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**BELARUS PARTAKES IN 21ST OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM FINAL MEETING**

**Belarus is taking part in the OSCE meeting in Prague to discuss international cooperation in the use of renewable energy resources on 11-13 September. The meeting is the final one within the 21st OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum. The theme for 2013 is increasing stability and security, improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities in the OSCE region, BelTA learnt from the press service of the Foreign Ministry of Belarus.**

The participants of the meeting are considering cooperation prospects with a view to increase the use of renewable energy resources and energy efficiency, cooperation between governmental and private sectors in reducing the impact of energy on environment. Participants of the meeting are also discussing issues related to the implementation of new and promising safe technologies in energy, development and application of the environmental legislation.

Partaking in the forum is a delegation of Belarus which comprises

representatives of the Foreign Ministry, a permanent delegation of Belarus in the OSCE and the Belarusian national research center Ecology.

In its speech at the opening meeting of the OSCE conference in Prague the Belarusian delegation stressed the importance of strengthening the economic and environmental dimension of the OSCE, increasing efforts of the international community in the area of renewable energy resources, energy efficiency, new green technologies.

The attention of the participants of the meeting was drawn to Belarus' initiatives in the area of expanding access to the use of renewable energy resources, including in the context of shifting to the green economy and sustainable development, approved in the relevant resolutions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in 2012-2013, including in the context of shifting to the green economy and sustainable development, approved in the relevant resolutions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in 2012-2013.



*belta.by,  
12.09.2013*

**Implementation for top initiatives of CIS creative, academic intellectuals**

**Everything possible will be done to implement the most important initiatives of the 8th Forum of Creative and Academic Intellectuals that took place in Minsk. The statement was made by Sergei Lebedev, Chairman of the CIS Executive Committee, CIS Executive Secretary, as he summed up results of the forum on 25 September, BelTA has learned.**

The forum gathered over 500 representatives from 11 countries. A number of interesting ideas and proposals were voiced. The fact testifies to the interest of representatives of the CIS states, Baltic states, and Georgia in the improvement of humanitarian sphere.

Sergei Lebedev also remarked that partially thanks to the forum, which is held every year, borders between the Commonwealth countries are becoming nothing but a formality and no longer deter contacts in various spheres, including humanitarian sphere.

In turn, Chairman of the Board of the CIS Interstate Fund for Humanitarian Cooperation Polad Bulbuloglu drew attention to the outstanding organization of the forum and thanked the Belarusian side for the job well done.

Since the year 2013 has been declared the Year of Ecological Culture and Environmental Protection in the CIS, the 8th Forum of Creative and Academic Intellectuals was largely dedicated to ecological matters. It was organized by the CIS Interstate Fund for Humanitarian Cooperation, the Belarus government with support of the Belarus president, the CIS Executive Committee, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, and the Minsk City Executive Committee.

*belta.by,  
25.0.2013*

**CIS intellectuals hail 100 Ideas For Belarus project**

**The project 100 Ideas For Belarus met interest in participants of the Forum of Creative and Academic Intellectuals of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Minsk on 24 September. The information was released by Igor Buzovsky, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the public association Belarusian Republican Youth Union (BRSM), Deputy Chairman of the Education, Science, Culture, and Social Development Commission of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus, BelTA has learned.**

The BRSM arranged a presentation of ecological projects of the Belarusian national youth project 100 Ideas For Belarus at premises of the Geography Department of the Belarusian State University within the framework of the 8th Forum of Creative and Academic Intellectuals of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Igor Buzovsky said: "We've heard that various organizing countries are interested in the project. We would like the project to be further developed in Belarus. Today we are going to discuss the organization of such an exhibition at consequent forums. The new project may be named as 100 ideas for the CIS or some other way. It will try to consolidate ideas of young people from various countries in order to give them administrative, organizational, and financial support," said the official.

The exposition hosted by the Geography Department of the Belarusian State University featured projects such as multiple-component polymeric additives for modifying bitumen-concrete mixtures, modernization of household waste utilization systems, a technology to make apple chips out of Belarusian gene pool fruits, the production of coagulants and flocculants for purifying drainage waters.

100 Ideas For Belarus is a national youth project designed to choose the best innovative ideas in social, scientific, technical, and economic spheres. The project has been going on since September 2011. Since then over 7,500 young people have participated in the contest, including Belarusians, who live in Russia, Moldova, Canada, and Argentina. The organizing committee has received over 5,700 applications with proposals of spiritual, moral, patriotic nature, with ideas and projects concerning families, education, economy, energy saving, utilities, healthcare, sport, tourism, and ecology.

The project's implementation has demonstrated that in addition to uniting young people and tapping into their scientific and innovative potential the BRSM has managed to create a kind of a piggybank for concrete ideas and promising research projects, which can benefit the country as a whole or individual branches of the economy.

The 8th Forum of Creative and Academic Intellectuals of the Commonwealth of Independent States opened in the National Library of Belarus on 24 September. The forum is focused on the year 2013 as the year for taking care of and protecting the environment in the CIS member states. The event attracted delegations from ten CIS states. The delegations included creative and scientific intellectuals, who work in the spheres of education, culture, healthcare, environmental protection, mass media, and humanitarian activities.

The forum will last till 26 September. It has been organized by the Interstate Fund for Humanitarian Cooperation of the CIS states, the Belarus government with support of the Belarus president, the CIS Executive Committee, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, and the Minsk City Executive Committee.

*belta.by,  
24.09.2013*

## BELARUS, KAZAKHSTAN DISCUSS GREEN TECHNOLOGIES IN ECONOMY

Scientists from Belarus and Kazakhstan have discussed ways to introduce green technologies in economy and to promote alternative energy. The discussion took place at the international roundtable session "Green technologies – energy of the future" that was held in Minsk on 17 September upon the initiative of the Embassy of Kazakhstan in Belarus, BelTA has learnt.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Kazakhstan to Belarus Ergali Bulegenov noted that green technologies are energy of the future; this theme is getting increasingly relevant all over the world. The diplomat is convinced that countries will have little headway unless they unite their efforts. Ergali Bulegenov praised intensive cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan in promoting green technologies. "Our countries attach great importance to this matter," he said.

