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# BELARUS

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A photograph of two men in dark blue suits shaking hands. The man on the left is older, with white hair and a mustache, wearing a blue tie. The man on the right is younger, with dark hair, wearing a purple tie. They are standing in front of a highly ornate, traditional Mongolian-style backdrop. The backdrop features a central figure, possibly a deity or historical figure, surrounded by intricate carvings and a blue sky with clouds. To the left, there are several bows and arrows leaning against the structure. The overall setting appears to be a formal or ceremonial event.

MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL  
COOPERATION FOR THE  
BENEFIT OF PARTNERS



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# THE COURSE IS TO STRENGTHEN INTEGRATION



**The negotiations between the Presidents of Belarus and Russia Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin that took place in Minsk at the end of May, as well as the very fact that this was one of the first visits of the Russian head of state after the presidential elections, is another confirmation of strong relations and strategic partnership between the two countries**

During the two-day official visit of the President of Russia to our country, almost the entire complex of Belarusian-Russian integration was discussed — from security and economic issues to the international situation and a joint response to emerging challenges and threats. The heads of state agreed that under no circumstances should the momentum be slowed down. Today is the moment to consolidate positive economic trends and increase the stability of the economies of the two countries.

## **Main topics for negotiations**

The leaders of the two countries held the first round of negotiations upon Vladimir Putin's arrival in Minsk. Aleksandr Lukashenko personally met his colleague at the airport. There, closer to midnight, the presidents, in the presence of journalists, outlined the negotiating agenda, declaring their intention to primarily discuss security issues, including joint exercises to test the use of non-strategic nuclear weapons.



The marathon negotiations the next day were mainly devoted to economic topics. Vladimir Putin arrived at the Palace of Independence immediately after the wreath-laying ceremony at the Victory Monument. The distinguished guest was greeted solemnly: with a military orchestra, the playing of the anthems of the two countries, and a march of the honour guard company. After the traditional photographing ceremony, there was an equally traditional conversation in a small group. Aleksandr Lukashenko first outlined the contours of further work, “We always have two parts — security and economic issues. We have always postponed economic issues for consideration by our governments. Today is precisely the occasion to hear what has already been done in connection with our instructions. I think we are able to make certain decisions. So that we could make decisions with regard to what people have been talking about lately (it is good that people are talking, as we are allies, close states).”

### Work at a good level

Vladimir Putin drew attention to the fact that the leaders of the two countries are in constant contact and in touch. This means there is an opportunity to assess what has been done, what is happening now and what should be done in the near future, to outline specific joint steps to move forward, to develop the two states. The President of Russia noted the importance of common historical memory, including everything related to the Great Patriotic War, and also proposed to evaluate what has been done in the Union State over 25 years. Vladimir Putin believes that overall work is progressing at a good level, if we talk about the economy. The results of economic development speak for themselves. In his opinion, Belarus feels confident, stands confidently on its feet, and the economy is developing. It must be said that the leaders of the two countries agreed on this meeting in Minsk at the beginning of May at events in Moscow. They planned to meet with government members and discuss in detail all issues of interest. No sooner said than done. Opening the negotiation part in an expanded format, Aleksandr Lukashenko immediately stated the main thing. Namely: despite everything, Minsk and Moscow maintain a course towards strengthening integration. The parties have supported and will support each other in all areas. Moreover, common projects, as the President of Belarus put it, have already gone beyond the earth's surface.

At the negotiations, Aleksandr Lukashenko outlined in detail a number of areas to which the parties should pay special attention.

**Industry.** In this area, the President of Belarus noted, it is planned to continue concrete work on the implementation of joint import-substituting projects in microelectronics, mechanical engineering, machine tool building, and military-technical cooperation. In other words, in directions that ensure the achievement of the goals of technological sovereignty and economic security of the two states. All decisions at the presidential level have been made, governments must implement them in a short time. First of all, it is necessary to quickly complete the formation of a unified industrial policy

of the Union State, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised. Both sides will benefit from this. At the legislative level, there should be no protective measures from one's partners, “We need to defend ourselves, as we agreed, from those who imposed sanctions against us. And from those who do not contribute to the development of the two states.”

**Energy.** Another priority area on which the rhythmic work of the industry and the cost of the final product depend. Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced that it is necessary to finally agree on the terms of oil and gas supplies to Belarus. This topic has been discussed for several years, “And today Vladimir Vladimirovich made the corresponding decision. I think the governments will finalise these agreements in this direction in the coming days. We examined all the nuances in detail.”

Belarus is also ready to continue working with Russian companies in the field of nuclear energy. The experience of



constructing the Belarusian nuclear power plant has opened up new opportunities for the further development of these technologies, training of qualified personnel, and even joint construction of such facilities in third countries. The President of Russia confirmed that during the negotiations in a narrow format, the existing issues on cooperation between Belarus and Russia in the field of energy were resolved.

**Transport and logistics.** According to the President of Belarus, a lot has been done in this direction, but the needs of enterprises are growing every day. We need more serious investments in the development of railway infrastructure, updating rolling stock, increasing transportation capacity, and financial support for our air carriers. Measures are needed to increase the load on Belarusian and Russian airports, and joint projects that will make communication between regions easier and more accessible.

In turn, the President of Russia is convinced that it is necessary to restore and create new supply chains. In order to ensure the uninterrupted operation of enterprises, including those oriented to the markets of two countries and the markets of third countries that want to work with us. According to





Vladimir Putin, there are quite a lot of such states.

**Government procurement.** Aleksandr Lukashenko noted the interest of Belarusian companies in working more closely with Russian state corporations. He recalled that he raised this issue at the EAEU summit in Moscow in the context of government procurement. The Head of State told Vladimir Putin, “I think you will agree with my thesis that in the space of the Union State we should not limit ourselves by closing ourselves off from each other in our common market.” The President of Belarus believes that the situation has shown that in this world, from the point of view of long-term cooperation, both partner countries can only rely on themselves. He expressed hope for the active involvement of Belarusian enterprises and organisations in investment projects being implemented in Russia.

**Regional potential.** The engine of integration has always been interregional cooperation. Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that in recent years they have looked at regional cooperation in a new way and appreciated its potential, because it was cooperation between the regions of Belarus and Russia that provided a significant increase in mutual trade. Belarus and its regions today cooperate with almost all constituent entities of the Russian Federation, and exports of products are growing. The President of Belarus recalled that the 11th Forum of Regions of Belarus and Russia will be held on June 27th—28th in Vitebsk, Polotsk and Novopolotsk, and invited Vladimir Putin, members of the government of the Russian Federation, governors, and heads of Russian enterprises to take part in the forum.

### Understanding how to act

The President of Russia, during negotiations with Aleksandr Lukashenko in an expanded format, emphasised that ensuring defence and security is extremely important in modern conditions. These issues are always in the field of view of the presidents of Belarus and Russia, Vladimir Putin

noted. Especially recently, this is all relevant, bearing in mind the direction that was chosen by the Western community in relation to both Belarus and Russia: unconditional hostility, attempts to restrain development and damage sovereignty. So far, no one has succeeded in this regard, and, the President of Russia expressed confidence, no one will. Here the partners feel absolutely confident and reliable, and will continue to strengthen cooperation in these important areas.

Regarding investment activities, Vladimir Putin emphasised that the focus should be placed primarily on high technologies and everything connected with it. This task is especially relevant against the backdrop of Western sanctions, of which about 16 thousand have been imposed against the Russian Federation alone. They create certain problems, of course. But they also create certain opportunities for development, Vladimir Putin stated.

Vladimir Putin also named agriculture as one of the most important areas of interaction between Belarus and Russia, especially since Belarus demonstrates very good results in it. Belarusian agricultural products enjoy well-deserved attention on the Russian market. A large number of trading enterprises have opened, where the signs clearly state that the goods are from Belarus. And they are in great demand.

### BY THE WAY

*The volume of trade between Belarus and Russia in 2023 amounted to about \$48.7 billion, which is 6.3 percent higher than in 2022. In the first quarter of this year, the growth of mutual trade continued. The volume of trade turnover amounted to \$12.08 billion (plus 4.2 percent compared to the same period in 2023). Russia remains our main trade and economic partner. In the first quarter of 2024, its share accounted for about 60 percent of the value of Belarus' foreign trade and 57.5 percent (\$1.63 billion) of foreign investment attracted to our country.*



### Unprecedented level of interaction

The final part of official visits is summing up the results of negotiations. Aleksandr Lukashenko called the Minsk meetings in a narrow and expanded format fruitful. The Head of the Belarusian State especially emphasised that recently the presidents of the two countries have devoted a lot of time to discussing security and defence issues. Aleksandr Lukashenko also drew attention to the fact that recently there has been a noticeable rise in Belarusian-Russian relations — the level of interaction and trust between countries in all areas is unprecedented.

It is obvious that Belarus is aimed at further development of the nuclear industry based on Russian technologies. The heads of state also discussed in detail the issues of industrial cooperation, the development of mechanical engineering and machine tools, and microelectronics. First of all, from the point of view of increasing import-substituting production, allowing us to ensure import independence and technological sovereignty. And ultimately it is the security of states. The President is confident in maintaining continuity in the work of the new Russian government in the Belarusian direction.

In this context, the parties discussed the formation of a unified industrial policy within the Union State. Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced that the parties must eradicate the remaining protective measures and restrictions once and for all.

During the negotiations, significant attention was paid to the development of the transport and logistics sector. The presidents are unanimous in the opinion that serious additional investments are required in this very promising industry.

### Major directions are clearly indicated

During the negotiations, there was a lot of talk about the international agenda, security issues in the world and the region against the backdrop of an unprecedented level of tension. Aleksandr Lukashenko expressed gratitude to Vladimir Putin for detailed information about the results of his visit to China. As is known, Belarus is also aimed at developing an all-weather and comprehensive partnership with Beijing. Belarusian-Chinese relations are significantly improving from year to year.

In turn, Vladimir Putin, summing up the results of the negotiations, focused on the fact that his visit to Belarus is one of the first foreign visits after the election and assumption of office as President, after the formation of the government of the Russian Federation, “Thus, we would like to emphasise the importance that Russia attaches to fraternal ties with our closest neighbour, a reliable ally and a truly strategic partner.” The Russian president agreed with his Belarusian colleague that the negotiations were very productive. In general, he noted the successful development of the Union State. He emphasised that counter trade is growing steadily from year to year. At the same time, he noted that over 90 percent of all payments in Russian-Belarusian commercial transactions are carried out

in national currencies. This means that we can say that mutual trade and investment are protected from the influence of third countries and negative trends in global currency markets.

Vladimir Putin named energy as a priority sector of bilateral cooperation. The President of Russia also noted the increase in the volume of rail cargo transportation from Belarus through Russian territory. In 2023, this figure more than doubled, exceeding 14 million tons. The joint plans include the task of further increasing the transit of Belarusian goods through Russian territory.

According to Vladimir Putin, Russian-Belarusian cultural and humanitarian cooperation is multifaceted, scientific and educational exchanges are being carried out, joint programmes are being implemented for the patriotic education of youth and for the preservation of common historical memory, much is being done to create the most favourable conditions for mutual trips of citizens, to develop their contacts and direct communication with each other.

The head of the Russian state announced plans that will please both Russians and Belarusians who often visit the union country. It is planned to soon cancel roaming on the territory of the Union State, that is, mobile communications for all subscribers in the two countries will be fully provided in home network mode.

According to Vladimir Putin, taking into account the tense situation on the external borders of the Union State, during the negotiations the issues of forming a single defence space were discussed in detail. The progress in fulfilling the instructions of the heads of state to simultaneously conduct exercises in Russia and Belarus to develop skills in the use of non-strategic nuclear weapons was reviewed. Issues of further coordination of actions in the international arena were also touched upon. In this context, Vladimir Putin noted that Russia contributed in every possible way to Belarus's entry into the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. He expressed confidence that already in July at the organisation's summit in Astana it will be announced that all the necessary procedures have been completed and Belarus will become the 10th member country of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. This will undoubtedly strengthen the authority of the organisation itself and will serve to strengthen security and stability throughout the Eurasian space, the President of Russia believes.

**Ambassador of Belarus to Russia Dmitry Krutoy called the negotiations between the heads of state constructive. He stated that the strategic task has been set to select a group of experts from both sides and conduct a thorough analysis of each industry of the Union State in order to find new market niches where the parties could implement an additional pool of investment projects to create new competencies in the Belarusian economy.**

Aleksey Fedosov  
photo by BELTA



# MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF PARTNERS

**Belarus and Mongolia have opened a new page in interstate relations. This conclusion objectively suggests itself after the state visit of President Aleksandr Lukashenko to Ulaanbaatar.**

*It must be said that this was the first visit of the Belarusian delegation at the highest level to the Land of the Eternal Blue Sky, and it can rightfully be called historical. Minsk and Ulaanbaatar determined the strategy and tactics of bilateral cooperation and declared their most serious intentions to develop partnership across a wide range of relations. By signing a cooperation roadmap for 2024 — 2026, the two countries made it clear that in the future they would be guided exclusively by the principles of mutual benefit and protection of national interests.*

## **Progress is visible at every step**

...At the Chinggis Khan International Airport, the Belarusian leader was greeted solemnly, and in the rays of the setting sun it looked very colourful. Military personnel of the honour guard company lined up along the red carpet in the uniform of warriors from the era of Chinggis Khan, in red and blue caftans and leather helmets. At the plane's ramp, Mongolian girls in national costumes presented Aleksandr Lukashenko with a bowl of aaruul — sweetened dried cottage cheese. This is a traditional treat among



the Mongols. The Head of State presented a bouquet of Minsk flowers to Mongolian Foreign Minister Battsetseg Batmunkh, who met him.

No less solemn and colourful was the ceremony of welcoming the Belarusian leader at the State Palace on the square named after the legendary revolutionary, commander and statesman of the last century Sukhbaatar. Even the Horse Guards took part. It was clear from everything that they were expecting the President of Belarus in Mongolia and carefully preparing for his arrival. It is not for nothing that Mongolian President Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh, even before Aleksandr Lukashenko's arrival, said that the visit of the President of Belarus was important for his country, not only as the Head of State, but also as a person. The Mongolian people see him as a brave leader and wise statesman.

Aleksandr Lukashenko himself more than once remembered his first stay in Mongolia back in 1992, still as a member of Parliament. Naturally, during the negotiations he couldn't resist comparing impressions, "Heaven and earth! Amazing changes. Looking at Ulaanbaatar, I am completely shocked. Progress is visible at every step, starting from the airport. I congratulate you on this enormous progress."

### We arrived as goodwill ambassadors

By the way, Mongolia was among the first states to recognise the independence of Belarus. After all, they were together for decades, and the USSR provided enormous assistance to the friendly state. After the collapse of the Union, in the 90s, of course, a lot changed. But the Mongols still remember that friendship, they know and appreciate our BELAZ, MAZ, Belarus tractors, Gomselmash harvesters, Atlant refrigerators and much more. During the Soviet era, many young people from Mongolia studied at Belarusian universities, and today they occupy high positions in the civil service and enterprises, and have achieved significant success in business. In short, there are all the prerequisites to build on what happened before, catch up and move forward in cooperation. This is exactly what Aleksandr Lukashenko talked about during negotiations with the President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh.

In the Book of Honoured Guests of the State Palace, the President of Belarus wrote, "Belarus is interested in strengthening interaction with Mongolia in all areas. I am confident that our states are on the threshold of a qualitatively new stage in the development of bilateral cooperation."

### Ready to solve any problems

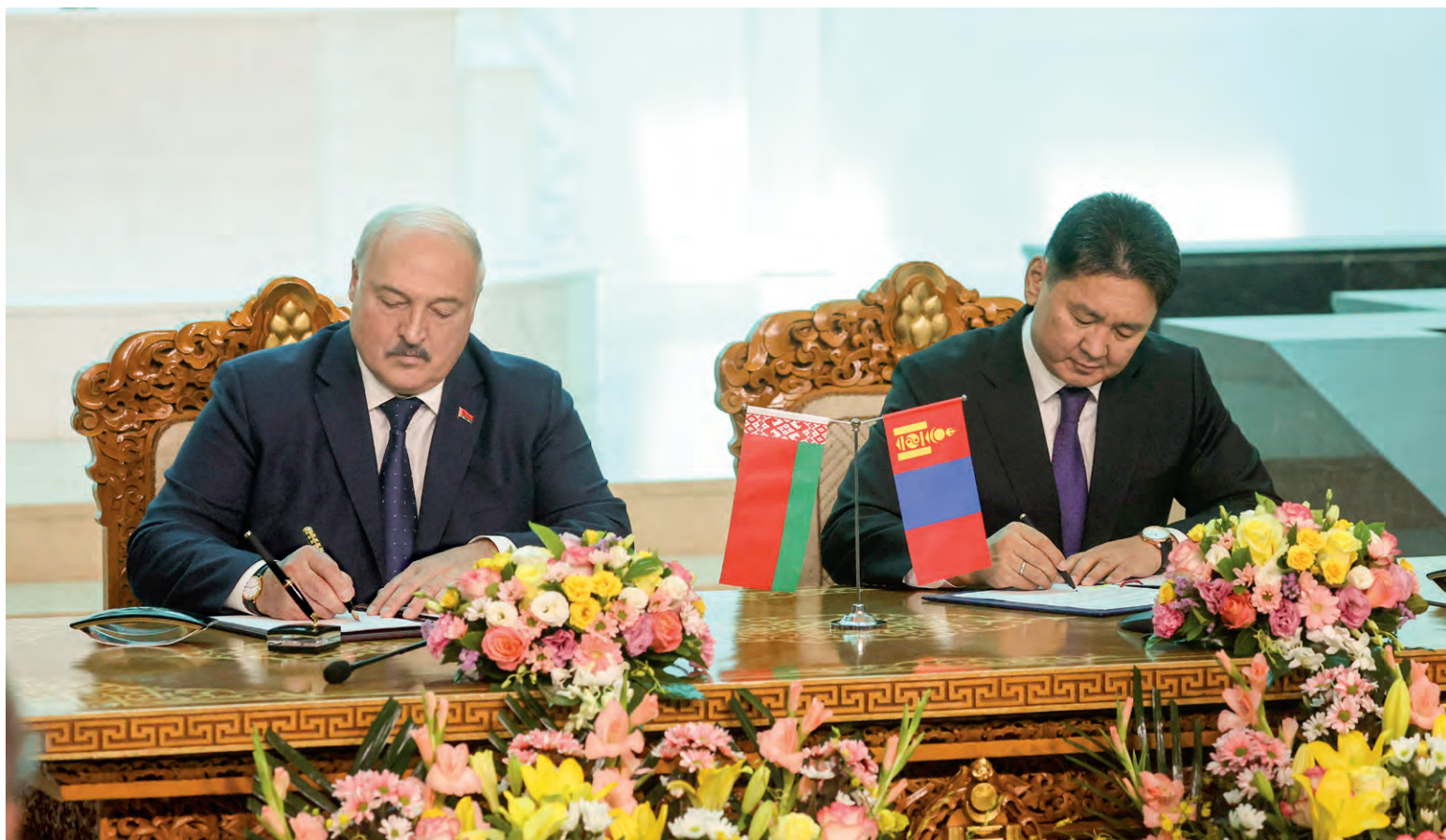
Interesting moment. Negotiations between the leaders in a narrow format took place in a traditional Mongolian yurt, which was installed in one of the halls of the State Palace. Traditions and innovations are very closely intertwined in Mongolia. And this is visible everywhere. Starting from numerous yurts adjacent to modern high-rise buildings, and to the extraordinary veneration of Chinggis Khan, whose images can be found at almost every step in Ulaanbaatar. But today Mongolia lives not only by history. Yes, the country still maintains nomadic pastoralism, in which

almost every fourth officially employed person is involved. However, the country has not yet managed to ensure its own food security. And this is not only due to the harsh and unpredictable climate, but above all to the lack of modern technologies and personnel. And industrial production in Mongolia is extremely poorly developed, despite the fact that in its depths there are truly fabulous reserves of minerals: coal, iron ore, gold, copper, uranium, zinc. The value of the deposits is estimated at billions and even trillions of dollars. But the country's leadership understands that a resource-based economy will not get you far. Therefore, they are aimed at the active development of the real sector of the economy. And for this they need equipment and technology, modern dairy farms, complexes, and qualified personnel. Mongolia is very impressed with the experience of Belarus in this regard. At negotiations in an expanded format, Aleksandr Lukashenko said, "We do not suffer from gigantomania. We perfectly understand our relations and our place in Mongolia's relations with other countries."

### The visit became historic

The President of Belarus also expressed support for Mongolia's foreign policy. This, in his opinion, is the only correct way. Sandwiched between two empires, huge states, the country subtly and carefully conducts its foreign policy, balancing between these forces. Aleksandr Lukashenko characterised the current period for Mongolia as a very difficult, important and turning point. We are also talking about the upcoming parliamentary elections, "You have colossal resources, enormous wealth. This is your great benefit. But this good must be preserved and protected. Because the world has gone crazy today. They





only respect strength. And to exist in this crazy world, you need to be strong.”

President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh recalled that Aleksandr Lukashenko visited Mongolia more than 30 years ago at the very historical moment when diplomatic relations were established between the countries. And this state visit is the first visit of the Head of the Belarusian State to this country. It is a historic visit that will strengthen ties and open a new page in the good and trusting relations of the two peoples.

As a result of official negotiations in Ulaanbaatar, one and a half dozen documents were signed. The main one was signed by Presidents Aleksandr Lukashenko and Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh — the Treaty on Friendly Relations and Cooperation Between Belarus and Mongolia.

In the presence of the leaders of the two countries, Foreign Ministers Sergei Aleinik and Battsetseg Batmunkh signed the cooperation roadmap for 2024 — 2026. In addition, a road map for the further development of cooperation in the field of agriculture for 2024 — 2026 and a road map in the field of education were approved.

The parties also signed intergovernmental agreements on the mutual recognition and exchange of driver's licenses and the mutual recognition of educational documents. A Memorandum of Cooperation was concluded between the State Secretariat of the Security Council of Belarus and the Office of the National Security Council of Mongolia. Belarus and Mongolia agreed to cooperate in the scientific and technical sphere, in the field of prevention and response to emergency situations, in the protection of

industrial property, in the fields of justice, tourism and environmental protection.

The President emphasised that Belarus supports Ulaanbaatar's desire to conclude a temporary trade agreement with the EAEU by the end of this year, opening the way to growth in mutual trade turnover, as well as Mongolian exports to Belarus and beyond. The Head of the Belarusian State noted that, in addition to the economy, the negotiations discussed cooperation in the field of science, education, environmental protection, sports and tourism, and emergency response, “There is a common interest in cooperation in the field of security, especially with regard to security and defence of your country. You have untold wealth. You have everything in the ground, even things you can only guess about. And you think that they will let you live in peace? You need to be able to protect this. We are ready to lend a helping hand to you. Come and take a look. If you like something, we will provide you with support and help. There are no closed topics in cooperation with you and never will be.”

### **No closed topics**

Summing up the results of the negotiations at a meeting with media representatives, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that Mongolia, like Belarus, has great neighbours and many sincere friends around the world. Therefore, we are very impressed by Ulaanbaatar's pragmatic approach to foreign policy, which is close and understandable for us, “It's very difficult for you. We are in the same situation, deprived of access to the seas. You are sandwiched between two empires, as people say. We are also: on the one hand



there is one empire, on the other there is a second one, the European Union. We can confidently say that globally our countries have not had and do not have any problems or disagreements.”

The parties determined the strategic directions of bilateral cooperation. Specific economic and cooperation projects were discussed in detail. The President recalled that it would be necessary to have at least three specific projects for development. However, the documents that were signed indicate that this is much more than three projects. Each of them meets the goals and objectives of such national programmes of Mongolia as Vision 2050, Food Revolution, Billion Trees and others.

The partners agreed on the supply of Belarusian equipment for the mining industry, agricultural machinery and equipment, and emergency response vehicles. Mongolia also needs appropriate qualified personnel. Aleksandr Lukashenko gave a specific response to this wish in the sense that the parties need to create joint ventures to produce these same tractors, vehicles, elevators here in Mongolia, as well as to teach Mongolian friends and youth at these enterprises.

The Head of State noted that Belarus is committed to long-term mutually beneficial cooperation, and therefore is ready to use, among other things, preferential financing mechanisms for projects. If the volume of equipment supplies grows, joint ventures will be created. In this regard, the bet is placed on the success of Belarusian equipment and technologies.

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, residents of Mongolia are familiar with Belarusian light industry products and food products, and value them for their quality and affordable price. The country is further interested in increasing volumes and expanding the range of supplies. The possibility of opening specialised Belarusian trading platforms is being considered.

President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh emphasised that this visit is of historical and special significance, as it opens a new page in warm relations and is aimed at strengthening the partnership between the two countries. Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh recalled that even during the Soviet Union, representatives of Belarus made a significant contribution to the development of the country and directly participated in the construction of a number of industrial and social facilities. And now the parties discussed in detail and exchanged views on the implementation of projects and programmes aimed at enriching interaction with economic content. They will undoubtedly bring economic benefits to both countries and will become an iconic symbol in bilateral relations. Specifically, the partners agreed to create joint centres for the assembly, repair and maintenance of agricultural machinery, and the construction of livestock farms. We came to a consensus on the need to intensify cooperation between the two countries in the field of education and science.

Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh clarified that a large number of

Mongolian citizens who received education in Belarus contribute to the development of Mongolia and become a connecting link between the countries. He expressed confidence that the parties will continue to strengthen friendly relations and will work to deepen cooperation in the economy, trade, and humanitarian spheres for the sake of the prosperity of both countries and the well-being of their peoples.

Numerous meetings and negotiations in Ulaanbaatar left no doubt: Belarus and Mongolia intend to significantly raise the bar for mutually beneficial partnership, filling it with new economic projects. The dynamics of this process will be given by the Treaty on Friendly Relations and Cooperation, signed by the leaders of the two countries, as well as the road map of cooperation for 2024 — 2026. After a protracted period of calm in the relationship, a big step has been taken towards each other. Now it's up to ministers, business leaders, and businessmen. We can say with confidence that there will be no slowdown on the Belarusian side. We expect the same from our Mongolian partners.

### “THE EXHIBITION IS AMAZING”

#### The President visited the Chinggis Khan National Museum in Ulaanbaatar

*The museum, which bears the name of the great Mongol Khan, was opened in 2022 in honour of the 860th anniversary of the birth of Chinggis Khan. This is a major cultural, educational and research centre where you can learn the chronicle of Mongolia from the times of the Xiongnu Empire (the first nomadic state) to the 20th century. In fact, these are nine floors of fascinating history, unique exhibits that were collected from different parts of the world. Artefacts related to Chinggis Khan and the Mongol Empire were brought from 14 countries. It contains utensils and clothing, tools and weapons, chain mail and harnesses, all kinds of jewellery, household items, paintings, sculptures, as well as the largest image of Chinggis Khan, made on cashmere cloth. Among the exhibits you can find his statue made of pure gold, a silver tree made by Italian craftsmen, symbolising the historical connection of Mongolia with Europe.*

*The General Director of the museum, Sampildondovyn Chuluun, gave Aleksandr Lukashenko a tour through the halls of the museum. There are five of them: Ancient States, Great Mongolia, Mongol Empire, The Kings and Subjects of Chinggis Khan, The World and the Mongols. During the excursion, the President of Belarus left a note in the Book of Honoured Guests, “The museum’s exposition, dedicated to the centuries-old history of Mongolia, is admirable. The deep respect with which the Mongolian people treats the preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of their Motherland deserves deep respect. I wish the management and staff of the museum further success and new achievements in this noble mission.”*



## Big plans ahead

Even before the state visit of the President, business circles of the two countries began working in Mongolia. In particular, in Ulaanbaatar, cooperation agreements with Mongolian partners were signed by such enterprises as Minsk Tractor Works, Minsk Automobile Plant, Gomselmash, Bobruiskagromash. This means an assembly of agricultural equipment, a multi-brand centre in Mongolia, where all equipment and all technologies will be presented, from sowing to harvesting crops, said Aleksandr Rogozhnik, Minister of Industry of Belarus and Co-Chairman of the Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation.

According to him, Belarusian products are competitive, including with Chinese counterparts. And the advantage lies in the reliability, service, and ease of maintenance of this equipment. The most important advantage is that in terms of maintenance and service our equipment is 3—4 times more competitive than imported analogues. It shows itself especially effectively in difficult climatic conditions. Where there is dust, where it is very hot or, conversely, where it is very cold. Mongolia is such a place.

The Minister of Agriculture and Food of our country, Sergei Bartosh, said that the Mongolian side has an interest in building dairy farms based on Belarusian technologies. The construction of the first such facility for 600 heads of cattle has already begun. The second direction is the supply of meat and dairy products, which are in short supply in Mongolia. We can offer milk powder for processing. In addition, education of agricultural workers, those who will be directly involved in the production of livestock products.

Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia Hayangaagiin Bolorchuluun is confident that Belarus and Mongolia will be able to build good cooperation.

A joint Belarusian-Mongolian business forum took place in Ulaanbaatar. A large Belarusian delegation arrived to participate in it: about 65 people representing 40 enterprises of the country. Negotiations were held for two days and 13 commercial documents were signed. The total value of the contracts is \$20 million. For comparison: the entire trade turnover between Belarus and Mongolia at the end of last year amounted to about \$30 million.



Meanwhile, negotiations are currently underway on a free trade regime between the EAEU and Mongolia. This will make it possible in the future to significantly increase the volume of mutual trade.

## Celebration of beauty and sports

However, it is not only the economy that holds bilateral relations together. To successfully promote cooperation, it is very important to understand and comprehend the culture, mentality, national traditions and life of another people. It is no wonder that the state visit to Mongolia was full of informal events. For example, on the final day of his stay, Aleksandr Lukashenko came to the out-of-town Centre of Mongolian Culture, where he continued to get acquainted with the history, original traditions and customs of the people of Mongolia.

Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh personally met his Belarusian counterpart. The leaders of the two countries planted a Siberian spruce each. And then they continued communicating while watching theatrical performances and sports competitions.

In fact, the programme of the Mongolian national festival Naadam (literally from Mongolian means 'three manly games'), held annually in July, was recreated for the heads of state. These are not only competitions in national sports (wrestling, archery and horse racing), but also a costume parade of extraordinary beauty and scope, musical compositions and choreographic numbers.

Immersing yourself in the Naadam celebration is another opportunity to truly understand the Mongolian people, the culture and traditions of the nomads.

The Mongolian wrestling was a particularly spectacular spectacle. There are no weight categories, and depending on the number of victories, wrestlers are awarded various titles: 'falcon', 'elephant', 'lion', 'giant'.

Aleksandr Lukashenko was also shown a traditional Mongolian archery bow. The presidents first watched the shooting of the masters. And then they took one shot themselves. Moreover, the arrow fired by Aleksandr Lukashenko flew more than 75 meters, which caused sincere applause from the Mongolian side.





### Belarusian tractors and Mongolian horses

At the end of the meeting at the out-of-town Centre of Mongolian Culture, the presidents exchanged gifts. Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh presented the Head of our state with two horses of the Mongolian breed named Mir and Khutki.

“Thank you! A very expensive gift!” thanked Aleksandr Lukashenko.

Horse racing is especially popular among the Mongols. The horses for them are prepared in advance, trained according to rules known to nomadic pastoralists for hundreds of years. They are grazed on special pastures with a special grass layer, the amount of water they drink at watering places is regulated, and preliminary races are arranged in the most intense heat. After ten days of such training, the horse loses excess fat and is ready to race. The length of the distances, by the way, ranges from 12 to 32 kilometres.

Aleksandr Lukashenko did not remain in debt.

“Let me give you a more powerful horse,” the Belarusian leader turned to his colleague with a smile. And he led him to two red Belarus tractors of different models:

“This is a ‘horse’ for you. Our traditional long-standing MTZ tractor, 80 horsepower. We, of course, modernised it. But it was sold all over the world during Soviet times. The most common. Americans still use such tractors. But those were blue. Well, I can’t give the Mongols blue. They have enough blue skies (Mongolia is called the Land of the Eternal Blue Sky).”

The second tractor is more powerful — 200 horsepower. Aleksandr Lukashenko explained, “This is for large fields. A very powerful tractor, relatively uncomplicated. But those who have not seen such technology need to be trained. Outstanding equipment. It ploughs, cultivates the soil, mows, feed can be harvested, a trailer can be attached for transportation. Air conditioning, everything is there. This is

salvation for Mongolia. These tractors are in great demand now. This is a promising tractor for Mongolia.”

### We don’t intend to stop there

Throughout the visit, Aleksandr Lukashenko and Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh communicated very warmly and seemed to understand each other even without an interpreter. Such relationships at the highest political level are worth a lot. This is a good guarantee that everything will be fine. As a result of the visit, the parties signed one and a half dozen documents on cooperation in the fields of agriculture, science, education, security, and tourism.

Contracts worth more than \$20 million were concluded at the Belarusian-Mongolian business forum. And this is just the beginning. At the negotiations in Ulaanbaatar, specific economic and cooperation projects were discussed in detail. In particular, an agreement was reached on the supply of Belarusian agricultural machinery and equipment, equipment for the mining industry, and emergency response vehicles. But Aleksandr Lukashenko suggests not stopping there, “We need to create joint ventures to produce these same tractors, cars, elevators here in Mongolia, and at these enterprises teach our Mongolian friends, young people.

If the volume of equipment supplies grows, we will create joint ventures.”

In turn, Belarus is ready to purchase cashmere, wool and leather products from Mongolian partners. In addition, our country supports Ulaanbaatar’s aspiration to conclude a temporary trade agreement with the EAEU by the end of this year. This will be another factor in the growth of bilateral trade turnover, increasing Mongolian exports to Belarus and other countries. Such mutually beneficial cooperation will certainly benefit each party.

Vasily Kharitonov  
photo by BELTA

*Natalya KOCHANOVA,*

**"We are proud of our  
cooperation with great China"**





*From May 27th to 30th, an official visit of the delegation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus to the People's Republic of China took place. The visit was carried out at the invitation of the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, Zhao Leji, and took place in pursuance of the President's instructions to strengthen political mutual trust and practical cooperation in the interests of dynamic, healthy and sustainable development of bilateral relations. The Belarusian delegation was headed by the Chairwoman of the Council of the Republic Natalya KOCHANOVA. The agenda of the visit was quite eventful and extensive. A number of high-level meetings took place. The main goal was to strengthen bilateral cooperation between Belarus and China. After all, the potential of our countries is far from exhausted.*

### New growth points

“Meetings were held with Vice President of the People's Republic of China Han Zheng, Chairman of the National People's Congress Zhao Leji, President of the All-China Women's Federation Shen Yiqin, and the first meeting of the High-Level Committee, created on the basis of the Cooperation Agreement signed in 2023 between the legislative bodies of the two countries, took place. The first meeting of the committee is an important milestone in the history of Belarusian-Chinese parliamentarism. We attach great importance to the role that the High-Level Committee can play in strengthening interstate and interparliamentary dialogue, promoting the effective implementation of agreements reached by the parties at the highest levels,” noted Natalya Kochanova.

According to the speaker, during the meetings the parties discussed areas of cooperation between Belarus and China in absolutely all areas. “These are issues of the legislative framework, joint participation in international organisations and defending the interests of the two countries in the international arena, socio-economic development, humanitarian sphere — education, healthcare, culture, preservation of national traditions and patriotic education of the younger generation. The range of topics discussed was wide, but this is natural, because we have a long-standing friendship with the great China. For more than three decades, we have been developing our close relationships in all sectors. And the most important thing is that we are mentally close, we have similar approaches in domestic and foreign policy,” noted Natalya Kochanova.

The two countries have an absolute understanding that we are truly strategic partners and must cooperate very effectively. And the regions should be more actively involved in this work. “More than 100 agreements have been signed between the provinces of China and the

regions and cities of Belarus, but this is not the limit. And here the emphasis was placed on the fact that local leaders, enterprises, organisations, heads of ministries and departments should work more actively in regional cooperation,” noted the Chairwoman of the Council of the Republic.

### Agreements and priorities

“Today, regional and international organisations play an important geopolitical role, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, BRICS, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, and the Collective Security Treaty Organization. China will chair the SCO. In this regard, we expressed our readiness to support possible initiatives the Chinese side, including promoting the creation of a parliamentary dimension in the organisation. We hope for the support of the Chinese side on the path of Belarus towards full membership in BRICS,” the speaker noted. “The Belarusian delegation plans to take part in the BRICS Parliamentary Forum, which will be held in St. Petersburg in July this year. We proposed to hold a meeting of parliamentarians from Belarus and China on the sidelines of this event”

Belarus fully supports China's key initiatives. Already today, within the framework of the Belt and Road initiative, an exemplary and landmark project is successfully operating — the Great Stone industrial park. Belarus is further ready for active cooperation in this direction.

