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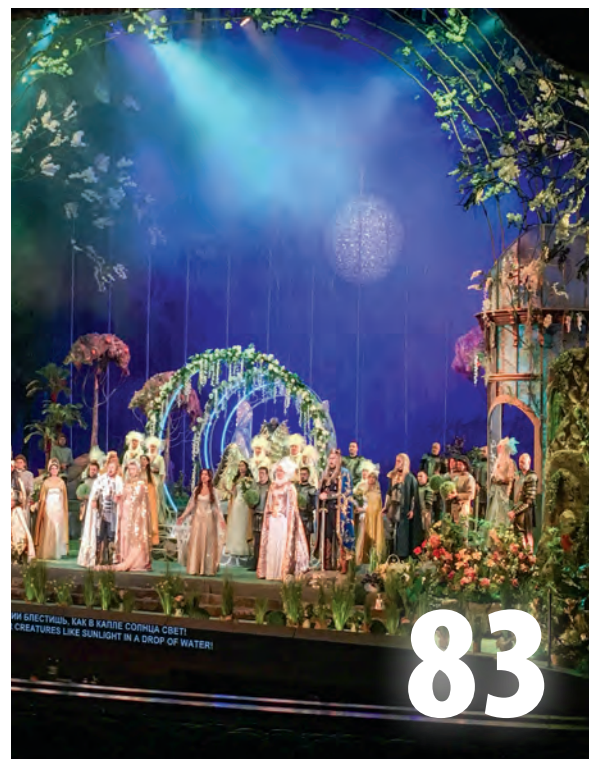
About Georgy Skrebitsky and Vera Chaplina, Russian and Soviet nature writers who travelled extensively throughout Belarus with its rich forests, rivers and lakes.

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...For the honour and praise of the Lord... is the name of this exhibition at the National Art Museum, which displays dated and signed works of sacred art of Belarus from the 16th — 19th centuries

76 On a royal scale

On tour to Belarus, the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia came with performances of the highest standard time-tested classics.



THE NOBLE MISSION OF THE COUNTRY'S MAIN MUSEUM

In the centre of Minsk there is the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus (the State Art Gallery of the BSSR from 1939 to 1957, the State Art Museum of the BSSR from 1957 to 1993). Today it is the country's largest collection of Belarusian and foreign art.



“THE GREEN AGENDA IS MEANINGLESS IN CONDITIONS OF CONFRONTATION”

Aleksandr Lukashenko at the summit in Dubai called on the international community not to express ‘concerns’, but to act in the name of preserving life on Earth

Held in the capital of the UAE from November 30th to December 12th, the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) became the largest climate conference in history. About 150 heads of state and government took part in the summit, including President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko. And also ministers, representatives of big business, public figures and experts — in total more than 70 thousand people from almost 200 countries.



The current agenda obliges

In the first days of the summit, world leaders made national statements in which they outlined the positions of their countries on environmental issues, food security, protection from natural disasters, green energy, and financial support for least developed countries to overcome the consequences of climate change. Forum participants for the first time conducted a global inventory of the Paris Climate Agreement, adopted in December 2015. There was also a road map to be developed to accelerate action to combat climate change. Governments will need to integrate this global plan into their national policies.

As a reminder, the goal of the Paris Agreement is to keep global average temperature growth below 2 degrees and to work to limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees. Belarus was among the first in the European region to ratify this document. In September 2016, Aleksandr Lukashenko signed the Decree 'On the Adoption of an International Treaty', and our country became the 30th party to the Paris Agreement. By joining it, Belarus pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 28 percent from 1990 levels by 2030. In 2021, the Government approved new plans: by 2030, we intend to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35 percent from 1990 levels.

Our country fulfils all its obligations under the Paris Agreement and even exceeds them. According to the state cadastre of emissions and absorption of greenhouse gases, in 2021 Belarus reduced emissions by 36.7 percent, and taking into account the sector 'Land use, land use change and forestry', that is, taking into account the absorption of greenhouse gases, — by 57.8 percent. And from a number of other countries, primarily the Western world, we expect an equally responsible approach in combating the consequences of climate change. It is harmful and even criminal to politicise the problem, and even more so to put sanctions in the way, thereby limiting the country's resources to achieve the stated goals.

Those who believe that the role of the climate agenda on a global scale is greatly exaggerated are also mistaken. According to experts, 2023 will be the hottest year in the history of weather observations. And this trend is gaining momentum. Global warming is turning into powerful floods, droughts, typhoons, and fires. And there are more and more such cataclysms every year. The economies of developing countries and climate-sensitive industries are primarily affected. For example, agriculture, energy, construction. The lack of solutions to the problem is fraught with such large-scale shocks as uncontrollable surges in migration, growing

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social tension and instability, and undermining security in key regions of the planet.

In this sense, the idea of creating a new international climate fund in the amount of \$30 billion is interesting, as announced at the summit by UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. It is noted that the fund will be intended for the implementation of global climate solutions.

Belarus' participation in the high-level event underlines the importance that the country attaches to environmental safety and environmental protection issues. It is no coincidence that the problems of environmental and biological safety are included in separate sections in the draft National Security Concept, which is currently undergoing public discussion.

“We have never had another home and never will”

You probably won't find such powerful representation even at the UN General Assembly. About 150 heads of state and government, ministers, businessmen, public figures and experts — in total, as already mentioned, more than 70 thousand people from all continents gathered in the capital of the United Arab Emirates for the World Climate Summit. The delegation of Belarus was headed by President Aleksandr Lukashenko, who at the plenary session of the summit spoke harshly about conflicts, wars and their initiators, and also presented his country's position on resolving global issues of climate and environmental security.

It was an extremely busy day. Numerous meetings on the sidelines of the summit, bilateral negotiations, speeches at the plenary session, interviews with journalists... It all started in Dubai Expo City, where Aleksandr Lukashenko was greeted by UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and UN Secretary-General António Guterres. The opening of the summit is preceded by a traditional photography ceremony. Aleksandr Lukashenko was in the first row among world leaders.

The goal of the global forum is to take steps to restore a peaceful existence on the planet by solving global

FACTS

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and came into force two years later. Belarus ratified the document in 2000 and thus became a full party to the convention. In total, 197 countries joined it.

The futuristic mini-city Expo City in the southern part of Dubai was chosen as the venue for the current summit. In 2021 — 2022, the first world exhibition EXPO in the Middle East was held here.

problems of ecology, food security, energy resources, and creating an economy safe for people.

The culmination of the summit was the plenary session, at which Aleksandr Lukashenko voiced the approaches and proposals of Belarus to address global issues of climate and environmental security. During his speech, the Head of State apparently moved away from the planned points and added more urgency to his speech. As a result, the words of the President of Belarus were applauded in the hall (perhaps with the exception of the first speakers — Aleksandr Lukashenko will speak about them later). And this was no longer ordinary applause, sounding in gratitude to each speaker, the Head of the Belarusian state received a standing ovation.

At the beginning of his speech at the World Climate Action Summit, the President of Belarus thanked the leadership of the United Arab Emirates for their hospitality and the high level of organisation of the conference. A difficult conference, which was attended by more heads of state and government than come to the session of the UN General Assembly. Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised, “Today we, the leaders of the world, are talking about the future of planet Earth — our common home. We never had another home and never will. We talk about the future of our children and grandchildren. About the future of everyone who comes into this world after us. We represent different cultures, different value systems, different civilizations. But we are united in the face of the global challenge that nature itself has thrown at us.”

Climate is changing. Scientists make the direst predictions. The fact that we hear them and react is very progressive. But to effectively counter the threat, it is necessary to honestly and openly name its root causes.

What are they? The President of Belarus specifies.

“First of all, this is the lack of a sense of proportion in the desire for geopolitical, including military (I would say, primarily military), superiority of those who provoke and incite hotbeds of war in different parts of the planet. And wars are the main source of pollution on our continent. It is the thirst for profit that turns natural resources into personal capital and robs future generations. These are attempts to remove countries from their path that are preventing them from subjugating the whole world, and to destroy them, drawing out all the

IN ADDITION

Only a complete cessation of the use of fossil fuels will allow humanity to achieve the 1.5-degree Celsius limit of global warming enshrined in the Paris Climate Agreement. This was stated by UN Secretary-General António Guterres, addressing the participants of the summit in Dubai, “The science is clear: the 1.5-degree limit is realistic only if we eventually stop burning all fossil fuels. We will not just reduce it, but we will phase it out, taking into account clear time frames.”

António Guterres noted that the world community has technologies that will allow us to avoid the worst climate chaos.

juice from the earth. And sometimes everything is done supposedly for the purposes of sustainable development (there is such a programme at the UN).” Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled, fulfils all its obligations under the Paris Agreement and even exceeds them. We provide invaluable ecosystem services to our continent by preserving a unique source of oxygen — natural swamps, forests, and the lungs of Europe. We are developing green and nuclear energy, minimising the risks of climate change. Paradoxically, in response we receive new economic sanctions, barriers to international trade, and restrictions on access to technology. And not only us.

It’s time to admit: the green agenda is meaningless in conditions of confrontation, the President of Belarus is categorical. It requires respect for the sovereignty of countries and unconditional justice. You cannot put pressure on political opponents with sanctions and at the same time demand decisions that are costly for national economies. Decisions on which the purity of the entire atmosphere, all groundwater and the World Ocean depends. And one more thing: how can we expect costly, effective climate conservation measures from countries and peoples that have still not recovered from colonial oppression?

