The 22nd edition of the Belarusian Energy and Ecology Forum is opening in Minsk on 10 October, BelTA has learned.

The main events will take place at the Football Indoor Center in Minsk. The forum includes the 22nd International Specialized Exhibition Energy. Ecology. Energy Saving. Electric (Energy Expo’2017), the exhibitions: Oil&Gas Technologies, ExpoLIGHT, Atomexpo-Belarus, Water and Air Technologies, ExpoCITY and the 22nd Belarusian Energy and Ecology Congress.

The business program of the forum includes over 20 events, including seminars, workshops, roundtables, presentations by participating companies, where domestic and foreign experts will share the latest technological solutions in energy, petrochemistry, energy saving and ecology. During the featured events the participants will discuss matters of energy security, environmental and economic aspects of nuclear energy, innovative and energy efficient solutions in the housing sector, the strategy of the digital transformation of energy and petrochemistry sectors, sustainable environmental development of cities and green economy.

The roundtable dedicated to the prospects and problems of the development of electric transport will be held for the first time during the forum. The participants will discuss the world tendencies of the electric transport development, the Belarusian electric vehicles market, economic mechanisms to stimulate the use of electric vehicles, development of charging points and service infrastructure, environmental aspects, regulatory support and other matters.

During the roundtable on development prospects of nuclear energy, the Belarusian and foreign experts will discuss nuclear energy safety, environmental and social aspects of the construction of a nuclear power plant, dynamics of public opinion on nuclear energy in Belarus and raising public awareness of environmental safety during the construction and operation of a nuclear power plant.

The EnergyExpo exhibition traditionally draws attention of leading world’s and domestic producers of equipment, materials and technology for the energy sector, ecology, energy saving and electrical engineering. The exhibition is one of the largest in the CIS and Baltic countries in its field. This year’s edition of the forum has brought together representatives of some 300 companies from 16 countries, from Austria, Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Austria, Germany, France, Italy, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Finland, China and the USA. Partaking in the forum are the leading Belarusian organizations and such world-famous names as Siemens, ABB, IVECO, Schneider, Dow Chemical, HEAG and EATON. The forum will be running till 13 October.

**BELARUSIAN ENERGY AND ECOSYSTEM FORUM OPENS IN MINSK**

**Belaenergo to intensify cooperation with Sweden on environmental matters.**

The Minsk Times

**GREEN BELARUS - NEWS & EVENTS IN BELARUS**

**INNOVATIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS DEMONSTRATED AT ENERGY EXPO**

**Belarus Energy and Ecology Forum opens in Minsk**

**Belarus’ best forestry practices to be presented in Poland.**

**Belarus to intensify cooperation with Sweden on environmental matters.**

**Forest of Belarus-Armenia Friendship to be presented in Armenia in 2018.**

**Belarus’ best forestry practices to be presented in Poland.**

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**Belarus to carry out sustainable POPs management project.**

**Plans to implement chemical safety project in Belarus, Ukraine.**

**Belarus to keep developing renewable energy after nuclear power plant goes online.**

**Minsk hosts Energy Expo exhibition of technology and equipment as part of 22nd Belarusian Energy and Ecology Forum – perfect for the pharmaceutical, metallurgy, food and chemical industries.**

**Innovations and developments demonstrated at Energy Expo.**

**Belarus to carry out sustainable POPs management project.**

**Plans to implement chemical safety project in Belarus, Ukraine.**

**Belarus to keep developing renewable energy after nuclear power plant goes online.**

**Minsk to host international electric transport expo ETRANS in 2018.**

**Electric buses for European Games.**

**Forty-six Belarusian populated areas take part in European Mobility Week.**

**Plans for new bike routes in Novogrudok District to boost tourism.**

**City of Mostar to host international “Green Design Biennale”.**

**What have Belarusian developers been achieving in the spheres of energy, ecology, energy saving and electrical engineering? The major exhibit was an experimental model of a Belarusian electric car.**