“We consider the light industry to be one of the key areas of cooperation with China. We are interested in purchasing





equipment necessary for the production of light industry goods. In turn, Belarus is ready to increase supplies of raw materials to China, for example, short flax fibre and turkey meat,” noted the Chairwoman of the Council of the Republic. “Belarusian-Chinese cooperation in the field of healthcare is developing actively and covers various areas. At the same time, there are issues on which we asked for assistance from the Chinese side, in particular, in the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus and the Jifei company on localising the production of vaccines in our country; in resolving the issue of financing a project for the turnkey construction of an operating and intensive care building in Smolevichi. In addition, the Belarusian side is interested in providing Chinese vaccines in order to prevent a number of diseases.”

From July 2024, China will chair the SCO. In this regard, Belarus confirmed to the Chinese side the proposal of the Ministry of Education of Belarus to hold the next meeting of the ministers of education of the SCO member states in Belarus. In order to encourage active interaction between youth organisations of Belarus and China, it was proposed to organise a Belarusian-Chinese youth tourism rally.

“Cooperation in the field of youth policy is another priority in joint work, the results of which largely determine the well-being and sustainable development of our states,” emphasised Natalya Kochanova.

### Strategic initiatives

We are working on holding a Forum of Regions of Belarus and China. “This is not even an initiative of today — our President spoke about this, this task was set by him. We voiced this again and confirmed our readiness to hold such a forum with the PRC. And we are already starting to work on this issue. We will prepare proposals for the Chinese side in order to discuss the format of this forum. I see this as a good form of cooperation: when we see the potential of our countries in a more concentrated form, and quite a lot of contracts and agreements are signed at the forum sites, which are subsequently implemented for cooperation between our countries,” noted the speaker.

Regional forums are a very promising area. “And local authorities are working quite successfully in this direction,” stated Natalya Kochanova. “We are proud of our cooperation with great China. This great country, in my opinion, is unique in that they preserve their traditions, live by their own laws, and develop for the benefit of their people. And most importantly, they know how to be friends with those who are also developing, doing everything for their country and their people.”

Another initiative voiced by Natalya Kochanova in Beijing is the creation of the Women’s Union of Belarus and China. And the Chinese side also supported it. “At a meeting with the President of the All-China Women’s Federation, Shen Yiqin, we discussed issues of our further cooperation. I



invited her to Belarus so that we could outline further ways of interaction in terms of implementing the Memorandum of Cooperation signed in 2022 between the Belarusian Women's Union and the All-China Women's Federation. But there were also a number of initiatives we proposed — the creation of a Women's Council under the leadership of the Chairwoman of the Council of the Republic and the President of the All-China Women's Federation, with the aim of monitoring and promoting those initiatives and tasks set by the heads of our countries — in terms of the women's agenda, youth cooperation, preservation of family values,” noted Natalya Kochanova.

According to the speaker, such a council will be created in order to promote the women's agenda in the future at all international platforms. “So that we work together in this direction. Because I saw the absolute similarity of our countries, first of all, in domestic policy. There, people and improving their well-being are also at the forefront of state policy. Exactly the same policy is being pursued in our country: increasing well-being of our citizens — the priority of domestic policy. We are similar in foreign policy: peace, good neighbourliness, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, sovereignty and independence — all this is a priority for both China and Belarus. Women unite in the desire to make the world more beautiful, and better, and most importantly — safe and peaceful,” emphasised the Chairwoman of the Council of the Republic.

### To the point

Belarus and China are reliable partners based on traditional friendship, said Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Zhao Leji during a meeting with Chairwoman of the Council of the Republic Natalya Kochanova, “China and Belarus are good friends who treat each other in a sincere manner, and reliable partners who sincerely help each other. Under the strategic leadership of President Xi Jinping and President Aleksandr Lukashenko, political mutual trust between the two countries is constantly deepening, cooperation in the joint construction of the Belt and Road has firmly advanced, and international cooperation is becoming increasingly closer. Last year, the heads of the two states met twice to outline a roadmap for the development of China-Belarus relations in the new era. China is willing to cooperate with Belarus to implement the consensus reached by the heads of the two states and promote continuous development of all-weather strategic cooperation between the two countries.”

According to Zhao Leji, constantly strengthening political mutual trust and firm support on issues affecting each other's core interests are the cornerstones of the stable development of China-Belarus relations. “China thanks Belarus for its long-term consistency in action on issues related to Taiwan, Xinjiang, Tibet and human rights. China will continue to



support Belarus in defending its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. We support Belarus in choosing a development path that is in line with national interests. Both countries should to be each other's reliable partners on the basis of traditional friendship,” said the Chairman of the Standing Committee.

“China and Belarus are important partners in the joint construction of the Belt and Road and have achieved fruitful results of practical cooperation,” Zhao Leji emphasised. “In terms of economics, trade and investment, the trade volume between the two countries exceeded \$8 billion last year. The two sides are currently negotiating an agreement on trade in services and investment. More than 130 companies operate in the China-Belarus Industrial Park, and with the help of China, the construction of a national football stadium and an international-standard swimming pool has been completed in Belarus. Six Confucius Institutes and eight Confucius Classes have been established in Belarus. In 2021-2023, both sides successfully held the Year of Regions, demonstrating rich cooperation in the fields of culture, education and tourism. We are currently intensifying preparations for 2024-2025, which are planned to be held under the banner of the Year of Science, Technology and Innovations of China and Belarus.”

Nikolai Litvinov  
photo by BELTA

Ignatius Graham Mudzimba,

**"ZIMBABWE IS A  
PEACEFUL COUNTRY"**

**Interview with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the Republic of Belarus**



**T**he idea to interview the Ambassador of Zimbabwe did not materialise as quickly as we would have liked. And it was born last year after the international film forum *Listapad*, where my colleague and I saw him there. It so happened that we were nearby at the opening of the festival. It would be rude not to greet and introduce ourselves to the guest of honour, so we took the first step. I hope that expressing sincere admiration for meeting a representative of distant Africa, where we had never been, was not a violation of etiquette. When we met, I was pleased to say a few words in English about what a reputable publication, on the pages of which interviews with diplomats are published from time to time, I, the executive secretary of the magazine's editorial board, represent at *Listapad*. But then the role of intermediary in communication was taken on by the translator Yulia, who said that the diplomat she was accompanying was the Ambassador of Zimbabwe to Belarus. From childhood, many of us remember the exotic African continent from the famous work of Korney Chukovsky about



Doctor Aibolit and the country “where the hippo walks along the wide Limpopo”. Only later, as adults, of course, did we read about Africa. And due to the journalistic profession as well. In addition, we, like our other colleagues, watched how official Harare warmly and colourfully welcomed our President on January 30th, 2023, with tambourines, maracas and songs. Moreover, at the highest protocol level, as they say in the language of diplomats. The President of the country, Emmerson Mnangagwa himself, came to personally meet the head of the Belarusian state. And along with him, Aleksandr Lukashenko was greeted by several thousand supporters of the Zimbabwean leader. Some of them were holding large toys in the shape of a crocodile. And this, by the way, is not just a tribute to the local fauna, but a sign of support for the President of Zimbabwe, who received the nickname Crocodile during the guerrilla anti-colonial war for his determination, toughness and political acumen. Another local feature, as our colleagues from BelTA put it, is that the Presidents were wearing garlands of fresh flowers. There were ethnic Zimbabwean dances of enthusiastic people in national costumes to the rhythms of drums, and bread and salt that came from Belarus. Both Presidents tasted it. There were also a lot of smiles and genuine joy that overwhelmed both sides.

This historical fact, as well as the arrival of the first lady of Zimbabwe, Dr. Auxillia Mnangagwa, to Belarus in early April 2023, and our personal acquaintance at *Listapad* with Mr. Ambassador, a representative of a hospitable country, is a reason to find out how the agreements of the two Presidents are being implemented.

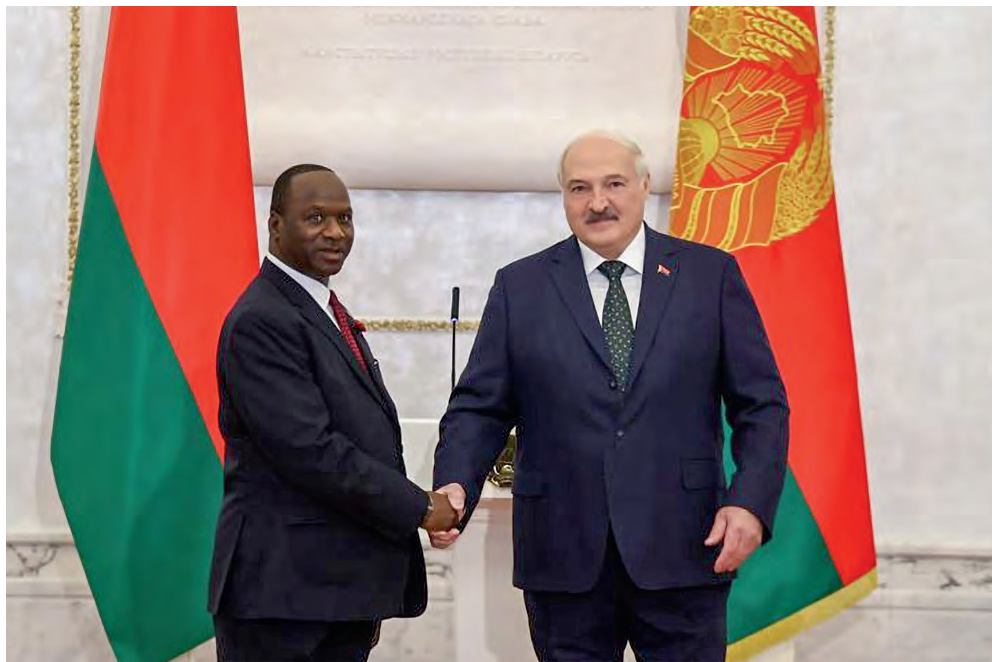
However, at the time of communication with Mr. Ambassador, we did not think about these historical facts, since the smile that Mr. Ambassador Ignatius Graham Mudzimba gave us along with the business card was friendly, warm — not formal. Akin to those amazingly open smiles that were captured in the photos of colleagues from BelTA during the meeting of Aleksandr Lukashenko at the airport and communication with Emmerson Mnangagwa in other places, as well as in videos on YouTube.

I believe that in our case, the etiquette when meeting Mr. Ambassador was not violated. In addition, I asked to

give an interview to the magazine only after the end of the *Listapad* film festival.

Preparing the questions, of course, took time. And due to his busy schedule, Mr. Ambassador was able to answer them only after a few months. Let me note that very little time has passed since he took office.

“Together with President Mnangagwa, we have defined very ambitious goals for the coming years. I am convinced that the Ambassador will continue and make every effort to fully implement the agreements reached,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko on the day of presenting credentials to the ambassadors of 11 foreign countries, among which our respected interlocutor was on September 28th, 2023. An interview with him is offered to readers of the magazine.



■ Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the Republic of Belarus Ignatius Graham Mudzimba during the presentation of his credentials to the Aleksandr Lukashenko

*“We have deep respect and gratitude for the people of Zimbabwe. We, and I want to emphasise this separately, are not going to Africa to carry some illusory democratic values. Let’s go work together with your leaders for the benefit of the people of Zimbabwe.”*

**Aleksandr Lukashenko**

## AT THE DIPLOMATIC LEVEL



*“Your Excellency, let me express my gratitude to you for your agreement to give an interview to our magazine. We are pleased that the friendly strategic nature of relations between Belarus and Zimbabwe, the common desire of our countries to build a fair multipolar world order is already a reality. How does this translate today?”*

“The majority of Africa is in support of multipolar world order, which Russia and China are yearning to build. It is apparent that the West fears a pact of these two formidable nations whose common interest is the fulfilment of the new multipolar world order. America’s hegemonic dominance on global affairs is waning. I can safely say the era of unilateral approaches to addressing international issues is dissipating because over time it has only managed to incite contradictions, differences, and confrontation and hampered the development and

progress of mankind. We may wish to consider at US policies across the world, sanctions on Zimbabwe as an example, have been unilateral, serving no purpose at all other than to create disharmony among citizens and create groundswell for regime change. The world has also seen enough US hypocrisy especially when it comes to the Israeli-Palestine conflict. So it is not only Russia and China that are concerned with the West’s apparent hypocrisy in handling international affairs. Africa has had a long gripe against the current global order that pecks the continent at the lowest rug. It has campaigned for such an order that gives much power to the powerful and



■ Bobruiskagromash was visited by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Ignatius Graham Mudzimba. The holding’s management introduced the guest to the production facilities of the enterprise, as well as the line of agricultural machinery produced. The focus of the visit is the mechanisation of Zimbabwe’s agriculture in the context of achieving the required level of food security.

■ Photo for memory next to the symbol of the city of Bobruisk — the beaver

condemns weaker and smaller nations not to have a voice on the international arena. You may recall that through the African Union, Africa has called for a more representative and democratic UN Security Council in which Africa is represented. It is no surprise therefore that Africa is in support of a multi polar world which Russia and China are yearning to build.”

*“As we know, after the presentation of credentials to Foreign Minister Sergei Aleinik, the focus on implementing bilateral agreements reached at the highest level, including in the political, trade, economic and humanitarian spheres, was confirmed. The main emphasis was placed on large-scale projects in the field of agriculture in the context of ensuring food security, as well as on disseminating the experience of Belarusian-Zimbabwean cooperation to*



*other African countries. What has been achieved during this period? What can you personally, as an Ambassador, be proud of?”*

“Excellent relations exist between Zimbabwe and Belarus and the relations are anchored upon the personal relations between H.E Mnangagwa and H.E Lukashenko. What we are witnessing today resulted from the official talks between the two Excellencies in 2023 within the framework of the State Visit to Harare and the subsequent visits at different levels that followed. The two countries have reaffirmed their commitment

- The mining industry of the country, which has large reserves of minerals, including coal, copper, gold, and diamonds, is developing at an active pace. 55- and 130-ton BELAZ trucks are currently used for coal and diamond mining in Zimbabwean quarries, and our special equipment also operates there: bulldozers, loaders, tractors and watering machines.
- Ignatius Graham Mudzimba, sitting in the operator's seat of a dynamic driving simulator, personally assessed the capabilities of the BELAZ simulator, which simulates the real movement of a mining dump truck and its operating conditions in a quarry.



to the comprehensive intensification and deepening of these ties. We have signed several legal instruments in a number of sectors and Zimbabwe hosted the inaugural session of the Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation in 2024. The JPCC enhanced cooperation in our various priority areas including, agriculture, trade, security, mining, health, education, tourism as well as sports and culture. We pledged ourselves to elevating the Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation to a Bi-National Commission in the near future. Please note that our bilateral trade turnover grew eight times in 2023. As an Ambassador I can proudly say I have played the facilitatory role effectively as the relations between the two countries are deepening and we have agreed to continue strengthening relations through State Visits.

With regard to cooperation in Agriculture, both Governments have expressed readiness to continue the Zimbabwe-Belarus Mechanisation Facility. The Mechanisation III program is underway and the Parties are working on the modalities of financing the facility. To date under the Agriculture Mechanisation Programme, Zimbabwe has undergone two (2) phases. Under the First Phase 432 tractors and 60 combine harvesters were acquired while under the Second Phase Zimbabwe acquired 337 tractors and 16 combine harvesters. Phase Three which is yet to be implemented will bring 3367 tractors and 80 combine harvesters. According to



statistics from our Agricultural Ministry, the Mechanisation Programme increased Zimbabwe tillage capacity by thirty (30) percent and increased harvest capacity by forty (40) percent thus Zimbabwe become food self-sufficient during the 2022-2023 season. I am proud to say that our two countries have expressed desire on the establishment of production facilities in Zimbabwe for Belarusian equipment, with a view to positioning Zimbabwe as a major industrial hub in the region and in African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). This is an issue I personally emphasized on during our JPCC.”

*“Since your appointment as Ambassador, you have visited Minsk Tractor Works (MTZ), BelAZ, Bobruiskagromash and other large enterprises in Belarus... Please tell us about your impressions. In particular, what did you feel when you were in the operator's seat of a dynamic driving simulator? Did you appreciate the capabilities of the BELAZ simulator, which simulates the real movement of a mining dump truck and the conditions of its operation in a quarry?”*

“Yes, I held a familiarisation tour of Belarusian enterprises which was organised by my good friend and Honorary

## AT THE DIPLOMATIC LEVEL



■ The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Zimbabwe to Belarus was an honoured guest of the leading medical university. This visit was the first in a series of numerous meetings and trips of Ignatius Graham Mudzimba, which he subsequently made as the head of the diplomatic mission of his state in Belarus

Consul Mr Alex Zingman. I viewed among others MAZ chassis assembly process and an exposition of MAZ products. Among the models on display were truck tractors, a dump truck for agricultural purposes, a garbage truck, a crane and a bus which captured my attention. I was glad when The General Director for Minsk Tractor Works (MTZ) Mr Vitaly Vovk and the General Director for Minsk Automobile Plant (MAZ) Mr Valery Ivankovich proposed to set up an assembly line in Zimbabwe for their enterprises. The management from LLC POZHSNAB, Gomselmash and Bobruiskagromash were also open to the idea. I welcomed the development and pledged to expedite the setting up assembly plants in Zimbabwe which would positively contribute to bringing in foreign currency and employment creation.

*As a country under EU sanctions, I was impressed that these enterprises had experienced minimal effects because they had managed to locally produce their own components to substitute imports from the EU.*

*I was impressed that Belarus also managed to retain skilled personnel through establishment of specialised training centres which had contributed well towards innovation. Overall, I was impressed with Belarus' level of development and commitment to develop one's country.*

At Belaz, I was thrilled to successfully operate a dump truck simulator. It depicted reality and I'm proud to say I am a certified dump truck operator. I appreciate the use of simulators to cut on costs and time for training the operators. It was encouraging to note that BelAZ was working with Zimbabwe Consolidated Diamond Company and had trained a number of operators with prospects of training more operators and was increasing maintenance points for the trucks in Zimbabwe."

*"In Zimbabwe, as far as we are informed, a record wheat harvest over the past 25 years was harvested thanks to Belarusian-made agricultural machinery. Does cooperation with Minsk Tractor Works solve this problem?*

■ In August 2023, BSTU was visited by a delegation of the Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe in the Republic of Belarus, headed by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ignatius Graham Mudzimba. The delegation got acquainted with the exhibition of the Museum of History and Education and the permanent exhibition of scientific and technical developments of BSTU scientists. BSTU Rector Igor Voitov introduced the guests to educational programmes and the profile of scientific, technical and innovative activities of the university, as well as the state of cooperation with educational institutions and other organisations of the Republic of Zimbabwe.





***What do they say about this in Zimbabwe at the level of the country's leadership, and also what, as they say, is the 'popular rumour' about the fact that Zimbabwe has provided itself with grain for the first time in 50 years? Did our tractors help?"***

"The supply of Agricultural Mechanisation Machinery by MTZ narrowed the mechanisation gap in the country's agriculture industry as the Government presses ahead with modernising agriculture to boost production. The program has helped the country achieve self-sufficiency and the focus is now on resuming and increasing exports. Agricultural engineering and mechanisation are key drivers and enablers to transforming our agricultural

***sector. One of them is the Belarusian State Medical University. What impressed you during your interactions with university representatives and students?"***

"I was privileged to visit and tour the Belarusian State Medical University and I would like to acknowledge the University for conferring an Honorary Doctorate to the Zimbabwean First Lady, Dr A. Mnangagwa in recognition of her philanthropic work through Angel of Hope Foundation. As it is the leading medical university in Belarus, I was impressed by the fact that teaching is conducted in either Russian or English while pre-university training to prepare students for University entrance is offered. I toured the facilities of the university and I must say the anatomy table

■ The Ministry of Education hosted a meeting between the Minister of Education of the Republic of Belarus Andrei Ivanets and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the Republic of Belarus Ishnatus Graham Mudzimba with the participation of the Rector of the Belarusian State University Andrei Korol and the Rector of the Republican Institute of Vocational Education Valery Golubovsky. During the meaningful meeting, information was also announced that at BSU, BNTU, BSUIR, MSLU, GrSU named after Yanka Kupala are carrying out serious work to launch joint projects with educational institutions of the Republic of Zimbabwe.



production in line with Government's push to revolutionise and industrialise farming in Zimbabwe. The Third Mechanisation of tractors will target winter wheat and other crops and will ensure that farmers plant and harvest winter crops on time."

***"Does your country have an interest in high-quality Belarusian meat and dairy products?"***

"We have quality beef and dairy in Zimbabwe. I can say additional opportunities in area of cooperation in the development of dairy cattle breeding in Zimbabwe, development of dairy complexes with milking and storage facilities have been outlined. An MOU between ARDA and Bellakt in the area of dairy production was signed already. We however welcome student exchanges in the area of Agriculture and we also ready to receive and learn best practises from specialists in milk production."

***"Mr. Ambassador, you had many meetings after your appointment as Ambassador, not only in the production***

***caught my attention. The table offers students an ability to simulate cutting through the body and learning about internal body components. I was impressed by the fact that the University also utilizes manikin models for teaching in areas such as obstetrics and gynaecology which also cuts on costs and casualties to be encountered through practising on live humans."***

***"What did you manage to agree upon as a result of visiting the Belarusian State Technical University (BSTU), in particular with regard to the level of cooperation with educational institutions and other organisations in Zimbabwe. Please share your opinion about educational programmes and scientific, technical and innovative activities of the university?"***

"With regards to (<http://opensky.com.ua/zimbabve.html>) Belarusian State Technical University (BSTU) it's not so fortunate that when inter institutional agreements were signed, I had not yet assumed office in Belarus thus I do not have first-hand experience on the matter. However, I'm

## AT THE DIPLOMATIC LEVEL

aware that to date Zimbabwe Higher and Tertiary Education Ministry has signed a program of cooperation in higher education with its Belarus counterpart Education Ministry. To date seventy-two (72) inter institutional agreements have been signed. The broader perspective is what interests me more, however the BSTU university has signed among other MOUS with Midlands State University and has also signed a program of implementation with Harare Institute of Technology and the University of Zimbabwe.”

*“Official Harare calls relations with the Belarusian side strong and excellent, both in politics and economics, as well as in mining and agriculture. What do you think can be said about the educational sector? Today, 1,500 thousand students from 30 countries of the African continent are studying at our universities; so far there are 11 young people from Zimbabwe. Are there plans to increase the number of people wishing to study at universities in Belarus?”*

■ The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Zimbabwe at the official opening of the international festival Listapad. On the left — translator Yulia Kastsevich



“Current statics of Zimbabwe students in Belarus has gone beyond eleven (11) and now stands close to thirty (30). Through our Zimbabwe recruiting agent SATCO, Mrs Meda, more students have been enrolled in Belarusian leading universities. Belarus is peaceful, the education is ranked highly and the tuition fees are affordable to most parents. However, government and or university scholarships will definitely increase the Zimbabwe student population especially for the underprivileged students who are based in rural areas.”

*“Mr. Ambassador, let’s also talk about the humanitarian sphere, in particular the cultural sphere. We saw you at the opening of the Listapad international festival, which was very pleasant. What steps do you think need to be taken to develop cooperation in the field of culture? How do you personally feel about, say, theatre, cinema, and fine arts? Is it realistic, for example, to host our Bolshoi Theatre with its magnificent ballet in Harare? After all, the language of choreographic art does not need translation...”*

“It was a great honour for me to attend the official opening of the international festival Listapad. I really enjoyed every bit of it especially to see how highly developed your arts industry is. The arts industry in Zimbabwe is on the growth trajectory. My country could benefit a lot from cooperation with Belarus in this area. The Embassy is therefore considering recommending to our Ministry of Sports, Arts and Culture explore possible cooperation with Belarus in this area.

I realised the Belarus Bolshoi Theatre is a historic opera house with a rich cultural heritage and significant architectural features. It boasts a capacity of around 1,200 seats in its main hall, along with additional spaces like the Chamber Hall for concerts and modern operas. Harare has the capacity to host such in terms of infrastructure and logistical requirements. We have had live Operas playing at the biggest International Festival in Zimbabwe known as HIFA which was disrupted by the coming of



■ On November 28th, 2023, during a personal meeting, the Director of the National Marketing Centre Nikolai Borisevich and the Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe Ignatius Mudzimba discussed ways to promote the development of Belarusian-Zimbabwean trade relations. During the meeting, promising sectors for intensifying bilateral cooperation were discussed, in particular agriculture and mechanical engineering. The parties discussed the possibility of organising an exchange of business visits, participation of Zimbabwean business circles in events in Belarus, as well as issues of consolidating the efforts of the National Marketing Centre with Zimbabwean structures for supporting foreign economic activity in order to solve the problems of developing contacts between the business communities of the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Zimbabwe.



COVID 19. We are in the process of resuscitating the annual event which attracted tourists from all over the world and had different venues for different acts. We have venues that can accommodate similar seating capacity and technical specifications to host performances by the Belarus Bolshoi Theatre. Zimbabwe hosts a vibrant arts and culture scene that appreciates and supports classical performing arts which is a plus on our side. Overall, I can confidently say, Zimbabwe has the infrastructure and cultural ecosystem in place to successfully host the Belarus Bolshoi Theatre. You are welcome, especially around the month of April when we experience the best weather conditions.”

*“Please tell us a little about your amazing country, which we know through the Internet. At one time, we were impressed by the information (circulated in the media)*

*Diplomatic relations between Belarus and Zimbabwe were established in 1992. The Embassy of Belarus in Zimbabwe was opened in 2022, and the Embassy of Zimbabwe in Belarus in 2023. The Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Zimbabwe has been created.*



■ The Russian Ambassador to Belarus Boris Gryzlov met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the Republic of Belarus Ignatius Graham Mudzimba. Diplomats discussed the current state and prospects of Russian-Zimbabwean relations.

*about how much the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko was fascinated by one of the main attractions of your country — the famous Victoria Falls and the petting zoo. He visited there with Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa on the last day of his visit, which ran from January 30th to February 1st last year. And after getting acquainted with one of the main attractions of Zimbabwe, he left a memorable note, “The unstoppable power of the water stream is comparable to the power of the people of Zimbabwe.” What do you think this power is expressed in?”*

“In the quote by President Lukashenko, “The unstoppable power of the water stream is comparable to the power of the people of Zimbabwe,” he was drawing a metaphorical comparison between the force and strength of a water stream and the resilience and determination of the people of Zimbabwe. President Lukashenko was likely emphasizing the idea that just like a water stream that flows continuously with immense force, the people of Zimbabwe possess an unwavering strength and determination in

facing challenges and obstacles. The comparison suggests that despite facing difficulties or resistance, the people of Zimbabwe have a powerful collective will that enables them to overcome adversity and continue moving forward. Difficulties have been posed by the illegal sanctions, West meddling in our affairs, Covid 19, droughts and other natural and man-made phenomena. His quote can

also be interpreted as a message of solidarity and support for the people of Zimbabwe, acknowledging their strength and perseverance in the face of various challenges. It highlights the belief in the indomitable spirit and resilience of the Zimbabwean population, likening it to a natural force as strong and relentless as a water stream. President Lukashenko’s quote conveys a sense of admiration for the people of Zimbabwe and their ability to endure hardships while remaining steadfast in their pursuit of progress and positive change.

About my country, Zimbabwe, formerly known as Rhodesia, gained independence from British colonial rule in 1980. The country has a rich history dating back to ancient civilizations such as the Munhumutapa Kingdom and Great Zimbabwe. Situated in Southern Africa, Zimbabwe is known for its diverse landscapes ranging from the iconic Victoria Falls to the lush Eastern Highlands. The country boasts abundant natural resources and a moderate climate conducive to agriculture. I would spend the whole day; you are welcome to our peaceful country for a first-hand

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experience. The people of Zimbabwe have become masters of their own destiny. This is anchored on the philosophy that as a people, we have the duty and responsibility of developing our country, using our own domestic resources therefore we say '*Nyika inovakwa nevene vayo, ilizwe lakhiwa ngabanikazi balo*.' The proverb translates to "A country is built by its own citizens" which encapsulates the idea that the responsibility for the development and progress of a nation lies with its people."

*"If possible, tell us how you became a diplomat. Where did you study? What countries did you work in before Belarus? What impressed you about the nature and people*

*Belarus has been cooperating with African countries since the 60s of the last century, and Belarus does not pursue personal gain, but equal cooperation. Since gaining independence, the country began to expand its presence on the African continent and established diplomatic relations with all African countries. Today Belarus has five diplomatic missions on this continent: Kenya, Nigeria and Zimbabwe have been added to Egypt and South Africa.*

*of our country? Can you easily tolerate the climate? How do you perceive Belarusian cuisine, and what dishes do you prefer?"*

"I'm proud to say that I participated in the liberation war in Zimbabwe after training at Mgagau in Tanzania alongside our Vice President Honourable Chiwenga. The liberation war was a fight for freedom, justice, and equality for Zimbabweans. So, I have been serving my Government from the time of the liberation struggle. My diplomatic career started in 1984 when I served for six years at the embassy of Zimbabwe as First Secretary, Political and Consular Affairs in Washington D.C., United States of America. I was then posted to Brussels, Belgium, as Minister Plenipotentiary from 2000 to 2009 in charge of Political Affairs covering the African, Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP); European (Union), Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg (Benelux) countries. In October, 2014 I was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Cuba and presented Letters of Credence in November 2014, a post I held until March 2023. I was also

accredited as Non-Resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Nicaragua, the Republic of Guyana and to Jamaica. I was appointed by the President His Excellency Dr E.D. Mnangagwa as the first resident Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the Republic of Belarus and subsequently presented my Credentials to the President of the Republic of Belarus, His Excellency Alexandr Lukashenko on 28 September 2023. As for my hobbies, I love music and reading. I enjoy much of Belarusian cuisines especially the potato dishes and vegetables and soups. I love dranike potatoes and borsch soup."

*"What would you advise us to see in your country if we are lucky enough to visit there?"*

"When you visit Zimbabwe, I would encourage you to acquaint yourself with our key investment opportunities that we have to offer to you our friends in Belarus and around the world. The key primary sectors with immense investment potential in Zimbabwe include agriculture, mining, tourism and infrastructure development among others. In agriculture, Zimbabwe boasts fertile lands, favourable climate conditions, abundant water resources, making it ideal for agricultural activities. Investors in agribusiness can explore opportunities in crop cultivation, livestock farming, horticulture, and agro-processing industries. With the government's focus on promoting agricultural productivity and food security, there are numerous incentives and support mechanisms available for investors in this sector.

Zimbabwe is also endowed with a wealth of mineral resources, including gold, lithium, platinum, diamonds, coal, and chrome. The mining sector presents lucrative opportunities for investment in exploration, extraction, processing, and value addition. With a rich mining heritage and a conducive regulatory environment, Zimbabwe offers a competitive advantage to investors looking to capitalize on the country's mineral wealth.

The tourism industry in Zimbabwe is another promising sector for investment. From the majestic Victoria Falls to the ancient monuments of Great Zimbabwe, our country offers a diverse range of attractions for tourists. By investing in hospitality infrastructure, eco-tourism ventures, safari lodges, and cultural experiences, investors can tap into the growing tourism market and contribute to the sustainable development of this sector.

Infrastructure development is a priority area for Zimbabwe's economic growth agenda. The government has identified key projects in transportation, energy, water supply, telecommunications, and housing that require substantial investments. By partnering with local authorities and private enterprises, investors can participate in infrastructure projects that not only enhance connectivity and service delivery but also create employment opportunities and stimulate economic growth. Partners and investors are welcome, guided by our own vision and national priority areas."





***“What would you like to wish Belarusians in connection with the approaching 80th anniversary of the Liberation of Belarus on July 3rd?”***

“Belarus holds a significant place in history, and the 80th anniversary of its liberation on July 3rd is a momentous occasion that deserves recognition and celebration. As we commemorate this important milestone, there are several wishes that can be extended to Belarus; Peace and Prosperity, May the country continue to thrive and progress, building a stable and prosperous future for its citizens; Unity and Harmony, May the diverse population of Belarus come together in solidarity, embracing their differences and working towards a common goal of progress and development; Remembrance and Gratitude, Wishing for a spirit of remembrance and gratitude towards those who contributed to the country’s freedom; Economic Growth, Wishing for sustained economic growth and development in Belarus, creating opportunities for prosperity and well-being for all its citizens and Health and Well-being for H.E. Lukashenko.

As we mark this significant milestone in Belarus’ history, these wishes reflect our hopes for a bright future filled with peace, prosperity, unity, progress, and well-being for the nation and its people.”

Interview by Valentina Zhdanovich

Photos from open sources

**P.S.** One day, while waiting for a meeting with Mr. Ambassador, I plunged into studying the beauties of Zimbabwe (<http://opensky.com.ua/zimbabwe.html>) as deeply as possible. Therefore, I hasten to share with readers the opinion of those tourists who are there visited.

♦ Zimbabwe enchants with its amazing natural beauty, rich scenery, magnificent landscapes and a grandiose palette of choice. Traveling to Zimbabwe is an exciting, intriguing adventure. Since ancient times, there has been a belief that, having seen Africa once, a white man returns there again and again. The depths of Zimbabwe seem to

hide a powerful magnet; Zimbabwe captivates once and for all, leaving behind an unforgettable longing for beautiful Africa. Travel to Zimbabwe — from the vast expanses of Lake Kariba to the mysterious Gonarezhou National Park — a sanctuary of elephants. The journey is ruled by the nature’s favourite child — the stunning Victoria Falls. When in 1855, the Scottish missionary and traveller, fighter against slavery and the slave trade, David Livingstone took his very first look at the Victoria Falls, he exclaimed that “a spectacle of such beauty must be admired by angels during their flight”... Its roar is audible.

♦ In Zimbabwe, you get the impression that Nature’s strategic reserve is concentrated around you: higher powers seem to have worked hard to create various species of animals and, having carefully populated the rest of Africa with them, ‘stored’ the unused ones right here in Zimbabwe. In addition to the elephant, rhinoceros, buffalo, lion and leopard, here you can see hundreds of smaller, but no less interesting animals, including rare sable antelopes, wild dogs... numerous representatives of the fauna. In Zimbabwe, you can take a quiet boat trip or wild rafting along the Zambezi River, visit places “where the hippo walks along the wide Limpopo”, visit the mysterious ruins of Great Zimbabwe, which, according to legend, was once the capital of the ancient empire of the Queen of Sheba, and finally, hunt in the savannah or relax on the picturesque Lake Kariba...

♦ Zimbabwe is one of the oldest countries, and a tenth of its area is occupied by national parks. And in the Chirorodziva cave, rock paintings of ancient people have been preserved...

*Belarusians are just discovering Zimbabwe, following representatives of politics and economics, businessmen, as well as tourists and wildlife lovers, are showing interest. I hope we will be able to visit there too. After all, as you know, dreams, if you believe in them and persistently strive to achieve your goal, come true.*



# A UNIQUE PLATFORM WHERE THE WHOLE WORLD SAW HOW WE GROW BREAD



**From June 4th to 9th, it was possible to get acquainted with the achievements in the development of crop production, livestock and poultry farming, modern technologies for processing, packaging and storage of products, as well as a variety of agricultural machinery at a new site in the exhibition centre of the Chinese-Belarusian Great Stone Industrial Park.**



By the way, during the grand opening of the agro-industrial exhibition, First Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Sergei Fedchenko said that Belagro is a unique platform that demonstrates the achievements of the Belarusian agro-industrial complex in recent years.

A lot has been done in the agro-industrial complex, noted Sergei Fedchenko, “We ensure almost 100% food security in Belarus, we occupy 97th place in the world in terms of population and 84th in terms of territory. At the same time, our country is among the top five exporters of dairy products and the top 15 exporters of meat and meat products. Our country is one of the world leaders in the production of agricultural products per capita. Such results were achieved with the support of the state and thanks to the personal attention of the President. We must not forget about the hard work of farmers. In addition, the Ministry of Industry, scientists and specialists of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus helped us.”

It is impossible to move forward without science in any field, especially in agriculture. “Now Belagro demonstrates everything that is used in our fields and farms. We also indicate developments that will be used in the future in the agro-industrial complex to popularise Belarusian products and agriculture in general,” emphasised Sergei Fedchenko.

He added that, thanks to the efforts of the Ministry of Industry, Belarus can completely abandon the import of agricultural machinery and equipment in order to switch to its own. “Today we are offered a full range of machines and mechanisms in order to do everything technologically in crop production and livestock farming,” said the First Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food.