Based on this, Belarus calls on everyone who is obliged to take on the burden of historical responsibility: first, to make a proportionate contribution to resolving issues of climate security for all centuries of thoughtless attitude towards nature; secondly, strengthen support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition; third, stop expressing ‘concerns’ and start acting in the name of preserving life on Earth.

The next major theme of the speech was no less interesting.

“Probably, once again we have gathered here and once again we will express our concerns, unfortunately. In a week everything will be forgotten.

We have no moral right to live only for ourselves. We must look beyond the horizon, respect the laws of nature and create the basis for the continuation of the human race here and now. On our planet. We don’t have and never will have another home.”

The Head of State makes an unambiguous conclusion.

“All the speakers, especially the speakers who spoke here first, became concerned: where can I get the money? Come on. Even the journalist sitting here will tell you where to get the money. To answer this question, we need to look into recent history. Example. It is estimated that between one and a half to two trillion dollars have been spent to destroy Iraq and Afghanistan and bring ‘good’ to the peoples of these countries. Iraq and Afghanistan cost the aggressor about



two trillion dollars. Calculate how much money was spent to protect these countries? How many people died? This cannot be valued in dollars. Today there is a war in Ukraine. This is no longer one and a half two trillion dollars. This will already cost five trillion dollars if peace can be agreed upon in the near future.”

Why is there no peace in this part of the planet today? The answer to this rather rhetorical question immediately follows.

“Because those speakers who spoke in the forefront talk about peace, talk about keeping the planet clean, taking care of their grandchildren, and at the same time they have unleashed and are waging the most terrible war on the planet. And in the Middle East, how much will the slaughter cost? What if it breaks out in the Pacific Ocean? It’s trillions and trillions of dollars. So let’s direct them to clean the planet. And you won’t have to look, as we say, ‘in all corners’ for this money.”

And final words. They are uncompromising.

“We have gathered here to once again express our concerns. And those who spoke here in the forefront, ‘concerned about their grandchildren’, are the ones who are fighting these wars. And wars lead to the terrible pollution of the planet. Let’s stop this. Therefore, the most important thing is that we need to learn to say less words and do more. I understand: if we adopt some kind of declaration or memorandum, as always happens with us, we are unlikely to achieve anything. As the speakers said here, again at the beginning, 80 percent of the pollution on the planet comes from the 20 leading states. Let’s not write down concerns in our declaration, Mr. Chairman, but demand that they reduce their emissions into the atmosphere by at least half. We won’t do this. So why are you gathered? Here they are, money, real money. Ten

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



trillion dollars that we can, by stopping wars, use to cleanse our planet.

And let's take action. If we don't start acting, nature will force us to live according to its laws."

In the context of bilateral relations

On the sidelines of the World Summit in Dubai, the President of Belarus met with the leaders of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Serbia, Cuba, Zimbabwe, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Congo, Togo, Mozambique, Rwanda, Botswana, Mongolia, as well as the Chairperson of the African Union, the President of the Union of the Comoros. At a meeting with President of Zimbabwe Emmerson Mnangagwa, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted, "We were able to have a thorough conversation on the eve of this event and discuss the main issues. But I once again want to congratulate you on this convincing victory (at the end of August, Emmerson Mnangagwa won the presidential elections in Zimbabwe) and say that we are waiting for you in Belarus."

"When is it better to come: winter or summer?" asked Emmerson Mnangagwa.

"Of course, in winter!" answered Aleksandr Lukashenko.

"Winter is a little difficult for me..." admitted the President of Zimbabwe. "I'll think about what time to come. But my dear friend, the President of Belarus, can come to Zimbabwe from January to December!"

"Agreed!" summed up the Head of State.

Speaking about bilateral relations, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised, "The most important thing now is not to stop. Yes, we have certain results of our cooperation, as you have already said (and you began to export grain and so on), but we still have a lot of work to do in your country. We are

ready to implement the plan that we outlined during my visit to Zimbabwe."

The President of Belarus also noted the successes of Zimbabwe in the development of the agro-industrial complex. This became possible, among other things, thanks to cooperation with Belarus and the supply of modern agricultural equipment.

At negotiations with President of Kenya William Ruto, Aleksandr Lukashenko said that our countries need to build a plan for the development of bilateral cooperation, "You and I have already exchanged several phrases and opinions (before the opening of the summit). In order for us to have a thorough conversation and improve our relations (in the name of which we will talk), I think you could come to us, I could come to you at a convenient time. As a result of these visits, our specialists would work (just like with Zimbabwe and Equatorial Guinea),

SOLUTION

Promise to help the poorest together

Countries participating in the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) decided to create the Loss and Damage Compensation Fund to help poor and developing countries cope with the consequences of climate change. The United Arab Emirates, as the summit organiser, said it would contribute \$100 million. The fund will be replenished every four years, with contributions coming from a 'wide range of sources', including grants and concessional loans.

FIGURE

Belarus plans to increase exports to African countries by at least 2.5 times in 2024. Support points include Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Equatorial Guinea.

and we would be able to build a certain plan for our cooperation, understanding what you need from us. And we would look at your country and decide on our needs.”

After his speech at the summit, the President of Belarus met with the Chairman of the African Union, President of the Union of the Comoros Azali Assoumani. Aleksandr Lukashenko thanked his interlocutor for this meeting, “So fate decreed that we had to ‘attack’ the summit together — one after another. You know (I sent you a corresponding letter): we are extremely interested in cooperation with the African Union.”

The President noted that Belarus has long been cooperating with North African countries, for example, Egypt. Relations with southern states, including Zimbabwe, are developing. Cooperation with Equatorial Guinea is being built.

“We would be very happy if you contributed to such a movement of high-tech Belarus to the African continent,” said the President. “If this does not contradict your policy, I would ask for your support.”

On the sidelines of the summit, Aleksandr Lukashenko also met with President of Serbia Aleksandar Vučić. The Serbian leader shared some details of the conversation with a correspondent of one of the Belarusian TV channels, “We discussed our bilateral relations. I told Aleksandr Lukashenko that I hope we can organise his visit to Serbia next year. We will have elections in 15—16 days, and after them, next year, I hope we will be able to invite him and discuss all the main issues on the bilateral agenda.”

As you know, Aleksandr Lukashenko appointed a new ambassador of Belarus to Serbia in November. Speaking about cooperation between the countries and the work of the Belarusian diplomatic mission, the President then noted that the situation must be seriously studied. “We need to understand the policy that Serbia is pursuing and wants to pursue in relation to Belarus,” Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised. “If they want (to cooperate with Belarus), then there must be a result in trade and economic terms. If they want to wag their tail, roughly speaking, and support European—American sanctions against Belarus, that’s their job, let them define themselves, if they have forgotten the kindness with which we came to them.”



On December 1st, Aleksandr Lukashenko also held meetings with the leaders of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Mozambique, Rwanda, Botswana, and Mongolia.

On the sidelines, the Head of State spoke with foreign journalists. Aleksandr Lukashenko, in particular, emphasised that in order to solve climate problems it is necessary to stop all wars and conflicts on the planet. Everyone is looking for sources of funding to reduce greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere. So it’s easy to find. We must first of all stop wars, conflicts on the planet and everything that accompanies it. And we will find about five trillion dollars (this is five times more than we are trying to find today in order to reduce emissions, the President of Belarus noted.

Representatives of the foreign press asked the Head of State his position regarding the conflict in Ukraine. Speaking about the prospects for peace in Ukraine, the Belarusian leader addressed the speech of his Brazilian counterpart (Lula da Silva pointed out that the two trillion dollars spent on weapons last year should have gone to fight hunger and climate change, not wars). If all the leading powers of the world, the main players who are interested in ending the war in Ukraine, think like Brazil, there will be no war, Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced.

During the President’s interview with representatives of various foreign media, the topics of cooperation between Belarus and Africa (the Head of State called this a new trend for the country), issues of hydrocarbon production and the Middle East crisis were also touched upon.

“Climate problems unite all countries. This is an issue on the international agenda that has a unifying character. We will do our part to strengthen international cooperation on climate issues. This cooperation should be built on a non-discriminatory, fair and inclusive basis and contribute to resolving global issues,” Foreign Minister of Belarus Sergei Aleynik told reporters on the sidelines of the summit.

Vasily Kharitonov

"BELARUS WAS IS AND WILL BE A RELIABLE PARTNER FOR CHINA."

Aleksandr Lukashenko and Xi Jinping in Beijing confirmed the special nature of Belarusian-Chinese relations

High-level negotiations took place in early December in Beijing, where the President of Belarus paid a working visit. The agenda included issues of trade, economic, investment and international cooperation. This year this is already the second visit of the Head of State to the Celestial Empire. The next summit meeting was imbued with a homely, warm and friendly atmosphere. Experts did not fail to note that this would be another powerful impulse to strengthen and expand bilateral relations. Both Minsk and Beijing have no doubt about their successful future. It is not for nothing that at a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Aleksandr Lukashenko said, "Belarus was, is and will be a reliable partner for China. I think that no one in China needs to be convinced of this... We decided long ago that we would cooperate and live in friendship with China. This friendship is over 30 years old. And from this path we never turned either left or right."

