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BELARUSIAN GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TAKING CARE OF CHERNOBYL-AFFECTED AREAS



during a commemorative meeting in the Alley of Memory of Abandoned Villages of Slavgorod District, BelTA learned.

Mikhail Myasnikovich recalled that the Chernobyl accident affected 2 million people directly. But one way or another the tragedy was felt across the whole country. "We have been living with this tragedy, and we will cope," the speaker stressed. Relevant government programs, including those of the Union State, have been implemented thanks to the joint of the president, the government and the parliament.

The speaker drew attention to the fact that the Chernobyl disaster is remembered in Belarus not only during these April days. "We take care of the

The state will never leave Chernobyl-affected areas to face the Chernobyl consequences, Chairman of the Council of the Republic of the R e p u b l i c Mikhail Myasnikovich said

needs and worries caused by the catastrophe," the speaker said. Turning to the local residents, he assured them that the country's leadership will never leave Slavgorod District and other affected areas one-on-one with the consequences of the disaster.

The Council of the Republic has been working to make sure the Chernobyl remain on the international agenda. Belarus has always openly informed the international community about the progress in mitigating the Chernobyl impact, the transition to sustainable development of the affected regions.

The council for cooperation of local self-government bodies at the Council of the Republic held a meeting with the chairmen of the regional and city councils of deputies of Mogilev Oblast and Gomel Oblast in Slavgorod District on 26 April. The participants visited the Alley of Memory of Abandoned Villages of Slavgorod District, participated in the commemorative meeting-and laid flowers to the monument.

For 32 years already Belarus has been working to minimize the impact of the catastrophe that happened at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Traditionally, Belarus pays tribute to the victims of Chernobyl on 26 April. Photo by Gennady Zhinkov

BELTA,
26.04.2018

BELARUS CALLS FOR INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO OVERCOME CHERNOBYL CATASTROPHE CONSEQUENCES

Overcoming consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe requires not only national efforts, but international ones, too. Belarusian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrei Dapkiunas made the relevant statement during the briefing held on 25 April for heads of foreign diplomatic missions and representative offices of international organizations in anticipation of the 32nd anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident and International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day, BelTA has learned.

The official said: "Unfortunately, it is premature to say that the sorrowful legacy of the Chernobyl catastrophe is a thing of the past. Overcoming consequences of the Chernobyl accident requires not only national efforts, but international ones, too." Belarus will continue working persistently to draw the attention of the international community to this problem and has

always been in favor of continuing international cooperation in this field.

"Due to the Chernobyl catastrophe Belarus has lost 485 villages and towns," noted the Belarusian deputy minister of foreign affairs. Andrei Dapkiunas stressed



that Belarus feels responsible for keeping the attention of the international community directed towards the history of the tragedy and to the invaluable experience Belarus had accumulated while fighting consequences of the disaster. "Over the course of more than 30 years since the Chernobyl catastrophe Belarus has gone all the

way from a country, which receives humanitarian aid, to a full-value partner and an expert with experience of overcoming consequences of large-scale man-caused catastrophes," the official pointed out.

Securing proper and safe conditions for life in the affected areas, putting the polluted territories back on social and economic development track remain a critical task for the central government and municipal authorities.

On behalf of Belarus Andrei Dapkiunas expressed gratitude to leading international organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations, civil initiatives, public and political figures of various countries for their contribution to overcoming consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

BELTA,
25.04.2018

[Belarus-Russia program on social security of people living in Chernobyl-hit areas ready](#)

BELARUS, ITALY TO JOIN CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION EFFORTS

Belarus and Italy will join action on climate change mitigation, Belarus' First Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Protection Iya Malkina told at the opening of the 2nd Italian-Belarusian Business Forum on Green Economy on 23 April, BelTA has learned.

Iya Malkina noted that Belarus has been doing a lot to achieve the global sustainable development goals and introduce the principles of the green economy. "It is very important for us that Belarus and Italy agreed on the memorandum of understanding and cooperation in vulnerability, risk assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection of Belarus and the Ministry of the Environment and Protection of Land and Sea of Italy. We invite our counterparts from the Italian ministry to visit Belarus for the official signing of the memorandum," she said.