According to him, the issue of precision farming is still at the beginning. In the future, minimal use of human labour and savings in resources currently used in agriculture are predicted.

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The exhibition acquired international status. This year companies from 11 countries took part in it. “There was a business programme during which issues of selection, seed production, livestock breeding, agriculture, agricultural education and science were discussed. The exhibition itself is traditionally filled with various presentations, reviews, competitions, cultural and sporting events,” says the First Deputy Minister.

### What was presented and what was bought?

Everyone involved in agriculture is interested in what's new on the market and what mechanical engineers are working on: what new technologies are being used today and what to expect tomorrow? What else is an idea today and what will we see in new agricultural machinery in the near future? All these questions could be answered by visiting Belagro.



Widely presented at the exhibition are fertilizers and plant protection products, equipment for applying fertilizers, for harvesting grain and preparing feed, machines for reclamation work, growing and harvesting potatoes, sugar beets and other vegetables. Agricultural products, machines, and equipment are demonstrated in a processing chain with modern energy-saving technologies from all industries related to both the production of products and their processing, transportation, storage and sales.

The Belferma exposition of the exhibition demonstrates the latest achievements in the field of animal husbandry, animal feeders and equipment for the maintenance of animals, cage equipment and incubators, automated plants for dairy farms. At the exhibition it was also possible to get



acquainted with the automated herd management system; milking machines of various modifications; milk cooling units, both stationary and mobile for work on pastures. Here they show new feed and feed additives, veterinary drugs and medicines, new technologies in bioenergy, including energy equipment and its software.

Every year, both specialists and young visitors to the exhibition show great interest in visiting the Fishing Village, organised by Belvodkhoz. About 150 Belarusian producers presented a wide range of food products: sausages, semi-finished meat products, poultry, dairy products, canned foods, groceries, baby and diet food, bakery products and much more. Food industry enterprises delight exhibition visitors with tastings of their products.

Vegetable producers formed a separate exhibition in the open area. Visitors to the exhibition had the opportunity not only to get acquainted with new varieties of vegetables grown in our country, but also to purchase them.

During the exhibition, the Champion of Taste tasting competition, Competition for the Best Breeding Cow, the Best Breeding Horse competition, the Best Ploughman competition, an exhibition of farm animals,

demonstrations of equipment and other events were held. Traditionally, the emphasis is on innovations at Belagro 2024. Along with traditional exhibits, innovative products, advanced solutions and technologies were demonstrated. The agricultural forum traditionally brings together not only Belarusian farmers and workers in the food and processing industries, but also their foreign colleagues and partners. This year, 490 companies from Belarus, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Germany, China, Pakistan, Türkiye, Vietnam, and Palestine are taking part in the exhibition. The business programme includes about 20 thematic conferences and workshops.

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During the Belarusian Agricultural and Industrial Week, we saw, touched and tried a lot of things. Now we share our impressions.

## Favourite tractor already with gas

Vasily Gnedchik, a leading specialist in advertising and exhibitions at Minsk Tractor Works, can talk about equipment for hours, but there are special 'commodity items' among them.





The Russian Federation has inexhaustible reserves of gas fuel. It is almost two times cheaper than diesel fuel. Therefore, according to economic feasibility, it is necessary to gasify not only passenger cars, but also agricultural machinery.

Vasily Gnedchik showed us a fairly large tractor with a capacity of 210 horsepower, which has a gas engine installed. This is a purely gas mechanism that runs on liquefied gas. That is, the gas-air mixture is supplied to the cylinder, where it is ignited with the help of a spark plug, as in a gasoline engine. This gives the advantage of faster acceleration and power, unlike a diesel engine. The only difference between this tractor is the presence of two liquefied gas cylinders, which are designed for uninterrupted operation for 8 hours in field conditions.

The specialist notes that gas in our country is not the most accessible and cheap. But this is not the main thing; this topic is not very developed in Belarus due to the fact that in our countryside gas stations are not as common as in cities.

In the neighbouring country today there is a real boom in the use of blue fuel; active construction of a large network of gas fuel stations directly in rural areas is underway. For example, today in Tatarstan there is a massive conversion of diesel tractors to gas ones.

Vasily Gnedchik expects that this exhibition will be visited by representatives of different countries, including gas producers. Specialists should be interested in our developments, because our tractor does not need to be specially converted, which means it wins in terms of product quality and even price. Our plant can already

accept orders for the production of 500 units of such equipment per year. We need to negotiate and provide partial funding now.

### According to ancient recipes

Have you ever seen a loaf of bread the size of a large straw hat? As for me, I hadn't seen anything like that before I became acquainted with the products of the Domochai Bakery and Confectionery Company. Nelly Bekasova, Deputy General Director for Commercial Affairs of this enterprise, noted that they keep their secret recipes behind seven seals. She believes that ancient Slavic developments are the healthiest and tastiest. You just have to try.

However, they also know how to make new products here. For example, just in time for the exhibition, the company made some bread with pieces of lard. You can have this bread with lard and feel full. For connoisseurs, there was bread with cranberries, with halves of grapes, with maple leaves and with smoked tomatoes. There were breads with flax seeds, carrots, spinach and turmeric, and sometimes even buckwheat.

But the most unique bread was the giant one, which weighed more than two kilograms. It was made from two types of dough — rye and premium wheat. This bread is kneaded exclusively by hand in order to create an artistic structure and colour when cut.

### Step towards the future through big wheels

Sales specialist of the Biocom Technology innovative company Viktor Mironov presented an assembly unit for agricultural machinery. He showed us a special sprayer



with pesticides and materials for treating plants (chemical weeding and fertilizing). The machine that was brought to the exhibition is a self-propelled unit with a 24-meter gripper bar. The machine independently sees where it has already cultivated the soil and those corresponding nozzles will not turn on. The main irrigation material hopper holds 4 thousand litres and an additional tank for clean water holds 600 litres. The entire water system of the machine is supplied to our country from Italy, the chassis is from Iveko, and the hydraulic component comes to us from France.

The cabin of the machine has a fourth class of protection, where excess air is pumped into it and there is a carbon filter. The sprayer is produced in our country under license from manufacturers in Western countries. We produce some elements of non-key mechanisms ourselves (a 4-thousand-litre tank and protection elements). At the



moment, we are not interfering with either electronics or hydraulics, Victor Mironov emphasised.

The sanctions policy of Western countries at one time made the employees of this company worry. Today, not all problematic issues have been resolved, but... Businesses of our countries are confident that we should cooperate and, therefore, a domestically assembled spraying machine is produced in our territory.

### Does the quality of a cow's sleep determine the taste of the milk?

We all know a priori that in order for a cow to give a lot of milk, it must be well fed. But that's not all. The comfort of animals directly affects their productivity. Domestic scientists have proven that in a properly designed stall, cows rest for 12 hours a day, and in an uncomfortable stall — no more than seven, and every additional hour a cow lies down (on a full stomach) is another 1 litre of milk. That is, the difference between the good and bad condition of the 'bed' for a cow is from 3 to 5 litres of milk per day. According to **Iosif Polkhovsky, Deputy Director for Agriculture at the Ecoprodshina enterprise of the Brestmyasomolprom concern**, cow beds are already made in the form of mats made of propylene fabric, and rubber granules with elements of textile cord are used as fillers.

It is noteworthy that rubber granules come to the enterprise from all over the country as rubber from car tires, which must be disposed of.

It has already been tested in practice that, in terms of their parameters, the mats recreate the conditions of a pasture and in terms of density correspond to natural soil. And in a comfortable lying position, 50% more blood passes through the udder than in a standing position, which increases the quality and quantity of milk.

Using advanced technology, the mats are laid on a concrete surface with a slight slope and covered with a





layer of polypropylene fabric, the service life of which is more than 10 years. The total thickness of the mat is up to 15 centimetres. Iosif Polkhovsky notes that the special surface texture of the upper material ensures that the cow does not slip. Thanks to the soft surface, animals do not damage their knees and joints when they are lowering down to rest. As a result, injuries are reduced and the cows behave calmly. They feel better in the stall and experience less stress, which has a positive effect on milk yield.

According to the expert, at one time similar mattresses for cattle were purchased in Western countries, but they were very expensive. Today it has been possible to carry out import substitution, when the production of one cattle stall is estimated at 370-390 roubles, or several times cheaper than from imported manufacturers.

### **Circassian cheese from Adygea**

**Chef from the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation Vladimir Zhilin** invited all guests of our exhibition to taste Crimean wines (a few drops each) and products that took part in the central competition of this country — Tastes of Russia. Among the best products of this competition, we were treated to Belyovskaya pastila, Circassian cheese, Stavropol apples and Bashkir honey. A little later we will be given the chance to try Dagestan lamb and Volgograd butter.

Choosing products from the regions, Vladimir Zhilin noted Circassian cheese, which has become a national dish of Circassian cuisine, made only from cow's milk.

It became a brand in 1980, when its mass industrial production began. The expert noted that real Circassian cheese smells like fresh milk and wildflowers, is a dietary food product and has high nutritional value. In addition, Circassian cheese was supplied to the 1980 Summer Olympics, and now it adorns the exposition at the Belarusian exhibition, a specialist from Russia emphasised.

### **Cherry tomatoes ripen right before your eyes**

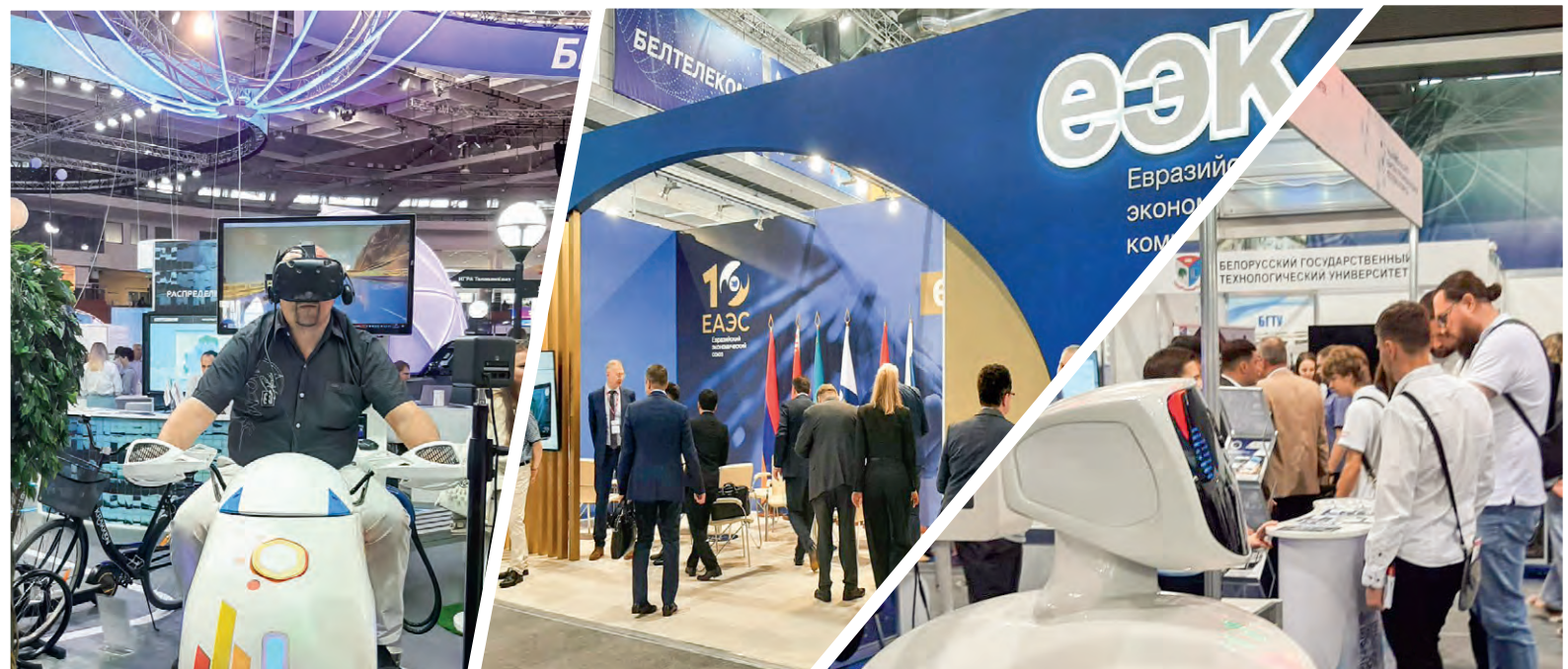
**Agrochemist of the Rudakovo unitary enterprise**

**Svetlana Volkova** came to the exhibition from the Vitebsk Region. They brought a mini-greenhouse to the exhibition to show how vegetable crops, including tomatoes and cucumbers, can be grown under industrial conditions. The technology of growing on mineral wool, which receives a solution of nutrients. Drip irrigation and CO<sub>2</sub> fertilizing are used. Each meter of such a greenhouse produces up to 50 kilograms of small and tasty tomatoes per season.

The start growing tomatoes in early January and end in the last ten days of November. They get the first red fruits here at the end of March, but... Recently, our enterprises have begun to experiment with special lighting. If the experiment shows positive results, then the enterprise will switch to growing vegetables and green crops year-round.

Sergei Kurkach  
Photo by Viktor Ivanchikov





# TIME DICTATES MODERN APPROACHES

TIBO International Forum on Information and Communication Technologies is traditionally held in the Belarusian capital at the beginning of summer. This year was no exception. In June, as always, TIBO 2024 announced itself in a resonant manner. Moreover, it was the anniversary 30th forum.





*Without exaggeration, today TIBO is perhaps the most significant event in the field of information and communication technologies in the country. Every year it becomes larger, and the current, anniversary TIBO 2024 is a four-day forum-marathon with a rich business programme and, of course, an exposition. The event reflected a wide range of current trends in the implementation of IT technologies in public administration, economics and the social sphere, attracting not only IT professionals, but also representatives of government agencies, the business community, educational organisations and a wide range of end users of digital services.*

### Conditions for digital transformation

The significance of this event is confirmed by the fact that there was a greeting to the participants and guests of TIBO 2024 from the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko. The greeting from the Head of State said that against the backdrop of the current geopolitical situation, the main theme of the current event is ensuring cybersecurity and strengthening technological sovereignty. The President expressed his conviction that guests and participants will appreciate the scientific and technological achievements of Belarusian developers and will form new business ties with the prospect of practical benefits for both the average consumer and the country as a whole.

Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko greeted the participants and guests of the anniversary forum on behalf of the Government. In his speech at the opening ceremony, he said that much has changed since the first forum. And by the way, it took place back in 1994. Initially, it was an event aimed at professionals: telecom operators, engineers, programmers. The projects presented in those years solved the problems of improving technologies, primarily fixed-line communications, creating basic information resources, improving and automating personnel and accounting, document flow and archival storage, that is, urgent basic needs. But since then, the sphere of information and communication technologies in the world has gone far ahead in its development.

At the same time, the forum was changing, attracting more and more participants and stimulating public interest in technological progress. Indeed, while in 2014 the 20th TIBO Forum was visited by about 28 thousand people, and about 200 companies took part in it, in 2023 the number of visitors doubled, and the number of companies reached almost 280. Well, today we are all, without exception, consumers of IT services to one degree or another. And the solutions that were demonstrated at the current forum create the image of Belarus as an IT country. It was not without reason that the Prime Minister emphasised that our state has all the conditions for dynamic digital transformation: the necessary regulatory framework has been formed, a school has been created to train IT specialists. A developed telecommunications infrastructure also serves as the foundation for the implementation and effective

functioning of IT solutions. That is, in other words, the entire framework of the system has already been created. It provides high communication speed, reliability, wide coverage, stable connection, which are the basic conditions for digital development.

Significant progress has also been made in the field of e-government. It is not for nothing that Roman Golovchenko emphasised that since 2014, almost two million electronic digital signatures have been issued for legal entities and individuals. More than 10 million transactions are carried out monthly to provide more than two hundred types of electronic services and more than three hundred types of administrative procedures. And about 17 thousand organisations are connected to the electronic document management system. About a million documents are transmitted through this channel every month.

In an era when IT technologies surround a person almost everywhere, and the smartphone and other mobile devices have become indispensable companions of a person, the undoubted current priority is the transfer of interaction between the state, citizens and business into a digital format. This, in fact, is one of the most important elements of de-bureaucratization of the work of the state apparatus. The government can take credit for the fact that, with the help of IT specialists, the citizens' tax, customs and tax declarations have been digitised. The fact that the collection of statistical information, including in the labour sphere, accounting of income, length of service, and pensions, has been completely transferred to electronic form. By the way, Belarus was the first of the CIS countries to conduct a population census in electronic format. The prices in construction are controlled in the digital format. The cost of imported goods is also placed under tight digital control. The created systems make it possible to evaluate all stages of price growth for a product, predict seasonal fluctuations,





the occurrence of excess or shortage of certain goods, plus they are an indispensable tool in the process of regulating pressing pricing issues.

### Promising areas of development

The financial and credit sector of Belarus is, according to experts, today one of the most advanced in the field of digitalisation. Contactless technologies and payment services based on modern innovative solutions are actively developing. Each bank provides mobile and online banking services. A system for paying for travel, goods and services using a QR code has been created. Currently, more than 85 percent of legal entities and about 70 percent of individuals interact with banks online. As part of the replacement of foreign services, the development of domestic contactless payment solutions continues, these are BelcardPay and Oplati. The share of non-cash payments in retail trade turnover has also increased significantly. While five years ago, in 2019, it was just under 45 percent, then in the first quarter of this year it was already almost 60 percent.

A promising direction for the development of electronic forms of non-cash payments could be the digital rouble.

The National Bank has already developed and approved the concept of the Belarusian digital rouble. A platform for a digital rouble on an open blockchain is being developed. This is what is already being done.

Another priority task is to ensure the traceability of goods and services through the integration of digital logistics services on a single platform, which should become a kind of 'one-window' service for interaction between the state, carriers and their clients. The trade and cooperation interaction through the introduction of electronic document management in trade will make it possible to personalise sales, integrate customer data, manage prices and predict consumer demand.

And finally, the transition from the e-government model to the digital state model. The government sees the need to provide support for citizens and businesses in all situations using digital technologies. For example, when a child is born, it is advisable to immediately provide a range of services online — from issuing a birth certificate to providing social benefits and reserving a place for the future in a preschool institution. And from registration to banking services when opening a new business.





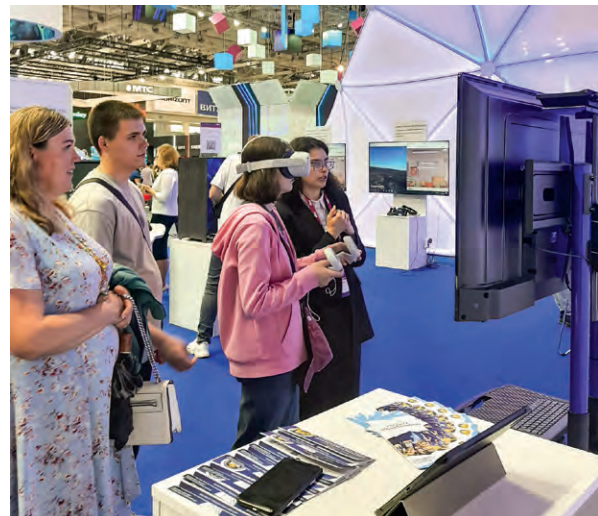
### Wide range of digital services

The Government also sees a radical reduction in dependence on foreign software, stimulating the introduction of products from domestic developers and the use of software from friendly countries as relevant. In agriculture, this is the use of precision farming systems, including unmanned technologies for processing fields, digital analysis of images of farmland, and traceability of agricultural products from field to counter. The corresponding decisions have already been made, and their active pilot implementation has begun. In addition, the Government, as before, will pay significant attention to the training of IT personnel in close cooperation with customers, the development of professional and educational standards, increasing the digital competencies of workers and increasing the digital literacy of the population. The head of the Government is confident that a generally productive dialogue within the framework of the 30th TIBO 2024 International Forum will contribute to the active implementation of digital technologies, increasing the competitiveness of the national economy and the quality of life of the population.

Among the highest priority goals on a national scale is the construction of 5G networks on a fundamentally new architecture of wireless broadband access, which will allow the introduction of the latest global technologies in various

sectors of the economy and social sphere. In the same vein is the creation of the Smart City platform, aimed at providing a wide range of digital services to ensure a comfortable living environment for the population at the first stage in 17 cities of the country. And also the translation of more than 400 administrative procedures into electronic form. For example, it is planned to digitise the processes of registering motor vehicles, obtaining a driver's license, renting housing, and others.

It is also important that within the framework of the Digital Development of Belarus State Programme a unified system for recording and processing appeals from citizens and legal entities, a unified register of licenses, the Showcase of Digital Projects information system, and other solutions have been introduced. For the convenience of providing public services to the population, a mobile application has been developed that allows user identification using an ID card. Now this application unites about 60 government information systems and covers over 500 services. In





## PLATFORM FOR INNOVATION



a word, we see how great the interest of citizens is in digital services, how convenient it is to interact with the government without leaving home, and get instant results.

### **It's better to see once for yourself...**

Thus, Minsk Arena has become a platform for exchanging best international experience and generating innovative knowledge in the IT field. It has united hundreds of companies that strive to make the world around them even more modern from a digital point of view. At their stands there was everything that reflects not only our personal comfort, but also the achievements of the economy. By the way, it was at TIBO in Belarus that an ATM, the Belcard payment system, and the 3G network were first introduced. And here is a short sightseeing tour of TIBO 2024. The sign informs that the main stand of the current forum, Belarus as a Digital State, was prepared by the Ministry of Communications and Information. It presents the Smart City digital platform, which we have already talked about, the republican information system for automated environmental monitoring, a 'showcase of digital projects', Digital Agronomist, which is an application based on artificial intelligence, a universal voice assistant for special agricultural equipment and others.

This time the Minsk Automobile Plant presented several software products. At his stand you could study the diagnostic system for all electronic systems of MAZ vehicles — cargo and passenger ones. Furthermore, a system for auto-calibration of the electronic air suspension was demonstrated here.

There were two software products at the BELAZ stand. One of them was a virtual exhibition of innovative and serial technology. The second was a virtual laboratory in which large machine components can be assembled and disassembled step by step. We found out that the company planned to introduce these developments into service centers so that specialists could learn more easily and quickly.

The Ministry of Energy presented more than 40 innovative solutions. Among them were the latest software systems, intelligent control systems for distribution networks, digital models of heating networks and the latest developments in the use of artificial intelligence in the gas industry.

Traditionally, an important part of the exhibition was the virtual and augmented reality technologies of the Vitebskenergo training center. This year, Vitebsk power engineers showed several new projects at once: a VR simulator for training personnel in the rules of operating a steam boiler, as well as a VR simulator for learning to drive a car.

In addition, large-scale collective stands were presented by the Ministry of Industry, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Belenergo, the National Centre for Marketing and Price Research and others. At the Made in Moscow collective stand, 18 IT companies presented their innovative developments. Especially for the anniversary of the forum,





a thematic exhibition dedicated to the rapid development of technology around the world was organised at the Minsk Arena. It is not for nothing that the business programme of the forum was opened by a plenary panel discussion *Digital Development. Era of Artificial Intelligence*. The programme was very intense and included more than 40 thematic events dedicated to the digital transformation of the main sectors of the economy and public administration.

### Overlapping areas of interest

The general partner of TIBO is traditionally Beltelecom, which this time presented the concept of a technological city with a smart home and office, a store, an electric charging station and a recreation area. About 60 innovative developments and technologies were presented by organisations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

The Russian state corporation Rosatom became a foreign partner and an important participant in the forum's business programme. Its employees shared with Belarusian colleagues their experience and developments in the field of software robotization, the creation of digital products for industry, mathematical modeling and engineering analysis. By the way, within the framework of the 30th TIBO 2024 International Forum on Information and Communication Technologies, Belarus and the state corporation Rosatom signed three cooperation documents. Thus, the agreement

on strategic cooperation was signed by representatives of the representative office of the Rosatom state nuclear energy corporation in Belarus — Rusatom Bel LLC, the Rusatom Service joint-stock company and Minsk Tractor Works. Area of interest: robotics. Namely, the development and implementation of robotic equipment; development of methodological materials and standard technical solutions in this area; development of a comprehensive programme for the development of robotic equipment; studying and implementing best practices in the field of operation of such equipment, in the field of improving business processes with the widespread use of digital tools for their execution, etc. The agreement between JET Engineering and Technical Centre (as part of the Rusatom Service division of the Rosatom state corporation) and Belenergoremnaladka Open Joint-Stock Company will allow them to jointly develop and implement a comprehensive computer simulator for training operational personnel. A pilot project for the operation of power units will be implemented

## PLATFORM FOR INNOVATION



at Minsk Thermal Power Plant 4. Based on the results, tentatively next year, a decision may be made to scale the project throughout the entire energy system of Belarus.

The cooperation roadmap will unite International Business Alliance Closed Joint-Stock Company, the representative office of the Rosatom state nuclear energy corporation in Belarus — Rusatom Bel LLC, and TVEL Joint-Stock Company (fuel division of the Rosatom state corporation) in the field of promoting the Atom Mind digital platform of predictive analytics. The Atom Mind digital platform is planned to be used in industrial digitalisation projects of manufacturing enterprises in Belarus, to create competence centres and develop the appropriate human resources potential of enterprises.

Commenting on the signings, Stanislav Levitsky, Director of the Representative Office of the Rosatom state corporation in Belarus — Rusatom Bel LLC, emphasised: all projects for the future are designed for replication in third markets. Now we are developing competencies and creating a team of specialists, cooperation, and new jobs. If we talk, in particular, about simulators for thermal power plants, the volume of the potential market where they can be supplied in the future is huge. This is all the thermal generation of the Russian Federation, Belarus, and foreign countries. The level of the provision with the training equipment is low. And together partners can solve this problem. They now have a clear aspiration, and the General Director of the Rosatom state corporation Aleksei Likhachev spoke about

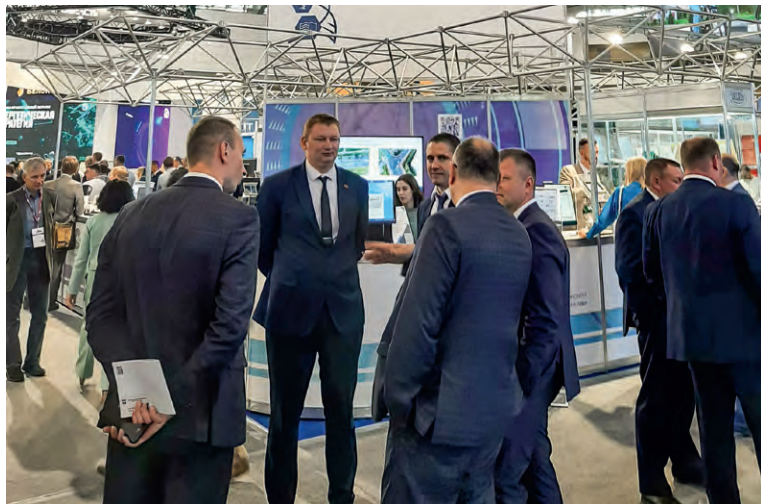
this at a meeting with the Prime Minister of Belarus Roman Golovchenko. So that all projects that are implemented in Belarus meet the criteria of added value, are aimed at creating jobs, and are export-oriented.

### Only the progressive is competitive

We go further. 28 scientific and technical developments were exhibited at the stand of the State Committee for Science and Technology. Actually, the State Committee for Science and Technology and the Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Information Support for the Scientific and Technical Sphere organised the collective section of scientific and technical developments at the international specialised exhibition held as part of the TIBO 2024 forum. At the exhibition area, the section was presented by projects of universities and technology parks of the Ministry of Education, subordinate organisations of the State Committee for Science and Technology, and residents of technology parks of Belarus. The advanced developments included the digital biometric portable medical device, or Health Master, the author of which is Noospheric Technologies LLC. The device can be used in outpatient practice, at home, as well as during screening studies, initial and follow-up examinations, drawing up an examination and treatment programme, and dynamic monitoring throughout the entire life cycle starting from three years.

The author of another medical development presented at the stand, a method of adaptive therapy for respiratory





failure and its hardware and software implementation in the form of a medical equipment product for optimising oxygen consumption, is the Belarusian Innovation Fund. And the Create an Atom virtual reality training simulator, the author of which is Polotsk State University named after Euphrosyne of Polotsk, will help improve the effectiveness of teaching in the field of the structure of chemical elements. The software part of the simulator is unique, there are no analogues, the organisers proudly emphasised.

### As a summary

In total, the TIBO 2024 forum featured expositions of 300 exhibitors — public and private companies, government bodies, educational institutions and research institutes. Over the course of four days, experts exchanged experience, participated in round tables and discussions, and presented new technologies and the latest developments.

Traditionally, the National Children's Technology Park had many interesting developments, as it presented educational areas, a system of working with gifted youth, conditions for selecting students to study at the institution, and the

Scientific Weekends for Families with Children educational programme. Among the unusual stands were mechanical robots from BNTU students. In the future, they will be able to work in the fields, cultivate the land and transport soil. By the way, this year at the international forum of Belarusian State University will present more than 20 innovative developments.

Related events were also held — awards for the winners of the TIBO Internet Marketing competition and the International Scratch Olympiad in creative programming among schoolchildren. With the support of the Ministry of Communications and Information, We Are the Future of Digital Belarus Youth Forum was held at TIBO 2024 — an event that provided for live communication between leaders from the IT sector and active, interested youth. As part of the Digital Technologies Festival, open Digital Lessons were held for schoolchildren, as well as sporting events, including such a modern trend as biathlon (phygital basketball and racing tournament).

In conclusion, it must be said that the TIBO 2024 business programme included events at the 4th Digital Economy Forum, the 6th Eurasian Digital Forum and the 7th Belarusian ICT Summit. In addition, the results of the TIBO 2024 Internet Award competition were announced.

Vsevolod Yevseyev

# QUALITY IS A PRIORITY



**Declared by the Head of State as the Year of Quality, 2024 has largely determined the priorities for the further development of all areas of life in our society — from the economy to the quality of life. And the sphere of education in this list is one of the most important, because we are talking about the young generation of Belarusians, their today and tomorrow, and therefore about the future of our country. Here is the conversation between our correspondent and the Minister of Education of the Republic of Belarus Andrei Ivanets about how this area is developing and improving in Belarus, what changes it has undergone in recent years.**



“In its daily activities, our department’s number one goal is to improve the quality of education, both in the learning process and in the educational aspect. From here follow all those decisions that were made, tested and subsequently introduced into the domestic education system over the past few years. And one of the main components of the quality indicator in this system is the preparation of the future teacher.

This year we are anticipating serious changes in this regard — we are increasing enrolment in pedagogical specialties by almost a thousand of our future applicants and we plan to recruit about six thousand freshmen who, I hope, in the near future will come to school and become teachers — primary school, subject teachers, social teachers and educational psychologists, that is, those people to whom we can entrust our children. To ensure this happens, we have done quite serious work to adjust and improve educational programmes. Already from the first of September 2023—2024, our future teachers began to study according to the new educational standard, according to new curricula.”

#### **“What are the innovations?”**

“For all students — future teachers — practice orientation and completion of relevant practices begins already from the first year. This allows them to feel almost from the start what the profession of a teacher is. Secondly, absolutely every future teacher today has a unit on inclusive education in their curriculum, regardless of whether we are training a special-needs teacher or a physics or computer science teacher. The inclusive education unit is already included in the programme and is a mandatory government component. And today this is especially important, because the number of special children who need special teaching methods in our country is, unfortunately, growing. Today they make up 7 percent of all students. In every school. And the difficulties in the process of their education are increasing, and we are well aware of the difficulties young teachers will encounter at school. The new curriculum allows us to look into the future with confidence and know that in four years every teacher graduating from the university will master both an inclusive culture and the methods of working with special children that they need. And at a high professional level.”

#### **We are waiting for talented youth**

**“The teaching profession has never been particularly popular among applicants. Has the situation changed today?”**

“We are trying to attract young people, and talented young people. Therefore, we continue the trajectory of the influx of gifted children into the teaching profession. Starting this year, for example, graduates of the national children’s technology park who have received an appropriate recommendation from the supervisory board will be able to enter teaching professions without exams. These are truly gifted kids who have successfully completed more than one educational shift.

We are waiting for them and see them not only as highly qualified personnel for the real sector of the economy, but also for the education system. We also continue to recruit medallists for teaching specialties, and also without exams. We are expanding the network of pedagogical classes. This school year, eight and a half thousand children studied in such classes. Moreover, every third of their students chooses the profession of a teacher as their future profession. We expect that these children — medal winners, graduates of pedagogical classes, the national technology park — will form the backbone of those children who will choose to be a teacher as their life’s work.

In order to attract young people to this profession, we carry out extensive career guidance work. It is aimed at ensuring that today’s schoolchildren absorb both respect for their teachers and love for this profession so much that when the time comes, they will consciously choose it. Here, of course, the personal example of the teacher plays a big role. The results of this combined approach are already impressive — literally two years ago the number of children who entered full-time budget education at BSPU named after M. Tank of the number of medallists, graduates of pedagogical classes was approximately 30-35 percent, and last year there were already half of them: every second first-year student of the pedagogical university was either a medallist or a graduate of the pedagogical class. This year, taking into account the increased enrolment numbers, we have raised the bar to 60 percent.”

#### **Aid for all times**

**“Books, textbooks, and teaching aids still remain the main assistants for schoolchildren, students, and teachers. What is the general situation with educational literature in Belarus? How often are they published or republished?”**

“Curricula and manuals are precisely the second important area of ensuring the quality of the educational process. In 2021, for the first time, we completed the publication of a national line of textbooks for the entire secondary school course. And from the same year they began the process of re-issuing them, but there were no global changes; they processed and polished the 220 textbooks that had been published earlier. A year and a half ago, we conducted an in-depth analysis of current educational literature. And it showed that only five textbooks require serious revision. This year we are finishing their re-release. We plan to reissue another 60 manuals over the next two years.”

**“What should a school textbook ideally be like? For students, their teachers and parents?”**

“Accessible texts and good methodological apparatus so that the material is well absorbed and interesting for children. On the other hand, we are significantly expanding and strengthening the educational potential of the textbook. How do we do this? Let’s take the simplest thing — a primer. The child learns letters and sees that the letter ‘B’ is Belarus, the letter ‘F’ is the Fatherland, the letter ‘M’ is mother.



Viktor Ivanchikov



- The textbook is still the main aid for the student
- College students learn the basics of the profession under the guidance of an experienced teacher

There is no more banana, raspberry or crayfish. We are actually returning to the origins that existed in Soviet times. Agree, there were no better educational textbooks than Soviet textbooks. Not only in primers, but also in teaching aids in natural sciences, we also introduce serious educational potential, which shows pride in our country, our economy, our industry, agriculture, and social sphere. All this goes both through the corresponding tasks and through the texts that are used when submitting tasks.”

**“Don’t you consider the current curricula for schoolchildren to be redundant? Isn’t there still a lot of workload?”**

“Today it is absolutely not redundant, and there is no need to simplify it. But the form and accessibility of this curricula needs to be improved. And we do it. An important event will be the publication of a textbook on the history of Belarus in the context of world history for grade 10 in August of this year. This is a big innovation that will affect all schools in our country: from September 1st, tenth graders will study not two academic subjects — the history of Belarus and world history, but one course — the history of Belarus in the context of world history. This is a textbook of a new generation, this is the textbook that you want to read every day, without stopping, with great interest. There, emphasis is placed on those historical moments that every citizen, every patriot of his country should truly know and be proud of. And this is a very important aspect from the point of view of educational potential.”

### According to the principle of fairness

**“Now is the most stressful time for schoolchildren and applicants. Behind are centralised exams, ahead is the admissions campaign. How is everything going this year?”**

“Schoolchildren are taking a centralised exam for the second year. This first time, perhaps because it is the first year, not everything turned out as smoothly as planned. But this is a normal process, because switching to a fundamentally new form of final certification for a general education course is a serious systematic work that has been carried out. By the way, its results were heard at a meeting with the Head of State. What do we have today? Confidence in the right choice. We have practically eliminated questions that can be answered, as they say, at random and have completely brought the test tasks in accordance with the school curriculum. Thus, graduates were not faced with surprises in the form of complicated tasks that are not included in the school curriculum, and so on. The children themselves note this — this year, both in the rehearsal exam and in the centralised testing, the test questions are completely consistent with what they learned at school. This was the fundamental requirement of the president, and we fulfilled it.