A powerful impetus for deepening cooperation

It is not for nothing that the Belarusian-Chinese friendship is called the iron brotherhood. There are not many examples in the world of such trusting, strong and mutually respectful relations between countries as those that have developed between small Belarus and giant China. This time, too, the special friendly atmosphere of the visit of the Head of the Belarusian State was evident from the first minutes of his negotiations with his Chinese counterpart.

Aleksandr Lukashenko thanked Xi Jinping for the current meeting, noting that the Chinese leader has recently had

a very busy schedule — a huge number of international meetings, not to mention domestic policy issues in China itself, "Thinking about this thesis, I thought: well, this is the burden of one of the leaders of our planet. Therefore, I am very grateful to you for this meeting, for your efficiency. I am glad to discuss current issues of cooperation with you in a friendly atmosphere. And, as has always been the case between us, to express our point of view on certain problems of international relations. The development of comprehensive and all-weather strategic cooperation between Belarus and China is determined by the unity of our ideologies and the very logic of world events and processes that are taking place today. Our meeting on March 1st (2023) became fateful in many ways and set the dynamics for the whole year. Since March, more than 120 mutual visits have been organized. These are different visits. And what pleases me most are the visits that are related to production, trade and economic relations."

The President emphasised that the historical increase in the level of relations gave a powerful impetus to the deepening of traditional directions and gave rise to new vectors and mechanisms of cooperation, "Belarus was, is and will be a reliable partner for China. I think no one in China needs to be convinced of this. All this has happened before my eyes for the past 30 years, and even more: the first time I came to China was as a member of the Parliament."

Aleksandr Lukashenko also noted his many years of acquaintance with Xi Jinping and joint work on the development of bilateral relations, "We have a lot of experience, we know what our countries need. And we have done a lot in this regard. We decided long ago that we would



cooperate and live in friendship with China. As I said, this friendship goes back over 30 years. And from this path we never turned either left or right.”

And the President of Belarus spoke about joint projects with China, “When I was preparing for this visit and interrogated my colleagues (we are talking about a meeting on November 27th with the leadership of the Government and the Presidential Administration, at which issues of developing Belarusian-Chinese cooperation were discussed, among other things) about what needs to be done, that there is no movement to tell the President about this, we have not found a single issue on which there was no movement. The only issue I would like to discuss with you is speed. Time is so compressed. And this compression does not depend on us (maybe fortunately, maybe unfortunately). It is so compressed that sometimes we fall behind and don’t have time. This is not only China, Belarus... This happens everywhere in the world. And the one who comes first to his goal will be at the top.”

Belt and Road is a realizable practice

Chinese President Xi Jinping warmly greeted the President of Belarus, “My great friend, I am very glad to see you again. As part of your state visit to China at the end of February and beginning of March this year, we reached important

agreements in favour of the dynamic development of Chinese-Belarusian relations. At each stage we reach new agreements. During the year, political mutual trust and international interaction are strengthened. There are new results of cooperation within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative.”

The President of the People’s Republic of China stated that if ten years ago the Belt and Road Initiative was a concept, now more than 140 countries and international organisations have joined cooperation within its framework.

“I have long concluded for myself that the Belt and Road is, as you said, no longer a concept today,” Aleksandr Lukashenko continued the topic. “This is already practice. Realizable. And no one today can argue with this, and no one can find even a small thing to criticise. The most important thing is that you have determined the common destiny of humanity as your goal. Unlike Western countries that try to cut everything into pieces, you have set a single goal for everyone. Who can argue with that? Nobody. The world will be grateful to Great China for this. We are very interested in China being a powerful power, in China developing. And this is not only our interest — it’s the interest of the entire planet, because here (in China) a huge number of talented, hardworking people live.”

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Political trust has noticeably strengthened

Xi Jinping said that the Chinese side is ready, together with its Belarusian partners, to strengthen strategic cooperation in order to create the Community of Common Destiny for Mankind, “Belarus, under the strong leadership of the President, managed to overcome the impact of various negative factors, maintain social harmony and stability, carry out economic recovery and growth, which laid the foundation for a solid basis for further development. For China, maintaining stability and long-term development is very important. And we have had great success in this work. In the modern world, titanic changes are taking place, new risks and challenges are emerging. Much of what happens is unexpected for us. The Chinese side is ready, together with its Belarusian partners, to strengthen strategic cooperation in the name of creating the Community of Common Destiny for Mankind.”



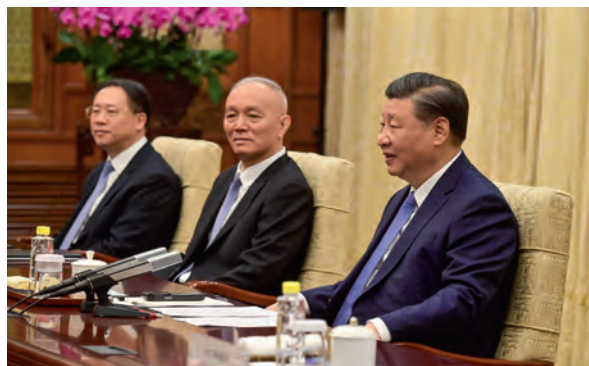
The Chinese leader emphasised that over the past year, political trust between both countries has strengthened and international cooperation has become closer. According to Xi Jinping, Beijing has always viewed Chinese-Belarusian relations from a strategic and long-term perspective. The PRC firmly supports the development path of Belarus, which corresponds to its national specifics, and opposes the interference of external forces in the country's politics. Xi Jinping said that Beijing is ready to continue to strengthen strategic cooperation with Minsk and

FOCUS

Peking University, together with Tsinghua University, is considered the most prestigious university in the country. More than 46 thousand students study at the university, of which about 3.3 thousand are foreigners. The university has more than 120 research laboratories, and the university library is considered one of the largest in Asia.

Aleksandr Lukashenko spoke to students at Peking University in September 2016.

In June 2019, a memorandum of understanding was signed between Peking University and the Belarusian State University. In May 2022 — an agreement with BSU on the creation of a joint educational programme in the specialty ‘biotechnology’.



both states are important forces participating in the transformation and construction of a global governance system, including within the framework of multilateral mechanisms such as the UN and the SCO. Xi Jinping also pointed out the need to optimise cross-border transport communications and strengthen trade, economic and humanitarian cooperation. The Chinese leader invited his Belarusian colleague to expand cooperation between the two countries in the fields of culture, education, healthcare, sports and tourism.

BY THE WAY

The Community of Common Destiny for Mankind is a concept put forward by Xi Jinping in 2012. It notes that the world's population is faced with threats that one or more countries cannot cope with. These are, for example, lack of resources, climate change, environmental pollution. Resolving these problems requires the cooperation of all states of the world. The concept involves abandoning wars and power politics, creating a common space for security, mutual exchange of experience between countries, applying innovative approaches to the economy, and maintaining a culture of diversity and equality. One of the platforms for the implementation of the Community of Common Destiny for Mankind, which China is promoting, is the One Belt, One Road initiative. This is an international project to develop economic cooperation, build a large-scale network of roads and railways, sea ports, power grids, oil and gas pipelines, which covers about 80 countries in Asia, Africa and Europe.



NOT WITHOUT SYMBOLIC GIFTS

The bilateral meeting in Beijing between Aleksandr Lukashenko and Xi Jinping lasted three times longer than planned. At the end of the negotiations, the leaders of the countries exchanged gifts.

Aleksandr Lukashenko presented Xi Jinping with several artistic items symbolising Belarus and Belarusian-Chinese friendship. Among them is the artistic and decorative panel *My Belarus*, which depicts the beauty of Belarusian nature and cosy houses against the backdrop of oak forests and lakes. At the bottom of the panel there are ears of corn, flax flowers and cornflowers, symbolising the beauty and wealth of the Belarusian nation. The sculptural composition *Belarusian-Chinese Friendship. One Belt, One Way*. It reflects both history and modernity — from camel caravans to high-speed trains. And the symbolic globe is held together by the Hands of Friendship.

The Head of State also brought his Chinese colleague an exclusive set of chocolates and a basket of Belarusian products. “These are similar products to what we supply to China. But these are the latest innovations,” explained the President of Belarus.

One of the gifts to Aleksandr Lukashenko from Xi Jinping was a silk painting with Chinese mountain landscapes. “And I just wanted to say that China should give us a painting for the Palace of Independence, which will stand in the centre. This one will be it,” the Head of the Belarusian State noted after seeing the gift.

Judging by Xi Jinping’s reaction, perhaps not just this painting will decorate the Independence Palace.

“What size, what landscape?” the Chinese leader immediately asked.

“So that the soul there is Chinese,” answered the President of Belarus.

“Agreed,” said the President of the People’s Republic of China.

After this, the leaders continued their conversation over a working lunch, which included both traditional Chinese dishes, such as Peking duck, and a Belarusian dish, pancakes. They also served such exotic dishes for the Belarusian audience as broth with sea cucumbers and bamboo shoots, abalone in oyster sauce, fried grouper with pine nuts, assorted mushrooms with vegetables and chrysanthemums. Desserts include lemon bavares, fruit and ice cream.

The relevance of strengthening communications

The next item on the Belarusian leader’s visit programme is a visit to Peking University, where Aleksandr Lukashenko met with the Secretary of the Party Committee of Peking University, the Chairman of the Pedagogical Council, and the Vice-Chairman of the International Affairs Commission of the National People’s Congress of China, Hao Ping.