The first deputy minister stressed that only through joint efforts of the state, business and civil society it is possible to achieve sustainable social and economic development. The application of the best technical methods and technologies helps not only to preserve the environment, take production onto a new level, but

also as a result, to improve the living conditions of our and future generations. The state environmental policy is one of the main components of Belarus' national security. An important achievement of this policy is the implementation of the National Action Plan for Green Economy Development in Belarus through 2020. Its strategic goal is to improve the quality of life of the population on the basis of growing economic competitiveness attracting investment and innovative development.

According to Iya Malkina, the 2nd Italian-Belarusian forum is a great opportunity to establish cooperation in many areas of green economy. Attending the event are almost 50 Italian and 140 Belarusian enterprises. Among the invitees are Belarus' major governmental institutions, specialized associations and repre-



sentative offices of joint Italian-Belarusian companies. The goal of the event is to advance the latest achievements of the Italian industry in green economy with the focus on waste management, renewable resources (solar and wind power plants), energy efficiency in civil and industrial construction, agriculture, smart cities.

The forum is aimed at strengthening and expanding bilateral economic cooperation between Italian and Belarusian companies. The forum is organized by the Italian embassy in Belarus in cooperation with Confindustria Belarus and the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

BELTA,
23.04.2018

ABOUT 25.7M TREES PLANTED IN BELARUS DURING FOREST WEEK

About 25.7 million trees were planted in Belarus during the Forest Week campaign on 14-21 April, BelTA learned from the press service of the Belarusian Forestry Ministry.

Seedlings, mostly pines and birches, were planted on the total area of more than 6,700 hectares.

This year the Forest Week campaign was held for the 11th time. Traditionally, representatives of the private sector, public organizations, sports associations, and schools were actively involved in the event. The campaign was vigorously supported by heads of different ministries and agencies, oversight agencies, members of parliament. Anyone could take part in the campaign. This year forestry enterprises organized works on 2,800 sites. Besides planting trees, volunteers collected garbage, did landscaping in public recreation facilities. Some 221 facilities were prepared for the spring-summer period during the campaign.



The last day of the campaign coincided with 83,000 people took part in forest restoration the National Clean-Up Day. Some 52,000 Belarusians joined the campaign during the working week. They were joined by 31,200 forestry specialists on the clean-up day. Thus, more than

clean-up effort. The final day of the campaign also featured members of the Council of Ministers, the State Control Committee, the State Secretariat of the Security Council, the Information Ministry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other departments.

"The Forestry Ministry extends its gratitude to all Belarusians who participated in the campaign," pointed out the press service.

Reportedly, Forest Week 2018 coincided with the Year of Native Land in Belarus and was dedicated to the restoration of forests damaged as a result of the pest outbreak in 2017. The main goal of the event was to raise public awareness of forest issues, to promote respect for one of the country's greatest natural resources, to enhance the environmental, economic and social role of

forests

BELTA,
24.04.2018

FOREST WEEK GETS UNDERWAY IN BELARUS

The Forest Week has started in Belarus, BelTA learned from the press service of the Forestry Ministry.

The campaign will last from 14 to 21 April. It has been traditionally organized by the Forestry Ministry. "This year the campaign is dedicated to the Year of Native Land and restoration of forests damaged by the board-scale distribution of bark beetles. The main objective of the campaign is to attract wide public attention to the problems of forests, to popularize a careful attitude to one of the main natural resources of the country, and to strengthen the environmental, economic and social role of forests.

Anyone can apply to a nearby forestry to take part in the campaign. The forestries will provide the volunteers with the necessary equipment

and planting stock. For the current campaign the forestry companies have prepared more than 17 million seedlings to plant new forests on the area of over 3,700 hectares.

"Belarusians take an active part in the campaign. The campaign is widely supported by businessmen, public associations, mass media, government bodies, watchdogs, MPs and others," the press service said.

Belarus will celebrate its Forest Week for the 11th time this year. An estimated 81,000 people took part in the campaign in 2016, and 82,500 in 2017.