Another important aspect is fairness. All 11th grade graduates are in the same conditions from the point of view of objective assessment of knowledge. For us, this is a fundamental point, and that is why we carry out serious, even thorough work, so that there is not the slightest violation on the part of the examinees — such as having a mobile phone with them, using cheat sheets or other outside help. It is important that not only graduates, but also their parents are confident that all children, and not just their own children, are under the same conditions of the examination test. This is also important because the result of the centralised exam can also be used when entering a university.”



### Functional literacy

**“It is known that a national study of the quality of education was conducted in 2023. What were its goals, objectives, results?”**

“The main goal was to assess the functional literacy of students. The study determined how ready today’s boys and girls are for adult life, solving real life problems using the knowledge and skills that they received in educational institutions. I would like to note that the study does not replace a qualitative systematic assessment of educational achievements, but is carried out along with it.

We pay great attention to functional literacy and consider it more as an element of improving the level of quality of education, rather than as a separate element of training. And it will run like a red thread through the entire general educational process in schools — every student must study and know certain laws of physics, chemistry, mathematics, and be able to apply them to solve certain practical problems that he will definitely encounter in life, be it studying at college, university or at your first job.

Another trajectory that does not replace the educational process, but gives it a special impetus and helps to improve its level is the Olympiad movement. We plan to develop it further. Our kids still show good results at international competitions: eight out of ten come back with medals. But there is still great potential that can and should be revealed. To do this, from September 1st, 2024, we will launch elements of a year-round correspondence Olympiad so that absolutely any child from any corner of Belarus can test their strengths and abilities. At the same time, we will attract the best education specialists who will provide training both to teachers who are preparing children for the Olympiad movement, and to the children themselves. I think that combining such a distance Olympiad with in-person training camps for children and intensive training before leaving for the final stage of the republican competitions, before leaving for the international stages, will give an even higher result.

Actually, we did not invent anything new — such forms of work were used in Soviet times, they have been preserved to this day in Russia and China. Elements of such work were also carried out here. Today we are simply taking it to a fundamentally new, systemic level.”

### Choosing a college

**“Today the Head of State is focusing on solving personnel problems in industry. One of his demands is to raise the prestige of blue-collar professions.”**

“We are working very actively in this direction. Every year we increase the number of children who go to college using a budget-funded form of education. Today we have almost reached the point where every second ninth-grade graduate chooses his own path to college. Literally 2—3 years ago, only every third graduate of basic school made this choice. There are several reasons why the situation turned in this direction. Firstly, the kids began to make their choices more



■ Any information is important before the centralized exam

consciously. Secondly, they are attracted by the conditions that are created in colleges today. We managed to create 52 competence centres, moreover, the material and technical base there is constantly updated. The kids are trained on modern equipment, which not every factory has today. In essence, they are training the specialists of tomorrow. Needless to say, how much such a specialist will be in demand in production...

The current students are pragmatic. They look not only at where they want to go and what specialty they want to get, they want to understand where they will work. In this regard, children who go to college and get a working profession have great prospects. If specialists are in demand, attractive working conditions are created for them and a decent salary is offered. There are many advantages, because of course we will develop the trajectory of entering colleges after the ninth grade. This year the number of budget places in both universities and colleges has already significantly increased. For those children who decide to stay in school, several trajectories are offered — training in a specialized class or a basic class. If we talk about the latter, then students of such classes, along with a certificate, also receive a working profession, which they learn at the college, and upon completion they pass a qualifying exam. Three paths are immediately open to such graduates — they can continue their education at a university or college, or immediately find a job.

Moreover, today university students studying engineering as part of the student labour movement have the opportunity to obtain a working profession. Agree, when architects understand the work of a foreman, when they know how a tiler works, and so on, it is only a plus for them and for the general cause.

## THE SPHERE OF EDUCATION

Another important aspect of increasing the prestige of the working profession is professional skills competitions. In 2024, we held the 5th anniversary republican competition ProfSkills, the winners of which will take part in international competitions.”

### There is no place like home

**“Today, the regions also experience a shortage of qualified personnel. Meanwhile, each regional centre has its own, and very strong, universities. However, young people from the provinces, like decades ago, go to capital universities for knowledge and a diploma?”**

“There really is an issue. But we are solving it. Since last year, thanks to the support of the Head of State, we began to hold university Olympiads, and only in regional universities. Based on the results of these Olympiads, the students actually become students at regional universities in March. In 2024, more than 1,000 children from the regions became winners of university Olympiads. We expect that the number of students there will increase exactly as much.

We have made it possible for silver and gold medallists, and according to forecasts there will be about 4.5 thousand of them in all regions, to enter any regional university without exams. We are using this innovation for the first time in the current admissions campaign and hope that the students will stay at universities in their small homeland and then begin their careers there.

You quite rightly noted that our regional universities are educational institutions with traditions, name and authority. I will say more — both the supply of personnel and the material and technical base do not differ from the capital's universities. An indicative fact is that foreign students choose not only Minsk universities, but also our regional ones. This indicates a high level of the educational process in them.

Not many people know that some regional universities have a unique specialisation that is not found in any other university in the country. For example, Mogilev University of Chemical Technologies in Belarus is the only unique university that trains specialists for the food industry. Vitebsk Technological University specialises in training personnel for light industry; there are no others like them in the country either. Vitebsk Veterinary Academy, Polotsk University, Gorki Agricultural Academy, Kupala University and others are real brands, with their own face, their big name and the highest level of teaching.”

### In the spotlight

“Which tasks to improve the quality of work of preschool educational institutions do you consider to be a priority?”

“The most sensitive aspect for parents today is the availability of preschool institutions. We are working in this direction. So, today, for the convenience of parents, interactive maps of preschool education institutions have been made for each district, which are updated monthly. On them you can see in real time how many places are available and in which kindergartens. You can choose a preschool



■ At the Republican professional skills competition for college students ProfSkills

education institution close to your home or work, not far from where your grandparents live, and so on. This year we plan to complete the transition to electronic form of two administrative procedures — registration with a preschool education institution and issuing a referral to a kindergarten. In both cases, you will not need to go to either the district education department or the district executive committee in order to get in line or get a referral. This can be done even from a mobile phone at any time convenient for the parent. As for the educational process itself, the Programme for the Development of Preschool Educational Institutions, adopted for 2024—2025, provides for the improvement of the qualifications of educators in institutions and the adoption of new educational programmes for the implementation of more serious educational, patriotic, and civic functions. It will not surprise anyone that today in preschool educational institutions they study state symbols, the meaning of these state symbols, and children are already singing along to the anthem. And this is right — citizens of Belarus from a very young age should be proud of the country where they were born and in which they live.”

### Taking care of children

**“The pilot project in organising school meals was perhaps the most discussed. But today we can say with complete confidence: teachers, parents, and, most importantly, children are satisfied with the results of this project.”**

“Perhaps this topic even set someone on edge, but, as people say, the game was worth the trouble. A total of 23 schools from different regions of Belarus took part in the pilot project initiated by the Government. By the end of the 2024 school year, more than 70 percent of the country's schools have switched to the new principle of organising school meals. From September 1st, coverage will be 100%.

The result is really good. The children began to eat better and more. More than 65 percent of our schoolchildren eat from the budget. These are huge government funds. But this also





■ Students of the Faculty of Geography and Geoinformatics of BSU in the classroom

means caring for children. Now we have reached a balance where children are fed and happy, and the money invested in their nutrition is used effectively.

The successful implementation of the experiment consisted of three components. The first thing is what we are preparing. Process charts of school dishes have undergone dramatic changes, and a fundamentally new collection of them has been developed. When testing the dishes, we established feedback with students and their parents. Some they liked, some they didn't. As a result, the menu collection included exactly those dishes that received a positive rating.

The second component is the equipment of catering units. We understand perfectly well that in order to cook and feed 1.5-2 thousand schoolchildren every day, and in general 1 million children are fed daily in Belarus, we need appropriate capacities and modern processing equipment. Combi steamers, mixers, frosters, defrosters are available in school catering units today. Today we are finishing equipping them with dishwashers.

The next component is the qualifications of the cooks. All of them at one time completed the necessary training and today have the required fourth category."

### Cooperation continues

**"How have international contacts changed under sanctions? Has cooperation decreased or, on the contrary, increased, but in other areas, and what does this give to the domestic education sector?"**

"We continue serious cooperation with all friendly countries. A meeting of the joint board of relevant ministries of the Russian Federation and Belarus was recently held. The range of issues that were discussed there went beyond the agenda initially defined. Lots of common topics. And the level of cooperation with Russian colleagues has reached the stage where we not only speak the same language, but look in the same direction. We read each other without words. As for the important agreements that are of greater significance to us,

this is the development of a mechanism for transferring our science textbooks, school textbooks and college textbooks to Russia, so that our colleagues can make their own line of national textbooks based on them. For us, this is a high degree of trust when another country takes Belarusian textbooks as an example or basis for compiling its textbooks. We have also reached serious agreements with the Russian Federation on the development of inclusive education. Here, on the contrary, we have a serious interest in the developments that our Russian colleagues have: this is a very serious scientific school, good methodological support. And our colleagues are ready not only to share these developments, but also to accompany their implementation. This is very important for us, because it will significantly speed up the time not only for understanding them, but also for using them in real life. The Association of Schools of Belarus and Russia is another important instrument of cooperation. Teachers from fraternal countries exchange experiences on a regular basis, teachers conduct teleconferences, and delegations are exchanged, not only in the field of education, but also in the educational field. The Association already includes more than 500 schools, but the growth rate is such that, I think, we will multiply the number of educational institutions that will be included in the future.

In the spring, a big visit of the Belarusian delegation to Uzbekistan took place. During the meetings, many agreements were also reached. An interesting joint project to train personnel for preschool educational institutions in Uzbekistan: we are preparing to open a joint faculty of preschool education, where Belarusian teachers will train Uzbek educators. The second serious area is the training of blue-collar workers. We actually plan to create a turnkey centre in Uzbekistan for advanced training and competence centres that will train highly qualified specialists for the country's industry.

We plan to take part in the forum of ministers of education of the BRICS countries, and today, as invited members, we are taking part in the work of the ministers of education of the SCO countries. We hope, with the support of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, to become not only active participants in the educational process of the SCO countries, but also to host the next meeting of the heads of relevant ministries.

The African vector is also developing dynamically. Today it is already obvious how the number of students from the African continent who study in our country is growing. Egypt, Cameroon, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Equatorial Guinea, a number of other countries — if we talk about the geography of cooperation, it is constantly expanding — today it is already more than 100 countries of the world. We have more than 30 thousand foreign students. And there is room to grow. But this is not an end in itself. We must still put the quality of training of our students for the economy of Belarus at the forefront."

Yelena Vinogradov

Photo by Elizaveta Drapko



## Саюзу пісьменнікаў Беларусі Віншаванне з Кітая

8 – 14 чэрвеня Саюз пісьменнікаў Беларусі адзначае сваё 90-годдзе. З юбілейнай датай творчае аб'яднанне літаратараў павінішаваў Інстытут Еўропы Другога Пекінскага ўніверсітэта замежных моў (Кітайская Народная Рэспубліка).

Вось што гаворыцца ў віншаванні з кітайскага боку: “Інстытут Еўропы Другога Пекінскага ўніверсітэта замежных моў выказвае Саюзу пісьменнікаў Беларусі самыя цёплыя віншаванні ў сувязі з 90-годдзем з дня заснавання.

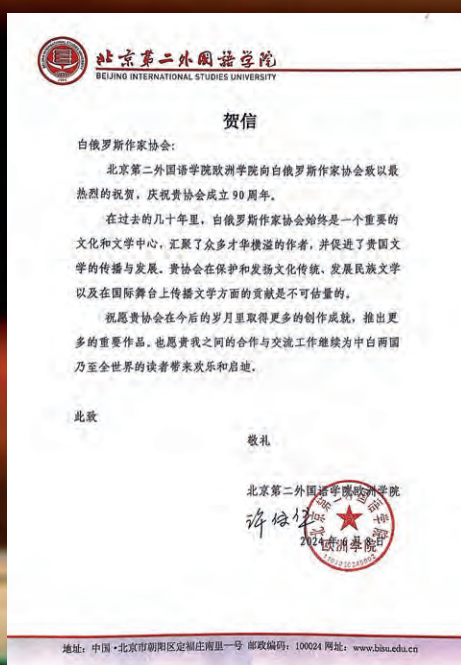
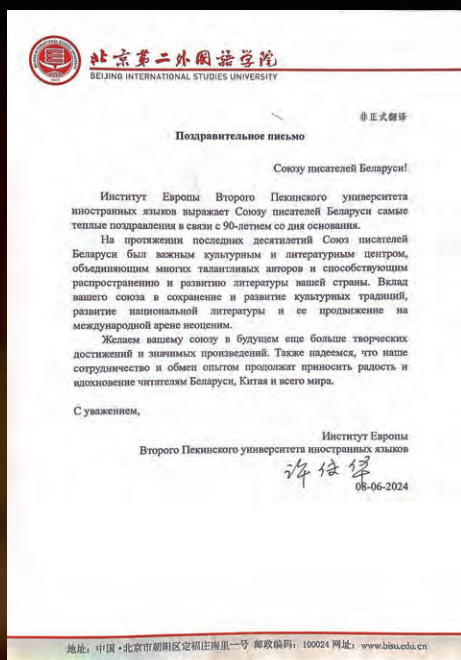
На працягу апошніх дзесяцігоддзяў Саюз пісьменнікаў Беларусі быў важным культурным і літаратурным цэнтрам, які аб'яднаў многіх таленавітых аўтараў і садзейнічаў распаўсюджванню і развіццю літаратуры вашай краіны. Уклад вашага саюза ў захаванне і развіццё культурных традыцый, развіццё нацыянальнай літаратуры і яе прасоўванне на міжнароднай арэне іграе важную ролю.

Жадаем вашаму саюзу ў будучыні яшчэ болей творчых дасягненняў і значных твораў. Таксама спадзяёмся, што наша супрацоўніцтва і абмен вопытам прадоўжаць прыносіць радасць і натхненне чытачам Беларусі, Кітая і ўсяго свету”.

У Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі складаюцца добрыя адносіны з літаратарамі, даследчыкамі літаратуры і культуры Кітая. Толькі што ў Пекіне пабачыла свет кніга выбраных твораў лаўрэата Нацыянальнай літаратурнай прэміі Беларусі Алеся Бадака. Яшчэ раней, напрыканцы 2022 года, -- калектыўны зборнік твораў сучасных беларускіх паэтаў і празаікаў у перакладзе на кітайскую мову. Усе гэтыя памкненні з'яўляюцца працягам той працы, якая ажыццяўлялася ў 1950 – 1980-я гады, калі ў КНР выйшлі кнігі Янкі Купалы, Якуба Коласа, Янкі Маўра, Аркадзя Куляшова, Кандрата Кранівы, Янкі Брыля, Петруся Броўкі, Максіма Танка, Івана Шамякіна і іншых знакамітых беларускіх пісьменнікаў. Да пераўвасаблення беларускай літаратуры на кітайскую мову спрычыніліся лепшыя майстры мастацкага перакладу – Гэ Баоцзюань, Гао Ман, гу Юй і іншыя. Мост літаратурнай дружбы Беларусі і Кітая працягвае пашырацца і ўмацоўвацца і зараз, у новым стагоддзі.

Кастусь **Лешніца**









# BELARUSIAN LITERATURE IN THE WORLD

## CHRONICLES OF LITERARY LIFE. 1966 — 1985

From the *Chronicles...* for 1971. On January 11th, the People's Poet of the BSSR Arkadz Kulyashou was awarded for his translations of *Selected Poems* by M. Yu. Lermontov, *The Aeneids* by I. P. Katlyareuski, *Song of Hiawatha* by G. Longfellow with the diploma and badge of the laureate of the State Prize of the BSSR. On February 11th, an evening dedicated to the 100th anniversary of L. Ukrainka was held at the BSSR club. Opening speech was given by P. Panchanka. The report was read by Khvedar Zhychka. The newspaper *Litaratura i Mastatstva* noted that a number of literary evenings and conferences dedicated to the poetess were held in the republic. The work of Lesya Ukrainka (1871 — 1913) is well known in Belarus. Several of her books were published in Belarusian — in 1957, 1971, 1996, 2014. The translators of L. Ukrainka's poems into the Belarusian language included Edi Ognetsvet, Anatoly Ostreyko, Nikolai Avramchik, Artur Volsky, Anatoly Velyugin, Nil Gilevich, Sergei Grakhovsky, Sergei Dergai, Khvedar Zhychka, Nina Zagorskaya, Ivan Kolesnik and others.

On April 14th—16th, a delegation of Polish writers — V. Yazhdzhinsky, I. Sikiritsky — was in Minsk.

In May 1971, Bulgarian children's writers A. Bosev, N. Zidarov, G. Strumsky, N. Yankov and P. Dimitrov-

Rudar visited Belarus on a six-day visit. Together with them came poets, prose writers, critics from Moscow — I. Tokmakova, Yu. Korinets, V. Bavina, V. Borisov and M. Tarasova. On May 20th, an international conference was held on the topic of military-patriotic education in children's literature.

In the second half of May, a scientific conference *Comparative Studies of Slavic Literatures* was held in Moscow. Belarusian literary scholars A. Adamovich, V. Zaitsev, A. Maldis, V. Gapova, V. Kovalenko took part. The conference materials used the abstracts of N. Perkin's report *International and National in the Image of a Literary Hero and the Interaction of Literatures (On the Material of Belarusian Literature)*.

From June 29th to July 2nd, the 5th Congress of the USSR Writers' Union was taking place in Moscow. Maxim Tank gave a speech *On a High Rise*. V. Bykau, P. Brouka, A. Kulakousky, I. Shamyakin, Y. Bryl, M. Tank, I. Melezh and others took part in the congress. In August, the Polish socio-cultural biweekly magazine *Kamena* published an article about the work of Vasil Bykau. An analysis of his story *Sotnikov* was presented.

November. The 150th anniversary of the birth of F. M. Dostoevsky was widely celebrated in the USSR. An



evening took place in the village of Dostoevo, Brest Region. Associate Professor of the Brest Pedagogical Institute A. Moiseichik gave a speech *Dostoevsky and Modernity*.

On December 10th, an evening dedicated to the Russian poet N. Nekrasov took place at the Kupalovsky Theatre. Arkadz Kulyashou made an opening speech. Maxim Tank presented the report *The Life and Work of Nekrasov*. The poet's poems were read in their translations by E. Ognetsvet, A. Vertinsky, A. Yakimovich. The newspapers *LiM*, *Sovietskaya Belorussia*, *Red Change* published materials and articles about the life and creative work of the classic of Russian and world poetry. Let us recall that the works of N.A. Nekrasov (1821 — 1878) were translated into Belarusian by Edi Ognetsvet, Ales Yakimovich, Maksim Luzhanin, Vladimir Shakhovets, Ales Zvonak and others.

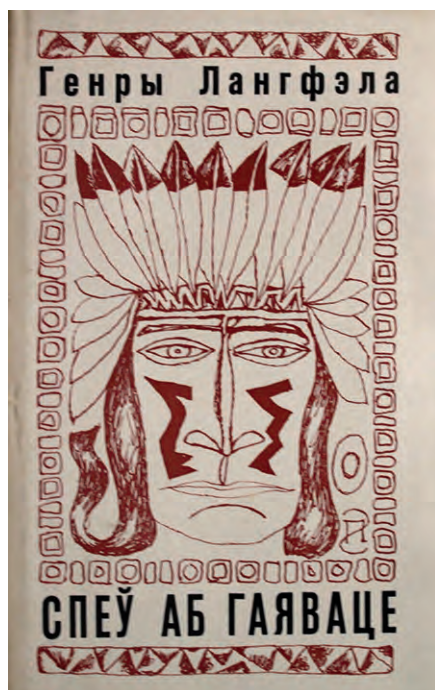
*At the end of December 1971, a meeting of the Council on Belarusian Literature at the Writers' Union of the USSR was held in Moscow. Speakers included S. Baruzdin, A. Ovcharenko, M. Lukonin and a number of Belarusian writers and literary scholars — Y. Gnilomedov, V. Rogoisha, A. Vertinsky...*

By the way, returning to the beginning of 1971, when the 6th Congress of the BSSR Writers' Union was held in Minsk on April 26th—27th... In his report,

the chairman of the creative organisation Maxim Tank noted a number of priorities that contribute to the development of international relations of literature and the international education of society through the literary word, "...In its progressive development, Belarusian literature is not confined to a narrow national framework. Being an integral part of all Soviet literature, we, Belarusian writers, strive for unity and cohesion with the literatures of the peoples of the USSR and socialist countries, with the progressive literatures of the whole world. And this goal is best achieved through mutual cooperation and exchange. The well-known proposition that any national literature cannot develop without good translated literature in its composition, we can rightfully apply to our modern prose, poetry, drama and journalism. In the literary life of Belarusian literary translation, noticeable achievements occurred during the inter-congress period..." Maxim Tank named the names of sincere adherents of presenting the best achievements of other national literatures in the Belarusian language: Arkadz Kulyashou, Nil Gilevich, Yazep Semezhon... And more from the report of Maxim Tank, "...During the reporting period, outside our country, in addition to individual editions of individual works of our classical and modern literature, 8 anthologies of Belarusian fiction are being prepared, ready or published: a large, 30 printed sheets in size, an anthology of Belarusian stories in the publishing house Volk und Welt in Berlin; an anthology of modern Belarusian poetry in the Lodz publishing house; an anthology of Belarusian short stories in the same Polish publishing house; a collection of modern Belarusian stories in English and Kannada in one of the publishing houses in the state of Mysore (India); an anthology of Belarusian fiction (samples of folklore, poetry, prose, drama and criticism) in the Europe publishing house in Budapest; a collection of modern Belarusian poetry *Young Belarus* in Sofia; a collection of Belarusian prose translated into the Serbian-Sorbian language in the Damovina publishing house in Budyšin (GDR); UNESCO is publishing an anthology of Belarusian poetry translated into English..."

1972. In February, the people's poet of Dagestan Rasul Gamzatov stayed in Minsk for several days. Four evening meetings with the famous author were held in the hall of the Belarusian State Philharmonic. Minsk was also visited by writers from Turkmenistan — Berdimuhamed Gulau and Kaushut Shamiev, the Latvian poet and prose writer Hieronymus Stulpans, and the famous writer Egon Liv.

A little about Rasul Gamzatov's connection with Belarus. In the fall of 2023, a big evening dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the birth of R. Gamzatov was held at the House of Writers of Minsk. A round



■ Edition translated by Arkady Kulyashov, 1969.



## 90th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WRITERS' UNION

table was held in the Memorial Hall of the Belarusian Writers' Union with the participation of Dagestan writers, in particular the Chairman of the Avar Literature Section of the Dagestan Writers' Union, on the topic of Belarusian-Dagestan literary ties. In the evening, the Chairman of the Government of the Republic of Dagestan Abdulmuslim Abdulmuslimov made a detailed report, and the Minister of Culture of Dagestan Zarema Butaeva also spoke. Anatoly Avrutin, Mikhail Poznyakov, Ragned Malakhovsky and others read their translations of classic poems of Soviet poetry into Russian and Belarusian. Those days, the Belarusian State Philharmonic also hosted an evening dedicated to the work of R.

roaming the earth for more than a hundred years./ People, why are you always / jumping fast like hares in a clean field?/ Their haste is no wonder :/ Hares live five years, no more."

In April 1972, the All-Union Week of Children's and Youth Literature took place. *Litaratura i Mastatstva* published articles about the connection of writers Z. Voskresenskaya, V. Talyan, Y. Isakov, A. Dunaevsky and others with our literature.

*On April 7th, the All-Union Symposium Problems of International Education in Children's Literature took place. Vasil Vitka made a presentation. Yevdokia Los also made a speech.*



■ Renat Kharis. Minsk, 2018

Gamzatov. The list of the names of the translators of the poetry of Rasul Gamzatov (1923 — 2003) into the Belarusian language: Yazep Semezhon, Arkadz Kulyashou, Anatoly Grachanikov, Ales Zvonak, Anatoly Ostreiko, Nikolai Avramchik, Ryhor Baradulin, Ales Bachilo, Oleg Loiko, Sergei Grakhovsky, Yanka Sipakou, Maxim Tank, Mikhail Paznyakov, Ragned Malakhovsky... In 1972, in the series *Poetry of the Peoples of the USSR*, a collection of poems by the Avar author in the Belarusian language *High Stars* was published. This is how the lines of Rasul Gamzatov sound in the reincarnation of Maxim Tank, "People, why are you always slow?/ Turtles are in no hurry,/ And that's why their slowness does not surprise them:/ They have been

At the Union of Artists — until May 19th — a meeting was held with Ukrainian writers N. Nagnibeda, A. Yushchenko, M. Uspensky, B. Stepanyuk, R. Donets, M. Singaevsky, "of whom there are many, as *Chronicles* testifies...". Writers prepared a two-volume almanac *Belarusian Soviet Poetry*. The meeting was opened by Ivan Petrovich Shamyakin. Speakers included Yu. Semezhon, V. Vitka, B. Stepanyuk, A. Yushchenko, A. Zaritsky, N. Arochko and others.

On May 22nd—28th, the Days of Bulgarian Literature were held in Belarus. A delegation of the National Committee of Bulgarian-Soviet Friendship, headed by the famous Bulgarian writer D. Angelov, worked in Minsk. On May 23rd, a gala evening dedicated to the holiday of Bulgarian culture and Slavic literacy was held at the Minsk Philharmonic. Speakers included N. Gilevich, M. Kalachinsky, N. Vylchev. On May 24th, a meeting of Belarusian and Bulgarian writers took place. Speakers at the meeting included I. Shamyakin, N. Vylchev, I. Davydov, D. Angelov, M. Kalachinsky, A. Kulyashou, M. Tank, I. Melezh, N. Gilevich, L. Proksha, V. Nikiforovich. In May and June 1972, the newspapers *Litaratura i Mastatstva* and *Zvyazda* repeatedly raised the topic of the Days of Bulgarian Literature in Belarus. Naiden Vylchev was, perhaps the most Belarusian among the Bulgarian guests in 1972. The writer and translator was born on August 30th, 1927 in the village of Brestnitsa, Lovech Province (Bulgaria). After graduating from Sofia University, he worked in various newspapers and magazines. In 1996—1997, he was engaged in diplomatic work. From 1989 to 1991, he headed the Union of Translators of Bulgaria. He published his first book, *On the Southern Border*, in 1953. He is the author of many poetry collections, four books of biographical essays, published in 2007—2010. The subjects of his works were Vasil Bykau, as well as Marc Chagall, Aleksandr Pushkin, Konstantin Simonov, Adam Mitskevich... He is the translator of the poetry of Yanka Kupala, Yakub Kolas, Piatrus Brouka, Arkadz Kulyashou,



Maxim Tank, Pimen Panchanka, Vasil Vitka, Anatoly Velyugin, Nil Gilevich, Gennadz Buraukin, Anatoly Vertinsky and others into Bulgarian. He translated a number of stories by Vasil Bykau into Bulgarian. N. Vylchev's poems were translated into Belarusian by Maxim Tank, Nil Gilevich, Ryhor Baradulin, Gennadz Buraukin. In 1968, a collection of poems by a Bulgarian friend, *The White Seagull*, was published in Minsk with a circulation of 2,000 copies. The book was designed by the legendary book designer Boris Zaborov. Naiden Vylchev dedicated the poem *Over the Poet's Grave* to the memory of Yanka Kupala:

*The ground here is flat all around,  
There have been no mountains here  
since time immemorial,  
But above this silent valley  
High in the sky, in the blue space,  
Among the tilted flags  
Today the mountain has grown -  
Here, above the grave of the poet,  
Who has owned people's hearts for a long time.  
It's all made of meadow flowers.  
Alive.*

July 1972 marked the 90th anniversary of the birth of Yanka Kupala, the people's writer of Belarus. In addition to many important events, on September 27th, 1972, an evening in honour of Kupala took place in the Column Hall of the House of Unions in Moscow. The evening was opened by Russian poet Nikolai Tikhonov. Speakers included N. Bazhan (Ukraine), E. Matuzevichyus (Lithuania), H. Berulova (Georgia), M. Komissarova and others. The Kupala days also passed in Leningrad. Ivan Melezh, Ales Savitsky, Ivan Gromovich, Nil Gilevich, Gennadz Buravukin, Sergei Grakhovsky took part in the celebration. New translations of Yanka Kupala's poetry into the languages of other peoples have appeared in various autonomous republics, regions of Russia, and republics of the USSR. Publications appeared in English — in the newspaper Voice of Motherland (it was also published in English at that time) and the Moscow magazine Soviet Literature, published in Moscow in different languages. By the way, the newspaper Voice of Motherland is now published as a supplement to the magazine Belarus. Every month. Maybe it's worth starting to publish works of Belarusian classics in translations into other languages on its pages? This practice would help create a good creative platform for connections between translators from different countries... New editions of Kupala appeared in Armenian, Georgian, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Latvian, Lithuanian, Mongolian, Polish, Tajik, Tatar, Turkmen, Ukrainian, Finnish, Estonian. Over the years of development of Soviet literature, a tradition has developed to celebrate the anniversaries of classics of other literatures. And this tradition was

a kind of engine for expanding readers' ideas about Kupala, Kolas, Bahdanovich among other peoples of the world. In 1972, Yanka Kupala's poems appeared on the pages of many Russian periodicals — in the magazines Friendship of Peoples, Znamya, Novy Mir, in various newspapers, as well as in collections. In 1972, the anniversary of Yakub Kolas did not go unnoticed. New publications of his poems have appeared in Azerbaijani, English, Georgian, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Latvian, Lithuanian, Mongolian, Mari, Polish, Tatar, Turkmen, Ukrainian, Yakut languages. A separate book by the people's writer of Belarus, translated into Ukrainian by Pavel Tychyna and other Ukrainian poets, has been published. Today, the old traditions have been lost, but it cannot be said that they have disappeared completely. Thanks to the efforts of individual authors, in recent years the works of Yanka Kupala and Yakub Kolas have appeared in author's anthologies of translations of Belarusian poetry and prose. In 2018, an anthology of translations of Belarusian poetry Khush Kilesez — Kali Laska! was published in Kazan and performed by the people's poet of Tatarstan Renat Kharis; and there was a place for the reincarnation of five poems by Yanka Kupala and three works by Yakub Kolas. In 2018, poet Adam Akhmatukaev published the book Pages of Belarusian Poetry in the Chechen Language in Grozny, which included six poems by Yakub Kolas and two works by Yanka Kupala.

*In 2019, Yanka Kupala's book Sonnets was published in Ulaanbaatar, translated into Mongolian by Badam-Ochiryn Galaarid. In 2019, the national poet of Kabardino-Balkaria Salikh Gurtuyev published in Nalchik his own anthology of translations of Belarusian prose and poetry My Belarusian Guests, on the pages of which he did not bypass the works of Kupala and Kolas.*

From September 12th to 17th, 1972, the Week of Literature of the Peoples of the USSR was held in Belarus. Guests from Belarus were V. Zakrutkin, V. Bokov, D. Kugultinov, Yu. Zhukov, B. Kamalov, G. Shukhrat, A. Maldonis and others. On September 17th, a poetry festival was held in Nikolaevsk (Stolbtsy District), which concluded the Week of Literature of the Peoples of the USSR in Belarus. On September 8th, 15th and 22nd, Litaratura i Mastatstva covered in detail the week of literature of the peoples of the USSR.

In October, a creative seminar of playwrights from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Belarus was held in Riga. From our republic, A. Delendik, P. Khorkov, Y. Shaban, A. Petrashkevich took part in it.

On October 11th, literary figures of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam Xuan Ziku, Doan Gioi, and Dao



## 90th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WRITERS' UNION

Vu arrived in Minsk. Two days later, on October 13th, a meeting of Vietnamese and Belarusian writers took place at the Belarusian Writers' Union.

Live meetings, direct communication between Belarusian writers and colleagues from other Soviet republics and other countries contributed greatly to the development of international literary relations and the expansion of the space of literary translation. Connections brought results...

**1973**

The premiere of Andrei Makayonak's comedy *A Tablet Under the Tongue* took place at the Moscow Satire Theatre. On January 15th, an evening of French poetry

Russian writers Zulfya Khananova, Georgy Prokhin, Yuri Kozlov, Sergei Glavyuk, Valery Kazakov, Aleksandr Kazintsev, Ales Kozhedub, Vladislav Artyomov, Mikhail Popov, Tatiana Piskareva and others. And as a result of these meetings, in recent years the 'Belarusian issues' of *Roman-Gazeta* and the magazines *Moscow* and *Our Contemporary* have been published. Thanks to translations into Russian, modern Belarusian prose and poetry could be seen by a wider circle of readers not only in Russia, but also everywhere where Russian is read. Wikipedia suggests that more than 150 million people consider Russian their native language.



■ During the presentation of the Lenin Prizes, 1972 (second from the left — Ivan Melezh).

was held in Minsk at the Belarusian State Philharmonic. Its programme included poems from the *Anthology of French Poetry*, compiled by the critic and literary critic, President of the French Republic G. Pompidou (1911-1974).

In March 1973, the Council on Belarusian Literature was held in Moscow. The work of young writers was discussed. Yurka Golub spoke on behalf of the young poets of Belarus. The event was attended by Kazimir Kameisha, Ivan Orabeyko and others. What halls, what platforms could become a venue for such meetings and discussions today?! Perhaps a more significant initiative on the Belarusian side is needed. It has become a tradition to hold round tables of Belarusian and Russian writers in the Business and Cultural Centre of the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in the Russian Federation under the general idea of 'Fiction as a path to each other'. Organisers: Ministry of Information of the Republic of Belarus, Writers' Union of Belarus, Zvyazda Publishing House. In 2016 — 2023, such meetings were attended by

*In 1973, the honorary title of Honoured Cultural Worker of the BSSR was awarded to A. Zhukauskas, M. Nagnibeda, A. Ostrovsky for services in the field of literary translation of works by Belarusian writers and great work in promoting Belarusian literature among writers from other republics.*

Already in the 21st century, by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko, the Armenian translator Edward Militanyan and the Azerbaijani poet Chingiz Ali-oglu were awarded the Francysk Skaryna medal. Forms of encouragement may be different, but they are necessary and significant for strengthening international literary ties.

On May 17th, an evening dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the birth of the French writer Henri Barbusse was held at the Kupalovsky Theatre. The first to discover him in our country was Ivan Melezh. The work of Henri Barbusse did not go unnoticed by our translators. In 1929 and 1931, the State Publishing House of Belarus published books of French classics



translated into Belarusian — Miscellaneous Facts and Russia. In 1992, his story *Tenderness* was included in the book *French Novel of the 20th Century*, published in the Belarusian language.

And in June 1973, a festival of Belarusian literature and art was held in the Altai region. Creative meetings took place in the first two days of the festival, and then representatives of Belarus dispersed to all corners of the Altai Territory. More than two million people live in the Altai Territory. The area is 167,996 square kilometres. For comparison: the area of Belarus is 207.6 thousand square kilometres. Literary places of Altai — Barnaul, Biysk, the village of Katun, the legendary Srostki of Shukshin... There are many places in this area that will tell about Vasily Makarovich Shukshin, Vitaly Biyanki, Vyacheslav Shishkov... Trips to other places always gave a lot of impressions, suggested topics for poetry... It is no coincidence that Pimen Panchanka thought, "There are people on the roads, people... / He asked himself more than once: / Are they at least a little involved / in great human affairs?..." And "poems brought from the roads", are not accidental in his work... Here, 1973, Flight to Siberia:

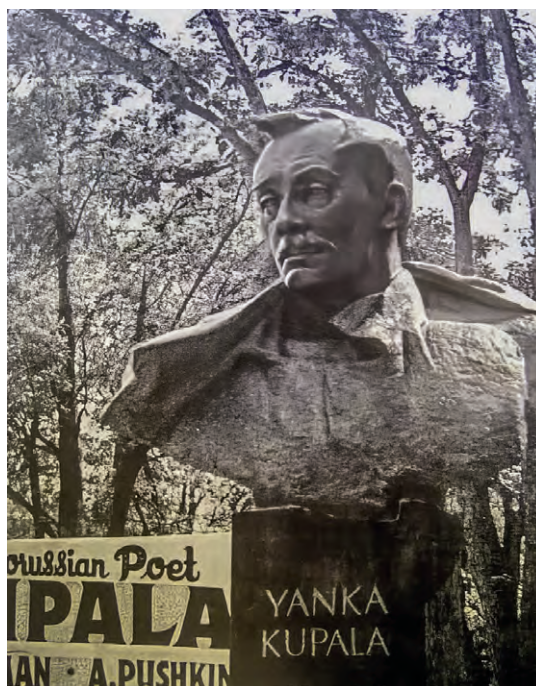
*Every evening is like goodbye to me  
With the evening sun, quiet dawn.  
Like a gift every dawn  
Meeting with a new river and mountain...*

*The ground is covered with trembling wet snow,  
The winds blew out the ears of the aspens.  
Autumn night planes  
They burst upward from the damp earth.*

*The turbines howl from hot fatigue,  
And the plane is taking me east.  
I missed the Siberian expanses,  
You were missed, Yenisei.*

*I hugged you, earth, near Bryansk,  
I dug your podzol near Seliger,  
So I reached deep boundaries,  
To Minusinsk, to the Khakass stars.*

... A monument to Yanka Kupala was solemnly opened in Arrow Park (USA). Andrei Makayonak and Anatoly Anikeichik, a sculptor and one of the authors of the monument to the national writer, took part in the celebration. Today, monuments to Kupala stand in Moscow, Ashdod (Israel), Beijing... It is planned to erect a monument to the national writer of Belarus in Ashgabat. The news was announced by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Turkmenistan to the Republic of Belarus Nazarguly Shagulyev during the evening in honour of the 300th anniversary of the Great Fraga-Makhtumkuli at the House of Writers in Minsk on April 18th, 2024.