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that during his current visit he talked for about four hours with his very good and long-time friend, President of the People’s Republic of China Xi Jinping. “He recalled when we met in Minsk for the first time. He was the vice president and visited Minsk. And I was very pleased that he even remembered the nuances of our meeting. The President (of China) and I are long-time friends. Because we equally assess the situation in the world and look at world prospects in the same way. After our meeting, negotiations continue in the government at the level of deputy prime ministers. All our great intentions and agreements need to be grounded and translated into

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

specific projects. On the instructions of Xi Jinping and on my instructions, the vice-premiers are doing just that.”

The President of Belarus also stated the need to strengthen communication between the peoples of the two countries, “Today the President of the People’s Republic of China placed special emphasis on this. Strengthen communication between youth groups and young people in general. Because they are the future. Therefore, we discussed student exchange issues. We need to strengthen and intensify this exchange. We need to expand cooperation and not limit ourselves only to biotechnologies. We need in the field of chemistry, physics, mathematics... There is interest on the part of China to establish cooperation.”

Hao Ping said that in 2015, during the state visit of the President of the People’s Republic of China to Belarus, he was also part of the delegation as Deputy Minister of Education and was personally able to experience the hospitality and friendship of the residents of Minsk.

“You reminded us of the background of our relationship. One of the pages is linked to you. It is very nice. You know Minsk, you have been to Minsk. This means that it will be easier for us to intensify our contacts in the field of education,” the President noted.

At the meeting, Hao Ping mentioned another event with the participation of the President of Belarus, “According to the plan, a hockey match will take place today. Many of our hockey players did not sleep at night and were worried. Our university has hosted more than 70 heads of state and government at different times. But, perhaps, this is the first time that a foreign head of state will play hockey with our students.”

In the evening, Aleksandr Lukashenko took part in a training session and a friendly match with the university’s hockey team. The hosts here turned out to be very hospitable. The Head of State took to the ice to the famous musical composition *Kasiu Yas Kanyushynu*.

MUTUAL SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL

After negotiations between the President of Belarus and the President of the People’s Republic of China, the Belarusian-Chinese economic agenda was discussed in Beijing at the level of deputy prime ministers. Aleksandr Lukashenko proposed organising such a meeting right during the negotiations with Xi Jinping. The receiving party readily agreed. The agreements of the leaders are developed and implemented.

First Deputy Prime Minister Nikolai Snopkov took part in the meeting from Belarus, and Deputy Prime Minister of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China Liu Guozhong from China.

Liu Guozhong noted that the fifth meeting of the Chinese-Belarusian intergovernmental cooperation committee was held in Beijing this summer. The parties reached broad agreements to strengthen multifaceted cooperation. “After the meeting, the relevant departments and bodies of the two countries are making joint efforts to thoroughly



implement the results of the last meeting. It is gratifying to note that positive progress has been made on the issues we agreed upon,” said the Chinese Deputy Prime Minister. Liu Guozhong also emphasised the importance of the meeting in light of the negotiations between the President of the People’s Republic of China and the President of Belarus in Beijing, “This is important for promoting the implementation of the agreements of the heads of state. I am ready to maintain close contacts with you and focus the work of the Chinese-Belarusian intergovernmental committee on promoting mutually beneficial cooperation.” Nikolai Snopkov agreed that the year for Belarusian-Chinese relations was busy and fruitful, “The meeting of the committee gave even greater practical impetus to solving the tasks that the leaders set for us on March 1st as part of the state visit (Aleksandr Lukashenko to China). In the first days of spring this year, we made a historic breakthrough in the development of bilateral relations. In the first days of winter, on Constitution Day of the People’s Republic of China, we are again discussing priority issues on the global and bilateral agenda. Comrade Xi Jinping very accurately described the essence of our relations, saying that all-weather cooperation means resolute mutual support in all areas.” The First Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus noted that programme strategic and applied documents were adopted during the year. A substantive cooperation development plan for 2023–2024, a comprehensive strategy for joint industrial cooperation, and a detailed plan for joint technological development were signed. “All directions and documents, as the leaders demand from us, are of a specific applied nature and focused on achieving national development goals,” noted Nikolai Snopkov.

Vladimir Velikhov

GLOBAL TIMES

DISCOVER CHINA, DISCOVER THE WORLD

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Chinese modernization a gift to the world

Yiwu's Christmas exports jump 20% from pre-pandemic levels

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Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko in Beijing on December 4, 2023. This is Lukashenko's second China visit this year. The two leaders vowed to deepen bilateral ties and strengthen cooperation. [See story on Page 3] Photo: Reuters

Crucial trip highlights focus on financial sector, sci-tech & livelihoods

Xi's inspection lifts Shanghai's leading role in high-quality development

HOURS OF NEGOTIATIONS ATTRACTED ATTENTION

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习近平会见白俄罗斯总统卢卡申科



12月4日，国家主席习近平在北京钓鱼台国宾馆会见白俄罗斯总统卢卡申科。

新华社北京12月4日电 国家主席习近平4日在北京钓鱼台国宾馆会见白俄罗斯总统卢卡申科。

习近平指出，今年3月，总统先生成功来华进行国事访问，我们两国友好关系高水平发展取得重要成果。一年来，两国政治互信更加巩固，国际协作更加紧密，中白伙伴关系战略高度和长远角度得到进一步提升，两国全面战略伙伴关系在两国共同维护国际公平正义、推动构建人类命运共同体、促进世界和平与发展等方面展现出强大生命力和广阔发展前景。中方愿同白方继续加强战略协作，坚定相互支持，推进务实合作，持续深化中白关系。

习近平强调，十年来，我提出构建“一带一路”倡议，现在已有150多个国家参与合作。不久前，我提出中国支持高质量共建“一带一路”的八项行动，欢迎白方继续积极参与，从中获得更多实实在在的发展机遇。双方要落实好中白工业园等项目，推动中白工业合作取得更多成果。双方要提升跨境贸易便利化水平，促进贸易和人员往来，定期开展文化体育交流，扩大教育、卫生、科技等领域合作，支持两国青年开展交流互鉴，增进两国人民相互了解和友谊。中白双方要加强在联合国、上海合作组织、金砖国家等多边机制内和双边机制内沟通协调，推动落实全球发展倡议、全球安全倡议、全球文明倡议，推动构建人类命运共同体，为全球安全倡议、全球文明倡议作出积极贡献。

习近平主席的国事访问成功经验全在务实合作，值得学习借鉴。白俄罗斯衷心希望中国继续支持白方发展，这有利于白方的和平与进步事业。白方愿同中方深化全面战略伙伴关系，在相互尊重、平等互利的基础上，推动两国关系不断向前发展，为两国人民带来更多实实在在的利益。

新华社记者 黄敬文

The meeting between President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko and President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping was the focus of the world's leading media.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP: INTERNATIONAL RESONANCE

The photograph of the handshake between the two leaders was circulated by the press of Türkiye, Pakistan, India and many other countries. From the British Reuters to the Turkish Anadolu, it seems that there was not a single news agency that did not report on this event.

All Chinese media also reported in detail about the meeting. Moreover, the entire next day, negotiations between the two leaders were the main news on the pages of the websites of the largest local newspapers and on TV channels.

China's central television CCTV published a detailed report on the negotiations held at the Diaoyutai State Residence of the People's Republic of China. The author quotes the President of the People's Republic of China, "China and Belarus are important forces involved in reforming and building a global governance system."

China is willing to work with Belarus to strengthen

more tangible development opportunities. Both sides should implement projects such as the China-Belarus Industrial Park and develop China-Belarus industrial cooperation to achieve greater results. Both sides should facilitate cross-border transport and promote economic, trade and personnel exchanges. Regularly hold each other's cultural days, expand cooperation in the fields of education, health, sports and tourism, support the youth of the two countries in exchanges and cooperation, strengthen mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples. China always views relations with Belarus from a strategic perspective and with a long-term perspective, firmly supports Belarus in pursuing a development path consistent with its own realities, and opposes external interference in Belarus' internal affairs.:

These words of the Chinese leader, voiced at a meeting with Aleksandr Lukashenko, are quoted by the Chinese news agency Xinhua.

"China is willing to continue to strengthen strategic coordination with Belarus, firmly support each other, promote practical cooperation and deepen bilateral relations," the Chinese President emphasised.

The story also said that in his response, the President of Belarus expressed confidence that the joint construction of One Belt, One Road and other global initiatives proposed by President Xi Jinping are great endeavours that truly form consensus and cooperation in the international community, and Belarus will continue to actively participate in them. The journalist noted that the heads of the two states also exchanged views on the Ukrainian crisis and other issues.

The meeting sparked active discussion in the analytical community.

"Two visits within a year are an infrequent occurrence, showing that Belarus attaches great importance to China both on the diplomatic and economic front," commented Zhang Hong, a researcher at the Institute of Russian, Eastern European and Central Asian Studies at the Chinese Academy, to the Chinese English-language publication *Global Times Science*. He stated that this importance is further emphasised as Belarus faces sanctions from Western countries and 'turns to the East'. "Expanding the Belarusian economy through the Chinese market can benefit Belarus, and economic cooperation was an important theme of Lukashenko's visit this time," Zhang said.