**Belarus has achieved in the spheres of energy, ecology, energy saving and electrical engineering? The major exhibit was an experimental model of a Belarusian electric car.**

**Oil-absorbing materials based on peat were on display, designed to collect oil spilled on any surface and hold it, to eliminate emergency spills on water, soil, industrial sites and equipment.**

**University achievements were demonstrated at the exhibition, with the Belarusian University of Informatics and Radioelectronics showing its software-controlled power source and an energy-saving automatic charger, for any type of battery.**

**The National Academy of Sciences has been exploring LED technology to grow various crops, in greenhouses, using optimal lighting regimes for each plant, to aid photosynthesis and extend the shelf life of vegetables.**

**The Institute of Power Engineering, of the Academy of Sciences, demonstrated its charcoal-production equipment as part of the pharmaceutical, metallurgy, food and chemical industries.**

**Using wood waste, it is environmentally-friendly and is able to create charcoal quickly.**

**Green Belarus**
Belarus and Poland plan to sign an agreement on cooperation in the protection and rational use of transboundary waters. BelTA learned from the website of the Belarusian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

The ministry played host to a meeting of the Belarusian-Polish working group on water resources. The parties discussed the draft agreement between the governments of Belarus and Poland on cooperation in the protection and rational use of transboundary waters, the procedure of its coordination and signing. The parties also considered issues of updating flood threat and risk maps on the Belarusian-Polish border.

Taking part in the meeting were representatives of Belarus' Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Belarus’ Central Research Institute of Multipurpose Use of Water Resources of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, representatives of the Polish Department of Planning and Water Resources of the Water Resources Division and the Flood and Drought Modeling Center of the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management.

**BELARUS, UKRAINE DISCUSS JOINT INLAND WATERWAY PROJECT**

Belarusian Ambassador to Ukraine Igor Sokol and Director General of the Nibulon joint venture Aleksei Vadatursky discussed the implementation of a promising Belarus-Ukraine project to use inland waterways on the Dnieper River and learned from the press service of the Belarusian embassy in Ukraine.

In particular, the sides talked about the river stretch between the population center Zhnihi Zhary (Bragin District) and Kiev Hydroelectric Power Plant.

In July 2017, Ambassador Igor Sokol commented on the progress in the implementation of a project to build a cargo port on the Dnieper River in an interview with BelTA. "The port is situated in Belarus. However, we need to dredge some reaches of the river in Ukraine to make path for the port. The negotiations are underway; the specialists are working on it. There is a Belarusian investor ready to build the port but first we need to do a feasibility study for a 23-kilometer channel," the ambassador underlined. He emphasized that water transport is in high demand in other European countries. "This is quite a low-cost transport and a promising line of business," the ambassador added.

Nibulon exports grain crops. The company comprises a network of elevators accepting and storing grain, a terminal for transshipment and storage of grain crops, a shipbuilding and ship repair plant, and a shipping company which operates non-self-propelled and towing river vessels.

The embassy noted that Igor Sokol visited the joint-stock company Motor Sich. He met with the company’s president Vyacheslav Boguslayev and Vladimir Semenov, member of the Board of Directors, Director for Corporate Rights and Investment Projects. The sides discussed the promising avenues of cooperation between Motor Sich and Belarusian companies, including Orsha Aircraft Repair Plant.

The Belarusian diplomat also took part in the second international investment forum InCo Forum 2017: Cooperation Between Communities and Business in Zaporozhye. The forum focused on the implementation of international experience, attracting investment, developing cooperation between communities and providers of goods and services. The forum comprised exhibitions dedicated to the amalgamated territorial communities, energy saving and construction, small and medium-sized business. As part of the event, Ambassador Igor Sokol had a working meeting with Zaporozhye Oblast Governor Konstantin Bryl. The sides touched upon the promising avenues of Zaporozhye Oblast-Belarus cooperation, primarily in economy, science, and industry.