■ Monument to Yank Kupala in Arrow Park (USA)

In 1973, the Bulgarian government awarded the People's Poet of Belarus Piatrus Brouka with the Order of Cyril and Methodius. And in July in Minsk, at the F. Dzerzhinsky Club, an evening dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the birth of Vladimir Mayakovsky was held. Pimen Panchanka said a word about the poet. Kastus Kireyenko, Nikolai Khvedarovich, Sergei Grakhovsky, Ryhor Baradulin and Nil Gilevich performed new translations of poems by the famous master of words. In different decades, starting from 1930, Vladimir Mayakovsky's book was published in the Belarusian language. Among the latest publications is the collection *Poetry*, published in 2019 in the *Poets of the Planet* series. New translations were also included in the book next to the old translations.

An event in 1973 in the literary life of Belarus was a symposium on translated literature into the languages of the peoples of the USSR. Among the guests of the important creative event were J. Khelemsky, A. Zhukauskas, M. Nagnibeda, A. Ostrovsky, A. Ovcharenko, B. Kezhun, I. Mikhailov, J. Vanags, E. Nasyrov, E. Matuzevichyus and others. Looking into the pages of ancient historical and literary memory, one can see how attractive Belarusian beautiful writing was for the reader. And, of course, in order to regain the previous interest, it is worth turning to the experience of past decades.

Kastus Leshnitsa



# THE TRUTH ABOUT THE VITEBSK UNDERGROUND

*The Zvyazda Publishing House publishes the book **Vitebsk Underground** by N.I. Dorofeyenko, N.V. Dorofeyenko, N.I. Pakhomov. This is a documentary story about the heroes of the patriotic underground, which operated in the city above the Dvina during the period of Nazi occupation from July 9th, 1941 to June 26th, 1944. The book was first published 55 years ago, in 1969.*

From the preface to *Vitebsk Underground*, which Candidate of Historical Sciences, Associate Professor A.N. Dulov prepared for publication in 2024, “The book *Vitebsk Underground* <...> has not lost its relevance today. What are its advantages?

Firstly, this is, of course, a *people’s* book. First of all, because it is dedicated to the destinies of ordinary people, representatives of the Belarusian people of different ages and professions, who, under extreme conditions of the

Nazi occupation, sacrificed everything for the sake of their Motherland, even their lives. It’s also a *people’s* book, because in my youth, when I first became acquainted with it, it was in almost every Vitebsk family. For some, because it was written about relatives, friends, neighbours, acquaintances. Both those who died in the fight against Nazism, and those who returned to peaceful life and revived Vitebsk. Others had this book simply because it told about the recent history of their hometown. Although the significance of the heroes’

## Belarusian poets in the Kazakh anthology

**And in today’s fast-paced digital relationships, good news sometimes takes a long time to come. Like this one, related to recent publications of works by Belarusian poets in Kazakhstan... Svetlana Ananieva, a literary critic from Almaty, handed over a good volume of translations of poems addressed to children. The authors are poets of the peoples of the world.**

Under one cover there are the works of Korney Chukovsky, Yelena Blaginina, Agnia Barto, Asen Bosev, Silva Kaputikyan, Yakov Akim, Henrikh

Saphir, Annaberdy Agabaev... A total of 72 poets from different countries of the world are presented in the anthology *Friendship Journey*. The author of the unique creative project, the translator is the well-known Kazakh poet Kashim-Nagai Baibota. The book was published in Almaty in 2018 with a circulation of 5,000 copies. Belarusian children’s poetry is represented by a selection of poems by Vasyl Zuyonak and Kastus Tsvirka. A few words about the translator. Kashim-Nagai Baibota was born on May 8th, 1954 in the village of Talap, Kyzylorda Region. His first book was published in 1977. He translated into



Kazakh the books of Silva Kaputikyan *Masha Draws* and Yelena Blaginina *Why Do You Protect Your Overcoat?*, as well as the works of many poets from post-Soviet countries and from the



feat, and therefore its research, is much broader.

Secondly, *Vitebsk Underground* is a very powerful book. Because it talks about people who stood up to fight the enemy, showing courage and spiritual strength. And they defeated the misanthropic ideology of Nazism. The book is also powerful in its emotional impact on the reader. Being a documentary, it conveys the spirit of the dark times of the occupation.

Thirdly, *Vitebsk Underground* is a truthful book. It is based solely on documents and historical facts set out in the candidate's thesis of historian Nina Ivanovna Dorofeyenko *The Vitebsk Party and Patriotic Underground During the Great Patriotic War (July 1941 — June 1944)*, successfully presented in 1968. The basis of the thesis was materials from the archives of Moscow, Minsk and Vitebsk, including captured documents, memories of the underground fighters themselves, their relatives and friends, written by them themselves or recorded by the author. Together with her husband, journalist Nikolai Vladimirovich Dorofeyenko, they carried out extensive search work, walked all over Vitebsk, visited surrounding towns and villages to meet participants and eyewitnesses of the events.

<...> Finally, the book is very timely. Indeed, in the face of global challenges of our time, it is more important than ever that the younger generation knows their real history and their true heroes..."

You read, flip through the pages of a book about the Vitebsk underground and Vitebsk underground fighters and understand the scale of the test our predecessors withstood. And many of them gave their lives so that from 1944 there would be a peaceful sky over Vitebsk, over Belarus.

The first release of the book about the Vitebsk underground

took place in 1969. In the second edition, which took place in 1977, the authors made additions and some changes. But even then the researchers continued their search. Until the end of her life, the topic haunted Nina Ivanovna Dorofeyenko (1923 — 2015) in particular. A participant in the Great Patriotic War, she herself was an underground member and partisan of Aleksei's brigade. Nina Ivanovna took part in the creation of the historical and documentary chronicle *Memory. Vitebsk*. From the 1960s to the 2010s, N. Dorofeyenko studied the activities of the legendary Vera Zakharovna Khoruzhaya in occupied Vitebsk and devoted a number of her publications to this topic. The 2024 edition, dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Belarus from the Nazi invaders, is updated. The current book includes a number of later texts, which show the evolution of the scientist's research, some aspects being supplemented with new information.

The initiator of the new release of the book *Vitebsk Underground* is the Vitebsk Regional Library named after V.I. Lenin, where colossal heroic-patriotic, historical and local history work is still being carried out.

"Readers of the library," says its Director Tatiana Nikolayevna Adamyan, "constantly ask for a book about the Vitebsk underground fighters. We only have a few copies left in our collections. I think that the new publication will be in demand throughout the region, and throughout the country."

It is worth noting that the book *The Vitebsk Underground* is worthy of wide use in the educational process of schools and universities that study the elective subject 'The Great Patriotic War of the Soviet People (in the context of the Second World War)'.

Kirill Ladutko

literature of Turkic-speaking peoples. Recently, a lot has been done to develop the space of Kazakh literature in Belarus. A four-volume book by Mukhtar Auezov in Belarusian was published. The translator is Mikhas Pazniakou. Publications of translations of poems by Kazakh poets periodically appear on the pages of the newspaper *Litaratura and Mastatstva*, as well as in the annual almanac *Dalyaglyady*. This relationship is also facilitated by the fact that Belarusian writers in the world of beautiful Kazakh writing have good assistants from Almaty — the literary critic Svetlana Ananieva and the national poet of Kazakhstan Lyubov Shashkova. Quite recently, by the way, they were accepted into the Union of Writers of Belarus.

Handing over the author's anthology of translations by Kashim-Nagai



Baibota, Head of the Department of International Relations and World Literature of the Institute of Literature and Art named after M.A. Auezov of the Science Committee of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Svetlana Ananieva noted, "Belarusian and Kazakh literatures have established good relations at the current stage. We know your literary periodical very

well. Through social media, we look at the pages of the newspaper *Litaratura and Mastatstva*, magazines *Malodost*, *Neman*, *Polymya*. We are happy that three books by the Kazakh literary critic and writer Nemat Kelimbetov, *I Do Not Want to Lose Hope*, *Letters to My Son* and *Envy*, were published with the Zvyazda Publishing House. It is very important that Belarusians and Belarusian translators cooperate with the national literatures of Kazakhstan — Uyghur, Kurdish, Korean. I believe that in the year when the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Union of Writers of Belarus is celebrated, new creative projects and new initiatives will be implemented that will promote humanitarian cooperation between our countries, between our peoples."

Sergei Shychko

Yakov Khelemsky,

# “I LOVE BELARUSIAN POETS!..”



“Whatever the poet-translator does for our poetry, he does it with a high consciousness of duty and responsibility — in a demanding, inspired and poetic manner. Belarusian verse under his pen becomes a fact of Russian poetry, but, “preserving the pure sound”, does not lose its national charm.” Of course, these understandable words of appreciation, words of friendly, grateful admiration are about a real comrade, a sensitive translator of Belarusian poetry into Russian, Yakov Khelemsky. Hundreds of works by dozens of poets of blue-eyed Belarus have come to the Russian reader, to everyone who knows the Russian language, thanks to the selfless work and high love of this unique person, a bright artist of words.

Yakov Khelemsky (1914 — 2003) was born in the small town of Vasilkov, Kyiv Province. Not far from Kyiv itself... In the early 1930s, the poet moved to Moscow. He worked in different editorial offices. He appeared in print as a prose writer, and not just as a poet. The first book was *The Flying Arch*. A small collection of stories. The book was published in 1934. A total of 63 pages... In parallel with his work, he studied at the Moscow Institute of Philosophy, Literature and Culture. However, the young writer did not receive a diploma. He was drafted into the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army. Participated in the liberation campaign of the Red Army in Western Belarus. Since that time he has been familiar with Belarus and the Belarusian people.

...From the poem by Yakov Khelemsky *In Nineteen Thirty-Nine*:

*...The boy walked, I don't remember how many days,  
From the far village directly to the east.  
Uncombed, ragged, shoeless,  
He didn't just walk, he flew without feeling his feet.*

*Under the blue, fine and bottomless,  
Toward him, in clouds of dust and sand,  
The pontoon boats moved on five-ton vehicles,  
Tanks thundered, troops rode.*

*They rolled the kitchens, with steam over them,  
And the boy didn't care about the long journey —  
Our cooks are on all roads  
He was fed bread and borscht.*

*Eat, little orphan... You should have stayed at home.  
We'll come to you too! But the guy couldn't wait.  
He, carried by thirst and joy,  
Walked from the village straight to the east.  
<...>*

*...Oh, if I could give power to poetry,  
So that the lines are saved for posterity  
The features of a boy with a skinny knapsack,  
Running along the festive roads,*

*So that people do not forget this autumn,  
The weather of the open roads,  
When the people walked from darkness to light,  
Like an orphan hurrying to the east.*

And the inscription under this poem with a specific address:  
'Molodechno, 1939'

...Yakov Khelemsky met the Great Patriotic War on the staff



of the *Komsomolskaya Pravda* editorial office. And when the Soviet country was attacked by a treacherous enemy, his, Khelemsky's, poem became one of the first responses to the terrible events, "... Their habits have long been familiar to us. / They came to a predatory war - / From the vileness of the Jewish pogrom. / From the book perishing on fire./ Such arrogance in their crazy phrases! / They broadcast a barking speech to the world/ Crazy theories about races, / To make it easier for them to cut and burn..." Yakov did not get to the front right away. The reason for refusal by the military registration and enlistment office was poor eyesight. And yet, after some time, Yakov Khelemsky ended up in the Bryansk Front newspaper *To Defeat the Enemy*. From those first war months, another 'Belarusian' poem by a friend of Belarusian poets — *Gifts*.

*On highways and off-road,  
Through the fallen forests,  
Pursuing the enemy behind Sozh,  
The corps rushed to the west.*

**"Friends, accept the gift!"**  
*Said the old man with a wink.*

This is what the front-line poet wrote in 1943... One and a half decades will pass. And in the new lines — also about that terrible calamity, "We entered Belarus/ In September, ninety forty-three./ I'll look back, / I'll remember the rain at dawn./ The smoke swirls, blue, / Over Zakruzhye and Rudnya./ View of burned yards,/ With every step, it feels more abandoned..." The first book of original poems by Yakov Khelemsky was published in 1944 — *On the Oryol Land*. The second collection — *Meetings of Friends* — in 1955... Active creative work on his works was increasingly combined with translation work. In 1956, Arkadz Kulyashou's *Terrible Forest* translated by Khelemsky was published in the Ogonyok Library as a separate edition. Another two years later — *Poems From the Road* by Maxim Tank. In 1959 — Maxim Tank's *The East is Rising*... Although Yakov Khelemsky translated the poems of many Belarusian poets, the priorities were four prominent poets... By the



*There are ruins and dugouts all around,  
The rubble is like a windfall...*

*The soldier brought out the jar  
With fresh milk.  
In the eyes that concealed a widow's grief,  
The light flared up again,  
"Dear friends, drink to your health!  
You still have to walk and walk..."  
<...>  
The old man, walking solemnly,  
Holding the rifle up,  
Brought the police goon,  
Who was hiding in the forest.  
And immediately straightening up as if he were young,  
Forty years younger,*

way, in 1984, in Minsk, a collection of translations of other Belarusian literature will be published in the *Translator's Book series*. which he will name — *Four Masters*. Under one cover — the poetry of Piatrus Brouka, Maxim Tank, Arkadz Kulyashou, Pimen Panchanka. Four national poets of Belarus...

In 1962, the State Publishing House of the BSSR published Yakov Khelemsky's book *Translating Comrade's Poems*. It was based on translations of Belarusian poetry. But they were preceded by the original poems of Yakov Khelemsky, represented by a small collection: *Dedicated to Belarus*. And the book begins with the preface from the translator, in which the writer explains the nature of the collection and rather modestly talks about his involvement with Belarusian literature, "This collection to some extent summarises the many years of work of the poet-translator, who devoted

## THE ARTIST OF THE WORD

himself to familiarising the Russian reader with the works of modern Belarusian poetry. I tried to present the best of what I translated.

It is quite natural that not all the remarkable things that Belarusian poetry has produced in recent years are collected here.

One translator, no matter how active he is, cannot cover all its richness and diversity.

A large group of Russian poets from Moscow, Leningrad, and Minsk are working on translations from Belarusian.

My work is only a small part of this collective work.

Therefore, this relatively small collection should not be treated as an anthological publication. From this point of view, it is certainly not complete and has significant gaps. And if the reader does not find some notable works here, if the book sometimes completely lacks the poems of this or that good poet, the reason should be sought only in the fact that these works were not translated by me, but by other comrades.

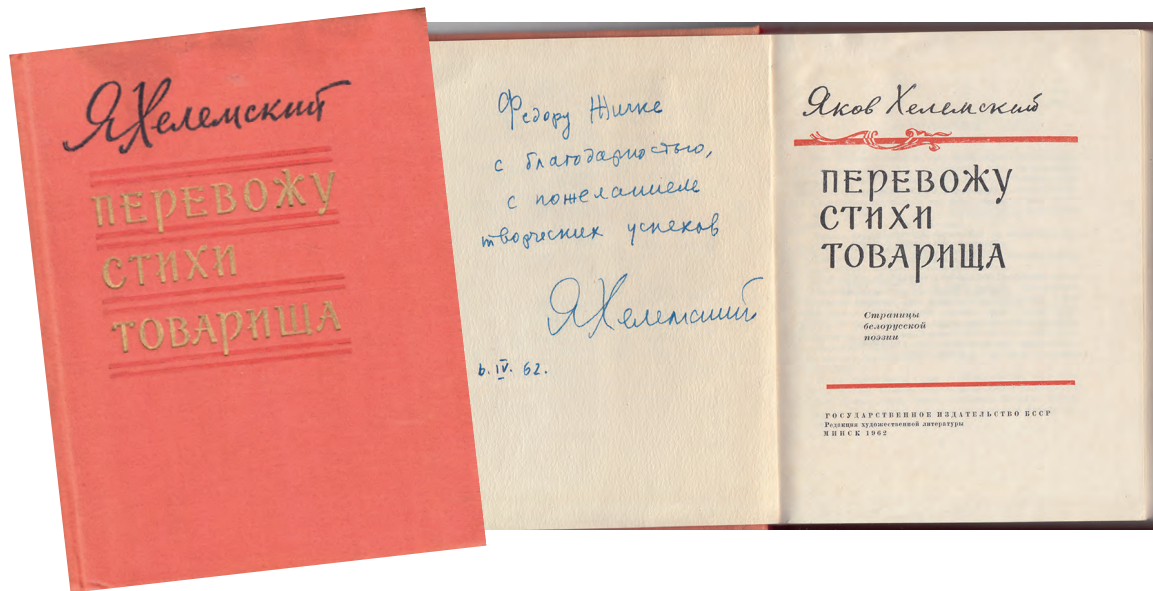
It is also necessary to keep in mind the fact that the collection, due to their large volume, does not include the poems of Kulyashou, Brouka, Tank, Tavlai, Ostapenko, Belevich, the translation of which made up a very significant part of my entire work..." Pages of Belarusian poetry in the collection of 1962 covered the works of Piatrus Brouka, Piatro Hlebka,

Arkadz Kulyashou, Maxim Tank, Maxim Luzhanin, Valentin Tavlai, Pimen Panchanka, Vasył Vitka, Anton Belevich, Ales Zaritsky, Edi Ognetsvet, Anatoly Velyugin, Kastus Kireyenka, Mykola Avramchik, Nil Gilevich, Ryhor Baradulin, Uladzimir Karatkevich, Yevdokia Los. Masters, eminent masters of the artistic word and those who have only just taken to their poetic flight... But in any case, the choice of the translator is impeccable. His, Khelemsky's, acute understanding of what is happening in the Belarusian poetic and literary world became the basis for the fact that the master managed to create his vivid portrait of Belarusian poetry in Russian over the course of ten years. Namely to create, although he was engaged in reincarnation from a second language...

In 1968, a new book of translations by Yakov Khelemsky, *The Key*, was published in Minsk. Among the twenty Belarusian masters of versification, along with the names of the 1962 collection, new poets were also presented — Mikhas Kalachinsky, Oleg Loiko, Gennadz Buraukin. And Yazez Semezhon speaks with a preface — *Keeping the Pure Sound...*, "...Yakov Khelemsky has always seen and sees Belarus through the eyes of our poets and studies its beauty carefully and with inspiration. In his translations of poems by P. Brouka, A. Kulyashou, M. Tank, M. Luzhanin and many other representatives of our poetry — from State







Prize laureates to the youngest — he seems to connect his own pulse to the inspired heartbeat of these poets.

*And the translations sound  
Like a declaration of love,*

the poet could rightfully speak about his many years of fruitful work. By revealing to the Russian reader the reverent and sonorous word of modern Belarusian poetry, he thereby brings together and mutually enriches fraternal literatures.

Nowadays, the theme of internationalism — the theme of friendship between peoples — acquires a special resonance. Literary translation also plays an important role in strengthening the interaction and mutual enrichment of the cultures of the fraternal peoples of the socialist countries. To a certain extent, through Russian culture — its language, the phenomena of its prose, drama and poetry — the literature of the fraternal peoples of the Union receives a ticket to a wide readership around the world. The third, fourth, tenth version in the languages of the peoples of the world depends on the quality and full sound of national poetry in Russian, on the quality of its 'recreated double.' Fascinated by Belarusian poetry, the worker of the translation workshop was awarded the title of Honoured Cultural Worker of the BSSR in 1968. In 1980, Yakov Khelemsky received the State Prize of the BSSR named after Yakub Kolas.

*I love Belarusian poets!  
Their poems are not white-handed,  
But hard workers and masters.*

*Behind the quiet rustle of a pen,  
There is the hum of tireless millstones*

*And the creaking of wheels, and the whistling of braids,  
And the echo of a homemade mine,  
Derailing the enemy.*

*Lives in the melody of poetry  
Freedom of pristine speech.  
The hum of bees, the murmur of rivers  
And the autumn call of the cranes.*

*Oh, these J, and DZ, and TS!  
D z y a u c h y n a,  
z b o z h z a,  
d z e n,  
d z i v o s n y.*

*Pines are consonant with the constellations of words,  
Willows in the sunset lake,  
And the sighs of the slumbering elm,  
And a thrush in alder turquoise,  
And the trembling of the dulcimer,  
and the audacity of the MAZ,  
Whose thundering weight  
Is similar to both a bison and a thunderstorm...*

Books by Belarusian writers in the 20th century were quite often published in Moscow publishing houses — in Khudozhestvennaya Literatura, Soviet Writer, Children's Literature, Young Guard... A large team of translators worked on translations of works of prose and poetry. Nikolai Gorbachev, Arseny Ostrovsky, Inna Sergeyeva, Valentina Shchedrina, Aleksandr Prokofiev, Nikolai Brown, Mikhail Isakovsky... And in their cohort, Yakov Khelemsky occupied a worthy place.

Ales Karlyukevich

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

# EVIL CORPORATIONS



## HOW SWEETS MANUFACTURERS DECEIVED MILLIONS OF PEOPLE



**We all have bad habits and don't think about where they came from and who imposed them. These include a craving for sweets. Meanwhile, no one today can accurately calculate how much sugar we consume, because it is not only in sweets and chocolate, but also in sausages and other semi-finished products. And behind the spread of sweets are powerful corporations that turn us into sugar addicts.**

**We talked about how manufacturers of sweet drinks and chocolate have taken over the world, with the neurosurgeon, researcher at the Department of Brain Tumours of the Republican Scientific Practical Centre of Oncology and Medical Radiology named after N. N. Aleksandrov, professor at the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery at the Institute for Advanced Studies and Retraining of Healthcare Personnel of the Belarusian State Medical University Gumen Ghorbannijad..**



“Big business always influences politics, and it, in turn, influences people's lifestyles. And in order for individual people to have a large income and not lose their influence, the population, from children to the mature generation, and even entire sovereign states suffer. Sometimes the actions of giant corporations and politicians are somewhat similar to the actions of crazy people whom medicine and science cannot reach.”

**“Today, in the age of the Internet, it's hard to imagine...”**

“You can find many such examples even in the 21st century, in particular, this is the problem of sugar and the companies that make income from it. It's no secret that the largest corporations doing business in sugar are Coca-Cola and Nestlé. We all know their famous drinks and chocolate. Sugar, with the help of these companies, has changed our lives, the health of children, and, oddly enough, even influenced the religious traditions of some nations. There is not a single health benefit in sugar. It was rarely used by our ancestors and was not included in

their diet. Rich people did not eat sugar, but made sculptures from it to decorate their tables. Sugar consumption increased sharply after World War II. And the researchers noticed that the mortality rate from cardiovascular diseases had increased, it could be compared with the mortality rate from infectious diseases, and then it was high, since there were no effective antibiotics yet. Scientists have concluded that sugar is to blame.

The sugar producers certainly didn't like it. They directly began to bribe scientists so that they not only did not write about the dangers of sugar, but stated that it has a minimal effect on our health.

At the same time, animal fats have been blamed for the excess number of deaths from cardiovascular disease. And that was also no coincidence, because when manufacturers began to reduce the amount of animal fats in products, they became less tasty. To improve them, they began to add sugar.

In fact, today it is difficult to determine how much sugar we consume during the day, and it is impossible to

completely abandon it, since it is everywhere — in sausages, fast food, sauces, since it improves the taste of products. In the 1960s, renowned scientists from renowned laboratories and universities declared that sugar had minimal effects on human health. They managed to deceive not only people, but even individual states for 60 years, until their correspondence with the Coca-Cola company was made public in 1965 in *The New York Times*. It turned out that at that time each of these scientists received about 50 thousand dollars for printing information beneficial to sugar companies. In today's money that's about half a million dollars.

At the time, scientists argued that it doesn't matter what you eat, it matters how you move and how many calories you burn. They claimed that it does not matter what food goes into the stomach — a piece of meat or a kilogram of sugar. Sugar standards were even excluded from the tables for the consumption of carbohydrates, proteins, and fats. The conclusions of these scientists reached the ridiculous: children who eat chocolate are thinner than those who do not eat it.”

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



**“Again, today such manipulations are much more difficult to implement when we have many sources of information...”**

“Speaking about the influence of Coca-Cola on the politics of different countries, we cannot fail to mention Mexico. The Mexican city of San Cristóbal de Las Casas is famous for the world record for drinking this beverage. Residents here drink an average of two litres of cola every day. Because of this, there is a large number of deaths due to diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

In this city, tap water is saturated with chlorine and is literally impossible to drink. Despite the large population, the city has a primitive sewer system, the contents of which are poured into the river, so it is also impossible to drink water from there. People are left with three options: drink Coca-Cola, alcohol, or buy expensive drinking water. Of course, they choose cola, because a litre of this drink is cheaper than a litre of water.

This city is also home to Coca-Cola’s largest plant, which pumps one million gallons of water out of the ground every day (1 gallon = about 4.5 litres). If a person wants to drill a well, the mayor’s office will not give such permission due to drought.

It must be said that the indigenous people of America, the Indians, live in this place, and their ancestors did not have sugar or even honey in their diet. They are much more sensitive to sugar and suffer more from drinking sugary drinks. Thus, white people brought to the local residents not only venereal diseases and chickenpox, from which a large number of Indians died, but also the harmful effects of sugar.

The Coca-Cola advertising campaign began in 1968, when Mexico hosted the Olympics. Subsequently, there were many more campaigns adapted for the indigenous people of Mexico, ‘thanks to’ which they now consider cola a friend, a doctor, an assistant in life and a drink for all occasions. Coca-Cola has even begun to be used in

religious and traditional ceremonies; guests are treated to it, and one cannot refuse it, as it is an insult.

It is clear that all this would be impossible without great corruption, and at the highest level. Vicente Fox, who was president of Mexico from 2000 to 2006, was director of the Coca-Cola Company’s Latin American network from 1975 to 1979. He himself did not deny that it was the company that suggested that he go into politics.

Of course, the Mexican parliament could solve the problem by adding a tax so that cola becomes more expensive and people drink it less, because to call it by its proper name, this is genocide of the Indians. But such a tax will never be able to gain a sufficient number of votes in parliament, and it is obvious why the majority of deputies vote for Coca-Cola. Moreover, even if cola becomes more expensive and people buy more water, this will not play any role for the company, because the largest plant selling water in Mexico also belongs to Coca-Cola. That’s why Mexico, where the giant company is entrenched in government, is called ‘Coca-Cola Country’. This is one of the biggest threats when large corporations dictate to the authorities what policies to pursue, and these policies are directed against the nation so that individual people can earn money here. Even a nuclear shield will not help any country that finds itself in such a situation.

By the way, Mexico ranks second in Coca-Cola production after the United States, and Nigeria is in third place, supplying all of Africa with this drink. And there are two countries where there is no cola: Cuba and North Korea.”

**“Here one could argue that people knowingly become victims of an advertising campaign and buy cola instead of water.”**

“Then I’ll give you another example. Another similar company is the Swedish Nestlé, which we know for its confectionery products and baby



food. Nestlé was the first to produce powdered infant formula. At first it was intended for mothers who did not have milk and could not breastfeed.

It must be said that there is no analogue of mother's milk. Together with it, the child receives not only all the nutrients, but also immunity. Often children who do not receive mother's milk have immunity problems throughout their lives.

Sales of infant formula at Nestlé were not going well, and the company decided to change its policy. Nestlé infant formula was advertised to be much better than mother's milk. After this, sales increased almost a hundredfold. The cynicism of this advertising campaign is not even that the properties of the formula were not even close to those of mother's milk. It contains a large amount of sugar, and we are hooking the child on this substance, which the World Health Organisation today classifies as a psychotropic. Abuse of sugar not only worsens the health of adults, but also affects the health of children.

It would seem that at this stage, Nestlé, having increased sales, should have calmed down, but its appetites did not decrease. The next time, the company stated that breast milk was harmful and should be replaced with formula. This Nestlé advertisement is still considered one of the biggest hoaxes of the 20th century.

The largest sales of Nestlé infant formula were in Africa. However, there are big problems with clean drinking water. Nestlé hid the fact that the mixture needed to be diluted with clean water, otherwise sales would begin to fall. It must be said that for these purposes you can boil water. But since many African countries have a low standard of living and a shortage of kerosene, people could not boil water. Therefore, thousands of children died because mothers diluted the mixture with ordinary unboiled water.

When Nestlé representatives were invited to the US Senate in the 1980s, the only question they were asked was

whether the formula could be sold in places where there is no clean water. The Nestlé company responded that the distributor in Africa should be responsible for this and everything is written in the instructions. But the instructions in English and French are just drawings for the illiterate population of African countries. However, the case became a scandal, and in 1981 the World Health Organisation banned any advertising of infant formula that claimed it was better than breast milk.

But this did not stop the Nestlé company. In countries where tap water was of suitable quality, such

be done without coordination at all levels.

The policy of reducing the level of knowledge of doctors in second and third world countries and reducing their wages were and are included in the plans of these corporations. After all, inexperienced doctors and doctors who earn little are always easier to manage than highly qualified doctors with a good salary."

**"What is the way to resist the measures of such corporations?"**

"Despite all the measures taken, the amount of sugar consumed in the world is growing — by two percent



as Pakistan, it was bottled and sold. While a tank of tap water in Pakistan cost \$10, then bottled water cost \$50,000. Money was made literally out of nothing. When Nestlé CEO Peter Brabeck was asked about this in 2012, he responded that international human rights do not include access to clean water.

Despite the fact that WHO banned advertising of infant formula, Nestlé continued to advertise its products through doctors and hospitals. Doctors recommended it, or the company simply provided the entire children's hospital with such a formula. Of course, this cannot

per year. Currently, no one can explain what is the benefit of punishing bad people in the next life for us alive here, so our task is to take care of our children and subsequent generations so that they do not fall into the trap of selfish madmen. The only thing we can leave behind, and what the businessmen in these corporations fear, is an educated nation. It is not so much patriotism that unites people as knowledge. With good education we can save the next generation and our country. In small Belarus with a population of nine million, this is not difficult to do."

Yelena Kravets



**Interview with the rector of  
the Belarusian State University of  
Culture and Arts —  
Natalya Karchevskaya**

# HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION WITH A FUTURE

One of the true signs in culture: life is developing more fruitfully — and the demand for personnel in this industry is noticeably increasing. This happened, for example, in the late 1960s and early 1970s, when it became clear that the Republic of Belarus needed more highly educated specialists in the cultural sphere. And already in 1975, the Minsk Institute of Culture was opened. New transformations in the life of the people mean that the understanding of the importance of people who work for national culture changes again: in 1993, the already existing educational institution acquired a new status: the Belarusian University of Culture. Faculties and departments were reorganised, new major fields of studies were opened, a master's degree appeared, and international relations expanded. And after a few years, the university acquired the status of a leading higher educational institution in the national education system in the field of culture of the Republic of Belarus. The Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts is a basic educational institution for training personnel for the cultural sphere of Belarus: it has four faculties (Cultural

Studies and Socio-Cultural Activities, Musical and Choreographic Arts, Artistic Culture and Information and Documentary Communications). Training is conducted in 15 major fields of studies and 28 specialisations. The teachers are leading figures of national culture, famous scientists and young creators, who provide a link between generations, as well as between different clusters of traditional and modern culture. Over the years of its existence, this higher educational institution has graduated more than 40,000 specialists. Recently, there have been large graduations: every year, about 500 specialists receive university diplomas. Applicants are attracted by interesting work in the future and good modern conditions for learning. Representatives of other countries also come to study here. This is our conversation with Natalya Karchevskaya, Rector of the Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts.

*“Admissions are soon. Do you feel interest in the university from applicants now? There are probably fields that require*



***additional advertising, because something is changing, opening up: culture is a very lively industry...***

“We pay great attention to career guidance. The result will be the admission process. During the year, we held a huge number of events based on future entrants, there were more than twenty open days alone. A big thank you to the Ministry of Culture for supporting us in conducting field events: representatives of the university visited 16 settlements in different regions of Belarus — with creative shows, with stories about the fields of studies that you can enroll in. In addition, our teachers are often on the jury of competitions or state exams and talk about the university. There are visits by representatives of the departments at the request of the districts to explain how to apply and who the graduates will work for later. You can even get individual counselling about admission.

We have no shortages, and the competition is quite high. And we do our best to select the best, the most motivated.”

***“What is the ratio of Belarusian and foreign students? What major fields of studies attract them?”***

“We have a very high percentage of foreign students. For example, among undergraduate majors, the most popular are such fields as Choir, Choreographic Art, Folk Instrumental Art (Brass Music, Instrumental Music), Decorative and Applied Art. In master’s and postgraduate studies, the most popular fields are Art Studies (in Russian and English) and Cultural Studies (in Russian and English).”

***“How do they choose you?”***

“Most often they come from universities with which we have connections. Perhaps the teachers who work there once graduated from our university. Therefore, we regard the choice of the Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts as a recognition of the high level of our education. The vast majority return to their homeland after graduation — there is a high demand for personnel there. That’s why it’s nice when you come, for example, to China, you come to a university, and you are met by our graduates...

And some, having left after the master’s degree, then come to study at a postgraduate course after five or even 10 years — their university sent them to continue their studies. But there are those who remain. We have two girls, associate professors, candidates of sciences, who teach both foreign and Belarusian students. As far as I know, other universities also have representatives from abroad who stay to work here.”

***“Is there today a sufficient influx of people ready to work in the cultural sphere?”***

“Every year, during the admissions campaign, there is a competition, so there is interest in these major fields of studies. Another issue is that domestic culture needs more personnel than our university or other educational institution of the industry can produce today.

We must take into account that the labour market is also changing, and we must respond to these changes in order

to prepare specialists for the future. We traditionally train, for example, librarians — there is the Library Information Activities major. But for the third year now, this specialty has been recruiting for the Digitalization and Analytics specialisations, which are other academic subjects. Another approach.

We do everything to satisfy our industry with personnel, but from the number of applications that were per graduate during the assignment of young specialists, we understand that we are not satisfying everyone. Because there are specialties for which 10 applications per person!

On the one hand, it is gratifying. And on the other hand, someone will be left without a graduate. It is very important to understand that the organisations that took care in advance (five or four years ago) and ordered the training of specialists under the contract will receive specialists in the first place. In my opinion, personnel training is not only a concern of universities. This is the concern of all subjects working in the field, even to the point that a certain state educational standard should be laid on the basis of professional standards, and cultural institutions should suggest this. And we actively involve organisations that become personnel customers or their representatives. They should voice what competencies they would like. For the sake of justice, it should be noted that this call is being answered. Now, by order of the President, all programmes are being revised, so we have created groups for each specialty with the involvement of professionals from client organisations, who analyse not only the curriculum, but also each programme: whether certain topics are needed in it.”



■ As part of a working visit to the People's Republic of China, Natalya Karchevskaya and the Head of the International Relations Department Vadim Samatyia held a meeting with the leadership of Dalian University on issues of further cooperation



■ The premiere of the cultural and patriotic project Triangle of Hope took place on the stage of the sports and cultural centre of the the Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts. The Minister of Culture Anatoly Markevich and Natalya Karchevskaya were among the guests of honour.



***“This market should be constantly monitored in order to understand how many first-year students should be accepted for which major field of studies?”***

“We monitor the labour market and actively work with the received data and cultural organisations. We have many cooperation agreements. We are well aware not only of the situation in the capital’s institutions, but also in those outside the Minsk Ring Road. Admission control numbers are generated based on the orders we have. It is not the prerogative of the university management to decide how many choreographers or directors to hire. We are preparing for the needs of the industry: there are orders, according to which we are accepting for studies. If there is no demand, no one will spend budget money on it. Naturally, we follow the development of the cultural sphere, because we have the Institute of Advanced Training and Retraining of Personnel, and they are

connected directly with organisations, keep records of club institutions, libraries...