Discussion of the development of the China-Belarus Industrial Park is another important topic on the agenda of the visit of the Belarusian President, the expert is sure, "In recent years, the park has been thriving due to its natural attractiveness, as well as the support of the Government of Belarus. However, Western sanctions had a certain impact on its development. How to avoid such negative impact is a matter for discussion."

Vsevolod Yevseyev



coordination and cooperation within multilateral mechanisms (such as the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation), promote global development initiatives, global security initiatives and global civilization initiatives, and promote the construction of the Community of Common Destiny for Mankind.

A detailed report on the meeting was published by the main newspaper of the People's Republic of China, People's Daily. It contains, among other things, the following statement by Xi Jinping, "Ten years ago, he proposed the joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative, and now more than 150 countries have taken part in cooperation. Not long ago, I proposed eight actions to China to support high-quality joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative, and I invite Belarus to continue to actively participate in it and receive

IN THE WAKE OF FOREIGN POLICY ACTIVITY



The international schedule of the President of Belarus at the beginning of December was extremely busy. And yet, hardly anyone will argue that these days Aleksandr Lukashenko surprised everyone. After an extremely intensive agenda in the United Arab Emirates, a new visit followed without interruption. Not just anywhere, but to Beijing. Here you can see a very definite strategy.



When on November 27th, at the Palace of Independence, the Head of State convened a meeting with the leadership of the Government and the Presidential Administration on future foreign visits, hardly any of the experts imagined the scale of the upcoming foreign policy activity. Although Aleksandr Lukashenko warned that there would be many international meetings during the winter period, including those previously postponed.

The participation of the Belarusian leader in the World Forum to Combat Climate Change in Dubai and the subsequent visit to Beijing confirm already established trends in domestic foreign policy.

An important element of the Belarusian foreign policy style is the analysis of what is happening in the world. From the rostrum of the forum in Dubai, the President of Belarus once again called a spade a spade. He spoke about what many politicians know and understand, but due to various circumstances cannot voice it. That, when talking about environmental problems, we need to fight the causes, not the consequences.

Appreciate it fully

During the visit to the PRC, attention was drawn to the comfort of communication between the leaders of Belarus and China. And this despite the fact that many Western politicians, even those representing major powers, are greeted very coolly in Beijing. A genuine friendship has indeed been established between Aleksandr Lukashenko and Xi Jinping, and this is a very significant factor in interstate relations.

The trip of the Belarusian delegation to China itself was filled with events of a political, economic and cultural nature. One appearance of the Belarusian President on the Beijing ice as part of a hockey team is worth something! Belarus' support for the Chinese concept of the Community

of Common Destiny for Mankind is fundamental. It allows us to create a solid foundation for the emerging multipolar world order.

Beijing, in turn, values (to quote President Xi Jinping) 'strong leadership', which allows our country to overcome all difficulties and move forward. The visit itself was of such a multifaceted nature that its results have yet to be fully assessed. It would be appropriate to note that it became a baptism of fire for the new Belarusian ambassador to the PRC, Aleksandr Chervyakov.

In general, the President's current foreign trips demonstrate the consistency of the country's foreign policy. It is based on defending independence and sovereignty, national interests.

New cooperation projects

Of course, the trade and economic aspect of the relationship is also important. It is worth recalling that literally on the eve of the visit, Aleksandr Lukashenko signed a decree by which he approved, as a basis for negotiations, a draft agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of the People's Republic of China on trade in services and investment. In this way, the legal basis for the sustainable and dynamic development of trade and investment relations between the two countries was consolidated. We are talking about creating a free trade zone in services between Belarus and China, a transparent, liberal and favourable investment regime. The agreement creates the groundwork for the development of cooperation in new areas while respecting the interests of both parties in the most sensitive segments of the economy. It is expected that in the future, cooperation under the agreement will dynamically increase the export of Belarusian services to China and increase investment flows from the PRC.





Undoubtedly, an important page in the history of Belarusian-Chinese relations is the state visit of Aleksandr Lukashenko to the Celestial Empire from February 28th to March 2nd. Then official negotiations between the Head of the Belarusian State and the President of the People's Republic of China and senior Chinese officials took place. A wide range of issues regarding the further development of cooperation and filling the new level of Belarusian-Chinese relations with practical content were discussed. In the presence of the heads of state, a large-scale package of documents on cooperation in various fields was then signed. The main signature was personally signed by Aleksandr Lukashenko and Xi Jinping. This is a joint statement on the further development of the exemplary relations of all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership between Belarus and the People's Republic of China in the new era. The parties agreed that raising the status of bilateral relations to the level of an all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership is a landmark event.

During that visit of the President of Belarus to China, a large package of bilateral agreements and agreements was concluded. 27 intergovernmental, interdepartmental and interregional agreements were signed, about eight commercial contracts in various fields — industrial and agricultural activities. The total economic effect of the Belarusian-Chinese agreements reached and formalized during the state visit of the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko to the PRC is estimated at more than \$3.5 billion.

A high degree of trust at the highest level allows us to implement various projects. The place of Belarus in the scale of implementation of the One Belt, One Road

initiative is very high. Despite political unrest, this status does not change. Belarus maintains a transit position for the railway route from China to Europe and ensures stability. And for China this is very important. But Belarus is also of interest as a separate state. And under the conditions of sanctions pressure, interaction with China in the industrial sphere is gaining momentum. Enterprises that have lost the opportunity to purchase equipment and components from Western countries are turning their attention to Chinese manufacturers.

Despite the fact that the past year 2022 was quite difficult from the point of view of the pandemic and China was relatively closed, the parties managed to achieve an increase in trade turnover and exports of Belarusian products. In terms of growth rates of exports to China, Belarus moved from 136th to 38th position, which is a very good indicator. At the end of last year, China became our second foreign trade partner. Trade turnover approached \$6 billion.

An important trend is the creation of favourable conditions for the development of the service sector. This year, the most important strategic document was signed — a comprehensive strategy for joint industrial development. That is, China is ready to share industrial production technologies with Belarus. This is a critical element of future technological development, given that China today is an advanced technological country.

Cooperation will increase competitiveness

There is no doubt that investment cooperation is actively developing. There are many successful examples of this. The Great Stone industrial park, where all the necessary infrastructure was created and investors were provided



■ The Shanter Hil hotel and business complex on Pobediteley Avenue in Minsk was built with the participation of the Chinese company CITIC Construction

with unprecedented benefits. This is a special economic zone with a special legal regime, located 25 km from Minsk. The priority areas for the park are mechanical engineering, electronics and telecommunications, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, new materials, logistics, e-commerce, storage and processing of large volumes of data. Today, the number of resident companies of the Great Stone industrial park is approaching 120. The geography includes 15 countries of the world. The total volume of investments declared by residents exceeds US\$1.4 billion. More than \$850 million has been invested from all sources into the development of the industrial park. Based on the results of nine months, revenue from the sale of goods, works, and services increased by more than 50 percent. Exports of goods amounted to almost \$100 million. The number of employees of park resident enterprises has also increased. Currently, 55 companies from the People's Republic of China are residents of the park. An eloquent fact: more than half of all investments in the park are investments from China. Large production projects were implemented by residents of the park with capital from China: factories for the production of engines, gearboxes, and construction equipment. The park resident has built a transport and logistics subpark and provides a wide range of services in this area. A number of large infrastructure projects with the participation of Chinese residents are now in the active phase of construction. Promising areas

of cooperation are traditional Chinese and modern medicine, biotechnology and other industries.

In a word, within the framework of a comprehensive strategic partnership, Belarus and China are consistently working to create more favourable conditions for interaction in all areas. Trade and investment in modern conditions are obviously a priority. In relations with China, Belarus consistently adheres to the principle of mutual support. As Aleksandr Lukashenko noted during the current meeting with Xi Jinping, greater China can always count on us in any area. The parties responsibly maintain a strong, unbreakable friendship. But these difficult times require non-standard approaches and solutions. Bilateral interaction must be filled with new content, including agreements on market access. The decision to create a free trade zone in services, that is, a barrier-free environment, is certainly a breakthrough in bilateral relations. It is especially worth noting the mutually beneficial nature of cooperation in the field of trade and investment. Counting on the support of such a powerful partner as China, Belarus also has something to offer. It is not for nothing that at the negotiations in Beijing the Head of State noted the possibility of creating joint ventures not only in Belarus, but also in China. Such cooperation will help increase the competitiveness of products. Obviously, this will also facilitate the promotion of goods and services to the markets of third countries.

Aleksey Fedosov

THE AGENDA INCLUDES THE DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BILATERAL PROJECTS



President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko met with President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The negotiations took place at the personal residence of the head of the UAE.

During this meeting, Aleksandr Lukashenko and Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan discussed issues on the busy bilateral agenda. Back in February, during the previous meeting, the heads of state agreed to deepen cooperation in a number of areas. Then Belarus and the United Arab Emirates launched important projects, and now the leaders of the two countries discussed the progress of their implementation.

It is worth keeping in mind that the United Arab Emirates is the main trading partner of Belarus among the Arab states of the Gulf. Trade turnover between countries is systematically growing, recently showing impressive dynamics and results.

Last year, the United Arab Emirates took third place in terms of the total volume of investments made in the Belarusian economy. A high level of political dialogue has developed between the countries, which is also confirmed by the intensity of contacts at the highest levels.

As already noted, the current meeting of heads of state was held at the personal residence of the President of the UAE.

