with Belarusians. However, fewer are choosing the land of the pyramids and pharaohs, Egypt; numbers have dropped from 50,000 in 2010 to 30,000 in 2011.

"The trend began in winter, because of the political situation," explains Vadim Karmazin, Director of Tourism at the Belarusian Sports and Tourism Ministry. "Last year, problems on the country's currency market reduced those going abroad by 95,000; now, the situation has stabilised and, since April, more people have been seeking foreign holidays."

Most tourists arriving in Belarus are from Russia, Lithuania and Poland, with rural guesthouses and spas accommodating the majority of guests. Over the first five months of 2012, export revenue from tourist services exceeded \$70m (up 25 percent on the same period of 2011). Interestingly, Moldovans have arrived in greater numbers than Germans, completing the top five foreign visitors.

Book valuable in its historical credibility

Monuments and Memorials of 1812 in Belarus contains evidence of a glorious age

200 years ago, in June 1812, war broke out between the coalition of European states, led by Napoleon's France and the Russian Empire. It did not skirt Belarusian lands, since they were part of the Russian Empire. In fact, they witnessed much warfare and still hold evidence of those days of conflict: the grand fortifications of Bobruisk, Borisov and Verkhnedvinsk, besides dozens of historical monuments which should be preserved for future generations.

Candidate of Historical Sciences Andrey Lukashovich, an associate professor of Belarusian history at the Belarusian State University, has published his *Monuments and Memorials of 1812 in Belarus*, via Harvest Publishing House. His hope is to promote understanding of those times, describing the monuments and memorials found across Belarus. His book, which focuses on the events of the war of 1812, was recently presented at the National History Museum of the Republic of Belarus.

The history of the creation of fortifications and other memorials related to 1812 is explained in detail, including a possible international tourist route entitled *Fortifications of 1812*. The book is well-illustrated, containing over 420 photographs, and should prove useful not only to historians and students of local history, but to all those interested in national and military history.

Good addition to lake district

By Boris Mirsky

New bus station welcomes first passengers to resort town of Naroch in Myadel District

It amazes not only inside but out, thanks to the State Programme of Development for the Health-Resort Zone in the Naroch Region, running from 2011 to 2015.

During the opening ceremony, the Director General of Minoblavtotrans JSC, Victor Rusak noted that the facility has been finished well ahead of its deadline, taking only 8 months instead of the planned 18. The station is designed for 100 passengers in rush hour or for the simultaneous arrival of 50 people. Passenger traffic is expected to total 500 people daily.

The head of the Naroch bus station, Lyudmila Bostynets, tells us that the station is to offer automated sales, with tickets available online



New bus station for town of Naroch

not only for tours departing from Naroch but from any city countryside (thanks to a unified system).

The station meets modern transport infrastructure standards, offering a room for mothers and children, a shop, pharmacy, and Wi-Fi. There are comfortable rooms for drivers and station staff

while cashier tills are fully computerised. An information kiosk and electronic cloakrooms, automated announcement system, electronic platform signs and schedule panels add to the convenience. You can even sit in the comfortable waiting room, watching TV.

There is parking places for cars,

including cars of disabled people. The bus station serves about 120 routes, including local, long distance and even international routes.

Minoblavtotrans JSC has introduced three bus stations for the past two years. Another one is in the town Pleshchinitsy will be introduced in the near future, it is also planned to be completed ahead of deadline. As noted by Victor Rusak, next year the reconstruction of the bus stations in Borisov and Nesvizh are planned, and by 2015 a new bus station will be built in Smolevichi. According to him, if we manage to keep to this pace of construction, then by the end of the current five-year period at least four more bus stations will be completed.

And the residents of the resort town Naroch received not only a modern bus station, but also new jobs.