BELTA,
14.04.2018

WB, BELARUS SIGN AGREEMENT ON ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR FORESTRY SECTOR



The World Bank and Belarus' Forestry Ministry have signed an agreement to allocate additional €12 million to finance the Belarus Forestry Development Project, BelTA has learned.

The document was signed by Belarus' Forestry Minister Vitaly Drozhzha and World Bank Country Manager for Belarus Alex Kremer. "The agreement demonstrates that the World Bank recognizes and praises the efficiency and hard work of all the stakeholders in the project. Our forestry project is a success story," Alex Kremer said.

Such projects are of great importance, as they make a considerable contribution to climate change mitigation. "Climatic changes take place

regularly. Everyone can see it. This means that trees have to adapt to the changing climate, too. Forest seed centers being built under our project will grow planting stock that is better adapted to modern conditions," Alex Kremer added.

In April 2015, the Belarusian government represented by the Forestry Ministry and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development signed a loan agreement on the Belarus forestry development project. IBRD provided a loan for \$40.7 million. These funds were invested in the construction of container-grown forest nurseries, and purchase necessary equipment. In March 2018, the World Bank Board of Executive Directors, after studying the progress on the project, decided to allocate an additional loan of €12 million.

More than 90 Belarusian forestry companies are taking part in the implementation of the Belarus Forestry Development Project.

BELTA,
11.04.2018

KOBYAKOV: CLEAN-UP DAY MONEY WILL BE USED TO UPGRADE HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE



The money earned during the National Clean-Up Day on 21 April will be used to upgrade the healthcare infrastructure ahead of the 2nd European Games MINSK 2019, Belarus Prime Minister Andrei Kobyakov told the media, BelTA has learned.

"The part of the money that will be sent to the republican fund will be spent on further purchase of equipment for the Minsk City Emergency Hospital as part of the preparations for the 2nd European Games MINSK 2019. according to the estimates, we need to build up the capacities that provide medical services to those who may need it," said Andrei Kobyakov.

The Belarus prime minister took part in the event to plant trees in Stolbtsy Forestry. Other representatives of the Belarus Council of Ministers also worked there as part of the clean-up day there. They planted pines and birches on the areas deforested because of the onslaught of bark-beetle.

Planting trees on the National Clean-Up Day has become a tradition for the government members. The Belarus prime minister noted that such sort of activity in the fresh air is very useful for the people who work in offices a lot. Moreover it contributes to ecology. "It is obvious

that forests are the lungs of the nature. We breathe and live thanks to them. And for our country, the forest is an important resource, one of the few we have. It is important for us to use it and constantly renew it. And this is exactly what we are doing today," said the prime minister. "The results of what was done will be observed in a couple of years, and these results could be used by future generations," noted Andrei Kobyakov.

The government estimates that more than three million Belarusians took part in the clean-up day. "The atmosphere of holiday coupled with work and great usefulness of what we do create a good mood. I am sure millions of our citizens taking part in the clean-up day today feel the same," Andrei Kobyakov added.

Reportedly, half of the sum earned during the clean-up day will go to the Belarusian Finance Ministry. This money will be used to buy medical equipment for the Minsk City Emergency Hospital for setting up additional 24/7 emergency rooms and also extra beds in case participants and guests of the European Games MINSK 2019 need any emergency hospital care.

The other 50% of the money earned during the clean-up day will remain at the disposal of the regional authorities and the Minsk City Hall. The money will be spent to improve the population centers, to tidy up memorial complexes and sites of combat and military glory, to upkeep burial places of soldiers and partisans of the Great Patriotic War and also to prepare sports and health-improvement summer camps for children.

BELTA,
23.04.2018

ABOUT 190 COMPANIES TO TAKE PART IN ITALY-BELARUS FORUM ON GREEN ECONOMY

About 190 companies will take part in the second Italy-Belarus Business Forum on Green Economy which is due to take place in Minsk on 23 April, BelTA learned from the Italian embassy in Belarus.

Attending the event will be almost 50 Italian and 140 Belarusian enterprises. Among the invitees are Belarus' major governmental institutions, specialized associations and representative offices of joint Italian-Belarusian companies.