We analyse what personnel are needed. Let’s say we see that there is a lack of artists who sing, and we renew their training. This year there will be a set of future artists of musicals — very small, but they are in demand both in the Music Theatre and in the Youth Theatre of Variety. In my opinion, culture needs an influx of new people, also because there is a change of generations.”

***“Many become students after secondary vocational institutions. Is it easier for them to learn?”***

“For those who came after colleges, vocational training institutions, it is possible to receive education in a shorter period of time in several major fields of studies, these are the so-called integrated programmes. So organisations will get ready specialists faster. We have already switched from a

five-year to a four-year period of study, and college graduates study with us on integrated programmes for three years. This is a requirement of the time, the educational process has intensified, but the students manage to get all the necessary competencies. Kudos to the colleges for their work! Because it is easier to work with students who have completed a specialised college: they consciously go into the profession and continue to receive competences at a higher level from us. These are some of the best students who study with us.”



■ The ensemble of the Department of Choreography of the Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts presented a musical and theatrical production of the Serbian director and actress Ivana Zigon While the Earth is Still Spinning...

***“In terms of personality, are they different from those who enter after school?”***

“I don’t see a big difference. There are those who come after school, but become very successful students. In fact, children entering after school





■ The Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts hosted the concert Spring Festival 2024 dedicated to the Chinese New Year

could also receive creative training. They may have participated in a group of high-level artistic creations. For example, there is a pop vocal studio in Mogilev, where Irina Dorofeyeva and many pop stars worked. The training there is good, but it is not an educational institution, and the students of this studio take exams on general rights. We don't have students in creative majors who have never studied anything at all.

In general, creativity is a collective matter. Therefore, students understand that they depend on each other in the good sense of the word: there is a sense of partnership. If it is possible to help the student with something or, on the contrary, if the student has something to teach you, then why not?"

***"Children of the digital age are probably different. Are teachers experiencing these changes?"***

"The time when the teacher entered the classroom and was the only source of knowledge has passed. Teachers today need to build their work differently. We periodically monitor student satisfaction. We study these indicators after some time: graduates fill out special forms. I believe that with the flow of information that exists today, many approaches are outdated and need to be rebuilt. I understand this from what students say in meetings (including informal ones). They do not complain about outdated information that is



■ The review concert Celebration of Dance of the Department of Choreography of the Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts was held in the sports and cultural centre of the university.



■ The World Cup in acrobatic rock and roll took place in St. Petersburg. Student Yelizaveta Nelipovich took second place as part of the BELARUS LADYS ROCK team!

delivered in a boring and out-of-date manner. It is gratifying that the children themselves suggest what subjects they would like to master earlier than the curriculum provides, because they understand that they will need it in practical activities. And if we see that it is justified, then we adjust the curriculum. Training documentation, including software, must be updated all the time.

And if it is possible to apply the latest technologies somewhere, then it should be done. It is necessary to learn to navigate the flow of information, because while before there was one textbook that was enough to read, now

## CULTURAL SPHERE

completely different information can be conveyed from different sources, which can be both true and false... But there are traditions, without which it is also impossible. For example, in performing arts schools, the foundations of mastery are laid — this cannot be changed. A teacher is needed here — a specialist who will teach and correct. But the main thing is that a teacher of any subject forms a worldview: so that a person understands why he (or she) does something.”



■ Final practical classes in the optional Applied Acrobatics subject.



■ State exam in the choir class.  
The beauty of the performers' singing timbres gave listeners an unforgettable experience.

*“Those who have just finished school come to the University of Culture, and among the students there are also those who have already become stars, for example, there were winners of the vocal competition Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk...”*

“As a rule, these are motivated and well-mannered students, it is a pleasure to work with them. However, difficulties

may arise on another level — given that they already have their own concert schedule. But they respect the university and coordinate their possible performances. Considering that I periodically see them not only at creative shows of the departments, but also, for example, in the canteen, I understand that they are not forgetting about their studies. Only their schedule is tighter, considering the career they have started. I am in favour of starting it as early as possible, and not after graduating from university. Everything can be combined if you know how to plan time and have a serious attitude to the matter.”

*“The students of your university have the opportunity to be creative even during their studies. The load is double — study and practice...”*

“It was noticed a long time ago: the person who is given more succeeds more. Children who are engaged in the creative process, as a rule, learn well. For example, a premiere is being prepared in the educational theatre. This is the type of engagement that does not exempt from basic studies, as the standards of the programme must be met. But the skills that students get in this way also help to learn the main curriculum. If they are in practice (even checking the sound during some event or at discos held by our student council or trade union committee), they understand much better how the event is organised. So it is easier and faster to learn what is discussed in the lecture. When, if not at the age of 18, 19, 20, should you do this?”

*“Creative works of students are quite professional. Presumably they can be shown to the audience, including by ticket?”*

“We have a sports and cultural centre, we don't need to look for a place to present student works. According to the schedule of loading of the sports and cultural centre, we understand: happiness has come! Because sometimes we can't include an additional event that needs to be organised: there is a concert, for example, of a department or an individual performer. It happens that several events take place at the same time, and I would like to visit all of them, but it is physically impossible. There is also an educational theatre, and its students are invited to perform at other institutions. Performances were taken out and shown in the Polesie Drama Theatre and in the Mogilev Regional Theatre named after Dunin-Martsinkevich. Our creative teams are very active in various concerts, sometimes of the highest level. Thus, they are seen not only by parents and friends who come here at our invitation, but also by future entrants or their relatives who live in the same area where the visits are made. And this is also a peculiar mission, which is not directly included in the curriculum, but significantly expands the competences of future specialists, they begin to understand in detail how to organise an event, performance, tour...”



We don't always sell tickets, but when we understand that it is rational. For example, tickets are sold for the concert of the choreography department. But there is a project Memory Line. The Code of War, created with a grant from the President, we do not sell tickets for its screenings, because it is important for us that as many people as possible see it. In general, our task is not to make money, but to show our creativity first of all. After all, we are not a theatre and spectacle institution that has a production plan. But I don't see anything wrong with the willingness to distribute tickets for a certain amount of money. It is gratifying that money is far from the main motivator in what people do. Especially in a culture where enthusiasm, the desire to create speaks for itself. Any person who comes to culture must understand this, otherwise there is no need to do it..."

***"However, these specialists are also highly respected by people, and when they start working in the field, they feel how much people need, for example, the librarians..."***

"Yes, but perhaps many people think that it is a rather boring job to sit in the library. There is no time to sit! Libraries today are complex institutions that do not only issue books. They organise so many things: quests, poetry clubs, theatre studios, and local history work..."

"Nevertheless, there is a tendency in Belarus that culture should learn to earn."

"The University of Culture earns quite well. The conditions created here (not only logistical) by the efforts of the state, budget allocation, are reinforced by what the university itself invests, receiving income from off-budget activities. These are concert clothes, stage decoration, lighting fixtures and other expenses that are not provided for in the budget, including additional renovations in the dormitory..."

For example, a choreographic group is preparing to perform — costumes are expensive, especially folk costumes. And if our collectives have a large number of participants, the costs are considerable. When they participate in events where you can earn money, the funds are transferred to the account, and the teams can spend this money: to go, for example, to an international festival, if they are invited and have to pay for the travel (usually this is the biggest part of the expenses). Something the university can add."

***"It is one thing to study in an interesting creative environment, another is to return to your homeland later or go to work in the hinterland..."***

"...Life is not limited to Minsk, although the capital also needs personnel. But as they say: the terms of the game are



■ Master's students from the People's Republic of China, accompanied by Professor of the Department of Theory and History of Art Tatiana Babich, visited the magnificent castles of Belarus in Mir and Nesvizh, which are the most significant attractions of the country, appreciated and recognised throughout the world

clear at the start. Everyone is aware that the costs incurred by the budget for the training of any specialist are very large. And our university, in particular, in terms of expenses, is in the upper lines. We have groups of six people and generally a large number of individual classes. People who enter here must understand that it is not just like that, for their pleasure. They get the right to become a specialist in some direction, accordingly, they have the obligation to complete their training. Especially since today the Houses of Culture in many regions are equipped with such equipment that even we are surprised. Cultural centres that are being built today, children's art schools are impressive — some are no worse than in the capital. An example can be given: during the assignment of young specialists, a graduate, a laureate of the President's special fund for the support of talented youth, consciously refused the offer to stay in Minsk and asked to be sent to his homeland — to the Nesvizh District (by the way, we know that this guy works very well there!). It was his conscious choice.

But we still have a lot to work on, even taking into account the fact that every year there is the 100% assignment rate with the budgetary form of education. In addition, some graduates who study on a paid basis are asking for assignments.

This year, we had a lot of orders from leading organisations, including the republican subordination. The National Library ordered a lot of graduates, as did theatres. There are graduates who are invited to work by several cultural institutions at the same time. Of course, if people study well, they have the right to go where they are more interested. We understand that the topic of personnel is always relevant, and we do everything to provide them to cultural organisations."

Larysa Tsimoshyk

Photo by BelTA and from the BSUCA website buc.by

# IN THE WORLD OF SPIRITUAL BEAUTY





**The Ballet Summer international festival was held in Minsk. The famous stage of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus was given over to the power of Dance for seven evenings.**

eifmanballet.com/ru

The Ballet Summer at the Bolshoi international cultural project this year perfectly reflected the high level of choreographic art at the Bolshoi Theatre, the main theatre of the country. And to put it more precisely, it showed us how high the dynamics of forward movement are in it in organising and filling this project with a high-quality repertoire. Yes, we know that the Ballet Summer festival is in demand by the public, we love it and expect it every summer for ten years in a row. But this time the Bolshoi surpassed itself, acting on the principle: from the best — only to the better. This happened partly, of course, in connection with the anniversary date. Ten years is already a long time. And anniversaries are usually celebrated in a special way. On a grand scale! At the Bolshoi it is always effective and meaningful. And the creative move: dedicating the festival to outstanding choreographers — Marius Petipa, Leonid Yakobson, Boris Eifman and Valentin Elizariiev — surprised and pleased the public. This creative project was carried out in honour of these four legendary names, four major personalities, without whom world ballet is unthinkable. And the performances they staged delighted everyone who was lucky enough to visit the Bolshoi Theatre on those evenings and feel like a part of the magical world of dance art.

Let me note that there was no casual audience here. And if someone has wandered into the Bolshoi for the first time, then I dare to assume that this person will certainly become 'a fan' of ballet. After all, in the world of ballet you dance with your soul. But you can feel this dance if your soul is open. The open doors of the soul, figuratively speaking, are a kind of pass into the world of choreography. Yes, of course, we admire the beauty of the artists' bodies, the perfection of movements, honed to incredible nuances, as well as the highest technique of the performers. But without artistry, without the inner life of their characters, advanced technique, although it will delight us, is unlikely to make that substance, which we call our soul, vibrate. The Masters who created and continue to create ballet masterpieces knew and know about this. Each of the above-mentioned great choreographers, working on performances, relied, as Boris Eifman, for example, put it, on theatre, "in which dancers express the life of the soul through the plasticity of the body". Eifman himself has been creating this kind of theatre for decades.

"My goal is a theatre of open emotional experiences," he said. "By creating your own mystery, in which characters live and act according to your laws, you create your own world with its catastrophes. This is my own cardiogram, the rhythm of my pulse: its explosions, shocks, climaxes, ups and downs."

## BALLET SUMMER-2024

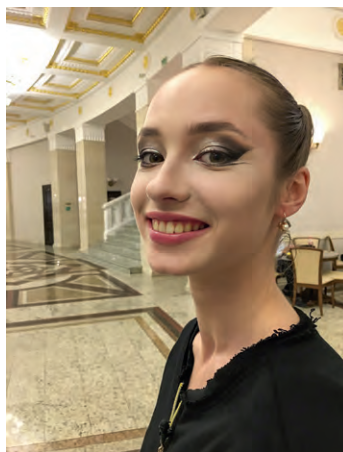
Boris Eifman's performances are frantic plasticity and expression, a mix of emotions, energy that pours into the hall from the stage so strongly that you are completely captivated by what is happening on the other side of the stage footlights, and it seems that you may just find yourself there, next to artists.

As you know, Eifman selects artists for his troupe very thoroughly, trying to create the necessary effect of special contact with the audience. And this concerns not only the external characteristics of the performers, although, undoubtedly, his dancers are a certain type of artist: always tall, thin, with proportional figures. True fans of choreographic art know: these are dancers who are characterised by refined technique and the gift of transformation, the gift of artistry. They are able to convey the inner world of their characters so much that it is simply impossible not to understand what they feel, what they want, why they suffer or rejoice. Ballet critics unanimously speak about this, as do the strongest corps de ballet of the troupe.

We saw all this beauty in Boris Eifman's ballets *Musagete* and *My Jerusalem*. They were the ones that opened the ballet forum. Students of the famous choreographer's Dance Academy danced in the performance. And they, as Konstantin Matveyev, Artistic Director of the Dance Academy, put it, are universal artists who can dance both classical and modern choreography. By the way, graduates of the Boris Eifman Dance Academy work in the troupe of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus: Andrei Bariev, Dmitry Uksusnikov, Anastasia Yareshchenko, Maria Taranko. Leading soloist Konstantin Belokhovstik once completed an internship at the Boris Eifman Ballet Theatre.

The first production, *Musagete*, is a dedication to the famous choreographer of the 20th century George Balanchine, a performance in his honour.

"...This is my admiration for him, a tribute to ballet Russia's recognition of



- Yekaterina Dulova, General Director of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus, Doctor of Art History, Ph.D., during a conversation with journalists
- Konstantin Matveyev, Artistic Director of the Boris Eifman Dance Academy, Honoured Artist of Russia
- Philip Arzhanov, soloist of the St. Petersburg State Academic Theatre of Boris Eifman Said Akhmedov and Sofya Kurskaya, students of the Boris Eifman Dance Academy, willingly shared their impressions of Minsk and the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus

Valentina Zhdanovich





## BALLET SUMMER-2024

■ “My goal is a theatre of open emotional experiences. By creating your own mystery, in which characters live and act according to your laws, you create your own world with its catastrophes. This is my own cardiogram, the rhythm of my pulse: its explosions, shocks, climaxes, ups and downs.” This is what Boris Eifman says about his performances. Including about the ballets *Musagete* (scenes from the performance in the photographs above and below on the left) and *My Jerusalem* (on the right).

Evgeny Matveyev



the one who so brilliantly developed and improved the traditions of Russian ballet theatre and made the evolution of dance from the 19th to the 21st centuries truly possible,” says Eifman. *Musagete* is not a biographical ballet, but it contains the personality of a choreographer whose life was spent in a ballet hall, where everything is subordinated to creativity, and creativity is inspired by his fate. I was immersed in the world of Balanchine ballets, I was fascinated by the personality of Balanchine himself and could no longer free myself from this charm.

Bach’s music became the musical basis for the ballet *Musagete*. Emotions bound by an ideal form, polyphonic thinking, the connection between the heavenly and the earthly — this is what brings the work of Bach and Balanchine together.”

The second performance is a choreographic parable *My Jerusalem*. This production was born from Boris Eifman after visiting Jerusalem. He was so impressed by this sacred place on earth that he could not help but embody in dance the idea of universal

Love, reflected in the main religions of the world. This is how the Master himself said about it, “Everyone who has ever visited Jerusalem at least once was overwhelmed by the enthusiastic feeling of touching a sacred place on earth. My first impressions are also unforgettable: my first approach to the Western Wall, my touching the Holy Sepulcher, my timid entry into the Mosque of Omar... The characters of my ballet go through the same path, plunging into the spiritual wisdom of three great religions and discovering for themselves one sky and one sun, one world and one Love of God...!”

We saw an optimistic and life-affirming ballet, which featured music from the works of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Sergei Rachmaninov, Philip Glass, motifs of Christian, Muslim, Jewish music, as well as religious chants, which were not lessened by techno compositions. The idea of interfaith and cultural unity of peoples can be read not only in music, but also in scenography. And in the way the dancers interact with each other. The huge decoration symbolises the ark, where there is

a place for everyone who aspires to it. And everyone who gets there is embraced by unconditional love. And also, as my colleague put it, the ark resembles a huge pendulum of Life, symbolising time. Or maybe this is that special world, a paradise, that people from time immemorial subconsciously strive to, a place where unconditional love reigns. We will be saved by love — this, in my opinion, is the quintessence of the performance.

Before the opening of the festival, the Artistic Director of the Boris Eifman Dance Academy, Honoured Artist of Russia Konstantin Matveyev, the soloist of the St. Petersburg State Academic Ballet Theatre of Boris Eifman Philip Arzhanov, who danced the part of Balanchine, as well as Sofya Kurskaya and Said Akhmedov, students of the Dance Academy, came out to journalists. They shared their positive impressions of Belarus, Minsk, the Bolshoi Theatre, its stage, Belarusian cuisine, the weather and the people they interacted with. They also said that working in Eifman’s ballets means giving yourself completely, which is incredibly difficult,





but at the same time wonderful. We also listened to Yekaterina Dulova, General Director of the Bolshoi, during the now traditional press approach before premieres and other theatre projects. She said that the idea of the festival arose in a conversation with Boris Eifman during a cultural forum in St. Petersburg. "The point was that he was preparing a state exam programme with several performances, both for his academy and for the Moscow Academy of Choreography. I was very interested in the fact that this approach of author's choreography, it turns out, also works in the educational process, which seems quite problematic for us, because these are, after all, kids who are still studying..." A year and a half ago, Yekaterina Nikolayevna visited the academy. Boris Eifman kindly gave her a huge tour, showing both classes and the building itself in the centre of St.



Ivan Zhdanovich

■ Denis Klimuk, the leading dancer of the St. Petersburg State Academic Ballet Theatre named after Leonid Yakobson and Yelena Chernova, leading soloist of this theatre

■ Andrian Fadeyev, Honoured Artist of Russia, artistic director and director of the Leonid Yakobson Ballet Theatre

■ Igor Kolb, Chief Choreographer of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus, Honoured Artist of Russia

■ Lyudmila Khitrova, leading ballerina of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus, Honoured Artist of the Republic of Belarus

■ Photo from the play Illusions of Love, staged by Igor Kolb, the part of the Girl performed by Viktoria Trenkina, leading stage master, who danced the first premiere



[bolshoibelarus.by](http://bolshoibelarus.by)





yacobsonballet.ru

Petersburg. This made a great impression on her. This is how she said about it, “You understand that the vertical of a real author’s creative project has been built, this is a process that results in such bright achievements. Therefore, today young people will show the original choreography of Boris Eifman. Showing Balanchine through the prism of Eifman’s perception by people who already live in the 21st century — in my opinion, this is a great look at how art should develop.” According to Yekaterina Dulova, art is valuable at every moment when it exists. “But the fact that young people (who still know little about the world of art, who have yet to discover it for themselves) are mastering this seems great to me. Therefore, we are not afraid of anything, including any talk that the festival is absolutely professional and great masters should participate. So it will be, and it is built precisely on the climax — at the

closing there will be ballet stars. And today a most interesting phenomenon is happening for me. And for us this is also some experience, including for the choreographic college, where these forms could be accepted, there could be a movement towards very close interaction with the Bolshoi Theatre.” St. Petersburg State Academic Ballet Theatre named after Leonid Yakobson, whom we enjoyed meeting over the next two days, has been participating in the Ballet Summer for several years. According to the Artistic Director of the theatre, Honoured Artist of Russia Andrian Gurievich, this time they brought absolutely festival performances to Minsk. “This is our St. Petersburg exclusive: the premiere of Vyacheslav Samodurov’s new ballet *598 Bars*, which was staged several months before arriving in Minsk, his one-act choreographic composition *Naughty Ditties*, also a

- Photo from the play *Brilliant Divertissement*, composed of works in which Yakobson’s talent was most clearly demonstrated
- From the series of miniatures *Rodin*
- From the cycle *Classicism—Romanticism* (*Brilliant Divertissement*)

recent premiere, and Leonid Yakobson’s cycle of miniatures *Rodin*. As Andrian Gurievich said, Yakobson staged *Naughty Ditties* many years ago. And with this performance, honouring the memory of the ultra-modern choreographer of the last century, the theatre seemed to extend a thread from the past, to today’s modern choreographer Vyacheslav Samodurov. “Nothing can be preserved by force. But if it’s alive and arouses interest, then revival is possible, I’m convinced of it,” Fadeyev said. “And this applies to the work of Yakobson the innovator. *Brilliant Divertissement* is a programme composed of works where his genius was most clearly demonstrated. These are



- Oksana Skorik, prima ballerina of the Mariinsky Theatre (St. Petersburg) as the Girl in Igor Kolb's *Illusions of Love*
- Scene from the play *Illusions of Love*
- Scene from the play *Swan Lake* by Pyotr Tchaikovsky, staged by Valentin Elizariiev, People's Artist of the USSR

world on stage, when no thoughts are racing through your head, assessing what is happening, and there is calm in your head... But the brain is not sleeping, it, paradoxically, seems to be at rest, feeling contact with something integral, and you intuitively feel like you are part of this all-encompassing Whole.

I also felt mental calm at the first ballet premiere of the current season, *Illusions of Love*, staged by Igor Kolb (music by Dmitry Shostakovich, Friedrich Chopin, Leonid Shirin). This is that amazing state when you accept everything that happens on stage. And you don't want to unravel anything, wondering: why and why... And only then, after the performance, the meanings are revealed...

I will be happy to quote lines from an article about this performance by Leila Guchmazova, a venerable ballet critic who, by the way, visited the Bolshoi during the festival days, "The performance... reads like a short, delightful novel, where there is a variety of time and place, a clear line of psychoanalysis, the love story the ballet needs like air and, most importantly, a whole series of artistic connections that place the performance in a broad

miniatures from the cycle *Classicism* — *Romanticism* that have become iconic, one-act ballets *Wedding Procession* to the music of Dmitry Shostakovich and *Brilliant Divertissement* to the music of Mikhail Glinka... And we are still following the path that Yakobson laid: innovative, experimental."

Leonid Yakobson, we read on the Mariinsky Theatre website, is an outstanding choreographer of the 20th century, he was put on a par with George Balanchine, Roland Petit, Maurice Béjart. A graduate of the Leningrad Choreographic School (currently the Agrippina Vaganova Academy of Russian Ballet), having mastered the classics

superbly, Yakobson, driven by a thirst for creative freedom, stepped beyond the boundaries of academicism. This is how the theatre appeared — bold, bright, inexhaustible in its whimsicality and originality — Yakobson's own. As Yekaterina Dulova said about Yakobson, he is a living legend with his own unique, recognisable style.

Either the readable meanings, which are abundant in choreographic miniatures and one-act ballets by Yakobson, or the bewitching purity of styles in them, coupled with stunning music and artistry of the dancers, or the energy radiated from the stage — all this contributes to the meditative perception of the virtual





■ Scene from the play "La Bayadère" by Ludwig Minkus. Oksana Skorik in the romantic image of Nikiya and Yuri Kovalev, Honoured Artist of Belarus, in the role of the Great Brahmin.  
■ Gala concert — the final point of the Ballet Summer



Ivan Zhdanovich

cultural context. They are obvious to an observant viewer; but, no less important, they are also intuitively understandable to an ordinary, open-minded viewer..." One of the pillars of Russian ballet, Oleg Vinogradov (outstanding Russian choreographer, director, screenwriter, set designer, teacher and People's Artist of the USSR), as Leila Guchmazova put it, announced publicly after the premiere that "a great choreographer was born", and, "even if he gave an advance to Igor Kolb and the troupe he led, it was small. Because the ballet of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus, which has expanded its repertoire with such an original performance of its own, has taken a huge step forward." But as we all, fans of ballet art, know, the quality of a performance is primarily judged by the audience. Its assessment of Bolshoi and Igor Kolb after the premiere was expressed in thunderous applause and shouts of 'bravo'. I am sure that the viewer intuitively felt the meaning of *Illusions of Love*, a performance that cannot be dissected in order to understand what Igor Kolb wanted to tell us. Just in that kaleidoscope of events at the beginning of the performance: pioneers going to the beach, sun loungers with vacationers, classes at the ballet barre, the meaning is

read: life is multidimensional, not linear, different events take place at the same time in its different spaces. This is all that surrounds our heroine — the Girl... And Kolb sees her in volume in subsequent scenes.

Let me add: the performance *Illusions of Love* fits perfectly into the repertoire of the Ballet Summer. In such cases they say: it fit in according to the level. The role of the Girl was performed by prima ballerina of the Mariinsky Theatre Oksana Skorik.

In honour of Valentin Elizariyev, on June 7th, the music of Pyotr Tchaikovsky was played at the Bolshoi Theatre. The main parts in the ballet *Swan Lake* - Odette-Odile and Siegfried — were danced by guests from the Mikhailovsky Theatre (St. Petersburg): the first soloist of the theatre, laureate of international competitions Anastasia Smirnova and the young dancer Guilherme Vicente, about whom we can say that they shone in their parts. Anastasia is a graduate of the Agrippina Vaganova Academy of Russian Ballet. And Guilherme, who was born in Portugal, studied at the National Conservatory of Lisbon and the National Ballet Academy of Amsterdam.

And on June 8th, Oksana Skorik again appeared on our stage in a world

choreographic masterpiece, in the romantic image of Nikiya in Ludwig Minkus's melodrama *La Bayadère*. The performance was also graced by dancers from the Bashkir State Opera and Ballet Theatre: People's Artist of Bashkortostan Rustam Iskhakov and Honoured Artist Irina Sapozhnikova. They performed the parts of Solor and Gamzatti. The Bolshoi dedicated this performance to the first figure of the classical ballet school of St. Petersburg — Marius Petipa.

The beautiful finale of the festival was the gala concert of ballet stars on June 9th, in which Oksana Skorik, Anastasia Smirnova, Guilherme Vicente, Irina Sapozhnikova, Rustam Iskhakov, Shirin Vlasenko, Bekzod Akimbaev (State Academic Bolshoi Theatre of Uzbekistan named after Alisher Navoi), Laura Vasconcelos, Pedro Seara (Samara Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre named after Dmitry Shostakovich), Honoured Artist of Belarus Lyudmila Khitrova, Konstantin Belokhvostik took part.

General Director of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus Yekaterina Dulova called the current Ballet Summer unique both in concept and in essence. That's how we perceived it.

Valentina Zhdanovich

# NESVIZH CASTLE

## IN THE HEART OF

The traditional Evenings of the Bolshoi Theatre at the Radziwill Castle in Nesvizh opened with the premiere of last season — the ballet *Giselle* by Adolphe Adam, staged by Igor Kolb. Ten events in three days! Six different concerts in the Theatre Hall of the castle, one in the Church of Corpus Christi... The premiere of this season, Pyotr Tchaikovsky's opera *Iolanta* from stage director Anna Motornaya, continued the festival in the Central Courtyard of the castle — in the open air. And at the end of the holiday there was an enchanting gala concert of opera and ballet stars





## PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GALA CONCERT AND PERFORMANCE IOLANTA

There is no bad weather in Nesvizh... This statement was born to us just before the final Sunday concert on June 16th. Olga Kazhgalieva, the permanent presenter of the Evenings of the Bolshoi Theatre at the Radziwill Castle project, had not yet appeared on the stage when it started to rain. Although it was warm and quiet, the public still had the prospect of getting wet. I think many viewers will remember not only the amazing concert programme prepared by director Oksana Volkova, Honoured Artist of Belarus and



Igor Kolb, Chief Choreographer of the Bolshoi Theatre, Honoured Artist of Russia. But also this summer rain. It made significant adjustments to the perception of what was happening, both on stage and in the Central Courtyard of the Radziwill Castle. As you know, the perception of art depends on many factors, including weather. And in this case, the rain did not interfere with either the concert or the audience. Not at all! It was as if it allowed to bring out the best qualities of our compatriots: both theatre workers, of whom, by the way, 370 people came to Nesvizh this year, and spectators. And we are proud of them. Therefore, we will pay some attention to our audience, who did not express negative emotions during the concert. The rain did not frighten anyone: many prudently stocked up with umbrellas. And those who didn't have them quickly bought



■ There is no bad weather in Nesvizh, especially where people unite in a single impulse: to meet with their favourite theatre, which has been coming here every year for 14 years in a row and giving the audience a unique project — Evenings of the Bolshoi Theatre at the Radziwill Castle

raincoats during the concert, which, as if by magic, appeared in the hands of enterprising people. The rain format allowed people to behave more relaxed. Some even drank coffee. The rainbow of umbrellas, of course, obscured the stage for those sitting further away. And the people found a way out: they disrupted the orderly rows of chairs, fortunately,







they were easily moved to the side. The attendant, who were required by regulations to maintain order in the

'hall', were in confusion. We saw how one of them almost cried because people did not pay attention to her request: return the chairs back... It was simply impossible to do this! The rain continued, the concert numbers changed one after another, and people wanted to see the stage. And it was fun. And in a European way. One of the men



■ The rain that began right before the start of the gala concert did not frighten the audience. And for some couples in love it was nothing at all, as for these young people who were captivated by the music and everything that happened on stage in the Central Courtyard of the Radziwill Castle.

sitting behind us said: in Italy they don't pay attention to such moments... But we are not worse: our Belarus is in the centre of Europe.

Soon everything settled down. The rain was accepted. Unconditionally. By everyone. It also did nothing to interfere with the high art of the soloists, as well as the orchestra performers (conductor Yuri Karavaev, a diploma winner at an international competition). The quality of the performance of the concert repertoire was not affected by the slight confusion in the ranks of the audience either. Although they fussed a little, they still made a choice towards a positive mood. And already in raincoats, under umbrellas, and some without them, they applauded the performers of arias, romances, and ballet compositions with smiles on their faces. And they were rewarded for their patience.

Ivan Zhdanovich





bolshebelarus.by



- Scene from the play
- In the centre is King René, Iolanta's father — Andrei Valenti, Honoured Artist of Belarus
- At the forefront there is Iolanta played by Yelena Zolova, laureate of international competitions. Next to her is Vaudémont, the knight of Burgundy, played by Aleksandr Mikhnyuk, laureate of the international competition.
- Anna Motornaya, stage director of the opera Iolanta, winner of the Francysk Skaryna Medal

Closer to 21.00 the rain began to subside. A rainbow unfolded in the sky, right above the Central Courtyard of the Radziwill Castle. It was a beautiful sight. The heavenly scenery changed before our eyes: the sun broke through the clouds and illuminated the stage... Swallows, swifts and even crows flew above us. They all seemed to be impressed by the wonderful music of Giuseppe Verdi, Giacomo Puccini, Sergei Rachmaninov, Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Dmitri Shostakovich, Charles Gounod and other world-class composers. The concert opened with a stunning concert waltz by Vladimir Soltan, our Belarusian composer.

Ivan Zhdanovich







Ivan Zhdanovich



[bolshoibelarus.by](http://bolshoibelarus.by)

- The final scene of the gala concert, when all the participants took their bows
- Oksana Volkova, Honoured Artist of Belarus and Igor Kolb, Chief Choreographer, bowing to the public
- The audience happily took pictures with this charming ballerina Veronica Oleshchenko both in the photo zone and outside it, as in this photo



And during the performance of Shostakovich's *Tango* (choreography by Igor Kolb) from the ballet *Illusions of Love*, one of the journalists made a remark: swallows also dance tango...

Opera soloists Andrei Valenti, Stanislav Trifonov, Vladimir Gromov, Yuri Gorodetsky, Aleksandr Mikhnyuk, Anastasia Moskvina, Oksana Volkova, Tatiana Gavrilova, Marta Danusevich and our other star voices of the Bolshoi Theatre came to Nesvizh. Their singing was so inspired that it was simply impossible not to feel elevated while listening to them.





■ Beautiful views in the palace and park ensemble of the Radziwill residence

Moreover, it seemed that the entire audience, figuratively speaking, washed by the rain, was one big whole, one soul. We experienced similar feelings during choreographic compositions, when Tatiana Ulasen, Marina Vezhnovets, Yuri Kovalev, Anton Kravchenko and other ballet soloists danced. As Yekaterina Dulova, General Director of the Bolshoi Theatre, said at a press conference before the opening of Evenings..., this year the performers will present productions with romantic sentiments. Such sentiments were also heard at the gala concert.



Ivan Zhdanovich

■ Olga Gulyako, Head of the Audience Attendance Service of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus, and Sergei Osavelyuk, her deputy, were pleased with how the Evenings of the Bolshoi Theatre at the Radziwill Castle went

And the day before, on Saturday evening, we listened to the opera *Iolanta*.

"I am writing as a person who does not like new readings, performances without costumes and scenery, when one stool is driven around the stage... I went without any special expectations, having read the reviews here, but not one of them conveys what you will see on stage.

The performance, without further ado, is brilliant. And it is beautiful, spiritually beautiful... Yes, the actors practically do not move on the stage, and yes, the only scenery is the frame of *Iolanta's* house. But all this was done only to immerse the viewer in the world of the blind girl, in the world as she perceives it. The main thing for her is sound, so the opera begins with a long performance of various classical works by the orchestra, and then the singing, absolutely stunning, pure, piercing and at the same time tender. This is a tender opera about pure deep feelings. And nothing distracts us from the sound of voices and orchestra. The new production has revealed the depth of Tchaikovsky's opera and in some moments brings tears to your eyes. I sincerely advise you to watch and immerse yourself in this fairy tale."

To this anonymous review, which was posted on the website of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus immediately after the premiere of *Iolanta*, I have nothing to add except respect to everyone who in Nesvizh delighted us with their singing and artistry, awakening the soul to feel the beauty of Love, to think about nobility and fidelity, however, as well as to enjoy Life. Well, we also did not fail to express our admiration for her work to Anna Motornaya, the director of the play. And also respect to conductor Yuri Karavaev, a winner of international competitions: the music in *Iolanta* sounded masterly.

For the 14th time, the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus invited its beloved spectators to the Belarusian Versailles. Evenings of the Bolshoi Theatre at the Radziwill Castle this year were attended by spectators from 18 countries.

Valentina Zhdanovich

Photo by the author

# EMOTIONS ARE LIKE PAINTS ON A CANVAS...



**Vladimir Kozhukh is one of the talented Belarusian painters of the late 20th — early 21st centuries. His name is well known to connoisseurs of fine art both in Belarus and abroad. Recent exhibition Vladimir Kozhukh. Paintings in the National Art Museum clearly confirmed the creative individuality of this original master.**







*He was a universal and multifaceted painter, equally successful in working in the genres of landscape, portrait, still life, and subject-themed paintings. Vladimir Kozhukh is a bright representative of the generation of artists who entered the profession in the 1970s and 1980s and sought to break out of the boundaries of realism established in painting at that time, devoting their creative path to the search for new forms of expression of the author's worldview.*



### Origins of creativity

This exhibition presented works by Vladimir Kozhukh, created throughout his creative biography — from the 1980s to the 2010s. Collected in a single exhibition space, the works made it possible to see how the artist's style of painting changed from his early work, in which the influence of the harsh painting style of the 1960s—1970s was felt, to his later symbolic-romantic works, often characterised by art historians as 'ethnomodern'. The origins of this creative approach lie in Belarusian folk and religious art. But the form of expression of this style belongs purely to the author's space of modern artistic thinking. The themes of the works presented at the exhibition gave an idea of how wide a range of topics the master was concerned with. Here are social problems, the theme of war, Belarusian cultural traditions, folk holidays, mythological motifs, Christianity, the Belarusian landscape, the image of a woman.

Undoubtedly, Vladimir Kozhukh showed himself in art as a great innovator, a master of drawing, and a subtle colorist. His painting is essentially a philosophical reflection on the meaning of existence. About something that cannot be





## ABILITY TO CONVEY FEELINGS

expressed in words. Of course, the artist, whose work goes back to the traditions of folk culture, was not indifferent to the historical memory of his people and in his works sought to reveal to the viewer the inextricable connection between the past and the present, which is preserved by the cultural heritage passed on to us by our ancestors.

### It is not about quantity...

The painter was once awarded a special prize from the President of the Republic of Belarus to art luminaries for the creation of highly artistic works of art. As Vladimir Kozhukh admitted then, for him, the indicator of a highly artistic work is, first of all, professionalism. "It is very difficult to evaluate the high artistry of a canvas, because everyone has their own criteria. For me, this is a professional approach," reflected Vladimir Kozhukh. In 2014, the artist planned to present his works painted since 1980 to the general public. The master found it difficult to answer the question about the number of works. He said that the main thing is not quantity, but quality. The Honoured Artist of Belarus dreamed of painting his own Mona Lisa. He himself once talked about this. It is not for nothing that portraits of women occupied a large place in his work. "In most cases, the themes of nature and the feminine are inextricably linked with each other. As a rule, my paintings are associated with women's labour or are dedicated to mythological images. Every artist strives for unattainable goals. Of course, I can say that all paintings may be compared with Mona Lisa. But I think the best is yet to come. I haven't painted my Mona Lisa yet," says Vladimir Kozhukh.