The transition to the energy-efficient policy and introduction of energy-saving technologies are among the most important tasks that are now addressed by the governments of Belarus and Kazakhstan. "Belarusian scientists, in particular, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, are working on the projects associated with green technologies. There are also joint projects with Kazakhstan. They encompass a broad range of fields, like renewable energy, deep processing of oil residue, alternative uses of peat, etc.," Sergei Kilin, Chief Academic Secretary of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, said.

Belarusian scientists in cooperation with colleagues from Russia and Kazakhstan have drafted an innovative project "Development and introduction of technologies to enable complex and combined processing of heavy oil residue, alternative and renewable raw materials to make light and middle distillates (hydrocarbon fractions) to be used as raw materials for producing high-quality fuels and for petrochemical processing". The project was elaborated within the framework of the Eur-AsEC.

The participants of the roundtable session discussed renewable sources of alternative fuel and chemical raw materials, biotechnologies and filtering technologies, the use of peat, slate, wood and agricultural wastes to get raw materials and fuel, as well as energy-efficient LED technologies. The participants of the session presented reports on bio-energy, the use of solar, water and wind energy.

[belta.by](http://belta.by)  
17.09.2013

## Belarus to toughen requirements to equipment containing ODS

Belarus has plans to introduce more stringent requirements to equipment containing ozone-depleting substances (ODS), head of the department for atmosphere and ozone layer at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Andrei Pilipchuk told reporters on 12 September, BelTA has learnt.

"At the beginning of the year we drafted a new version of the law on the protection of ozone layer," Andrei Pilipchuk said. Unlike the law in effect, the revised version will contain tougher requirements to the equipment containing hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC), one of the most hazardous ozone-depleting substances.

In fact, technical properties of ozone-depleting substances deteriorate during the operating life of equipment. The efficiency of equipment decreases, energy consumption increases and equipment breaks down faster. Meanwhile, all hydrochlorofluorocarbons are released into the atmosphere. In line with the new law, the users of equipment containing ozone-depleting substances will be required to remove these substances from the system, restore them and put into the equipment again. As a result, the equipment will last longer.

In seven years Belarus will have to phase out and eventually eliminate consumption and production of hydrochlorofluorocarbons, which is stipulated in the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer ratified by Belarus in 1988. The document obliges developed countries and countries in transition, including Belarus, to stop using hydrochlorofluorocarbons by 1 January 2020.

However, it is impossible to stop using all kinds of equipment containing ozone-depleting substances simultaneously. "In this case all fire-fighting systems, compressor stations and a great number of other facilities would stop functioning, while most of manufacturing facilities would shut down. Phasing out hydrochlorofluorocarbons is a complicated process that needs time," the representative of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection added.

The efforts of the international community are focused on minimizing the negative effects of hydrochlorofluorocarbons, because these substances have shown to play a role in ozone depletion. The depletion of the ozone layer is linked to higher incidence of skin cancer and eye damage in human beings.

[belta.by](http://belta.by)  
12.09.2013

## Conservationists of Belarus, Estonia to team up for joint inspection of Braslav District



Conservationists of Belarus and Estonia will conduct a joint inspection of Braslav District, Olga Gromovich, spokeswoman for the State Inspectorate for Flora and Fauna Protection under the President of the Republic of Belarus, told BelTA.

Representatives of the State Inspectorate for Flora and Fauna Protection under the President of the Republic of Belarus and the Environmental Inspectorate of the Ministry of Environment of Estonia are expected to meet in Braslav on 25 September to share experience in the observance of environmental laws of the two countries.

The Estonian delegation will spend three days in Braslav to get familiar with the Belarusian hunting and fishing practices, visit the national park Braslav Lakes. Estonian representatives will also take part in a routine environmental inspection of Braslav District.

Estonia is interested in developing cooperation with Belarus in nature protection, Olga Gromovich added. The parties agreed to develop environmental cooperation following a visit of representatives of the State Inspectorate for Flora and Fauna Protection under the President of the Republic of Belarus to Estonia in September 2012.

[belta.by](http://belta.by)  
25.09.2013

## Nikiforov: Union State bison breeding program will provide a safety net for the species

The implementation of the Union State program with a focus on the formation of an optimal areal of the European bison as a guarantee for its long-term presence (Roadmap for Bison) in 2014-2018 will provide an additional safety net for the species, Director General of the sci-tech center for bioresources under the National Academy of Sciences Mikhail Nikiforov told BelTA at the 8th CIS Forum of Creative and Academic Intellectuals on 24 September.



"The program has already been approved by the Union State Permanent Committee. The major goal of the program is a long-term conservation of the bison population. The level we have reached allows keeping the animal just for a short period of time. We should work on the formation of big populations, over 1,000 bison, to roam free independently from human beings. The effort will help eliminate negative factors common for small herds, including congruent crossing," Mikhail Nikiforov noted.

"We have enough bisons for resettling part of them to the vast territories of Russia and by doing this provide an additional safety net for this species," Mikhail Nikiforov said.

According to Conservation Program Director at WWF Russia Victoria Elias, the CIS ecological network development program envisages preservation of rare species, including bisons. Thus, there are plans to set up an international working group to coordinate restoration and preservation of bisons, selection of new territories for recovery of wild bison herds. There are also plans for developing cross-border cooperation between Azerbaijan, Belarus, Russia and Ukraine in restoring bison populations and developing cross-border specially protected areas.

[belta.by](http://belta.by)  
25.09.2013

## IUCN expert mission to visit Belovezhskaya Pushcha

At the initiative of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee an expert mission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) will work in the Belovezhskaya Pushcha, including its Belarusian and Polish parts, on 20-24 September, BelTA learnt from the administration of the national park.