**BELARUS TO INTENSIFY COOPERATION WITH SWEDEN ON ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

Belarus plans to intensify cooperation with Sweden on environmental matters, BelTA learned from the website of the Belarusian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

On 23 October the ministry played host to a meeting between Belarus' Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Andrei Khudyk and Ambassador of Sweden to Belarus Kristina Johannesson. The parties discussed the Belarusian-Swedish cooperation in environmental protection and promising areas of its development.

Andrei Khudyk expressed readiness to strengthen and expand cooperation with Sweden in various areas of environmental activities. The focus was on Sweden's waste management regulations, the prevention of the build-up of secondary material resources, the construction of plants to process household waste. Belarus is ready to share its experience in preserving biological and landscape diversity.
The Forest of Belarus-Armenia 2018, BelTA learned from the press service of the Belarusian Forestry Ministry.

On October 9 Belarus’ Forestry Minister Mikhail Amelyanovich will attend the international meeting “Las2017. Forests, Our Common Good: Enhancing Sustainable Development in Light of the Paris Agreement” which will take place in Warsaw and will gather leaders of the forest departments of European countries - UN members. Experts will discuss the topical issues on the international agenda in forestry. One of the key matters is enhancing sustainable development in the light of the Paris agreement on climate change.

It is expected that during the meeting Mikhail Amelyanovich will lay out Belarus' achievements in forestry, will talk about the domestic experience of combating the drying out of forests, managing natural disasters in forests. Negotiations on achieving the sustainable development goals in forestry have been scheduled.

In recent years, the Belarusian Forestry Ministry has greatly stepped up mutually beneficial cooperation with relevant international organizations. Among them is the UN Economic Commission for Europe, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility and others.

The press service noted that the participation of the Belarusian forestry minister in such a high-level meeting reaffirms the commitment of Belarus to the principles of conservation, sustainable development and sustainable forest management, will help strengthen the capacity of international cooperation and raise investments in the forestry sector.

Belarus and Ukraine offer to work out a cross-border strategy to counter forest pests and forest tree diseases, reads a joint statement of the Belarusian Forestry Ministry and the Ukrainian State Forestry Resources Agency, BelTA learned from the press service of the Forestry Ministry.

The document was signed by Belarusian Deputy Forestry Minister Leonid Demyanik and Deputy Chairman of the Ukrainian State Forest Resources Agency Vladimir Bondar.

The international technical assistance project “Sustainable management of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and chemical substances” will be carried out in Belarus, BelTA learned from Yelena Meleshkova, spokesperson for the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Ministry.

The project is aimed at destroying stockpiles of obsolete pesticides and equipment containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in an environmentally safe way. According to the project, a number of essential practical measures will be undertaken to reduce and mitigate the effect of POPs on the environment. In particular, all the storage facilities with obsolete pesticides will be cleaned up. As of today, there are some 2,000 tonnes of such waste stored there, along with 2,300 tonnes of Class 1 PCB-containing equipment and waste. The project is estimated at around $8.5 million.

The project has been worked out by the Belarusian Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Ministry and the UNDP in Belarus. It will lay the groundwork for further cooperation between Belarus, the UNDP, and the Global Environment Facility in addressing the problem of POPs and observing the Stockholm Convention.