The negotiations lasted about two hours. ‘Home, family format’ — that’s how the inviting party defined it.

Aleksandr Lukashenko thanked his Emirati colleague for the warm welcome and attentive attitude towards the Belarusian delegation.

As you know, the President of Belarus took part in the World Summit on Climate Change in Dubai. The forum brought together about 150 heads of state and government, as well as ministers, representatives of large businesses, public figures and experts — more than 70 thousand people from almost 200 countries in total.

In his speech at the summit, Aleksandr Lukashenko not only voiced Belarus’ approaches and proposals to address global issues of climate and environmental security, but also explained very clearly and frankly what the main root causes of the climate threat and the problems of the world as a whole are.

The head of state emphasised that we are talking about the future of our common home — planet Earth.

Aleksandr Pimenov

"WE WILL COOPERATE FOR THE SAKE OF OUR PEOPLES"

The visits of the President of Belarus to Africa open a qualitatively new stage of interaction with the countries of the continent

Relations between Belarus and African states have been filled with concrete content since Soviet times. However, changing geopolitical and economic realities require new approaches and solutions. In the coming years, Africa's role and influence on the world stage will only increase, and this circumstance must not be overlooked. With the acquisition of political independence, the countries of the continent strive to gain economic independence. And here Belarus is ready to lend a strong shoulder to its African partners. This seems to be the main meaning of Aleksandr Lukashenko's visits to Equatorial Guinea and Kenya.

We are going to Africa not only with our goods, but also with technologies and competencies. We are going without any colonial aspirations, dictates or preconditions. This format of cooperation is also beneficial for us. Summing up the results of negotiations with the President of Equatorial Guinea Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, Aleksandr Lukashenko said, "I want both the people of Equatorial Guinea and the people in Africa to know: we are not coming here to snatch something instantly. We

want to cooperate with you on a mutually beneficial basis. Not doing charity work will only harm our peoples. We will cooperate for the sake of our peoples."

Warmth of hospitality

The speed with which Belarus and Equatorial Guinea are developing their relations is impressive. Just recently, in September, President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo was welcomed in Minsk. And now President Aleksandr Lukashenko arrives at Malabo airport on a return official visit. Here, the Head of the Belarusian State was awaited not only by officials, including the country's Vice President Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue, but also by numerous local residents and creative groups. Traditional songs, fiery African dances — the host party did everything to ensure that the meeting of Aleksandr Lukashenko was shrouded in equatorial warmth and filled with an atmosphere of sincere friendship and hospitality.

After the official ceremony with the singing of anthems and a company of honour guard, negotiations between



the heads of state took place. According to tradition, first in a narrow composition. Aleksandr Lukashenko said that he sees great potential for the development of Equatorial Guinea, “You are really a small country, but with enormous opportunities. Some of the facilities I saw here are simply stunning in their beauty. I thought that it would be difficult for us to build such a thing. I told your vice-president (during a meeting at the airport) one thing that I came here with: your country, even possessing such wealth, should not import what it can produce itself.”

“I completely agree,” reacted Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo.

Belarus is ready to help

At negotiations in an expanded format, with the participation of members of delegations, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that this was his first visit to Central Africa and he was impressed by what he saw, “Beautiful forests, mountains, rivers, the Atlantic Ocean rich in fish are truly heavenly treasures. And I told the President that you live in paradise. But the greatest treasure of any country, which applies equally to Belarus and

Equatorial Guinea, is our people. Kind, hardworking, sincerely wanting to take care of their native land, open to new knowledge, experience and sensitive to friends and like-minded people.”

The President noted that the leadership of Equatorial Guinea has set ambitious goals aimed at improving the well-being of the people, strives to systematically develop infrastructure, accelerate the industrialization of the country, and provide the economy with well-trained personnel. At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted, he was impressed by the words said by the President of Equatorial Guinea at the negotiations in a narrow format, that while developing infrastructure, the country fell behind in providing the most necessary things to people. First of all, this concerns food. The President of Belarus emphasized that this must be compensated: “I told the President that we are ready to help you with this. Such experience already exists on your continent. This is Zimbabwe. A country that could not provide bread to its people, today, as the President of Zimbabwe says, exports grain. In just two years, we solved this problem together.”

RELATIONSHIP PRIORITIES

About the key approach to cooperation

The head of state also noted that Equatorial Guinea actively advocates strengthening African unity, reform of the UN Security Council, reflecting the role of Africa in the international arena, and deepening political and economic interaction in Central Africa. Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised, "Having such a friend is a very great honour. Belarus is a reliable partner for Equatorial Guinea. We reinforce our friendship not only with words, but also with deeds. We have no disagreements in the political sphere and no topics closed for discussion. Mutually beneficial, friendly and even fraternal relations are dynamically developing between our countries."

He added that the Belarusian embassy will soon open in Malabo. It is expected that by the end of 2024 the Embassy of Equatorial Guinea will open in Belarus.

At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that Belarusians came to Equatorial Guinea as friends, and proposed to do everything necessary to expand cooperation to other countries in the region, "We, of course, did not come to your country to do charity work. We don't have such an opportunity, and we don't need it. But we are not going to profit at the expense of your people, your country. We are not colonialists. We are your friends. By transferring technology to you in many areas that you need, we will train your people in these technologies. We will not send our workers to you. We will send here a sufficient number of specialists, be it in agriculture, industry, healthcare, education... And your people will work. And our task is to teach your people this. I would really like you and I to do everything so that from Equatorial Guinea we can move to other countries of the African continent with the technologies that we will master here. We must help those countries that want prosperity for their people and development for their states. I think it's within our power to accomplish this."

AWARD

Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo awarded Aleksandr Lukashenko the Order of Independence of Equatorial Guinea. This order is one of the highest state awards in the country.

"It is a great honour for us to host such a great person on the territory of our Motherland. And we did not expect that he would visit us so soon. We are very grateful," said the President of Equatorial Guinea.

Receiving the order, Aleksandr Lukashenko stated,

"There is no other way. Equatorial Guinea must be independent!"



Oncoming traffic

Summing up the negotiations, the Head of the Belarusian State expressed several theses, which he spoke about with the leadership of Equatorial Guinea, "The country should not spend foreign currency on purchasing those products and goods that can be produced in Equatorial Guinea. Axiom. When we meet with some of the government representatives, including my friend from Equatorial Guinea, I always talk about technology. And some begin to criticize me: "Well, what kind of technology, isn't it a giant country?" I must say: yes, we are not a giant country, but we have enough technologies in agriculture, industry, and so on, so that Equatorial Guinea, taking advantage of them, will rise one step or even two steps higher."

Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasized that Equatorial Guinea currently does not need any high technologies. For example, this country does not need to launch spacecraft. We are talking about implementing more mundane, but extremely necessary projects.

Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo noted the large number of signed agreements and the seriousness of intentions to implement the agreements, which is demonstrated by Belarus, "I have already told my friend what we are fighting for at this moment - for economic independence. We have gained political independence, but the economy still remains a limiting factor. There are countries that do not want development for Africa. Countries that bring instability, that come up with all sorts of changes to take advantage of our resources. But Africans are waking up. We already see that we have been deceived. We are disappointed. And where we had



hope, we will not be able to get anything from our former colonialists.”

In this regard, the President of Equatorial Guinea is confident that it is necessary to change the areas of interaction in the new process, including seriously working with the Belarusian side, “They are a disciplined people. This is a people who deliver what they promise. We must fulfill what is given to our country. Our mentality is part of the brake on our development. Therefore, I urge my compatriots to engage in this cooperation with great discipline.”

These are the mutual aspirations of the partners. And this allows us to look at, without exaggeration, grandiose plans with optimism.

It's Africa's time

The world is changing. It will be different. And there will never be a return to what was. The peoples of the world are aware. Most people realized that the future belongs to Africa. It's time for Africa. I'll tell you frankly that it will be very difficult for countries like Equatorial Guinea and Belarus to stand alone in this crazy world. And in order not just to survive, but to take our place in this rapidly changing world, so as not to perish, we must be closer to each other. Only together, walking shoulder to shoulder, holding hands, can we stand in this world... African countries need to gain economic freedom and economic independence. Almost half of the natural resources are here in Africa. And this half of the world's natural resources must work for the benefit of the peoples of the African continent. This is the essence of economic freedom

that you must achieve. We are at your service. You can count on Belarus — we have the technology, knowledge, experience, education that we can share with Equatorial Guinea. We have what you need. You have what we need. But most importantly, you and I have a desire and people who are focused on the future and who are ready to implement what we have planned. Let's do everything together so that the people of this beautiful country set an example for other African peoples on which path to follow. President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko at an official reception on behalf of the President of Equatorial Guinea, December 9th, 2023

Governments have been given instructions

At the end of the negotiations in Malabo, Aleksandr Lukashenko and Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo signed a road map for the development of cooperation between Belarus and Equatorial Guinea. The document is designed for 2024 — 2026 and covers one and a half dozen key areas of interaction. In the presence of the heads of state, agreements were also signed on the promotion and mutual protection of investments, on the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of evasion of income and property taxes, on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters. The parties also signed agreements on cooperation in the field of tourism, science and technology, and on the mutual recognition of educational documents.