Specialists from the International Union for Conservation of Nature will evaluate the site nominated for inclusion in the World Heritage List in line with new nomination criteria. The nomination file was prepared by employees of the national park jointly with their Polish counterparts from the Bialowieza National Park and the Regional Direction of State Forests (Bialystok). The file was submitted in view of the repeated nomination of the site considering the new criteria and the expansion of its territory.

According to the application, the territory of the cross-border site was increased to 140,000 hectares, while the Belarusian part of the national park occupies 80,000 hectares (up till now the site included 5.4% of the territory of the both national parks). What is more, old trees of the forest and unique mire complexes were additionally included in the World Heritage area. According to the new criteria, the national park should be evaluated from the point of view of its significance for the conservation of the biodiversity of flora and fauna, as well as the perspective of the natural evolution of the wildlife.

The expert mission will start their work from the Polish part of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha. A presentation of the nominated World Heritage site will be held there. The experts will study the territory on site, hold discussions and summarize the results. The international specialists will have the same program on the Belarusian territory of the national park in the following two days. As the Belarusian part of the national park is larger, the specialists will spend more time on field tours to the southern, central, and northern parts of the oldest European forest. The experts will also have an opportunity to get acquainted with the infrastructure of the national park.

They plan to review their work at a final meeting that will feature representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus, public organizations, mass media, and local authorities.

The decision on the new nomination file is expected to be made by the middle of 2014.

The best preserved part of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1992. In 1993, the park was granted the status of a biosphere reserve. In 1997 Belovezhskaya Pushcha was awarded a diploma of the Council of Europe as one of the most outstanding nature conservation institutions on the continent, which was prolonged till 2017.

[belta.by](http://belta.by)  
20.09.2013



# CONCEPT OF GRODNO-DRUSKININKAI BIOSPHERE RESERVE TO BE DEVELOPED BY 2014

A concept of the Grodno-Druskininkai cross-border biosphere reserve will be developed by summer 2014, BelTA learnt from Oleg Sozinov, head of the Botany Department of the Biology and Ecology Faculty of the Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno.



The unified concept of the Grodno-Druskininkai biosphere reserve will be developed within the framework of an international project of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument. The project "Management of Alytus-Grodno Region Transboundary Protected Areas and Promotion of their Integration into Pan-European Ecological Network" is planned to last for two years (2013-2014) and its total financing will exceed €280,000. The establishment of the Belarusian-Lithuanian biosphere reserve will become the first stage towards the creation of the Augustow cross-border biosphere reserve, which will grant a special status to the Augustow Forest located on the territories of Belarus, Lithuania and Poland.

management plan of the Alytus-Grodno region transboundary protected areas; the plan will be based on the European protection norms.

As Oleg Sozinov noted, they are carrying out preparative scientific research and practical work in order to unify the requirements of the Belarusian and Lithuanian protection area management systems. The unified protection area management system will ensure preservation of biodiversity of the cross-border biosphere reserves and at the same time will encourage people to avoid destructive activities, which will foster sustainable development of the region and reasonable use of land.

The next meeting of the participants of the project will be held in Vilnius in January 2014. At the end of the project they plan to standardize and unify the methods of protected area management, to harmonize the legal basis of this activity. The concept of the cross-border biosphere reserve will be approved by the environment ministries of the two countries and formalized in legal documents.

belta.by, 26.09.2013

An international consultative seminar was held in Grodno on 25 September. Partaking in the seminar were representatives of the Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno, the Belarusian State University, the protected areas Oziory and Kotra, the State Service for Protected Areas under the Ministry of Environment of Lithuania, and others. During the seminar the partners worked out principles of a unified

# Grodno conference to highlight biogeochemical innovations

The 8th international biogeochemical school, Biogeochemistry and biochemistry of trace elements under the conditions of technogenesis of the biosphere, will take place in Grodno on 11-14 September, BelTA learnt from the center of mass communications of the Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno.

outstanding scientists and universities that make a great contribution to biosciences and research in biochemistry and geochemical ecology.

Partaking in the scientific conference will be representatives of Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Spain, Lithuania, Serbia. Among those invited are representatives of the government authorities and local governments, business, public organizations and the academic community.

The international conference will mark the 150th birthday of Vladimir Vernadsky, an eminent Russian and Ukrainian scientist, biochemist, ecologist who is considered one of the founders of geochemistry, biochemistry, and radio-geology. The 150th anniversary of the great scientist was included into the UNESCO international calendar. The year 2013 has been announced the Year of Vladimir Vernadsky in Russia and Ukraine.

Scholars will consider new data on biological significance of trace elements, etiology of microelementosis among animals, plants and human beings and their correction, technogenic influence on metabolism of vitally important trace elements.



Participants of the conference will discuss biogeochemical innovations related to the development of new samples of trace elements, their use in enriching functional products, development of modern microfertilizers, exploration and extraction of mineral resources, improvement of taxon monitoring methods.

The organizers of the event are Vernadsky Institute of Geochemistry and Analytical Chemistry (the Russian Federation), the Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno, the Sci-Tech Center for Foodstuffs of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

The Viktor Kovalsky commemorative medal will be awarded during the international school at the Grodno university. The medal is bestowed upon

belta.by, 11.09.2013

# BELARUSIAN PLASMA REACTOR FOR WASTE RECYCLING



Belarusian scientists in association with the Russian factory Binom have come up with a plasma reactor designed for waste recycling. The information was released by Vasily Savchin, Head of the Electric Arc Plasma Department of the A.V. Lykov Heat and Mass Transfer Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, on 18 September, BelTA has learned.

The reactor's plasma chemistry technology allows processing solid materials, liquids and gases simultaneously. No other technology is as universal. The reactor is designed to process 12 tonnes of waste per day. Vasily Savchin pointed out that if waste is burned, then the ashes are even more toxic than the initial waste. Plasma does not burn waste but processes it. The organic part of the waste is converted into flammable synthesis gas while the inorganic part turns into unleachable vitrified slag. In turn, synthesis gas can be used for energy generation.