The goal of the event is to advance the latest achievements of the Italian industry in green economy with the focus on waste management, renewable resources (solar and wind power plants), energy efficiency in civil and industrial construction, agriculture, smart cities.

The forum is aimed at strengthening and expanding bilateral economic cooperation between Italian and Belarusian companies.

Confindustria Belarus (the Association of Italian Entrepreneurs in Belarus) and the free economic zones of Gomel and Brest are expected to sign a protocol on cooperation during the forum. A number of contracts will also be concluded between Italian and Belarusian companies.



The forum is organized by the Italian embassy in Belarus in cooperation with Confindustria Belarus and the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The forum makes part of the program of cultural and economic events of the Italian embassy in Minsk "Vivere all'Italiana" to promote culture, language and economic sector of Italy in Belarus.

BELTA,
20.04.2018

ENERGY MINISTRY: NPP WILL CONTRIBUTE TO GREEN ECONOMY IN BELARUS

The Belarusian nuclear power plant will contribute to green economy, Belarusian Deputy Energy Minister Mikhail Mikhadyuk noted as the participants of the international forum "Trade unions and green jobs" visited the NPP, BelTA learned from the Energy Ministry's press service.

The event has brought together around 150 representatives of trade unions and scientific communities from 41 countries. They have visited an exhibition of the BelNPP information center and the construction site, and learned more about the construction progress.

"The Belarusian nuclear power plant is an important green economy project. Once commissioned, the NPP will make a great contribution to the environmental protection efforts. It will help the country reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 7 to 10 million tons a year," Mikhail Mikhadyuk said. The BelNPP and the

maintenance organizations are expected to create around 2,400 new jobs.

According to the deputy minister, safety is a top priority for Belarus in the BelNPP construction. First of all, close attention is paid to the quality of design documentation which is carefully examined by the customer's specialists.

The quality of equipment is under careful monitoring at the stage of manufacturing and delivery to the construction site. The quality of works is strictly supervised, too. "Before the installment of heavy equipment, we make an additional check of the construction structures and foundations. For instance, before the installment of a turbine at the second power-generating unit, we examined the foundation of the turbine with the help of experts. The representatives of a special organization confirmed that the foundation was ready for the install-

ment of the turbine," Mikhail Mikhadyuk clarified.

Staffing is another crucial point. "Specialists for the nuclear power plant are trained under a general contract for the BelNPP construction and a government program to train staff for the nuclear energy industry. To date, we have virtually prepared all specialists for the first power-generating unit in all the main fields," the official added.

The Belarusian nuclear power plant is being built using the Russian standard Generation III+ design AES-2006 near Ostrovets, Grodno Oblast. The first power-generating unit is scheduled for commissioning in 2019, with the second one to go online in 2020.

BELTA,
20.04.2018

MINSK TO HOST INTERNATIONAL FORUM "TRADE UNIONS AND GREEN JOBS"

Representatives of the trade unions and scientific communities from 41 countries will take part in the 2nd international forum "Trade unions and green jobs" in Minsk on 19-20 April, the press service of the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus told BelTA.

The forum will be attended by delegates from Tajikistan, Austria, Cyprus, Great Britain, Poland, Azerbaijan, Romania, Lithuania, Latvia, France and Serbia.

The forum is set to examine the issues of creating green jobs in different economic sectors, to discuss the social security of workers in the context of the transition towards a green economy and the ways of improvement of approaches to education and vocational training.

Environmental issues are especially relevant today. So is the concept of a green economy and effective use of available resources. The important areas of its application are the arrangement and development of green jobs in eco-efficient industries. The forum will focus on the green initiative of the International Labor Organization (ILO) which is aimed at ensuring decent work during the transition towards the environmentally sustainable path of development and at promoting partnership participation of government, employers and trade unions in the process.

The Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus will host the opening ceremony of the forum.

BELTA,
18.04.2018

PLANS TO UNVEIL UPDATED BELARUSIAN ELECTRIC CAR BY 2018 YEAR-END

The updated Belarus-made electric car will be demonstrated by the end of 2018, Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NASB) Vladimir Gusakov noted at the NASB General Meeting on 26 April, BelTA informs.