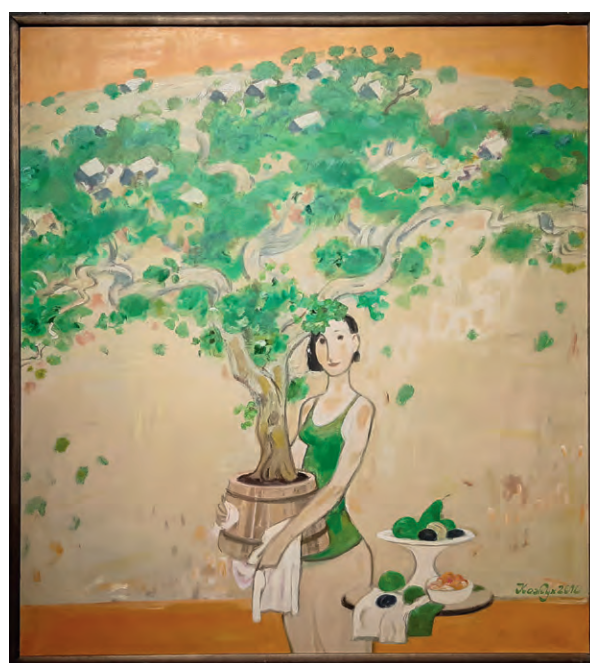






Thin, weightless beauties on the canvases of Vladimir Kozhukh soar in the sky, drown in flowers and fill the workshop with a special, fifth season of the year, as Akhmatova called love. A series of paintings by Kozhukh, the heroine of which is Flora, is a triumph of beauty and naturalness. Flora is a collective image, an attempt to unite the natural and feminine. There is something in these 'girls from not from here' both from the heroines of myths and legends, and from Turgenev's young ladies.

Vladimir Kozhukh was born on March 7th, 1953 in the city of Drogichin, Brest Region. He studied at the Minsk Art School named after A.K. Glebov, at the Easel Painting Department of the Belarusian State Theatre and Art Institute, underwent an internship in the creative workshops of the USSR Academy of Arts in Minsk. The artist's personal exhibitions were held in Moscow, Minsk, Brest, Gomel, Vienna, Baden, and Berlin. For a series of works Chernobyl Black Story, Vladimir Kozhukh was awarded the prize of trade unions of the Republic of Belarus. He was not at all in the mood to philosophise on the topics of what beauty is and why people deify it. He joked that he was destined to think about this in his creative work. After all, he was born on the eve of International Women's Day — March 7th. The rural working women in Kozhukh's canvases





## ABILITY TO CONVEY FEELINGS



are also romanticised and vaguely resemble the grandmother storytellers from Soviet children's films based on folk tales. But he didn't come to this style of painting right away. A student of Belarusian folk artists Mai Dantsig and Mikhail Savitsky, he adhered to strict realistic principles in painting. Until the Chernobyl disaster happened.

### The tragedy resonated in his soul

A year after the accident, he went to the exclusion zone with a group of artists. Then they said that it was no longer dangerous there. He was an active young communist. The higher-ups asked to assemble a creative team. People succumbed to romance and went. Concerts were held in charged areas to encourage people. Actors and musicians came. They stayed there for three weeks. They even went to the nuclear power plant for two days. None of the creative group, thank God, experienced any fatal consequences from that trip. The city of Pripyat and abandoned villages made a particularly depressing impression. They painted portraits





of policemen who were on duty at checkpoints. One day a very elderly woman came up and said, “Let me in, my house is there.” They answered her, “We can’t let you through. You must probably know yourself how to get through.” She waved her hand and went to look for a pass. He remembered so strongly how she stood at the barrier and looked sadly into the distance that he painted the work *Nostalgia*, where he repeated this plot.

During the trip they made sketches, and when they returned to Minsk, they began to look for a figurative solution. They didn’t want any documentation. There was enough specificity in the photo. Based on the results of the trip, an exhibition was held in the Belarusian capital. It was successful. At the time, the UN was supposed to discuss the Chernobyl problem and assistance. They were invited to show the exhibition at the UN headquarters. It was displayed there too.

The film by the Belarusfilm studio *I Remember*, which national television channels traditionally include in their programmes on the anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, begins with the works of Vladimir Kozhukh. The main character of the film is an artist who returned to his ‘Chernobyl’ village 20 years later. By the end of the credits, his child is born, and new themes appear in his work. A year after that expedition, Vladimir Kozhukh’s youngest daughter was born. And his art became different. It’s deeper and more multi-layered, literally. With a subtle echo of ancient legends, archaic, embodied in a new form, directed towards the future. At the same time, his muses appeared — luminous, spiritualised heroines of illusions and dreams. And in some ways, women from Belarusian villages that have become memories are so similar to them.





### In memory of the fallen

In the mid-1980s, he painted a work on the theme of the Afghan war. He brought it to the exhibition. Then all works underwent a strict selection process before being included in the republican exhibition. They told him, “You know, this topic has not yet been fully realised.” And then the withdrawal of troops had not yet occurred. He took the work and, depressed, left the Palace of Art. People’s Artist of Belarus Mikhail Savitsky walked towards him. He asked how

things were going. Vladimir said that they didn’t take the work. Savitsky asked to see it. He looked and said, “It’s a good work.” He took it from the artists’s hands and carried it back. The painting was accepted and included in the exhibition. It actually had an interesting story. Some time after the exhibition, he received a letter from the village of Icony, not far from Borisov. Four guys from there died in Afghanistan. He ended up donating his canvas to a local museum. Later he learned that the village museum and the painting burned down. It remained only in the photo.

Here’s a paradox: in the 1990s, during the era of glasnost, when artists began to get carried away with the topic of the day, Vladimir Kozhukh went into romance. He painted landscapes and still lifes. He made a series of works dedicated to Christian holidays. And he continued to create a gallery of muses.

### The ability to feel painting

The Great Patriotic War, Afghanistan and Chernobyl, women’s portraits, landscapes, mythological and biblical subjects — he saw each topic differently than those who were before him or nearby. And each new series of works evoked an invariable exclamation on the printed pages, “We have never known such Kozhukh.” They said that in the last years of his life he lost the desire to finish his paintings, became disillusioned with the profession, with the public, who were less and less interested in real art. But this is unlikely to be the case. There were many unfinished paintings and primed canvases left in his studio, but Vladimir Kozhukh did not paint for the public. It would probably be more correct to say that he lived through each of his works. Like paints, he applied emotions to the canvas, capturing them in his complex palette — hence





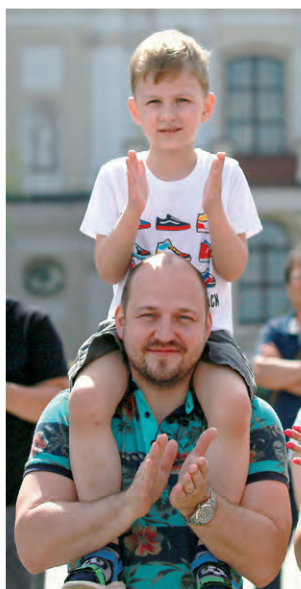


this living breath that is lost in reproductions. Still, a person, including an artist, gets tired of emotions; it is impossible to maintain the same mood for as long as is required by creating a painting of even a small format. And where others relied on proven techniques and professionalism, Kozhukh moved on to another canvas, another topic. Only when a sufficient amount of the necessary paint had accumulated in his soul did he return to the unfinished work. Sometimes he could even redo a work that had been at the exhibition. The less of this seemingly invisible, but so important thing there is in the picture, the easier it is to make an almost exact electronic copy. But you can feel the painting of Vladimir Kozhukh only in reality. Perhaps this is the main reason that he is still talked about as an underrated artist. Not by

professionals who will say and write many more smart and eloquent phrases about his work. But by the public, who are increasingly studying art from online reproductions. He was too intellectual to advertise his own work. Although we need to talk about the art of Kozhukh. Although you need to look at it even more. These paintings are in the permanent exhibition of the National Art Museum, in the museum-reserve of the ancient city of Zaslavl, for which Vladimir Kozhukh painted a portrait of Alena Kish (her famous 'malyavanki' are kept there). And there will be exhibitions like this one — don't miss it. To see something that cannot be put into words and cannot be seen through a monitor.

Veniamin Mikheyev





# TEA FOR WORLD HARMONY

The Belarusian-Chinese event  
of the same name took place  
in Minsk on the first day of  
summer





The purpose of the event was to introduce Belarusians closer to the unique culture of the Middle Kingdom. The Tea for World Harmony forum was organised by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese Embassy in Belarus and the Minsk City Executive Committee. And the main hero of the celebration was tea.

The Tea for World Harmony event is being held in Minsk for the second time and has become the hallmark of cultural exchange between China and Belarus, said **Xie Xiaoyong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Belarus**, opening the forum. And while last year Belarusians could get acquainted with various types of tea from the Chinese province of Yunnan, this year the emphasis was placed on the culture and traditions of the autonomous region of Inner Mongolia.

"Tea traditions have a rich cultural overtones and a history of development rooted in the distant past," emphasised the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China. "Tea acts as a medium through which people of different ethnic groups and different nations have the opportunity to interact and inspire each other." China's tea culture has absorbed the lifestyle and character of the Chinese nation, the ambassador added.

"Tea not only lifts your spirit and keeps you healthy. Tea drinking creates a harmonious atmosphere and strengthens mutual understanding. Formed over a long period of time, these rules of etiquette have evolved into a unique concept of life for the Chinese nation."

It is unlikely that anyone will argue with the fact that tea is not just a drink. This is a whole layer of original culture, not only in the countries where it grows, but also almost everywhere, where it has been brought for centuries. For example, the ancient culture of tea drinking in Russia (with a samovar and bubliks) or the English five-o'clock tea have little in common with the Chinese tea ceremony, and yet they originate from it.

People in Belarus love tea no less than in China, the ambassador noted.

"This drink is like a bridge of friendship, closely connecting China and Belarus, which are thousands of miles apart," summed up Xie Xiaoyong. "According to historical data, tea began to be imported into the territory of modern Belarus from China back in the 16th century, and in the 17th century, tea consumption spread to all levels of society."

Today in Belarus there are many connoisseurs of Chinese varieties of tea and methods of making it, the ambassador emphasised.

"The ideas of harmony and inclusiveness embedded in the tea drinking tradition correspond to such trends of the era as openness, cooperation and mutual cultural enrichment," he concluded.

The Ambassador expressed hope that the Tea for World Harmony event, which has already become a good



tradition, will contribute to the rapprochement of the Belarusian and Chinese peoples.

"It is very important that Belarus and China work not only for the benefit of economic achievements, but also to develop knowledge about the culture of our countries," emphasised **Nadezhda Lazarevich, First Deputy Chairwoman of the Minsk City Executive Committee**. "And this event proves our close cultural ties. A tea ceremony is an exchange of knowledge and cultural traditions, an opportunity to communicate and resolve any issues peacefully, in harmony, over a cup of tea."

In 2022, traditional tea processing techniques and associated social practices in China were included in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. After this, the tea culture of China, rooted in the deep past, attracted the attention of the whole world, noted the Chinese Embassy in Belarus.

Minsk residents and guests of the capital who visited Svobody Square on June 1st were able to see something that you would not see anywhere else (in any case, to get the same impressions and emotions, you would have to travel hundreds of kilometres). The organisers were counting on the originality and authenticity of the multifaceted culture of China. This

## CULTURAL EXCHANGE



idea was supported by a concert by the Ulan Muqir art troupe from the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region of China. The creative team has received many honorary awards in the field of art in China, including the Wenhua Award for New Repertoire of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China, the Special Wenhua Award of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China, the Award of the National Masterpiece Project of the Performing Arts for Excellent Repertoire, the Chinese Dance Lotus Prize. For the concert in Belarus, the artists selected those pieces that best demonstrate the character and flavour of their area: ancient folk songs, unusual instrumental music and original dances. In particular, Belarusians were able to hear the famous throat singing — a special type of singing in which the performer produces two sounds simultaneously: ultra-low and ultra-high. Throat singing is also included in the list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. You could get acquainted with all the details of the set for the Chinese tea ceremony at the site next to the Upper City



concert hall; here, those interested could purchase a set of porcelain cups and teapots, as well as dozens of varieties of tea. Sellers willingly introduced customers to the types of Chinese tea and how to brew them. And at the Chinese cuisine festival you could try traditional dishes of the Middle Kingdom.

Visitors were offered many master classes, they were conducted both by members of the Chinese delegation who came to Belarus directly for the Tea for World Harmony event, and also by specialists from the Chinese Cultural Centre in Minsk and four Confucius Institutes (BSU, MSLU, BNTU, BSUPC). Guests of the festival were presented with what the Celestial Empire is associated with all over the world — calligraphy, painting, martial arts. The event was opened by a dragon dance — an ancient national performance. But the organisers demonstrated to the residents of Belarus those facets of the multinational culture of China, about which representatives of other countries know little: from traditional oriental paper cutting, engravings and the game of Chinese chess (Xiangqi) to silver jewellery, cashmere products and the original arts of Ordos: leather carvings and creation of cloth products.

Aleksandra Antselevich,  
Photo by Viktor Ivanchikov





# ЯСКРАВЫЯ ФАРБЫ ФЕСТИВАЛЮ

Цікаўнасць і прага да адкрыцця новага – ці не ёсць той ключык да ўзаемапавагі і ўзаемаразумення, які змаглі падабраць у Гродне на Рэспубліканскім фестывалі нацыянальных культур. Сёлета ён ужо чатырнаццаты раз сабраў прадстаўнікоў розных народаў, якія пражываюць у Беларусі, і даў магчымасць дыяспарам расказаць і паказаць свае традыцыі і народныя здабыткі. А для гасцей гэта выдатны шанец здзейсніць падарожжа вакол свету – трэба толькі прагуляцца па вуліцах горада. Фестываль моцна мяняе гарадскую прастору, у дварыках размяшчаюцца нацыянальныя падворкі, гучаць песні на розных мовах. Тут можна павучыць танцы розных народаў, пакаштаваць разнастайныя стравы, прымерыць нацыянальныя строі і паўдзельнічаць у гульнях і майстар-класах, якія падрыхтавалі прадстаўнікі нацыянальна-культурных аб'яднанняў.



БелТА



■ Падчас святочнага шэсця

## У ВЯЛІКАЙ СЯМ'І

Сімвал фестывалю – кветка з пялёсткамі розных колераў – як раз паказвае і суквецце культур, і тое, што свята аб'ядноўвае прадстаўнікоў усіх нацыянальнасцяў, якія сёння жывуць побач.

Галоўнай жа тэмай XIV Рэспубліканскага фестывалю нацыянальных культур стала сям'я. Па задуме арганізатараў, на гала-канцэрце на галоўнай сцэне, дзе адкрывалася свята, прадстаўнікоў розных народаў запрасілі на беларускае вяселле. Госці прыходзілі з падарункамі, якія сімвалізуюць вясельныя традыцыі іх народаў. І на тэатралізаванае шэсце прадстаўнікі некаторых дыяспар прадставілі ўласныя “шлюбныя пары”. Так, традыцыйныя вясельныя строі можна было ўбачыць у калоне карэйцаў. Прадстаўнік дыяспары Чон Ку Лі, які шмат гадоў адпрацаваў ў Гродзенскім дзярўніверсітэце, параіў звярнуць увагу таксама на галаўныя ўборы мужчынскай паловы, па іх можна меркаваць пра статус уладальніка. Напрыклад, сам Чон Ку Лі апрануўся як губернатар. А яшчэ ён



■ Прадстаўнікі казахскай дыяспары

расказаў, якіх поспехаў дасягнуў карэйскі ансамбль “Арыранг”. Сёння большасць прадстаўніц, якія вывучаюць карэйскія танцы, ігру на музычных інструментах – беларускі, пры гэтым нашым дзяўчатам удалося перамагчы на міжнародным конкурсе, дзе розныя калектывы прадстаўлялі карэйскую культуру.

Сваю нявесту прадставілі і казахі. А прадстаўніца дыяспары Марыяна Лысенка расказала не толькі пра вясельныя, але і іншыя сямейныя традыцыі. Нездарма казахі на вяселлі кажуць: “Мы сваякі на тысячу гадоў”. У іх прынята ведаць сваіх родных да сёмага калена, што ўлічваецца ў тым ліку і пры выбары пары, каб пазбегнуць крывазмешэння. У казахаў вельмі моцная песенная культура, яшчэ з маленства песні, праз якія перадаецца і любоў да радзімы, і павага да старэйшых, дзеці запамінаюць ад сваіх матуль. Выкананне ў казахаў асаблівае, яно складалася ў пэўных прыродных умовах, у стэпе голас ляцёў



■ Прадстаўнікі аргенцінскай дыяспары

далёка. Шмат традыцый былі звязаны з выхаваннем дзяцей, адна з іх вельмі падобная на беларускую – калі немаўлятку, які толькі вучыцца хадзіць, звязваюць ногі вяровачкай і кладуць перад ім рэчы – якую выбярэ, такім і складзецца яго лёс.

А яшчэ на розных пляцоўках фестывалю гучала, што ў Беларусі прадстаўнікі розных народаў жывуць адной дружнай сям'ёй. Гэтымі думкамі падзялілася і намеснік старшыні Беларускага грамадскага аб'яднання “Русь” Святлана Квардакова: “Фестываль ідзе на карысць беларускаму грамадству ва ўсіх адносінах. Яно павінна быць аб'яднаным, важна разуменне, што галоўнае для нас усіх: росквіт краіны, дзе кожны можа адчуваць сябе жаданым, патрэбным, бачыць, што ён патрапіў у сям'ю народаў”. Рускія да фестывалю падрыхтавалі



вялікую яскравую праграму: з майстар-класамі, танцамі, песнямі, сувенірамі, выступленнямі багатыроў, гульнямі. Святлана Квардакова, звярнула ўвагу, што сёлета адзначаецца стагоддзе заснавальніцы Народнага хора рускай песні Аляксандры Нікіцінай, які пастаянна бярэ ўдзел у фестывалі нацыянальных культур і лічыцца яго равеснікам, бо на базе Рэспубліканскага цэнтра нацыянальных культур ён створаны ў 1996 годзе. У калектыва незвычайная манера падачы матэрыялу, з элементамі тэатралізацыі, калі выканаўцы рухаюцца па сцэне. Калектыву спявае не толькі рускія, але і беларускія песні.

Азербайджанец Наміг Куліеў прыехаў на фестываль са Старых дарог. Ён ужо 25 гадоў жыве ў Беларусі: завітаў пагасціць да жонкі-беларусі і застаўся: “Я ніколі не лічыў сябе тут чужым. Вельмі люблю гэту краіну. Тая зямля, якая корміць мяне і маіх дзяцей – гэта мая родная зямля”. Ён заўважыў, што фестываль у Гродне не проста дорыць людзям радасць, але і аб’ядноўвае народы: “Больш бы такіх свят і забудуцца ў свеце пра складанасці і войны”.

## АЛЕЯ СЯБРОЎСТВА

Рэспубліканскі фестываль – гэта не проста яскравае свята, гэта мерапрыемства, што, паказвае, як у нашай краіне жывуць людзі, для якіх Беларусь стала домам, што яны гатовы дзяліцца сваімі ўменнямі, ведамі, традыцыямі. І падчас канцэрта, і на нацыянальных падворках можна было пачуць, як прадстаўнікі розных народаў з душой спяваюць па-беларуску, а беларусы з задавальненнем вывучаюць замежныя танцы, песні, культуру.



■ Азербайджанец Наміг Куліеў прыехаў на фестываль са Старых дарог

Адкрываючы XIV Рэспубліканскі фестываль нацыянальных культур, старшыня гродзенскага аблвыканкама Уладзімір Каранік звярнуў увагу на адметныя рысы свята – нацыянальную самабытнасць, яскравыя фарбы, буйства фантазіі, а галоўнае – на атмасферу сяброўства і адзінства: “Гэта каларытнае мерапрыемства адсылае да нашых вытокаў, традыцыі і культуры. Яно наглядна дэманструе, што ў міры і згодзе могуць жыць прадстаўнікі розных нацыянальнасцяў, веравызнання, узростаў і інтарэсаў. Разам працаваць і разам

адпачываць. Так, мы розныя, і ў гэтым наша багацце”. Невыпадкава месцам правядзення рэспубліканскага фестывалю стала Гродзенская вобласць – тут пражываюць прадстаўнікі 90 нацыянальнасцяў і народнасцяў. “Залогам міру і згоды ў многім з’яўляецца тое, што мы ніколі не змагаемся з кімсьці. Мы змагаемся за дабрабыт і росквіт нашай любімай краіны, за шчасце ўсіх народнасцяў, якія насяляюць наш шматнацыянальны агульны дом, за светлую будучыню нашых дзяцей, мірнае неба над нашай блакітнавокай Беларуссю”, – заўважыў Уладзімір Каранік.

Прывітанне ўдзельнікам фестывалю даслаў і Прэзідэнт Беларусі Аляксандр Лукашэнка, яго словы зачыталі падчас урачыстага адкрыцця свята: “Гэта яскравая падзея стала неад’емнай часткай культурнага жыцця нашай дзяржавы. Дзякуючы такому знакаваму міжнароднаму праекту, мы маем унікальную магчымасць назіраць за суквеццем талентаў прадстаўнікоў розных



■ Карэйская дыяспара знаёміла з вясельнымі традыцыямі

нацыянальнасцяў і веравызнанняў, якія пражываюць у міры і згодзе на беларускай зямлі”.

Адна з традыцый фестывалю – пасадка дрэў прадстаўнікамі розных народаў на “Алеі сяброўства” ў Каложскім парку. Сёлета яна папоўнілася дрэвамі, якія будуць нагадваць пра новых удзельнікаў з Бураціі, Аргенціны, Егіпта.

Упершыню я наведаў фестываль нацыянальных культур у Гродне два гады таму. Я настолькі быў уражаны атмасферай, якая тут была, і як адміністрацыя горада ўсё арганізавала, што сказаў, калі праз два гады буду ў Беларусі і мне прадставіцца такая магчымасць, абавязкова прыеду зноў і прывязу з сабой часцінку Пакістана,” – падзяліўся Надзвычайны і паўнамоцны пасол Пакістана Саджад Хайдер Хан, які таксама пасадзіў падчас фестывалю дрэва ў Каложскім парку: “Лічу, што гэта ўнікальны фестываль, які дапамагае людзям стаць бліжэй адзін да аднаго і даведацца больш пра культуры народаў. Гэта выдатная магчымасць для камунікацыі, і не толькі для тых, хто прыязджае на свята з іншых краін, але і для прадстаўнікоў дыяспар, якія жывуць у Беларусі многія гады, становяцца часткай яе культуры і прыносяць штосьці сваё. Паміж

Пакістанам і Беларуссю больш агульнага, чым многія думалі. Напрыклад, жыхары абедзвюх краін вельмі гасцінныя. Для нашых народаў уласцівыя любоў да музыкі і танцаў, павага да старэйшага пакалення. І ў нас, і ў вас цэняць ручную работу, вышыўку. Звярніце ўвагу на нашы нацыянальныя строі”.

Тацяна Баладон, якая прадстаўляла Бурацію, пасадзіла сасну, і паабяцала прыязджаць правяраць, як дрэва будзе расці: “Для мяне гэта падзея дае магчымасць паказаць культуру майго бацькі, сама я фактычна вырасла ў Беларусі і да фестывалю падрыхтавала песню пра сяброўства народаў”.

Упершыню ў свяце ў Гродне ўзялі ўдзел прадстаўнікі аргенцінскай дыяспары. “У беларусаў ёсць даўнія сувязі з Аргенцінай. У 1920-х гадах з Заходняй Беларусі можна было выязджаць туды на заробкі, чым многія скарысталіся, – расказаў Уладзіслаў Рута. – У Аргенціну паехалі мае бабуля і дзядуля. Там нарадзіўся мой бацька Дон Карлас. Калі была “адліга” ў савецкія часы, людзі пачалі вяртацца. У 1950-х гадах

фестываль – гэта нешта неверагоднае, асабліва ўвечары падчас шэсця і адкрыцця, калі збіраецца столькі прадстаўнікоў розных народаў, усе танцуюць. Гэта крута. Фестываль паказвае, што Беларусь мірная краіна, што яна адкрытая для ўсіх”.

На фестывалі мне ўдалося заспець прадстаўніка егіпецкай дыяспары разам з Аляксеем Дзямко, які прадстаўляў Дагестан. “Гэта ўнікальная падзея, ні ва ўсіх краінах магчыма зрабіць свята такога маштабу. Фестываль дае цудоўную магчымасць пазнаёміцца з рознымі нацыянальнасцямі, больш даведацца пра культуру, нацыянальную кухню, пасябраваць з новымі цікавымі людзьмі, магчыма, павучыцца чамусьці. І гэта ўсё можна зрабіць за адзін дзень”, – падзяліўся малады чалавек і параіў усім беларусам абавязкова наведаць у Дагестане Дзэрбент – адзін з самых старажытных гарадоў, які вядзе гісторыю з 4 тысячагоддзя да нашай эры, заехаць у Махачкалу, сёлы Гоор, Кубачы, Гуніб, Кахіб, аул Чох, узняцца на Шалбуздаг (адну з самых прыгожых вяршынь Галоўнага каўказ-



■ Прадстаўніца рускага падворка



■ Салах Махамед Эльшербін (прадстаўнік Егіпта) і Аляксей Дзямко (дагестанская дыяспара)

некалькі параходаў вярнулася ў Савецкі Саюз. Мы прапаведзем мір і добразычлівасць, добрасуседства, што, дарэчы, ёсць і ў Аргенціне, таму што гэта краіна мігрантаў, там усе народы жывуць у міры і згодзе”. З’явілася ў алеі і дрэўца, якое звязана з Егіпецкай дыяспарай. Яго пасадзіў Салах Махамед Эльшербін, які ўжо восем гадоў жыве ў Беларусі. Ён прыехаў у нашу краіну атрымліваць адукацыю нафтавіка, пасля заканчэння Гомельскага ўніверсітэта застаўся працягваць вучобу ў аспірантуры і магістратуры, уладкаваўся на работу. Сёлета ён быў адзіным прадстаўніком Егіпта, але, як прызнаўся малады чалавек, падчас тэатралізаванага шэсця адчуў неверагодную падтрымку з боку гледачоў, якія радасна яго віталі, а пасля спецыяльна прыйшлі пазнаёміцца і сфатаграфавалі на падворку: “Я шмат пачуў, як беларусы любяць Егіпет, многія добра яго ведаюць, бо ездзяць туды адпачываць. Гродна вельмі прыгожа, еўрапейскі горад, ён назаўсёды застанецца ў маім сэрцы. А

скага храбту). Ён упэўнены, што госці будуць уражаны і нацыянальнай кухняй. Адна са страў, якой ганарацца ў Дагестане, хінкал – вараныя ў мясным булёне кавалачкі цеста, варта пакаштаваць чуду (пірог, які ў розных рэгіёнах падаецца з пэўнымі начынкамі). Асаблівае месца ў Дагестане адведзена напоям. Галоўным лічыцца чай – куды дадаюць зёлкі, мёд, сухафрукты і малако.

## НАС АБ’ЯДНОЎВАЕ ПЕРАМОГА

Натуральна, што адной з тэм стала ваенная, і справа не толькі ў тым, што сёлета краіна адзначае 80-годдзе вызвалення ад нямецка-фашысцкіх захопнікаў. У Гродне ўжо склалася традыцыя ў час фестывалю ўскладаць кветкі да брацкай магілы савецкіх воінаў і партызанаў, якія загінулі на гэтай зямлі. А ў вызваленні Беларусі, і гродзенскай зямлі ў тым ліку, удзельнічалі прадстаўнікі розных нацыянальнасцяў. У брацкай магіле ў парку Жылібера, напрыклад, пахаваныя



камандзір авіяэскадрылі Герой Савецкага Саюза капітан Юрый Іўліеў, які нарадзіўся ва Узбекістане, а таксама камандзір эскадрылі 46-га гвардзейскага начнога бамбардзіровачнага авіяцыйнага палка Герой Савецкага Саюза гвардыі капітан Вольга Санфірава з Самары, татарка па нацыянальнасці.

У зале прыёма дэлегацый Гродзенскага аблвыканкама прайшоў круглы стол “Адзінства народаў – залог Вялікай Перамогі. Беларусь наш агульны дом”, з удзелам кіраўнікоў нацыянальна-культурных аб’яднанняў. Таксама на фестывалі працавала мабільная перасоўная выстаўка Беларускага дзяржаўнага музея гісторыі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны.

Тэма памяці была прадстаўлена і на нацыянальных падворках. Так, на падворку цыган была размешчана выстаўка пра генацыд ромаў. “Тут паказанні сведкаў ці іх нашчадкаў. Да 80-годдзя мы падрыхтавалі часопісы, якія раздавалі на фестывалі з інфармацыяй пра гэтыя жаклівыя падзеі, – расказаў кіраўнік грамадскага аб’яднання “Ромская дыяспара” Артур Гоманаў. – Мы

Міжнароднага грамадскага аб’яднання “Атал” Генадзь Аляксандраў, падчас вызвалення Беларусі загінула каля 5 тысяч чувашоў (15 з іх пасямротна адзначаны званнем Героя Савецкага Саюза, тры сталі кавалерамі ордэна Славы). Для невялікага народа – гэта вельмі балючая лічба. Створана нават кніга, каб ушанаваць герояў – “Чувашы ў баях за вызваленне Беларусі”.

Галоўнай разыначкай фестывалю, як заўсёды, было яскравае тэатралізаванае шэсце прадстаўнікоў розных народаў. Падчас яго ўдзельнікі спявалі, танцавалі, білі ў барабаны і віталіся на розных мовах з гродзенцамі і гасцямі горада, якія выстраіліся па абодвух баках дарогі, рабілі здымкі з балконаў і адчыненых вокнаў.

XIV Рэспубліканскі фестываль нацыянальных культур сёлета біў рэкорды. Ён сабраў каля тысячы ўдзельнікаў і больш за 200 тысяч гасцей. У яго праграме было больш за сотню мерапрыемстваў, сярод якіх – канцэрты, круглыя сталы, маладзёжная дыялогавае пляцоўка, прэзентацыі, выстаўкі, майстар-класы, гульні, выста-



■ Кіраўнік Міжнароднага грамадскага аб’яднання чувашоў “Атал” Генадзь Аляксандраў



■ Выступленне нацыянальных танцавальных калектываў

працуем над вяртаннем імёнаў ахвяр, вядзём актыўныя пошукі, напрыклад, зусім нядаўна даведаліся, што побач з Астраўцом былі расстраляны шэсць цыганоў, а былі і такія мясціны, дзе ў гады вайны быў забіты ўвесь табар. Сёння ў нас ёсць карта масавых растрэлаў ромаў на тэрыторыі Беларусі, на ёй ужо каля трыццаці пунктаў і гэта толькі пачатак. З Германіі нам перадалі архіўныя дакументы, зборнікі, у якіх 20 тысяч імён ахвяр, спаленых у гады вайны ў газавых камерах, там багата прозвішч людзей, якія звязаны з Беларуссю”.

Цёпла і душэўна было на падворку чувашоў. Гаспадары гэтай пляцоўкі знаёмілі гасцей з песнямі і танцамі, нацыянальнымі стравамі, сярод якіх былі шартан і чувашскае піва (прарослае зерне для яго сушыцца на сонцы). У Чувашы нават ёсць свята Кёр сары – “Асенняе піва”. Гасцей уражвалі і багата аздобленыя вышыўкай нацыянальныя строі, ва ўзорах якіх перададзены сімвалы, што ствараліся народам, галоўныя сярод якіх – дабрыня, любоў да працы. Як расказаў кіраўнік

ва-кірмаш “Горад майстроў”, дзе можна было набыць у тым ліку адметныя беларускія сувеніры – упрыгажэнні ручной работы, кераміку, дызайнерскія сумкі і вышыўанкі. Тэматычныя пляцоўкі “Тонар беларускай зямлі ў адзінстве сям’і”, “Спартыўны падворак”, “Казкі свету”, абласное свята кнігі “Гарадзенскі ЛітФэст”, пленэр юных мастакоў, коннае шоу, гастрафэст, прэзентацыя турыстычнага патэнцыялу Гродзеншчыны ў гісторыка-археалагічным музеі ў Новым замку, дапамаглі “разгрузіць” нацыянальныя падворкі, сярод якіх быў і беларускі, і цэнтральныя вуліцы, дзе безупынна цякла рака з людзей, якія спяшаліся паглядзець, што за праграмы падрыхтавалі армяне, башкіры, татары, індыйцы, пакістанцы, украіны, грэкі, немцы, яўрэі ды іншыя народы. Два першыя святочныя дні фестываль прымаў Гродна, а на трэці маштабныя мерапрыемствы праходзілі на Аўгустоўскім канале.

Ганна **Трошына**  
Фота Алены Дзядзюлі



# Незвычайныя караваі, аплеценыя збанкі, загадкавыя маляванкі

## Чым уражваў гасцей беларускі падворак

Так, самым вялікім на Рэспубліканскім фестывалі нацыянальных культур стаў менавіта беларускі падворак. Пазнаёміць са сваімі нацыянальнымі здабыткамі гасцей фестывалю прыехалі прадстаўнікі ўсіх абласцей і горада Мінска. Кожная дэлегацыя падрыхтавала да свята эмблемы-прэзентацыі, дзякуючы якім можна было адразу даведацца пра рамёствы і традыцыі, якія сталі сімваламі пэўных рэгіёнаў. Напрыклад, для Гомельшчыны – гэта ручнікі. Нават падворак вобласці быў

аформлены з імітацыяй неглюбскай вясковай хаты. Прыехала на свята і народны майстар Людміла Кавалёва са знакамітай вёскі. Веды і навыкі ткацтва яна пераняла ад носьбітаў. Жанчыну моцна ўразіла, што ў адной асобнай вёсачцы шмат адрозненняў нават ад суседзяў. А гэта не толькі традыцыя ткацтва, але і спосаб нашэння вопраткі. Мясцовыя жанчыны імкнуліся падаваць сябе эфектна. Вялікі галаўны ўбор дадаваў невысокім нявестам росту, а накладні пад панёву – аб'ёму. Цікава нават тое, як тут называлі ніткі і ўзоры. Так, ручнікі, у вырабе якіх шмат выкарыстоўвалася чорных нітак, звалі чарнабрывымі, белых – бялёсымі. Знаёміла Гомельшчына і з ткацтвам паясоў, і з практыкамі саломпляцення. Мясцовыя майстры займаюцца інкрустацыяй саломкай (менавіта ў гэтай тэхніцы быў зроблены герб вобласці, прадстаўлены на фестывалі), спіральным саломпляценнем, аплятаюць кублы сасновым каранем. Паколькі галоўнай на фестывалі стала тэма сям'і, прадстаўнікі Гомельшчыны падрыхтавалі цэлую калекцыю лялек, дзе паказаны ўдзел пары ў розных календарных мерапрыемствах напрацягу года: падчас Каляд, Стрэчання, Масленіцы, Дажынак, Купалля і Гукання вясны. Дарэчы, у карагодным коле з саламянымі лялькамі паказаны ўнікальны вясновы абрад “Чырачка” з Жыткавіцкага раёна, які мае статус нематэрыяльнай культурнай спадчыны.



■ Народны майстар Беларусі з Неглюбкі Людміла Кавалёва і метадыст Гомельскага абласнога цэнтру народнай творчасці Ульяна Баброва





■ Майстар народна-мастацкіх рамёстваў  
Уладзімір Кемяжук

Калі падворкі, дзе гасцей сустракалі прадстаўнікі іншых нацыянальнасцяў, працавалі толькі адзін дзень, то на беларускім ужо напачатку фестывалю было шматлюдна – можна было далучацца да гульніў, майстар-класаў, падпяваць і танцаваць, знаёміцца з рамеснікамі і пытацца пра адметныя мясціны розных куткоў Беларусі, дзе ведаюць, чым уразіць і заняць любога турыста. Замежныя госці спрабавалі плесці вырабы з саломкі, рабіць кошкі, працаваць з ганчарамі, частаваліся нацыянальнымі стравамі.

Падчас адкрыцця другога дня фестывалю са сцэны, усталяванай побач з беларускім падворкам, міністр культуры Анатоль Маркевіч заўважыў, што гэта мерапрыемства сімвалізуе сабой узаемаразуменне,



■ Елена Саранчына, майстар па лозапляценні з Мінска

павагу, добразычлівасць і сяброўства: “Свята гаворыць аб тым, што нашу сінявокую ведаюць, любяць не толькі беларусы, але і ўсе тыя людзі, для каго яна адкрывае магчымасці незалежна ад нацыянальнай прыналежнасці”.