Vasily Savchin explained that in order to implement the project they need to invite third-party corporations, engineering and construction companies. "As a research organization we cannot provide the entire range of services to make products. At present we are making development prototypes and establishing cooperation with Belarusian companies. At present we cooperate with Zhilkomplekt to process soft roofing and extract useful products," he added.

The A.V. Lykov Heat and Mass Transfer Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus has been designing various types of plasma technology devices for processing various kinds of waste for over 20 years already. Plasma technologies allow processing municipal waste, industrial waste, medical and biological waste, toxic waste, and radioactive waste. Thanks to plasma technologies energy resources can be produced by processing certain kinds of waste.

belta.by, 18.09.2013

# TECHNOLOGY FOR PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT : THYSSENKRUPP INDUSTRIAL SOLUTIONS RECEIVES FERTILIZER PLANT CONTRACT FROM BELARUS



Belarus-based Grodno Azot has placed an order with plant engineering specialists ThyssenKrupp Industrial Solutions for the planning and delivery of a nitric acid plant and a plant for the production of the liquid fertilizer urea ammonium nitrate (UAN) based on the Uhde process. The facilities will be integrated into the company's existing chemical plant in the regional capital Grodno in the west of Belarus.

The new complex comprises a 1,200 t/day nitric acid plant and a UAN plant with a daily capacity of 3,395 t/day liquid urea ammonium nitrate solution with a nitrogen content of 32 percent. The order awarded to the Process Technologies business unit (Uhde) of ThyssenKrupp Industrial Solutions AG comprises basic and detail engineering, the supply of equipment and material, and supervision of the installation and startup of the plant. Start-up is scheduled for 2016.

"We develop all our technologies based on the needs and requirements of people and the environment. The population is growing, land available for agricultural use is disappearing. That means that more food has to be grown for more people on an ever smaller area of land. And the processes used for this have to be eco-friendly, efficient and sustainable to protect resources for future generations. Our fertilizer technologies of been developed with this in mind," says Dr. Hans Christoph Atzpödien, CEO of ThyssenKrupp Industrial Solutions AG.

The Process Technologies business unit (Uhde) of ThyssenKrupp Industrial Solutions AG has a wealth of experience and expertise in the planning and construction of fertilizer plants. Over more than 90 years Uhde has completed well in excess of 150 projects in this area and continuously adjusted its portfolio to meet the changing challenges.

The tail gas treatment unit integrated into the new plant in Grodno also meets the latest environmental protection standards. The Uhde EnviNOx® process reduces the levels of harmful nitrogen oxides in the production of nitric acid. With the help of this process, eco-toxic laughing gas (N<sub>2</sub>O) – which as a contributor to global warming is roughly 300 times more dangerous than carbon dioxide – can be almost completely removed.

For the Process Technologies business unit (Uhde) of ThyssenKrupp Industrial Solutions AG, this is the second major order from Grodno Azot. Back in 2008 this Belarusian subsidiary PTC Khimvolokno placed an order with ThyssenKrupp (Uhde Inventa-Fischer) to supply a polyamide production plant. As from the beginning of this year Grodno Azot is now capable of producing 260 t/day of this versatile high-quality polymer – doubling its previous output. The material is used for example in medical technology, textiles and the food industry.

A full range of specialist engineering and construction services and a ship-building history stretching back centuries are the strengths of the ThyssenKrupp Industrial Solutions business area. High-quality engineering is at the center of our success. Global project management skills, first-class system integration expertise, reliable procurement and supplier management, and a service offering meeting the highest standards form the basis for lasting customer satisfaction. 18,500 employees at over 70 locations form a global network with a technology portfolio that guarantees maximum productivity and cost-efficiency.

corecommunique.com, 7.10.2013

# Walking tours in Minsk downtown on Car Free Day

Belarusians will be offered walking tours in Minsk downtown on Car Free Day 2013, BelTA learnt from the department of information and public relations of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

The action with a focus on the historical center of the Belarusian capital will take place in the central part of the city on 21-22 September. On these days Minskians will have an opportunity to make a difference by joining the world car free day movement and leave their vehicles at home. Minsk residents will be able to use public transport free of charge (on the presentation of a driving license or a car registration license).

According to the ministry, a great amount of events have been prepared to mark the Day in the country this year. They will include a gallery of posters against motorization, a gallery "Urban Transport Perspective" (National Art Museum) and an expo-gallery "Green City – a Lawn on Asphalt" (at the crossroad of Karl Marx Street and Lenin Street).



Everyone will be invited to join walking tours in Minsk downtown on 22 September. They will start at the National Art Museum and the Minsk City Hall. "Excursions will tell about various architectural styles of the capital, the most interesting buildings of the historical part of the city, famous people and remarkable events". The outings will provide an opportunity to Minsk residents walk the route of the former Minsk horse-tram, learn about some interesting stories from Stanislav Manyushko's life and hard working life of the urban fire brigade of the early 20th century. A sightseeing tour will narrate about the most important monuments of the historical center of the Belarusian capital," the ministry said.

As usual, some events will be aimed at the popularization of cycling.

The first Car Free Day was held in France in 1997. A year later the initiative spread across Europe. Belarus organized its first Car Free Day in 2008. In 2012 the action resulted in cutting pollutant emissions by more than 400 tonnes including nearly 100 tonnes in Minsk.

belta.by, 20.09.2013

## BELARUS ATTENDS UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION IN PARIS



Belarus will attend the 192nd session of the UNESCO Executive Board which will discuss the Global Action Program on Education for Sustainable Development, BeITA learned from the Belarusian Embassy in France.