Belarus joined the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in 2004 and since then has been consistently fulfilling the obligations assumed. Thanks to joining the convention, Belarus has been granted access to international financial and technical resources allocated by the global community to solve the problem of POPs. Belarusian Deputy Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Minister Alexander Korbut underlined at the project’s presentation that Belarus has undertaken a whole set of measures to manage POPs. In particular, it has formed a legal framework regulating the management of POPs and taken stock of POPs. Belarus has ensured that obsolete PCB-containing pesticides, equipment, and waste are re-packed, and their ecologically safe storage is secured. The third National Implementation Plan under the Stockholm Convention was adopted in Belarus in 2007 under the coordination of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Ministry. The project receives considerable financial resources from budgets of different levels.
PLANS TO IMPLEMENT CHEMICAL SAFETY PROJECT IN BELARUS, UKRAINE

The conference is timed to the 90th anniversary since the applied science center for hygiene was established in Belarus. Today the center is a well-developed organization with a high scientific potential and modern physical infrastructure. Its specialists study different environmental factors to evaluate their effect on human health. The specialists work out healthcare recommendations. The sanitary norms and rules they have developed, their hygiene standards and methods for studying environmental factors represent the foundation of hygiene regulations in Belarus. The expertise of the center’s specialists has been recognized abroad. Many of the specialists work as international experts and represent Belarus in international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and others.

Director of the applied science center for hygiene Sergei Syacht noted that preventive healthcare specialists have to do more and more work every day. We live in an age of ever changing conditions due to the advance of new technologies, the growing role of global environmental processes, the emergence of new evidence pointing to the unfavorable effects that the already researched environmental factors have and the effects a combination of such factors has," he noted.

BELARUS TO KEEP DEVELOPING RENEWABLE ENERGY AFTER NUCLEAR POWER PLANT GOES ONLINE

He added that after the nuclear power plant is commissioned, the structure of the Belarusian energy system will be the same. The output capacity is growing and will grow by means of renewable energy. Sergei Greben gave the following data: at the beginning of 2017, the total output capacity of all the installations based on renewable energy was 133MW and now it is 262MW. "By the end of 2020, their capacity will be 950MW, which is comparable to one more power unit of the Belarusian nuclear power plant. We need to regulate the operation of these installations as their capacity is large and to establish them in such a way that they work according to the energy system schedule of the country," he said.

MINSK TO HOST INTERNATIONAL ELECTRIC TRANSPORT EXPO ETRANS IN 2018

The international electric transport expo ETRANS will take place in Minsk on 2-4 October 2018, BelTA learned from the organizers.

It will be the first time Belarus has welcomed the expo. The expo will offer a venue for discussing initiatives for developing and investing in new-generation transport solutions, for sharing the best practices and technologies, for signing business contacts.

The expo is supposed to popularize the idea of environmentally friendly and frugal transportation. It will also determine the development of all the energy sources as we have the modernized gas capacities which have had a great impact on the economy including energy tariff reduction," said Sergei Greben.

He highlighted the specific features of wind and solar energy installations, particularly, their dependence on weather conditions. They do not produce much electricity now, but after the launch of the nuclear power plant by 2020, the electric power capacity will significantly increase. We can say that it will be almost uninterrupted electric power as all the installations based on renewable energy can produce energy if sun and wind are available and this electric power should be somehow absorbed.

Other power plants are also working during this stage, and therefore we need to stop some," Sergei Greben said.

He added that after the nuclear power plant is commissioned, the structure of the Belarusian energy system will be the same. The output capacity is growing and will grow by means of renewable energy. Sergei Greben gave the following data: at the beginning of 2017, the total output capacity of all the installations based on renewable energy was 133MW and now it is 262MW. "By the end of 2020, their capacity will be 950MW, which is comparable to one more power unit of the Belarusian nuclear power plant. We need to regulate the operation of these installations as their capacity is large and to establish them in such a way that they work according to the energy system schedule of the country," he said.

ELECTRIC BUSES FOR EUROPEAN GAMES

The advantages of electric buses include a low environmental footprint, manoeuvrability, and increased comfort. Just like a trolleybus an electric bus is powered by electricity. Instead of overhead wires (trolley lines) and an electric station equipment will be in the spotlight as well as smart transport technologies and electronics.

The international electric transport expo will be held simultaneously with the Belarusian Transport Week in 2018.
PLANS FOR NEW BIKE ROUTES IN NOVOGRUDOK DISTRICT TO BOOST TOURISM

Four new tourist cycling routes in Novogrudok District will run through the most important historical sites.

