

Dialogue in form of co-operation

8th forum of creative and scientific intelligentsia of CIS countries takes place in Minsk

By Andrey Belov

The forum was held within the framework of the presidency of the Republic of Belarus in the Commonwealth of Independent States. The Intergovernmental Foundation for Educational, Scientific and Cultural Co-operation and the Government of Belarus with the support of President of the Republic of Belarus, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, CIS Executive

Committee and the Minsk City Executive Committee were organisers of the forum.

Representatives of non-governmental, educational, scientific and creative organisations of all CIS countries participated, and discussed further ways of keeping the educational, scientific and cultural space of the CIS countries along with the intensification of intercultural dialogue and co-operation.

'2013 — a year of environmen-

tal culture and preservation of the environment in CIS countries' was the main theme of the forum but the range of issues which were discussed was much broader. Alongside the main dialogues, there were also a coordination meeting of the leaders of agencies of branch co-operation of the CIS in humanitarian spheres, a sitting of the Council of Heads of Conservatories and Academies of Music of CIS countries and the Council of the Eurasian Univer-



Participants of the forum lay flowers at the Victory Monument

sities Association. A joint sitting of the Council on Humanitarian Co-operation of CIS also took place. There was also a presentation of the editorial project of the Accord

of Hearts. And famous guests were able to get to know Belarus better thanks to the varied information and cultural programme of the forum.

Clever border outpost working in on-line mode

Latest technologies allow border of Belarus to synchronise with the European Union, guaranteeing 100 percent reliability

By Irina Sorokina

A joint project between the State Border Committee of Belarus and Bel Huawei Technologies recently launched a joint project: *Creating and Testing an Intelligent System of Video Observation for the Border of the Republic of Belarus*. The Brest border group is now operating the new system, in line with EU norms, raising the efficiency of border protection. Ever more people and vehicles desire to cross the Belarusian border, not always legally, placing great pressure on check points, notes Alexander Boechko, the Chairman of the State Boundary Committee of Belarus.

"The Head of the State has tasked us with creating an integrated system of protection for the state border. Within the scope of this task, we've been studying various technical means meeting modern requirements, allowing us to reliably supervise the situation across the whole site. This is very important, because we'll use this approach at other border check-points," stresses Mr. Boechko. "The project will become part of the networked automated information system of border service bodies."

The introduction of intelligent system, covering a 4km site, will allow trespassers to be located at the border 'live' — thanks to video



New border outpost fitted with the latest equipment

cameras with high-speed turning and thermal cameras, all in real time mode. Images can also be relayed to the State Border Committee in Minsk, picking up details of vehicles, animals and people.

The joint project by the State Border Committee of Belarus and Bel Huawei Technologies is

costing about \$400,000: almost entirely financed by the Chinese, explains Mr. Boechko. "This project is vital, since we're planning strategic decisions on further development regarding boundary infrastructure. We're open to co-operation and are making every effort to interact with other inter-

national organisations in creating modern infrastructure along the border, meeting the latest global standards. We aim to ensure the most comfortable conditions for state border crossing by law-abiding citizens, while creating a reliable barrier to those operating international criminal networks."

Standards of living

By Andrey Smirnov

Belarus above Russia and Ukraine for happiest countries worldwide 2010-2012, according to the report prepared by American researchers under the UN order

Belarus is placed 66th, while Russia and Ukraine are 68th and 87th respectively, and the list is topped by Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Sweden. The top ten is closed by Canada, Finland, Austria, Iceland and Australia. Meanwhile, the next ten features Israel, Costa Rica, New Zealand, UAE, Panama, Mexico, the USA, Luxemburg, Ireland and Venezuela are in the next ten.

At the bottom of the list of 156 countries are Togo, Benin and the Central African Republic, having been ranked by specialists in economics, psychology, statistics and other fields. Criteria included real GDP per head, life expectancy, level of confidence in society, and perceptions of corruption and generosity. Researchers used data gathered by the Gallup American Institute of Public Opinion, from 2010 to 2012.

Mobile audio-guide with foreign accent

By Victor Timofeev

English version of sightseeing bus #1 launched in Minsk

The bus follows the 'Railway Station (Kirov Street) — Vesnyanka route and is already offering an English language audio-tape for passengers, detailing the capital's main sights. It will run regularly since the end of September and is sure to prove popular during the World Hockey Championships in 2014, helping foreign visitors find their bearings and learn about the history of the city, its monuments and places of relaxation. The move is part of a campaign to support inward bound tourism.

Bus #1 launched on September 9th last year, using a Russian language audio-tape, and is one of two currently running, offering audio-equipment in Russian.

Belarusian literacy to a high standard

By Victor Dubinin

National Statistical Committee reveals that educational level of population increasing annually

Belarusian young people aspire to receive higher education, with

Belarus second only to Russia within the CIS in terms of the number of people who attain specialised secondary, higher and postgraduate education: 621 per 10,000. Meanwhile, developed Sweden boasts just 497 people, Norway — 466, Austria — 434, France — 362, and Italy — 330.

A study by the National Statistical Committee last year showed that teenagers and young people aged 15-24 years in Belarus have 100 percent literacy: distinctions in terms of place of residence, region, standard of well-being and other indicators were not revealed.

The 2009 census showed 30,000 illiterate people aged 15 and over: 0.4 percent of the population of this age. These comprised people unable to attend school due to severe physical and mental disabilities and may be reasonably 'discounted' on this basis.