The session opened in Paris on 25 September. The plenary meetings will commence on 30 September. Attending the event is the Belarusian delegation composed of Belarus' representative to the Executive Board, the Executive Secretary of the National Commission for UNESCO, the head of multilateral diplomacy at the Foreign Ministry Yury Ambrazevich, Belarus' Ambassador to France, Belarus' Permanent Representative to UNESCO Pavel Latushko, the senior adviser at the global policy and humanitarian cooperation department of the Foreign Ministry Inna Vasilevskaya and Counselor of the Permanent Mission of Belarus to UNESCO Ilona Yurevich.

The agenda of the session features forty-two items, including the draft medium-term strategy for 2014-2021, the program and the budget of the organization for 2014-2017, and the issues related to the preparations for the 37th session of the UNESCO General Conference.

UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova will present the reports on the financial health of the Organization and the measures to implement the decisions and resolutions adopted at previous sessions of the governing bodies.

Among the major items of the session is UNESCO's participation in the preparation of the post-2015 development agenda, the prospects for the implementation of the program "Education for All" until 2015, and the relations between UNESCO and international NGOs, private partners, foundations and other institutions.

The Executive Board will discuss the agreement on the establishment of long-term cooperation between UNESCO and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in hydrology and water resources management and the draft framework agreement between UNESCO and ASEAN.

The session will consider the report on the status of implementation of the program "Information for All" (2012-2013) and will discuss the issues of ethics and privacy in cyberspace.

The session will explore the initiatives for the institution of the international day of sport and physical activity, the declaration of 2016 the international year of global understanding. The forum will continue to discuss the proposals on the commemorative dates that can be celebrated with the participation of UNESCO in 2014-2015.

In view of expiration of Irina Bokova's four-year term of office in November 2013, the Executive Board will consider the candidacies for the post, which will be then submitted to the 37th session of the UNESCO General Conference (5-20 November this year). The 192nd session of the UNESCO Executive Board will run until 11 October.

belta.by,  
28.09.2013

## Belarus, Russia to sign agreement on cooperation in nuclear safety

The Belarusian Emergencies Ministry and the Federal Service for Ecological, Technological, and Nuclear Control of Russia are preparing an agreement on cooperation in regulating nuclear and radiation safety in peaceful uses of atomic energy. Representatives of the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Department of the Belarusian Emergencies Ministry told BelTA the agreement had been initiated by the Belarusian side.

"Negotiations will be held after intrastate procedures in Belarus are completed. The agreement is expected to be signed after that. We will release the date of negotiations and the date of the signing later," said the source.

In February 2013 Belarus and Russia signed an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in nuclear safety. The document was signed by Director General of the state corporation Rosatom Sergei Kiriyenko and Belarusian Energy Minister Alexander Ozerets. The agreement provides for various avenues of cooperation, including the creation of a nuclear safety infrastructure, safety regulation systems, the development and improvement of the relevant legal base taking into account requirements of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The agreement also envisages the establishment of a system of crisis centers in Belarus and nuclear safety personnel training.

Belarus intends to build a nuclear power plant that will have two power-generating units with the total capacity of up to 2,400MW (1,200MW each) at the Ostrovets site in Grodno Oblast. The Russian design AES-2006 has been chosen. It is 100% compliant with international norms and IAEA recommendations. The timeline for building the Belarusian nuclear power plant is specified by the general contract. The first power-generating unit is scheduled for commissioning in November 2018, with the second one expected to go online in July 2020.

belta.by,  
6.09.2013

## Belarus to borrow Ukrainian nuclear safety practices

Belarus will be able to use Ukraine's experience in ensuring the safety in the nuclear power industry. The relevant provision is part of the agreement signed in Kyiv by the State Inspection for Nuclear Regulation of Ukraine and the Belarusian Emergencies Ministry. The agreement regulates cooperation in nuclear and radiation safety matters, representatives of the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Department of the Belarusian Emergencies Ministry told BelTA.

The cooperation avenues include the organization of the operation of regulation bodies, assessment of the safety of nuclear facilities and ionizing radiation sources, the organization of research work, the development of the legal base, personnel training and scientific and technical cooperation. The sides have agreed to exchange legal, technical, and methodological documents, arrange consultations, on the job training, joint seminars and symposiums, conferences to discuss regulating and observing activities in the sphere of nuclear and radiation safety.

Representatives of the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Department of the Belarusian Emergencies Ministry said that the nuclear safety system in Belarus is going through its establishment phase and Ukrainian experience will aid the development of the Belarusian national regulating body.

The Nuclear and Radiation Safety Department of the Belarusian Emergencies Ministry was set up in 2007. Belarus is busy building a nuclear power plant in Ostrovets, Grodno Oblast. The power plant will have two power-generating units with the total output capacity of up to 2,400MW. The first unit is scheduled for commissioning in 2018.

belta.by,  
9.09.2013

## Belarus prepares Nuclear Safety Convention implementation report

The sixth national report of the Republic of Belarus on implementing the Nuclear Safety Convention has been prepared, BelTA learned from representatives of the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Department of the Belarusian Emergencies Ministry.

In line with requirements of the Convention states, which are parties to the Convention, regularly prepare national reports, which are in essence planned analysis reports. The regular national report on the fulfillment of international obligations by the Republic of Belarus has been prepared in association with specialists of authorized government agencies and organizations. The national report for 2013 is the final one from the point of view of the country's entering the phase of active measures to implement the program for building Belarus' first nuclear power plant, said the source.

At the national level Belarus takes all the measures to observe fundamental nuclear safety principles at all stages of the life cycle of the nuclear power plant, which is being built. For the sake of effective control during the construction of the Belarusian nuclear power plant the government has set up a working group to coordinate the implementation of state oversight over the construction of the nuclear station.