Aleksandr Lukashenko called the negotiations with Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo very meaningful, “As a result of the visit and negotiations, we, without



exaggeration, launched a new stage in relations between Belarus and Equatorial Guinea. In just one year, work has been done that takes many countries decades. This fact very clearly speaks of mutual interest and desire to take the partnership to a qualitatively new level. It was decided to begin active work immediately — without delays or bureaucratic delays. All problematic issues that arise will be promptly resolved, if necessary, with the involvement of heads of state. Governments have been instructed to take the necessary measures - financial, legal, organizational — as soon as possible.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko stated that the documents signed by the parties are of a general nature, but in development of these documents they have already agreed on 74 specific projects, “This is a feat that was accomplished by members of the governments of Equatorial Guinea and Belarus, our specialists. 74 specific projects that we must implement in the next 2 — 3 years. Tomorrow we start digging in Guinea and solving problems.”

About the meeting on the mainland

On the second day of the official visit, the President of Belarus arrived from the island capital city of Malabo to the mainland of Equatorial Guinea. The presidential plane landed at Mengomeyén airport. Aleksandr Lukashenko was met at the ramp by Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo. He invited the Belarusian leader to look at the new capital of Equatorial Guinea, Ciudad de la Paz, under construction. The name is translated from Spanish as ‘city of peace’. The presidents decided to travel to the finished facilities of the future capital in one car. The President of Equatorial Guinea showed the Head of the Belarusian State the African-American University of Central Africa, La Paz Oyala Hospital, Government House.

Aleksandr Lukashenko and Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo continued their serious conversation on the

topic of developing bilateral cooperation over an informal lunch. The President also talked with the First Lady of Equatorial Guinea, the President’s wife Constantia Mangué De Obiang, who has already been to Belarus and oversees the medical field in her country.

What do partners offer each other?

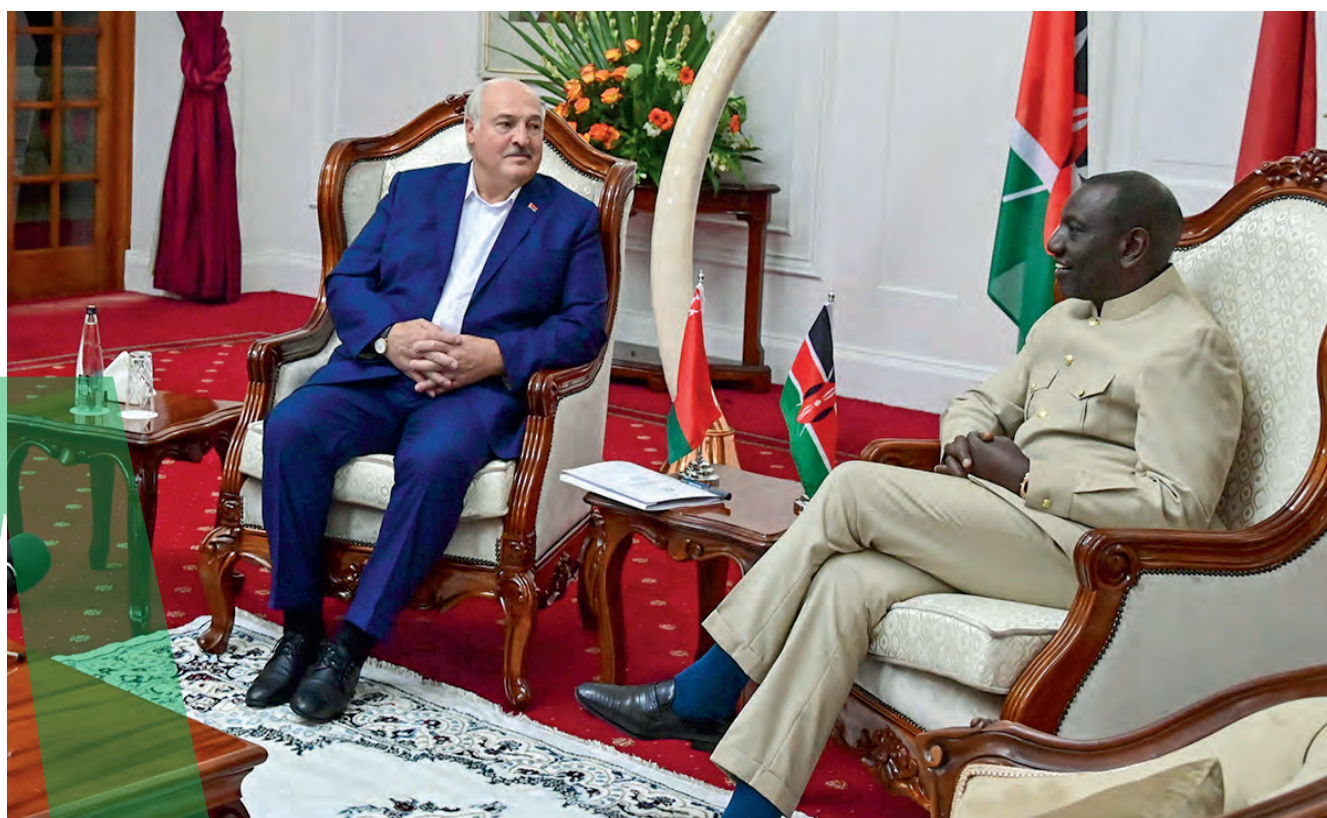
During the negotiations, Aleksandr Lukashenko named a number of key areas and promising cooperation projects that would be beneficial to both countries.

- ♦ Supply of cargo, bus, road construction, utility, fire, quarry, and logging equipment to Equatorial Guinea.
- ♦ Belarusian specialists have already begun training staff in hospitals in Equatorial Guinea. The Belarusian side also provided grants to Guinean students to study at medical universities in Belarus. In addition, the ministries of health agreed to organise retraining of doctors from Equatorial Guinea in Belarus.
- ♦ Among the promising projects is the construction of an agricultural town with the necessary infrastructure; construction of 100 social residential buildings; creation of a plant for the production of ceramic bricks with a capacity of up to 40 million pieces per year; carrying out work on electrification of remote areas.
- ♦ Belarus will help African partners in growing certain types of crops and opening agrochemical laboratories.
- ♦ Agreements were reached on the implementation of the first stage of creating a regional hub in Equatorial Guinea to promote Belarusian products to the markets of Central and Western Africa. In turn, Belarus is ready to become a bridge to Eurasia for Equatorial Guinea.
- ♦ The Belarusian side is interested in the supply of Guinean cocoa, tropical vegetables and fruits, and joint processing of fish products.

Vasily Kharitonov

BELARUS AND KENYA ARE GETTING CLOSER

The benefits of mutual partnership are obvious for Minsk and Nairobi



At the end of the official visit to Equatorial Guinea, Belarusian aircraft number one headed for Kenya. The leaders of the countries agreed to meet in early December in Dubai on the sidelines of the World Summit on Climate Change. Then Aleksandr Lukashenko told Kenyan President William Ruto, “In order for us to have a thorough conversation and improve our relations (in the name of what we will talk), I think you could come to us, I could come to you at the time, which is convenient

for you. As a result of these visits, our specialists would work (just like with Zimbabwe and Equatorial Guinea) and we would be able to build a certain plan for our cooperation, understanding what you need from us. And we would look at your country and decide on our needs.”

From words to action. At the capital’s airport, the Head of the Belarusian State was met by the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Kenya, Mithika Linturi.

GREETINGS

President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko, on behalf of the Belarusian people and himself personally, congratulated the President of Kenya William Ruto and the people of this country on the national holiday. This was reported by the press service of the Head of State.

“This year, Kenya celebrates the 60th anniversary of its independence. Much has been achieved during this period. First of all, it has been possible to significantly strengthen its sovereignty and state institutions,” the greeting address says. “The state enjoys high prestige in the international arena and plays an important role in addressing current issues on the regional agenda.”

The history of relations between Minsk and Nairobi goes back more than one decade, the Belarusian leader noted. “We confirm our interest in the active development of the legal framework, cooperation in the areas of agricultural mechanisation, industrial cooperation, trade, information technology, healthcare and education, and tourism,” emphasised the President.

Aleksandr Lukashenko wished William Ruto happiness and the implementation of his plans, and the people of Kenya prosperity and a bright future.

In June, he visited Belarus with the Minister of Trade, Investment and Industry of Kenya. Then, at meetings in the relevant departments and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, topics of cooperation in the agricultural sector were discussed, including in terms of mechanisation and industrialisation of processes, supplies of equipment, fertilizers, and personnel training.

About the road map and prospects for relations

Kenya President William Ruto warmly welcomed Aleksandr Lukashenko, “We are very glad that you found the time to come to us. I understand that the visit will be short-term, but that doesn’t make us any less welcoming. This is not an official visit. However, this gives us the opportunity to schedule an official visit. Of course, we are very glad that you took the time to visit us and be with us today.”

The Kenyan leader recalled that during a recent meeting at the summit in Dubai, the heads of state agreed on the need to intensify contacts between Belarus and Kenya, “We agreed that we would jointly look at our capabilities and areas where we could cooperate, and build relations already on the basis that has been created between our two countries.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko,

“If we want to cooperate, I am sure that we will be able to develop such a plan — a road map. Just as we did with other countries on the African continent. You should know, Mr. President, that if we agree, we will quickly pass this path. Because your country occupies a very important strategic position in Africa. You largely determine the politics of the African continent.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko proposed developing a road map for the development of cooperation with Kenya, “You and I agreed in Dubai that we will meet and discuss our first steps to establish trade, economic and closer political relations.”