“The routes have been developed in cooperation with specialists of the National Tourist and Sport Union. We considered a number of criteria for the routes. First of all, the route should be interesting, accessible for cyclists with different levels of training, convenient for traveling. It was also important to showcase the beauty of the region and local sights,” noted Sergei Koleda.

A two-kilometer ring-type trail will be named King Mindouh. Another, 12-kilometer, track titled as Grazyna’s Heart will take tourists to the places associated with Adam Mitskevich. The two routes will kick off from the tourist and information center of Novogrudok, which is part of the South Camp, which is an integral part of the Panorama of World War II. The camping is gaining popularity: in 2017, 79 percent of tourists arrived by bicycle.

A 30km tour “Lithuanian Chronicles” will follow the area's historical “pearls”: Lubcha Castle and Laurysyha Monastery. Tourists will also be able to visit the WWII related places: a partisans' camp, a museum and a sightseeing platform.

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FORTY-SIX BELARUSIAN POPULATED AREAS TAKE PART IN EUROPEAN MOBILITY WEEK

Fifty-six Belarusian populated areas took part in the European Mobility Week 2017. The initiative is implemented by the Deputy Chairman of the National Tourist and Sport Union Sergei Koleda.

The results of the European Mobility Week which took place on 16-22 September under the motto “Clean, shared and intelligent mobility. Sharing gets you further.” were summed up. The UNDP Mobility Program was an information coordinator of the campaign.

According to the UNDP News Center, Belarus officially took part in the European Mobility Week for the third time. The campaign is growing popularity. In 2015, partaking in it were Minsk, Polotsk, and Novopolotsk. There were 19 participants from Belarus in 2017. Forty-six populated areas joined the campaign this year. The European Mobility Week had a record number of participants in 2017: 2,470 towns and villages of 50 countries.

These populated areas hosted public discussions of town mobility, bike rides, and arrangements of bike parking places. There were air noise pollution surveys, joint campaigns with traffic police, concerts and events. The campaign was crowned by a traditional event, Car-Free Day.

According to experts, the quality of life by one third depends on mobility conditions. This pertains to the current state of the transport system, its reliability, safety for people and environment. Therefore, a systematic approach to the development of towns and regions is so important. This approach relies on the integrated territorial and transport planning. This is the main objective of the project to promote green planning in small and medium-sized towns of Belarus. It is implemented by the United Nations Development Program in association with the Global Environment Facility and the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Ministry.

The City of Mostar will host the international conference entitled “Green Design Biennale”, which will last until October 7. It will gather representatives from 12 countries around the world.

The conference is organized in cooperation with the Horizon 2020 “Buildings as Material Banks” project and SGDF, and aims to align a large number of mutually related aspects of sustainable design of cities, facilities and products.

Within this year’s Biennale, lectures, symposiums, expert roundtables, international exhibitions with students, international exhibitions, promotion of construction of the Green Design Center will be held, as well as exhibitions and promotions of organic food production.

The event will gather guests from 12 countries around the world. Japan, the Netherlands, Germany, Croatia, Serbia, Belgium, England, Bosnia and Herzegovina are among them.

President of the Sarajevo Green Design Foundation, Elma Durmisevic has said on Wednesday at a press conference held in Mostar that this is the third international Green Designing, which is traditionally held in Bosnia and Herzegovina in autumn.

She has underlined that the program will begin with the promotion of a European project, which they agreed with the City of Mostar, i.e., construction of a Green Designing Center in the South Camp, which is an integral part of the “Buildings as Material Banks” project.

The project is aimed at exploring new ways of construction, which will support the circular economy, develop new construction methods and enable flexible construction, Durmisevic said.

She added that the Biennale was conceived as a platform for sharing experiences, ideas and offering inspiration to young engineers.