Article after article the report reflects efforts of the government to implement the Convention. The report also marks the main milestones in developing an infrastructure to regulate nuclear and radiation safety in Belarus. Close attention is paid to changes in the legislation and regulations relevant for ensuring nuclear and radiation safety in using nuclear energy. The report reflects the work and measures to train personnel, ensure safety priority, enable radiation protection, and organize an emergency response system and so on. Belarus' existing nuclear safety system continues improving, said representatives of the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Department of the Belarusian Emergencies Ministry.

For the sake of preparing the national report materials of the IAEA complex mission carried out by the Agency in 2012 to assess the development of the national nuclear energy industry infrastructure were used.

Belarus is one of the founding members of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Belarus ratified the Nuclear Safety Convention in 1999. Five national reports were prepared for regular convention review meetings that took place in 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, and 2011. One extraordinary report was prepared in 2012. It was dedicated to learning from the example of the accident at the Japanese nuclear power plant Fukushima 1.

In line with the IAEA schedule national reports are published on the Agency's dedicated website. In line with article 20 of the Convention every party country can discuss national reports of other countries, ask questions to a reasonable extent. Answers have to be prepared before the next convention implementation review meeting, BelTA has been told. The next review meeting will take place in Vienna in spring 2014.

Belarus intends to build a nuclear power plant that will have two power-generating units with the total capacity of up to 2,400MW (1,200MW each) at the Ostrovets site in Grodno Oblast. The Russian design AES-2006 has been chosen to build the power plant. It is 100% compliant with international norms and IAEA recommendations. The timeline for building the Belarusian nuclear power plant is specified by the general contract. The first power-generating unit is scheduled for commissioning in November 2018, with the second one expected to go online in July 2020.

belta.by,  
16.09.2013



Plans have been made to open a nuclear energy information center in Minsk in 2014, representatives of the Russian state corporation Rosatom told BelTA.

According to the source, a nuclear energy information center is a modern high-tech facility that utilizes panoramic 3D projections, computer graphics and animation, stereo sound, interactive consoles and personal monitors to raise the awareness of visitors about nuclear energy, the nature of radiation and radioactivity, innovative nuclear technologies. Such centers are designed to provide authentic and full information about nuclear energy, radiation technologies, and high-tech projects in science, healthcare, and nuclear exploration.

Such information centers are set up in the regions where nuclear enterprises are present. The first center was opened in Tomsk in 2008. Within four years 17 nuclear energy information centers have been established in Russia. There are plans to build some centers abroad in the countries that use Russian technologies to build nuclear energy enterprises. The first overseas centers have been opened in Hanoi, Vietnam and Mersin, Turkey. There are plans to open an information center in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and Istanbul, Turkey.

The Dhaka-based nuclear energy information center is scheduled to open on 2 October. It will target school and university students and teachers, representatives of government agencies and public organizations as well as mass media. The information center's outlook is based on a supercomputer theme with outer space components. To demonstrate the safety of nuclear power engineering industry, the center has a model of the molten metal localization device, which is part of the safeguards used for Russian nuclear power plants.

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# BELARUSIAN, CHINESE COGENERATION PLANT EQUIPMENT DEVELOPERS PLAN JOINT PROJECTS

Belarusian and Chinese developers of equipment used at heat power plants have plans for joint projects, BelTA learned from Sergei Fisenko, Leading Researcher of the A.V. Lykov Heat and Mass Transfer Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, during the 16th international conference on cooling towers and heat-transfer equipment on 30 September. The event is scheduled to take place in Minsk on 30 September – 2 October.

Belarusian scientists have been researching ways to improve the effectiveness of heat transfer equipment of cogeneration plants and have won international recognition in this field. Meanwhile, China is busy building heat power plants and is therefore interested in using the latest technologies and equipment in this area. Australia and other countries where heat power plants are widely used are also interested in cooperation with Belarusian specialists, BelTA has been told.

An aerodynamic vortex generator is one of the world's most famous products developed by the Belarusian institute. The device is widely used for modernizing cooling towers of Belarusian cogeneration plants and saves about \$100,000 per annum per tower. The equipment has been installed at cogeneration plants No. 3 and 4 in Minsk and at cogeneration plant No. 2 in Grodno where Belarus' largest cooling towers are operated. There are plans to use the equipment for the Belarusian nuclear power plant, which is being built in Ostrovets District. A visit to a Minsk cogeneration plant is part of the conference's schedule.

ation plant is part of the conference's schedule.

The conference has gathered participants from 16 countries, including Russia, China, Germany, South Africa, Austria, Japan, France, Czechia, and the USA. According to Sergei Fisenko, the fact that the conference is held in Belarus testifies to the recognition of Belarusian scientific achievements by the international community.

The scientist explained that although cooling towers and heat transfer equipment may sound like only a handful of specialists may take interest in it, the conference has gathered designers of cogeneration plants, developers and suppliers of special construction equipment and materials, developers and manufacturers of modern industrial diagnostics tools, representatives of other branches of scientific research.

According to the source, any cooling tower is a product of engineering and design solutions. It is designed and built using the best materials, which can resist an aggressive environment, extreme temperature fluctuations, humidity, and chemicals. Performance indicators of any cogeneration plant depend on the effectiveness of cooling towers. It is not surprising that it costs about \$1 million to build a tower 10m high. "Since cooling towers 80m high are built in Belarus, you can imagine how much the equipment costs and how important it is that Belarusian specialists are directly involved in manufacturing the equipment and have earned international recognition in this field," stressed Sergei Fisenko. Extending the operating life of cooling

towers using special coatings and repair technologies are also among topical research areas, which results will be presented at the conference.

The international conference on cooling towers and heat-transfer equipment is a universally recognized platform for arranging international cooperation, sharing scientific and manufacturing experience between academic researchers, developers, and manufacturers of cooling towers, experts of the production sector and the power engineering industry.

*belta.by*  
30.09.2013



## GEOPORTAL FOR EUROREGION BUG IN 2014

The transboundary association Euroregion Bug will get a geoportal of its own in 2014, BelTA learned from Maxim Aldanov, head of the representative office of the joint technical secretariat of the transboundary cooperation program Poland-Belarus-Ukraine in Brest.