Упаўнаважаны па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Аляксандр Румак нагадаў, што сёння ў нашай краіне пражывае больш 150 нацыянальнасцяў: “Мы не дзелім нікога ні па нацыянальнасцях, ні па

веравызнанні. Жывём адной сям’ёй. Так і сёння ў Гродне мы бачым, калі разам стаяць азербайджанцы і армяне, палесцінцы і яўрэі, таму што ў нас няма спрэчак, толькі згода. Наш Прэзідэнт аднойчы сказаў, што гэта адзін з самых вялікіх здабыткаў незалежнай Беларусі, таму давайце шанаваць, зберагаць тое, што ўмацоўвае нашу дзяржаву, наша грамадства”.

Наогул, тэма сям’і і еднасці стала адной з ключавых на фестывалі, прычым як у глабальным сэнсе – як мір і згода ўсяго народа, так і ў прамым, як захаванне традыцыйных каштоўнасцяў, добрыя ўзаемаадносіны паміж сужэнцамі, бацькамі і дзецьмі.

Адзін з вясельных абрадаў, унесены ў спіс нематэрыяльнай спадчыны, – традыцыю выпякання Паўлаўскага караваё – прадставіла кіраўніца народнага фальклорнага калектыву “Чараўніцы-каравайніцы”



■ Прэзентацыя беларускіх рэгіёнаў

са Слонімскай Дар’я Кірыенка. Цеста для вясельнага караваё замешвала няцотная колькасць жанчын – прычым замужніх, якія мелі здаровых дзетак. Разведзеныя і ўдовы да такой справы не дапускаліся, толькі тыя, хто быў шчаслівы ў шлюбе. Працавалі яны ў чыстай новай вопратцы, каб у маладых усё склалася. Паўлаўскі караваё багата аздабляўся. У цэнтры ставілася пладова-галінка з разгалінаваннем на пяць парасткаў, якую аблепвалі цестам і запякалі. Каб у пары нарадзілася багата дзетак, караваё упрыгожвалі птушкамі, кветкамі гаварылі пра прыгажосць маладой, падкоўкі клалі на шчасце, вароты, каб у новую сям’ю ўвайшло каханне, васьмёркі як сімвал бясконцага кахання, каласкі – на багаты ўраджай, пацеркі, кожная з якіх выпякалася як асобная, – зычанне багатацця. Прычым усе гэтыя дэталі выпякаліся асобным чынам, не ў духу, як звычайна прынята, а перад полымем.

Віцебскую вобласць прадстаўляла сям’я Рымдзёнкаў. Жонка займаецца ткацтвам, бацька і сын – ганчарствам. Падчас фестывалю яны паказвалі

майстар-класы па вырабе свістулькі і берасцянікаў (посуду, аплеценага берастой). Традыцыя па вырабе апошніх нядаўна атрымала статус нематэрыяльнай каштоўнасці. Гаршкі, пераплеценыя берастой, менш біліся пры перавозцы. Яны як тэрмасы маглі захоўваць тэмпературу прадуктаў.

Загадчыца Шаркаўшчынскага раённага цэнтра культуры Вікторыя Дубоўская падзялілася, што ў рэгіёне працягваюць традыцыі маляваных дываноў, распачатыя Язэпам Драздовічам. Прычым яшчэ з



■ Кіраўнік студыі мастацкіх рамёстваў Шаркаўшчынскага раённага цэнтра культуры Святлана Заіка



■ Віцебскую вобласць прадстаўляла сям'я Рымдзёнкаў

80-х гадоў такія веды перадаюцца мясцовымі майстрамі, і сёння з самымі маленькімі мастакамі працуе кіраўнік студыі мастацкіх рамёстваў Святлана Заіка, якая расказала, як наносіць фарбы на тканіну, каб яны былі больш яркімі, насычанымі.

Аляксандр Свірыд, разьбяр-самавучка з Ганцавіч марыць перадаць свае ўменні вучням. Цяжка паверыць, што для настолькі складаных вырабаў, кожны з якіх складаецца з драбнейшых дэталяў, па словах майстра, патрэбны толькі рукі. Дызайн будучых гадзіннікаў, ваз, падсвечнікаў, сувеніраў, упрыгажэнняў інтэр'ераў аўтар прыдумляе сам. Трафарэты малюе на паперы. Работа патрабуе

дакладнай прапрацоўкі кожнай дэталі, нельга памыліцца ні на міліметр, каб састыкаваць розныя дэталі ў складаных канструкцыях. Яго работы ідуць на падарункі высокім гасцям. Часта іх вывозяць за мяжу – у Еўропу, Азію, Амерыку.

Разьбярства па дрэве Гродзеншчыны прадстаўляў майстар народна-мастацкіх рамёстваў Уладзімір Кемжук. Ён расказаў, што сёння, калі з'явіліся сучасныя станкі, якія дазваляюць дзякуючы праграме ствараць розныя вырабы з дрэва за некалькі гадзін, майстрам не так проста трымацца на плыву. Сёння нават абразы выразаюцца дзякуючы камп'ютарным праграмам. Але ў такіх вырабах няма душы, і сапраўдныя знаткі мастацтва заўсёды цэняць ручную работу, бо такія вырабы зроблены ў адзіным экзэмпляры. Часам ідэю будучай рэчы падказвае сама прырода – майстры абыгрываюць фактуру і форму, яркавы прыклад таму вырабы з сувелю – наросту на дрэвах. Работы майстроў запатрабаваны ў турыстаў, якія прыязджаюць на Гродзеншчыну, асабліва на Аўгустоўскі канал. Такія людзі шукаюць на памяць аб вандрोўцы адметныя, каларытныя рэчы.

Майстар па лозапляценні Алена Саранчына прыехала з Мінска, каб расказаць, як робяцца традыцыйныя беларускія кошыкі. Яна працуе з неакоранай лазой і на сваіх вырабах дэманстравала розныя тэхнікі. Так, яна расказала, што вырабы, у якіх па чарзе аплятаюцца прутам рэбры асновы, называлі "рабранкай". Канструкцыя атрымлівалася вельмі надзейная. Такія кошыкі бралі з сабой не толькі, калі хадзілі ў грыбы, ягады, але і калі збіралі ўраджай бульбы ці яблыкаў. У кошыках з накрыўкай у вёсках на гарышчы захоўвалі кілбасы.

У фестывалі бралі ўдзел і беларусы замежжа – з Расіі, Латвіі і Польшчы. Так, на беларускім падворку сваю канцэртную праграму прадставілі народны калектыв "Арляне" з Беласточчыны і ансамбль беларускай песні "Завіруха" з Рыгі. Вялікую канцэртную праграму "Бывайце здаровы, жывіце багата!" падрыхтавалі госці з Томска, адкуль прыехалі ажно два калектывы: ансамбль беларускай песні "Медуніца" і народны вакальны ансамбль "Белая Русь".

Сваімі ўражаннямі падзялілася намеснік старшыні грамадскай арганізацыі "Нацыянальна-культурная аўтаномія беларусаў Томскай вобласці" Вікторыя Пастушкова: "Мы былі на падобным фестывалі ў Мінску, а ў Гродна прыехалі ўпершыню. Вельмі прыгожы горад, яркавы фестываль, арганізацыя на вышэйшым узроўні".

Таксама нашы суайчыннікі далучыліся да свята кнігі – "Гарадзенскага ЛітФэсту", які прайшоў у рамках фестывалю. У ім узялі ўдзел прадстаўнікі беларускай дыяспары: Станіслаў Валодзька з Рыгі і Віталь Бартохаў з Алушты.

Ганна **Трошына**  
Фота аўтара



# ДУШЭЎНАЯ СУСТРЭЧА НА ІРКУЦКАЙ ЗЯМЛІ

**Аляксандр Лукашэнка з працоўным візітам наведаў Іркуцкую вобласць. Запрашэнне прыехаць у гэты буйны прамысловы і культурны рэгіён Расійскай Федэрацыі Прэзідэнту Беларусі перадаў губернатар вобласці Ігар Кобзеў яшчэ ў 2020 годзе падчас візіту ў Мінск. Нарэшце беларускі лідар змог скарыстацца запрашэннем і адначасова з дзелавой праграмай здзейсніць сваю мару – паглядзець на возера Байкал.**

Сувязі Рэспублікі Беларусь і сібірскага рэгіёна актыўна развіваюцца ў розных кірунках: эканамічным, навукова-тэхнічным, культурным, галіне турызму, адукацыі, маладзёжнай палітыкі. Таму жыхары Іркуцка вельмі чакалі прыезду беларускага лідара. Каля будынка Ураду Іркуцкай вобласці яго сустракалі з хлебам-соллю і песнямі. Выступілі прадстаўнікі фальклорнага ансамбля “Оберг” і Іркуцкага таварыства беларускай культуры імя Яна Чэрскага. “Адразу бачна, што нашы”, – заўважыў Аляксандр Лукашэнка і запрасіў беларусаў Сібіры прыехаць на гістарычную Радзіму.

У Іркуцкай вобласці пражываюць дзясяткі тысяч беларусаў. У гады Сталыпінскай рэформы сюды нашы суайчыннікі перасяляліся сем’ямі і нават цэлымі вёскамі. Сёння іх нашчадкі захоўваюць традыцыі бацькоў. Тут можна пачуць беларускія песні і танцы, сустраць Каляды, Купалле ды іншыя народныя святы. Адраджаюцца рамёствы, праводзяцца разнастайныя мерапрыемствы. Адно з самых буйных з іх – форум “Беларусы свету на Байкале”, дзе заўсёды радыя суайчыннікам не толькі з суседніх рэгіёнаў Расійскай Федэрацыі, але і з іншых краін. Іркуцкае таварыства беларускай культуры імя Яна Чэрскага створана яшчэ ў 1996 годзе з мэтай адраджэння і развіцця духоўных і культурных каштоўнасцяў беларускага народа. Сёння гэтае рэгіянальнае аб’яднанне беларусаў Расіі – адно з самых вялікіх і актыўных. Між іншым, у рэгіёне нават захаваліся вёскі, дзе кампактна пражываюць беларусы. Адна з іх – Тургенеўка Баяндаеўскага.

Яўген **Кручкоў**

Фото Telegram-канал Пул Первого



■ Каля будынка Ураду Іркуцкай вобласці Прэзідэнта сустракалі прадстаўнікі Іркуцкага таварыства беларускай культуры і фальклорнага ансамбля “Оберг”

# ПАМЯЦЬ – СВЯТЫ АБАВЯЗАК

Пасяджэнне Кансультатыўнага міжканфесійнага савета пад старшынствам Упаўнаважанага па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Аляксандра Румака, прысвечанае гэме захавання памяці пра Вялікую Айчынную вайну, прайшло ў храме Узвіжання Крыжа Гасподняга. Месца гэта абрана невыпадкова. Тут з 1941 па 1944 гады размяшчаўся лагер ваеннапалонных Шталаг-352. Згодна з дадзенымі Надзвычайнай дзяржаўнай камісіі, тут было знішчана 80 тысяч чалавек, на гэты час вядомы імёны толькі 14 з паловай тысяч. Вядзецца праца па зборы інфармацыі пра тыя жахлівыя падзеі.

У пасяджэнні савета ўзялі ўдзел кіраўнікі рэлігійных і грамадскіх аб'яднанняў, прадстаўнікі Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук і Міністэрства абароны.

Сёння на тэрыторыі былога Шталага-352 створаны манумент, дзе размешчана інфармацыя пра адзін з буйнейшых лагераў, дзе знішчалі ваеннапалонных. Як раскажаў дырэктар Нацыянальнага агенцтва па турызме Дзмітрый Марозаў, гэта месца такое ж важнае для захавання памяці як Хатынь, Трасцянец,

Мінскае гета. Кожны лагер смерці дазваляе паказаць, якія трагедыі адбываліся на нашай зямлі. І Шталаг-352 не толькі расказвае пра канкрэтныя злачынствы, здзейсненыя на яго тэрыторыі, гэта яшчэ і вобраз, які дае ўяўленне пра тое, што ў гады вайны адбывалася на такіх аб'ектах. У самым яе пачатку ў палон патрапілі сотні тысяч воінаў Чырвонай Арміі, для іх нямецкім камандаваннем была створана цэлая сістэма лагераў. Толькі на тэрыторыі Беларусі яны размяшчаліся ў 60 населеных пунктах.

Шталаг-352, які знаходзіўся каля вёскі Масюкоўшчына (сёння гэта тэрыторыя горада), быў пабудаваны для масавага знішчэння ваеннапалонных, штодня тут праходзілі расстрэлы і катаванні. Кожную раніцу з баракаў, шчыльна запоўненых людзьмі, выносілі каля сотні цел – людзі паміралі ад голаду, холаду, хвароб. Тэрыторыя лагера смерці музеефікавана. Створана віртуальная гісторыя гэтага аб'екта. На мемарыяле можна пабачыць карту з QR-кодамі, фота пабудовы лагера, атрымаць інфармацыю пра тое, што адбывалася на гэтых аб'ектах. Храм на месцы трагедыі пабудаваны па ініцыятыве Беларускай праваслаўнай царквы, дзеля таго, каб ушанаваць памяць пра ахвяр, памаліцца за іх. Пры храме працуе Музей подзвігу савецкіх ваеннапалонных-вязняў Шталага-352. У ім змешчаны архіўныя здымкі, асабістыя рэчы ахвяр, дошкі і бэлькі баракаў, на якіх ахвяры выдзелалі звесткі пра сябе з надзеяй, што пасля пра гэта змогуць даведацца іх блізкія. Невялікі музей паглыбляе ў жахлівую гісторыю, адзін з яго пакояў – імітацыя баракаў, якія былі перагружаныя вязнямі. Так зімой 1941–1942 гадоў у Шталагу-352 было 10 тысяч вязняў, большая частка з іх да вясны не дажыла.

Менавіта з ускладання кветак і экскурсіі па музею пачалося пасяджэнне міжканфесійнага савета. Крыжаўзвіжанскі храм – выдатны прыклад таго, якую ролю ў перадачы памяці могуць адыгрываць рэлігійныя і грамадскія аб'яднанні.



■ Экскурсія па Музеі подзвігу савецкіх ваеннапалонных-вязняў Шталага-352



Мітрапаліт Мінскі і Заслаўскі, Патрыяршы Экзарх усяе Беларусі Венямін падчас пасяджэння заўважаў, што сёння да тэмы вайны важна падыходзіць з пункту гледжання духоўнага асэнсавання. Вялікую Перамогу можна разглядаць як барацьбу добра са злом. Вельмі важна зрабіць высновы, каб падобныя трагедыі не паўтараліся. У той жа час дзякуючы асэнсаванню падзей Вялікай Айчыннай вайны можна наладжваць работу з моладдзю, прывіваць ёй пэўныя каштоўнасці арыенціры.

Упаўнаважаны па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Аляксандр Румак упэнены, што захаванне гістарычнай памяці з'яўляецца святым абавязкам. Нельга забывацца і пра жахлівыя лічбы забітых, і пра тысячы разбураных і спаленых гарадоў і вёсак, і пра гераічнае супраціўленне. Важна, каб надалей гэта памяць перадавалася падрастаючым пакаленням. Сёння ў Беларусі шмат робіцца ў гэтым кірунку; працуюць музеі, пабудаваны мемарыяльныя комплексы, ствараюцца дакументальныя і мастацкія фільмы, дзейнічаюць маладзёжныя

Беларусь, архіепіскап Іосіф Станеўскі раскажаў пра тое, якую работу для захавання памяці пра Вялікую Айчынную вайну робяць каталіцкія святары. Так, да дня Перамогі і ў дні памінання ахвяр, праходзяць спецыяльныя богаслужэнні. Распрацаваны адукацыйныя праграмы для дзяцей і моладзі, на якіх удзяляецца ўвага выхаванню такіх якасцяў, як смеласць, мужнасць, вернасць Богу і Айчыне, гаворыцца пра важнасць захавання міру ва ўсім свеце. Сіламі прыхаджан даглядаюцца магілы невядомых воінаў і ахвяр вайны.

Вялікая работа прадстаўнікамі рэлігійных аб'яднанняў робіцца для асвятлення тэмы генацыду. Пры саюзе беларускіх яўрэйскіх грамадскіх аб'яднанняў і абшчын створана Камісія па ўвекавечанні памяці ахвяр Халакосту. Дзякуючы яе рабоце пастаўлена 160 помнікаў ахвярам – прадстаўнікам яўрэйскага насельніцтва. Шмат робіцца і для ўшанавання праведнікаў свету – жыхароў Беларусі, якія ў гады вайны, рызыкуючы ўласным жыццём, ратавалі яўрэяў.



патрыятычныя атрады, па дапамогу якіх прадстаўнікі рэлігійных аб'яднанняў могуць звяртацца, каб добраўпарадкаваць святыні і месцы памяці.

Як раскажаў першы сакратар Цэнтральнага камітэта Беларускага рэспубліканскага саюза моладзі Аляксандр Лук'янаў у перыяд з 2023 па 2024 гады ў ходзе рэалізацыі праекта “Аднаўленне святынь Беларусі. Нас аб'ядноўвае гісторыя і вера” на тэрыторыі нашай краіны было праведзена 285 мерапрыемстваў па добраўпарадкаванні сацыяльна значных рэлігійных аб'ектаў розных канфесій, помнікаў Вялікай Айчыннай вайны, месцаў воінскага гераізму і славы. У такіх акцыях былі задзейнічаны каля трох з паловай тысяч валанцёраў. Добраўпадкавана 68 праваслаўных аб'ектаў, 6 каталіцкіх, 43 брацкія магілы, у тым ліку мусульманскія пахаванні. Мітрапаліт Мінска-Магілёўскай архіепархіі Рымска-каталіцкай царквы ў Рэспубліцы

Як паведаміў старшы афіцэр першага аддзела ўпраўлення інфармацыі галоўнага ўпраўлення ідэалагічнай работы Міністэрства абароны Рэспублікі Беларусь Сяргей Шохаў, важкі ўнёсак у захаванне гістарычнай памяці беларускага народа і праўды аб Другой сусветнай вайне ўносіць дзейнасць ўпраўлення па ўвекавечванні памяці абаронцаў Айчыны і ахвяр войнаў, 52-і асобны спецыялізаваны пошукавы батальён. У 2023 годзе палявыя пошукавыя работы былі праведзены на 141 пошуковым аб'екце па ўсёй тэрыторыі краіны, у тым ліку і на 41 аб'екце ў рамках расследавання крымінальнай справы аб генацыдзе беларускага народа ў гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны. Знойдзены і падняты для ўрачыстага пахавання астанкі больш чым дзвюх тысяч загінулых, устаноўлены звесткі пра 72 з іх.

Ганна **Трошына**  
Фота Алены Дзядзюлі

# ВАЖКІ ЎКЛАД У БУДУЧЫНЮ

Міжнародны дзень абароны дзяцей у Беларусі  
пачалі адзначаць з 1988 года

Як паведаміла галоўны спецыяліст галоўнага ўпраўлення выхаваўчай і маладзёжнай палітыкі ўпраўлення сацыяльнай выхаваўчай і ідэалагічнай работы Міністэрства адукацыі Рэспублікі Беларусь Алена Вайцяховіч, у нашай краіне гэта не проста свята, але і час, які дазваляе звярнуць увагу на актуальныя праблемы дзяцінства і паклапаціцца пра заўтрашні дзень. У Беларусі дзеці складаюць прыкладна адну пятую насельніцтва – сёння іх больш за 1,8 мільёна.

## АБАРОНА ПРАВОЎ

У краіне створана моцная заканадаўчая база, якая забяспечвае абарону інтарэсаў сям'і і дзяцей. У Канстытуцыі замацаваны нормы пра тое, што дзяржава аказвае падтрымку сям'ям з дзецьмі, дзецям-сіротам і малым, якія засталіся без папярэдняга бацькоў. У мінулым годзе споўнілася 30 гадоў, як у Беларусі прыняты Закон аб правах дзіцяці, які накіраваны на забеспячэнне фізічнага, маральнага і духоўнага здароўя, фарміраванне нацыянальнай свядомасці на аснове агульначалавечых каштоўнасцяў. Асаблівы клопат і сацыяльная абарона гарантаваны дзецям з асаблівасцямі псіхафізічнага развіцця, а таксама дзецям, якія часова ці пастаянна знаходзяцца без сямейнага акружэння ці апынуліся ў іншых складаных умовах. У Беларусі юным грамадзянам прадастаўляецца бясплатная адукацыя, медыцына, праезд, ільготы пры аплаце харчавання, стыпендыі для студэнтаў, узнагароды для адораных дзяцей і магчымасць для атрымання дадатковай адукацыі. За гады рэалізацыі ў закон былі ўнесены значныя змены. Сёння Міністэрствам адукацыі сумесна з зацікаўленымі рэспубліканскімі органамі дзяржаўнага кіравання вядзецца работа па распрацоўцы праекта аб унясенні змен у дадзены закон. З 1995 года

рэалізуюцца нацыянальныя планы дзеянняў па паляпшэнні становішча дзяцей і ахоўе іх правоў, як асноўныя прававыя дакументы, у якіх комплексна вызначаны кірункі абароны дзяцінства. Зараз рэалізуецца план, распрацаваны на перыяд з 2022 па 2026 гады. Ём прадугледжана развіццё міжведамаснай падтрымкі дзяцей і сямей, у якіх яны выхоўваюцца, шэраг мерапрыемстваў, якія дазваляць павысіць непрымальнасць грамадства да праяўлення сямейнага гвалту, аказаць дапамогу дзецям і бацькам па стварэнні бяспечнага знаходжання малых у сетцы інтэрнэт, скараціць працоўную і знешнюю міграцыю моладзі, павысіць узровень псіхалагічных ведаў, уменняў, навыкаў самаразвіцця асобы, сфарміраваць псіхалагічную культуру, павысіць эфектыўнасць рэалізацыі прынцыпу інклюзіі ў адукацыі, фарміраваць у дзяцей навыкі здаровага ладу жыцця, а таксама павысіць роль сямейных каштоўнасцяў, прэстыж шматдзетнай сям'і ў грамадстве, удасканаліць сямейныя формы ўладкавання дзяцей-сірот. Даным планам прадугледжана і правядзенне рэспубліканскага свята, прысвечанага Міжнароднаму дню абароны дзяцей.

## УВАГА І ДОГЛЯД

Як заўважыла падчас сустрэчы ў Нацыянальным прэс-цэнтры кансультант ўпраўлення народанасельніцтва, гendarнай і сямейнай палітыкі Міністэрства працы і сацыяльнай абароны Рэспублікі Беларусь Алена Комлік, сацыяльная абарона сям'і забяспечваецца праз прадстаўленне дзяржаўных дапамог, адраснай сацыяльнай падтрымкі, сямейнага капіталу, які налічваецца пры нараджэнні трэцяга і наступных дзяцей. Комплекс мер садзейнічае таму, што пастаянна павялічваецца колькасць шматдзетных сям'яў. На сёння ў нашай краіне пражывае амаль



124 тысячы такіх сем'яў, у якіх выхоўваецца больш 450 тысяч дзяцей, а гэта кожнае пятае дзіця ў Беларусі. Распрацаваны праграмы дапамогі для хлопчыкаў і дзяўчынак з асаблівымі патрэбамі.

### ПРАПАГАНДА СЯМЕЙНЫХ КАШТОЎНАСЦЯЎ

Алена Комлік лічыць, што сёння важна дэманстраваць прыклады дружных сем'яў. Сёлета ўжо ў шосты раз праводзіцца рэспубліканскі конкурс "Сям'я года". Яго мэта – умацаванне духоўна-маральных асноў сям'і, прапаганда сямейных каштоўнасцяў і традыцый. У адборачных этапах конкурсу ўзялі ўдзел больш 440 сем'яў. Сем фіналістаў будуць змагацца за тытул "сям'я года".

Дзень абароны адзначаецца правядзеннем разнастайных мерапрыемстваў. Канешне, аноўныя госці на іх – дзеці, якія дасягнулі поспехаў у вучобе, творчасці, спорце, а таксама дзеці-сіроты, малыя са шматдзетных малазабяспечаных сем'яў. У Мінску прайшло традыцыйнае свята "Дзяцінства – мірная краіна", на якое прыехалі маленькія госці з усёй краіны. Яны паўдзельнічалі ў дыялогавай пляцоўцы "Час выбраў нас" з членамі Нацыянальнай камісіі па правах дзіцяці.

Ва ўсіх абласных цэнтрах прайшлі рэгіянальныя святочныя мерапрыемствы. Прадстаўнікі дзяржорганаў, арганізацый, прадпрыемстваў наведвалі

дзіцячыя інтэрнаты, сацыяльна-педагагічныя цэнтры, бальніцы, арганізацыі сацыяльнай абароны.

### "ГАРАЧЫ" ТЫДЗЕНЬ

Маштабна Дзень абароны дзяцей адзначаны дзякуючы Беларускаму дзіцячаму фонду. Менавіта па ініцыятыве гэтай арганізацыі ў нашай краіне і з'явілася такое свята. На працягу 36 гадоў Беларускі дзіцячы фонд цікавую і карысную праграму рыхтуе не толькі да 1 чэрвеня: ён абвешчае "тыдзень дзяцінства". Як паведаміла старшыня праўлення Беларускага дзіцячага фонду Людміла Кандрашова, у гэты час асаблівую ўвагу атрымліваюць сіроты і дзеці, якія пражываюць у дамах сямейнага тыпу, хлопчыкі і дзяўчынкі з інваліднасцю.

Таленавітыя дзеці і сіроты становяцца ўдзельнікамі фестываляў, конкурсаў ды іншых мерапрыемстваў, падчас якіх могуць паказаць свае таленты. У Нацыянальнай бібліятэцы адкрылася выстаўка фатаграфій "Шчасце бачыць", зробленых дзецьмі з інваліднасцю. Гэта вынік навучальнага праекта па фатамайтэрству для асаблівых навучэнцаў.

А яшчэ гэта час, калі падводзяцца вынікі і ўручаюцца ўзнагароды лепшым прадстаўнікам дабрачыннага руху і ўзорным сем'ям. Так, прэміяй "Сябр дзяцей" адзначана старшыня Мінскага абласнога аддзялення Беларускага дзіцячага фонду Галіна Пранько. Прэмію







■ Ансамбль яўрэйскага танца "Гіль загав"



імя Зінаіды Тусналобай-Марчанка атрымалі шматдзетныя сем'і, у тым ліку сужэнцы Нежавец – беларус Аляксандр і ўкраінка Лірына, якія выходзяць 12 дзяцей

У Міжнародны дзень абароны дзяцей Беларускі дзіцячы фонд разам з партнёрамі наведвае дзяцей, якія праходзяць лячэнне. Так, падарункі атрымалі маленькія пацыенты з Дзіцячай інфекцыйнай клінічнай бальніцы, самой жа ўстанове ўручаны сертыфікат на набыццё абсталявання. Актывісты магілёўскага абласнога аддзялення фонду да свята падрыхтавалі мерапрыемства ў Бялыніцкай спецыяльнай школе-інтэрнаце, а таксама адкрылі дзіцячую гульнявую пляцоўку ў Круглянскім Цэнтры карэкцыйна-развіваючага навучання, абсталяванне для якога набыта за кошт сродкаў, атрыманых падчас дабрачыннага марафону.

У гэтым годзе пры падтрымцы Надзвычайнага і Паўнамоцнага пасла Рэспублікі Беларусь у Расійскай Федэрацыі Дзмітрыя Крутога дзесяць дзяцей з

Брэсцкай вобласці змаглі з'ездзіць на дзіцячае свята ў Маскву.

Віцебскае абласное аддзяленне фонду сумесна з мясцовай тэлерадыёкампаніяй правялі тэматычны дзень на радыё, калі выхаванцы дамоў сямейнага тыпу паспрабавалі сябе ў ролі журналістаў.

Дзіцячы фонд сумесна з клубам жонак дыпламатаў замежных прадстаўніцтваў арганізавалі святочныя мерапрыемствы ў сталічным парку імя Горкага.

## ВЕРА І МАРЫ

Тыдзень дзяцінства прайшоў на базе Рэспубліканскага рэабілітацыйнага цэнтра для дзяцей-інвалідаў. У адзін з дзён дзеці самі давалі канцэрт, паказвалі, як многа, нягледзячы на свае няпростыя дыягназы, яны могуць дасягнуць. А пасля да дзяцей прыехалі вакальныя выканаўцы і мастацкія калектывы нацыянальна-культурных грамадскіх аб'яднанняў. Для дзяцей, якія праходзяць рэабілітацыю ў цэнтры, ды іх бацькоў гэта была выдатная магчымасць пабыць у сонечнай Грузіі, загадкавай Арменіі, пабачыць незвычайныя карэйскія строі і музычныя інструменты, паспяваць беларускія і ўкраінскія песні разам са старшынёй Украінскага



■ Маленькая выхавальніца цэнтра са старшынёй Украінскага культурна-асветніцкага таварыства "Краяны"





■ Упаўнаважаны па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Аляксандр Румак і дырэктар Рэспубліканскага рэабілітацыйнага цэнтра для дзяцей-інвалідаў Людміла Кандрашова

культурна-асветніцкага таварыства “Краяны” з Маладзечна і атрымаць зарад бадзерасці разам з ансамблем яўрэйскага танца “Гіль загав”. Назва апошняга калектыва перакладаецца як “залаты ўзрост”. Так, калектыву складаецца выключна з пенсіянераў – сярэдні ўзрост якіх 69 гадоў! “Гіль загав” падрыхтаваў для дзяцей гумарыстычныя нумары. Як прызналіся ўдзельнікі, паказваць падчас танцу сцэнкі, абыгрываць словы песень – гэта іх асаблівая разыначка. У завадных і харызматычных танцораў ёсць свае паклоннікі, якія імкнуцца не прапуськаць канцэртаў любімых артыстаў. Калектыву выступае не толькі падчас дзён яўрэйскай культуры і дабрачынных канцэртаў, але і далучаецца да многіх фестываляў і свят, якія праходзяць у розных кутках Беларусі, клічуць іх і ў гастролі за мяжу.

Дзеці з рэабілітацыйнага цэнтра чакалі артыстаў як ужо добрых сяброў. Па ініцыятыве Упаўнаважанага па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Аляксандра Румака такі канцэрт тут праводзіўся ўжо ў чацвёрты раз. Людміла Кандрашова, якая з’яўляецца дырэктарам Рэспубліканскага рэабілітацыйнага цэнтра для дзяцей-інвалідаў падчас канцэрта падзякавала Упаўнаважанаму па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Аляксандру Румаку не толькі за музычны падарунак, але і за ўсё тое, што ім было зроблена для станаўлення і развіцця ўнікальнай установы, дзе разам з медыцынскай дапамогай хлопчыкі і дзяўчынкі атрымліваюць псіхалагічную і сацыяльную падтрымку, займаюцца творчасцю, спраўджваюць мары і ставяць перад сабой мэты. У некаторых дзяцей, што прайшлі тут рэабілітацыю, ужо нават знята група інваліднасці. У светлым, утульным, яскравым цэнтры на сценах многа дзіцячых малюнкаў, ёсць тут і надпісы, пакінутыя дзецьмі. Вось толькі адзін з іх: “Засынай з марай. Прачынайся з мэтай. Вер у сябе”.

“Магчыма, у іншых краінах для такога дня больш актуальная назва са словам “абарона”. У нашай жа краіне гэта дзень любові да дзяцей!” – заўважыў Аляксандр Румак.

Алена **Дзядзюля**  
Фота аўтара

## Творчая дыпламатыя: АД БАШКАРТАСТАНА – ДА ІНДАНЕЗІІ

Традыцыяй на працягу некалькіх гадоў стала рубрыка на старонках газеты творчай інтэлігенцыі Беларусі “Літаратуры і мастацтва” – “Дыпламатыя перакладу”. Дзякуючы намаганням і галоўнага рэдактара штотыднёвіка Аляксея Чароты, і рэдактара аддзела паэзіі “ЛіМа” Рагнеда Малахоўскага, у газеце здзейсніліся публікацыі перакладаў на беларускую мову паэтычных і прэзаічных твораў пісьменнікаў самых розных краін.

Новы выпуск “Дыпламатыі перакладу” прысвечаны паэзіі расійскіх рэгіёнаў – Башкартастана і Якуціі Саха, а таксама далёкай ад Беларусі Інданезіі.

Вершы башкірскай паэтэсы Анісы Тагіравай (“Кастры на плытах”, “Зялёная яшма”, “\*\*\*Калі душа свай шлях зямны закончыць...”, “\*\*\*Хто пасмее сказаць, што сагнула пад вятрамі мяне?..”) пераклала маладая беларуская пісьменніца Настасся Нарэйка, якая жыве і працуе ў Камянцы, на Берасцейшчыне. Публікацыя зусім невыпадковая. У Выдавецкім доме “Звязда” рыхтуецца да выдання анталогія башкірскай паэзіі ў перакладзе на беларускую мову. Гэты творчы праект ажыццяўляецца ў рамках Пагаднення аб супрацоўніцтве паміж Саюзам пісьменнікаў Беларусі і Саюзам пісьменнікаў Рэспублікі Башкартастан.

Тры вершы добра вядомай у Расіі якуцкай паэтэсы Наталлі Харламп’евай (“\*\*\*Мой дзед аланхасутам быў...”; “\*\*\*Тры вершы з ласкі багоў...”; “Якуцкая страла”) пераўвасобіла на беларускую мову Святлана Быкава, якая даволі актыўна і напружана працуе ў галіне мастацкага перакладу.

Рагнед Малахоўскі адкрыў для беларускага чытача вершы двух паэтаў Інданезіі – Дэнака Крысціянці (“Піць каву з Богам”) і Туці Хэраці (“Тры мае каханні”). Нагадаем, што насельніцтва Інданезіі складае больш за 270 мільёнаў чалавек. Чацвёртае месца ў свеце па насельніцтве. Сёмая эканоміка ў свеце. Літаратура на ўласных мовах маецца ў дзясяткаў народаў Інданезіі. Найбольш развітая яванская літаратура.

Сяргей **Шычко**

# РАЗМОВА З УЙГУРСКИМІ ШКОЛЬНИКАМІ

Творы беларускіх пісьменнікаў увайшлі ў анталогію  
сусветнай дзіцячай літаратуры, выдадзеную ў Алматы.

Авут Масімаў – вядомы ўйгурскі пісьменнік. Жыве ў Алматы, дзе поруч з ім працуе невялікі атрад пісьменнікаў-суродзічаў. На тэрыторыі Казахстана, між іншым, пражывае 275 тысяч уйгураў. Агульная іх колькасць, увогуле ў свеце, – каля 13 мільёнаў. Болей усяго – у Кітаі: 12 мільёнаў 800 тысяч. Ва ўсім свеце развіваецца ўйгурская нацыянальная літаратура. Перакладчык і дзіцячы пісьменнік Авут Масімаў з’яўляецца аўтарам 14 кніг. Працаваў у розных казахстанскіх газетах, у часопісе “Арзу”. Зусім нядаўна пісьменнік падрыхтаваў і выдаў на ўйгурскай мове аўтарскую анталогію перакладаў твораў дзіцячых пісьменнікаў з розных краін свету “Было ці не было...”: Ханса Крысціяна Андэрсена, Шарля Перо, Гермініі Цур Мюлен, Сакарыяса Тапеліўса, Ангела Карайлічава, Газароса Агаяна, Бейсенбая Сулейменава. Поруч з казкамі пісьменнікаў Даніі, Францыі, Аўстрыі, Фінляндыі, Балгарыі, Арменіі, Казахстана ў кнігу ўвашлі і творы дзіцячых пісьменнікаў Беларусі – Кацярыны Хадасевіч-Лісавой, Людмілы Рублеўскай, Алеся Карлюкевіча.

Зборнік казак “Было ці не было...” выйшаў накладам 1000 экзэмпляраў. Зараз кніга распаўсюджваецца па



ўсіх школах і гімназіях Казахстана, дзе вучоба вядзецца на ўйгурскай мове.

Застаецца спадзявацца, што стасункі паміж беларускімі і ўйгурскімі літаратарамі будуць пашырацца і надалей. У многім гэтаму, акрамя Авута Масімава, спрыяе ўйгурскі літаратуразнаўца доктар філалагічных навук Алімжан Хамраеў. Ён неаднойчы выступаў у беларускіх літаратурна-мастацкіх перыядычных выданнях.

Раман **Сэрвач**





June. Summer is in full swing



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