"Last year, a prototype was shown. Now we are busy working on a completely Belarusian electric car. This is about a very complicated production mechanism. We are testing different system. We plan to roll out electric cars of different types: luxury vehicles, medium cars, and cars affordable for the general public. They must be comfortable and have an affordable price," the NASB Presidium chairman said.

Today Belarusian scientists demonstrate a lineup of electric scooters, bikes, and mopeds. "These are Belarusian vehicles. The accumulators are also made in Belarus," Vladimir Gusakov underlined.

The serial production of electric cars may be launched at a new company or at an existing one, BelGee, for instance. "This matter is yet to be discussed. First, we have to develop it and prove its efficiency and advantages. If our electric car is on par with the foreign analogues, we will consider producing it. Now we seek to make it competitive," Vladimir Gusakov remarked.

"We have not abandoned the idea of an electric car. We are still working on it and have been making headway," he summarized.

Vladimir Gusakov named some promising

The NASB General Meeting has brought together around 500 academicians, representatives of universities and sectoral specialists, and also young scientists. The meeting participants discuss prospects for the development of the NASB and science in 2018 in view of the tasks set by the Belarus president at the Second Congress of Scientists.

As of 1 January 2018, the National Academy of Scientists had 88 academicians, 130 corresponding members, 4 honorary and 16 foreign members. In 2017, the total volume of work carried out by all the organizations affiliated with the NASB reached Br625.6 million (118.3% versus 2016). The exports of goods and services of the NASB-affiliated organizations grew by a third in 2017 to \$47.7 million.

An additional \$2.2 million was raised in grant funding. In 2017, the NASB continued it turn into the largest R&D corporation in Belarus and speed up the introduction of scientific developments into the manufacturing process. Around 90 manufacturing facilities have been set up at the NASB R&D organizations.



tasks for 2018: the production of brand new medicines and "smart materials" for different economic sectors (mechanical engineering, construction, and road building). Scientists will be working on new types of plant and competitive agricultural vehicles.

"The NASB is working in the contest of the international science. We set ambitious tasks in all fields," the official stressed.

BELTA
26.04.2018

MINSK WASTE-TO-ENERGY PLANT CONSTRUCTION PROJECT ESTIMATED AT €300M



The construction of a waste incineration plant will cost around €300 million, Nadezhda Tatarintseva, deputy director of the state-run company Operator of Secondary Material Resources, told a press conference on 4 April, BelTA has learned.

"The situation with waste management is the most critical in Minsk due to the great amount of waste and insufficient landfill sites. We plan to handle this problem by setting up a waste-to-energy plant with a capacity of 500,000 tonnes to produce thermal energy and electricity. The project is expected to attract €300 million in investment. In addition, the investor must have background in the construction and operation of such facilities," Nadezhda Tatarintseva remarked.

The Ministry of Housing and Communal Services, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, the Energy Ministry, and the Minsk City Hall are now working on the documentation and the project terms and conditions. "The main matters under consideration are the technical standards of waste incineration and emissions as there are no similar facilities in Belarus for the time being. Another important matter is the way the energy produced at the plant will be used," Nadezhda Tatarintseva said.

In her words, the construction site for the future waste incineration plant is yet to be selected.

BELTA
4.04.2018

MINSK TO HOST BELARUSIAN ENERGY AND ECOLOGY FORUM, EXPO, CONGRESS ON 9-12 OCTOBER

The 23rd Belarusian Energy and Ecology Forum, an expo and the congress Energy. Ecology. Energy Saving. Electro will take place in Minsk on 9-12 October, BelTA learned from the Belarusian government's website.

Prime Minister of Belarus Andrei Kobyakov has signed an executive order to set up the committee in charge of organizing the forum. The committee will be led by Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus Vladimir Semashko.

The forum is supposed to present modern equipment and technologies for generating and distributing electric and heat energy, automated systems, energy- and resource-saving technologies. The forum is supposed to assist with the innovation-driven development of Belarus' fuel and en-



ergy complex, encourage broader cooperation and the exchange of cutting-edge R&D products and projects.