The creation of a new geographic information system is the main task of the international technical aid project aimed at creating a joint platform for territorial management in the Euroregion Bug. In August 2013 the project was approved by the Council of Ministers of Belarus. The grant contract with the project's leading partner – the secretariat of the Euroregion from the Polish side and the Regional Development Ministry of Poland – is being signed.

The European Union will donate international technical aid. On the Belarusian side it will be received by the public association Brest Oblast Center for Farm Tourism Promotion Agroecotour. The program's total funding exceeds 7330,000. The budget of the Belarusian part of the project stands at 742,600, including 738,300 allocated by the European Union. The project is supposed to be implemented within one year. The Brest Oblast Executive Committee has been put in charge of coordinating and controlling the implementation of the project.

The geoportal will be implemented as a joint database containing data about the bordering territories of the three countries in the form of geospatial maps with multiple scales. The new software product will take care of many spheres: tourism, culture, entrepreneurship, education, investment advertising and commercial advertising, power engineering, business and science, labor market. The modern information instrument and the concentration of up-to-date data in one source will allow users to easily navigate in the social, economic, and territorial dimensions of the region. It will also help advance transboundary cooperation. The spatial concept of the geoportal with a broad access for investors and tourists will help attract investments and develop tourism in the Euroregion Bug.

After the second contest and the third one within the framework of the transboundary cooperation program Poland-Belarus-Ukraine, which runs in 2007-2013, as many as 28 joint projects are being implemented or are planned for implementation, with the funding earmarked for the Belarusian side at 720 million.

The agreement to set up the transboundary union Euroregion Bug was signed in September 1995. In May 1998 Belarus joined the union of bordering territories of Poland and Ukraine. At present members of the Euroregion are Brest Oblast (Belarus), Volyn Oblast (Ukraine), and Lublin Voivodeship (Poland). The Euroregion Bug is a member of the Association of European Border Regions. Home to over 5 million people, the transboundary association territory occupies about 80,000km<sup>2</sup>.

*belta.by*  
6.09.2013



## Opening ceremony for CIS Forum of Creative and Academic Intellectuals on 24 September

The 8th CIS Forum of Creative and Academic Intellectuals will officially open at the National Library of Belarus on 24 September, BelTA has learnt.

The forum will be held under the motto "2013 is the Year of Ecological Culture and Environmental Protection in the CIS". Partaking in the event will be delegations from 10 CIS member states: representatives of creative and academic intellectuals in education, culture, healthcare, ecology and nature protection activities, mass media, humanitarian activity. It is expected that Belarus will welcome over 300 people from the whole post-Soviet space.

The forum will include sections on education, youth policy, information policy and mass media, tourism, cultural cooperation and preservation of the historical and cultural heritage, healthcare development.

A joint session of the CIS Humanitarian Cooperation Council and the Board of the CIS Interstate Humanitarian Cooperation Fund will take place in Minsk as part of the forum to discuss the progress made in 2013 and prospects for 2014. The program of the forum will include meetings of the Council of the Eurasian Universities Association, the CIS Conservatory and Music Academy Rectors Council, a coordination meeting of heads of CIS humanitarian cooperation bodies.

On 24 September the BRSM Youth Union will hold an presentation of environmental projects "100 Ideas for Belarus" at the Department of Geography of Belarusian State University. The exposition will include projects aimed at the modernization of the domestic waste recovery system, waste water treatment and others. First Secretary of the Central Committee of the BRSM Youth Union Igor Buzovsky is expected to take part in one of the sections of the forum to tell about the project "100 Ideas for Belarus".

The forum will close on 26 September. The organizers of the forum are the CIS Interstate Humanitarian Cooperation Fund, the Government of Belarus under the auspices of the President of Belarus, the CIS Executive Committee, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the Minsk City Hall.

*belta.by*  
24.09.2013

## Belarusian ecologists attend International Dniester River Basin Conference

Belarusian ecologists together with scientists, experts and NGO activists from Moldova, Ukraine, Russia, Romania and Estonia are participating in the International Dniester River Basin Conference taking place in Chisinau on 20-21 September. The forum is held with the assistance of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, BelTA has learnt.

The International Conference "Transboundary Dniester River Basin Management in Frames of a New River Basin Treaty" is organized by the Eco-TIRAS International Environmental Association of River Keepers. The conference covers issues of water and health condition, flood prevention, water quality monitoring, and conservation of biodiversity of aquatic ecosystems. More than 130 delegates are participating in the conference.

During the forum, experts will present recommendations for Moldovan and Ukrainian authorities on the implementation of the Dniester River Basin Treaty signed by the two countries in November 2012.

*belta.by*  
20.09.2013

## Grodno conference to highlight biogeochemical innovations

The 8th international biogeochemical school, Biogeochemistry and biochemistry of trace elements under the conditions of technogenesis of the biosphere, will take place in Grodno on 11-14 September, BelTA learnt from the center of mass communications of the Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno.

Partaking in the scientific conference will be representatives of Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Spain, Lithuania, Serbia. Among those invited are representatives of the government authorities and local governments, business, public organizations and the academic community.

Scholars will consider new data on biological significance of trace elements, etiology of microelementosis among animals, plants and human beings and their correction, technogenic influence on metabolism of vitally important trace elements.

Participants of the conference will discuss biogeochemical innovations related to the development of new samples of trace elements, their use in enriching functional products, development of modern microfertilizers, exploration and extraction of mineral resources, improvement of taxon monitoring methods... **READ MORE**

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## INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR CELL TECHNOLOGIES TO OPEN IN BELARUS IN 2015



**Belarus-Russia joint venture International Scientific Medical Center – Cell Technologies will become operational in Belarus in 2015, Director of the Institute of Biophysics and Cell Engineering of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus Lyudmila Dubovskaya told reporters on 19 September, BelTA has learnt.**

"Now the Institute of Biophysics and Cell Engineering is working on two important projects: the project to set up advanced and competitive production of stem cells that will meet international requirements and the project to start using stem cells in medical treatment at the Belarus-Russia joint venture International Scientific Medical Center – Cell Technologies," Lyudmila Dubovskaya said.