Since 1995 the expo has attracted leading Belarusian and foreign producers and vendors of equipment, technologies, and materials for power engineering, ecology, energy saving, and electric technology. Over 300 organizations from 17 countries took part in the event in 2017.

BELTA
8.04.2018



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PLANS TO INTRODUCE ORGANIC CERTIFICATION IN BELARUS

Belarus plans to introduce the certification of organic products and organic farming, noted Sergei Litvin, a member of the Standing Commission on Agricultural Policy at the House of Representatives, BelTA has learned.

The MPs passed the first reading of the bill at the spring session on 2 April. "The draft law is designed to introduce the certification of organic products and organic farming. Organic products will be certified for compliance with the national standards and organic farming requirements stipulated in technical codes," Sergei Litvin said. The accredited certification bodies will be in charge of this task. A certificate of conformity will be granted to the applicant that meets the necessary requirements. The certified products will be labeled "organic". The labeling procedure is to be defined by the Belarusian State Standardization Committee.

"The adoption of the bill will improve Belarus' international reputation of a country with high-level receptiveness to innovations seeking achievements in economy, science, and culture. This law will map out development of natural and economic environment for organic farming in Belarus," the MP believes.

Organic farming is in the focus of Belarus' social and economic development program for 2016-2020. "The development of this sector will ensure the country's food security and open up new opportunities for trade in organic products with other countries," Sergei Litvin underlined.

The transition to organic farming is not immediate, he added. A transition period of at least three years is required for soil purification and modernization of manufacturing facilities. "As a result, we will start producing food products that are very safe for human health, which is especially important as they slow the growth

of cancer cells and boost the immunity. Organic diet reduces the chance of allergies and gastrointestinal diseases," the MP clarified.

When commenting on the benefits of organic farming in general, he stressed that this is one of the ways to reduce the negative environmental and health effect of chemically synthesized fertilizers, plant protection products, retardants, veterinary products, and other harmful substances.



Today organic farming is developing in most countries which adopt relevant national laws and certification system. Natural foods are produced in 179 states. There are over 700,000 organic food manufacturers in the world nowadays. As of today, organic products account for 7% to 10% of the world's agricultural output.

As for regulations, 87 countries have their own laws, 17 countries are drafting them, and another 20 have relevant standards. For instance, a draft law on bio-organic farming has been submitted to Russia's State Duma. A similar document had earlier been in effect at the regional level. Similar laws have been adopted in Armenia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, and Ukraine. In 2014, the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly passed a model law on eco-friendly agricultural production.

The concept of a bill on the production and circulation of organic products has been designed in Belarus and then approved by the president. The draft law is a brainchild of a working group of representatives of several government bodies. They have summarized the international organic farming practices, explored the background in the CIS, non-CIS countries, and the EU. The document is based on the most successful approaches to and mechanisms of organic food production.

BELTA,
3.04.2018

BELARUSIAN STUDENTS VICTORIOUS AT GOLDEN CLIMATE ENVIRONMENTAL OLYMPIAD IN NAIROBI

Belarusian students were among the winners of the Golden Climate International Environmental Project Olympiad held in Nairobi (Kenya) on 5-10 April, the press service of the Education Ministry told BelTA.

Belarus participated with the project "Improving the efficiency of organic and conventional farming through biotechnological methods". The authors of the project were the students of the national center of ecology and local studies: Timofei Fedorov (Minsk city school No. 130 named after Ruth Waller) and Dmitry Kharitonov (Minsk gymnasium No. 13). The Belarusian students won the gold medals and special certificates.

The annual Golden Climate International Environmental Project Olympiad is the largest international competition of scientific projects among students of general secondary education institutions. It is aimed at promoting global understanding of environmental problems among young people, teaching students skills and knowledge necessary for their future professions. More than 200 projects were presented at the 2018 edition of the contest. Young representatives of 25 countries including the USA, Ukraine, Mexico, Brazil and African countries took part in six sections of the Olympiad.

BELTA,
10.04.2018