The joint venture will introduce Belarusian and Russian cell technologies into medical practice. The center will be established by the Institute of Biophysics and Cell Engineering and Minsk Teaching Hospital No. 9 (on the part of Belarus) and the Russian venture company EurAsEC Center for Information Technologies (on the part of Russia).

Research supervisor of the Union State program Stem Cells Igor Volotovskiy noted that the center will implement the second Union State program titled Regenerative Medicine that will be the continuation of the Stem Cells program. The Regenerative Medicine program is estimated at about RUB1 billion.

The current program Stem Cells is designed for 2011-2013 and is structured into five parts: separation and standardization of stem cells obtained from bone marrow and adipose tissue, study of stem cells obtained from umbilical blood, development of technologies to treat diseases of peripheral and central nervous systems, musculoskeletal diseases and cancer. The budget of the program is estimated at RUB120 million.

The scientists of the Center for Cell Technologies set up by the Institute of Biophysics and Cell Engineering in 2010 have gained experience in obtaining and accumulating highly resilient stem cells. They have developed methods to get colonies of mesenchymal stem cells from bone marrow, adipose tissue and stem cells from olfactory epithelium, as well as methods to separate and cultivate pancreatic islet cells and methods to control the quality of cell cultures.

Lyudmila Dubovskaya informed that pancreatic islet cells were used to successfully treat ten people diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. Belarusian scientists have also developed a technology to treat experimental infarction on animal models using mesenchymal stem cells obtained from bone marrow. They have also introduced a method to treat trophic ulcers using autologous mesenchymal stem cells obtained from adipose tissue. In the future stem cells will be used to treat other diseases, too.

Stem cells are undifferentiated cells that can turn into specialized cells of various body tissues. They can act as a repair system of the body replenishing adult tissues. The European Union and the United States remain the leading producers of stem cells.

*belta.by*  
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## Belarus' population at 9.464m by 1 September

**According to the latest data, the number of people who live in Belarus totaled 9,464,400 as of 1 September 2013, BelTA learned from Press Secretary of the National Statistics Committee Olga Klavusit.**

In January-August only Minsk saw an increase in the number of residents. The figure went up from 1,901,000 people registered as of 1 January 2013 to 1,906,400 as of 1 September. The number of residents in other regions of the country dropped during this time. As of 1 September there were 1,426,900 residents in Gomel Oblast, 1,405,000 in Minsk Oblast, 1,390,300 in Brest Oblast, 1,204,400 in Vitebsk Oblast, 1,074,800 in Mogilev Oblast, and 1,056,600 in Grodno Oblast.

In January-August the natural decline decreased by

28.7% compared to the same period last year and amounted to 6,286 people. Migration surplus compensated the natural loss and contributed to the increase in the number of population.

In January-August as many as 78,039 children were born in Belarus and 84,325 people died. In January-August 2013 the number of those passed away outpaced the number of newborns by 8.1% (11.7% over the same period last year).

In January-August 2013 the migration gain made up 6,831 people, up by 1,589 people (30.3%) compared to the same period last year.

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30.09.2013

## SEPTEMBER 2013 TOP NEWS

**A Belarusian-Russian strategic army exercise Zapad 2013 took place in the two countries on 20-26 September. President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko and President of Russia Vladimir Putin took part in the exercise. The application of military administration bodies and troops was practiced at firing ranges in Belarus and in Russia's Kaliningrad Oblast.**

The basic amount has been raised in Belarus. On 26 September the Council of Ministers passed a resolution to raise the basic amount to Br130,000 as of 1 October.

BelAZ has made the world's largest mine dump truck with the carrying capacity of 450 tonnes. On 25 September the giant vehicle was presented at the testing field of Belarusian Autoworks (BelAZ trademark). The dump truck has every chance of getting into the Guinness World Record Book.

MAZ's first vehicle with a gas engine went into service in Minsk on 3 September. It is a joint product of OAO Minsk Automobile Plant and OAO Gazprom Transgaz Belarus. The implementation of the state action plan to switch public transport and municipal transport to gas engine fuel was launched in Belarus in May 2013. There are plans to start manufacturing automobiles and buses powered by natural gas. Special fuel equipment for refitting vehicles will be made. A chain of refueling and service stations will be deployed.

Belarus has set up OAO Belarusian Potash Company to handle the entire export of potash fertilizers. It will allow Belarus to keep the internationally recognized brand while using the achievements secured by ZAO Belarusian Potash

Company with regard to contacts with customers and sales channels.

The Belarus President has signed a decree, which allows length-of-service pensions, retirement pensions only for those, who have paid mandatory insurance fees to the Social Population Protection Fund for at least ten years, as from 1 January 2014. The measure has been adopted to streamline the spending of the state social insurance system.

The 8th Forum of Creative and Academic Intellectuals of the CIS states took place in Minsk on 23-26 September. It was focused on the year 2013 as the Year of Ecological Culture and Environmental Protection in the CIS member states.

Bolivia President Evo Morales has been to Belarus on an official visit. An agreement was reached that Belarus will offer geologic exploration and mineral extraction services in Bolivia. The two countries have also agreed to promote cooperation in manufacturing agricultural products and in supplying Belarusian agricultural machines to Bolivia.

The international beauty contest Miss Supranational 2013, which is one of the world's top three pageants, took place in Minsk. Belarus welcomed 83 beauties, which is the largest number of participants in the history of the contest. The finals took place on 6 September and were broadcasted in over 100 countries. The representative of the Philippines won the contest. Belarus was represented by 17-year-old student Veronika Chachina from Gomel. She was awarded the Miss Supranational Europe title.

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