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, now it is necessary to determine the priorities for further cooperation and reach some specific plan in these areas: “If we want to cooperate, I am sure that we will be able to develop such a plan — a road map. Just as we did with other countries on the African continent. You should know, Mr. President, that if we agree, we will quickly pass this path. Because your country occupies a very important strategic position in Africa. You largely determine the politics of the African continent. The President of Equatorial Guinea told me about this.”

Taking into account the fact that a decision was made at the highest level to intensify bilateral relations, the Head of State invited groups of specialists from Belarus and Kenya to exchange visits and get to know the countries closely in order to prepare a specific action plan for the development of cooperation. Aleksandr Lukashenko also invited his Kenyan colleague to visit Belarus, “I will be glad to meet you at any time. I think that in the first half of next year you will find time to come to us in Minsk.”

In Nairobi, the President of Belarus made an entry in the Book of Honoured Guests, “Minsk is interested in seriously strengthening cooperation with Nairobi in a wide range of areas, primarily in the trade and investment spheres. I am confident that our countries have a great future together. I wish the President of Kenya happiness and health, and to a friendly Kenyan people — prosperity and well-being.” At the end, Aleksandr Lukashenko also wrote a phrase in Belarusian, “Thank you very much and see you again!”

Aleksey Fedosov



WHY IS THE AFRICAN CONTINENT INTERESTING?

As Aleksandr Lukashenko noted, "Africa is experiencing a kind of renaissance and before our eyes is becoming the key to the sustainable development of the planet in the 21st century." This means that Belarus must have a full-fledged and long-term strategy for cooperation in this part of the world.

Relying on a strong economy

In recent years, a real race has unfolded among the main geopolitical players for leadership on the African continent. It's just that they are greeted there differently now. With growing interest, they are looking at those who come with peace, a creative agenda and are ready to cooperate as equals. This is exactly the kind of partner Africans see in Belarus. Minsk already has successful experience in converting good political relations into mutually beneficial economic projects with Egypt, Sudan, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. And now Central Africa is next in line, where Equatorial Guinea and Kenya could become Belarusian strongholds.

Like many other countries on the continent, these states still experience the consequences of colonialism. For example, in Equatorial Guinea, since the 15th century, the Portuguese, British, and Spaniards ruled over different years. The country gained independence only in 1968. But even after that, the struggle for power continued for many years. This is not surprising, because the country's subsoil is rich in reserves of natural gas, bauxite, gold, and diamonds. With the discovery of large oil fields in 1996, the share of the fuel and energy complex in the agrarian and raw materials economy of Equatorial Guinea sharply increased. Just think: more than 90 percent of the state budget comes from the oil and gas sector.

MAIN POINTS OF THE VISITS

The volume of oil production in the country is estimated at 100 thousand barrels per day, gas production — about six billion cubic meters per year.

Foreign investors flock to large oil fields like flies to honey. The key players in the energy market are the American companies Chevron, Texaco, Exxon Mobil, Amerada Hess Corp. and Marathon Oil, as well as France's Total Energies and Spain's Repsol.

Having rich hydrocarbon reserves, Equatorial Guinea is considered one of the richest countries in Africa. The country ranks first on the continent in terms of GDP per capita. However, as often happens, rich natural resources do not guarantee prosperity for a state. Especially if these resources are greedily exploited by transnational corporations, while

no need to invent anything supernatural here. The example of Equatorial Guinea is in plain sight. The country needs almost everything that Belarus can do. In agriculture, there is generally an unploughed field for cooperation. Literally. With a very favourable climate, Equatorial Guinea buys more than 90 percent of its food from Europe, which is beneficial for sellers, but disadvantageous for Guineans, since it keeps them dependent on suppliers. In this sense, Belarus is in a much more advantageous position, offering African partners to use Belarusian experience, equipment and technology to ensure food security. The way we helped Zimbabweans do it.

In general, cooperation with Equatorial Guinea opens up truly limitless opportunities for us, especially if we cooperate and create joint ventures with access to third countries. For example, only a couple of million people live in Equatorial Guinea. And nearby is Nigeria, where the population is over 200 million, and Belarus may in the future enter this market.

The bet is on specifics

Belarusian-Kenyan relations are also developing upward. Kenya is a major regional centre for trade and finance in East Africa. That is, all goods that enter Kenya can be safely sold in the markets of neighbouring countries. However, the Kenyan market itself, with a population of more than 50 million people, is very promising for Belarus. Therefore, Minsk considers Kenya as one of the key partners on the African continent.

The basis of the Kenyan economy is agriculture. The main export products are also associated with it: tea, coffee, fruits, nuts, flowers. For example, Kenya annually sells more than a billion dollars' worth of tea alone, second only to China in this indicator.

However, without having problems with food (harvesting there twice a year), Kenya has problems with its storage. And there is not much cultivated land in the country. Hence the interest in the mechanization of agriculture, the supply of tractors and fertilizers. In June this year, a Kenyan delegation visited the Belagro agricultural exhibition in Belarus. At the same time, the Minister of Trade, Investment and Industry of Kenya, Moses Kuria, said, "Belarus and Kenya have a lot in common, but one of the key differences concerns agriculture and the degree of its mechanization and industrialisation. Belarus has achieved much greater success in this direction, and we are interested in Belarus' experience in this area. We are interested not only in learning from Belarus, but also in developing cooperation and joint projects."

The heads of the two countries, Aleksandr Lukashenko and William Ruto, agreed to intensify cooperation at the recent climate summit in Dubai. During his working visit to Nairobi, the President of Belarus not only met and talked with his Kenyan colleague one-on-one, but also agreed on specific supplies in a number of important areas. Aleksandr Lukashenko invited his Kenyan colleague to visit Belarus. It was agreed that before the official visit a specific plan (road map) will be developed according to which the countries will be able to move forward.

Aleksandr Pimenov



relegating the development of the economy and social sphere not even to the background, but to the third or fourth plan.

As a result, local residents are by no means basking in luxury. Many do not even have access to clean water, and infant and maternal mortality rates are very high. There is a shortage of medicines, medical facilities and personnel. The literacy rate of the population in Equatorial Guinea is 97.4 percent for men and 93 percent for women. In the structure of the economy, agriculture accounts for only three percent.

Belarus sees its role as helping its friends and partners get back on their feet by solving priority socio-economic problems. After all, without a strong and stable economy there can be no true independence and sovereignty.

Experience will be in demand

We are ready to help Africans be masters of their land: not only provide the necessary goods and services, but also share unique technologies, assist in the creation of national industry, modernization of agriculture, and development of science. Moreover, Belarusian equipment and technologies are well known on the African continent since the times of the Soviet Union, and many African doctors and engineers studied at our universities. Why not resume this experience and transform it to new realities?

In Belarus, they constantly talk at all levels about the need to diversify exports and enter new markets. And there is

"ONLY BY JOINING FORCES CAN WE COUNTER THREATS"



In mid-December, Minsk became a platform for a meeting of heads of security agencies and intelligence services of the Commonwealth states

At the Palace of Independence, the forum participants were received by the President of Belarus. Naturally, most of the conversation took place behind closed doors. But even from what became known to journalists, we can conclude that today, more than ever, closer cooperation between intelligence services is in demand. The reasons for this coordinated approach were outlined by Aleksandr Lukashenko, "The world is plunging into chaos with unpredictable consequences. It is not yet possible to find even a fragile balance... We see the activity of foreign intelligence services on our territory. They are sending us not just spies, but terrorist agents. In such conditions, the role of intelligence services, whose most important task is to ensure the protection of their states and citizens from internal and external threats, increases."

On the degradation of international structures

It is symbolic in its own way that in an era of wars and political cataclysms, Belarus became the venue for the current meeting. The country maintains peace on its soil and the safety of its citizens. Aleksandr Lukashenko noted on this occasion, "Despite political and sanctions pressure from the West and primarily the United States, we continue to develop a peaceful, stable state, for this we do everything based on the principles of social justice."

The President also stated, "International structures have completely degraded — from the OSCE and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to the International Organisation of the Red Cross. They have turned into platforms for demagoguery and tools for serving and implementing the interests of global players."



Moreover, we spend a lot of money on various kinds of conferences, realising that they will not yield anything. The last one took place in Dubai. We've reached the point of absurdity. The European Peace Fund allocates funds for the war in Ukraine."

The system of checks and balances is still relevant

The President of Belarus warns: the world is plunging into chaos with unpredictable consequences. And the destruction of the system of balances and international treaties, including in the field of nuclear deterrence, only worsened the situation. In this regard, Aleksandr Lukashenko said, "I absolutely support the point of view of the first President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, who recently said that the world is closer than ever to nuclear war. He must be believed. In such conditions, the role of special services increases, the most important task of which is to ensure the protection of their states and citizens from internal and external threats."

The President explained, "The fact is that the State Departments and Ministries of Foreign Affairs have recently become a little more adept at establishing contacts, and most importantly, maintaining them even in the most difficult circumstances. The intelligence services know how to do this. And here the most severe tension is required from you so as not to lose this thread, this connection. If it breaks between you, there will be no one to talk to and no one."

The Head of State emphasised that today the effectiveness of foreign intelligence activities in obtaining reliable, relevant and, above all, forecast information, which allows country leaders to make informed decisions in the interests of their people, is of particular importance, "The main thing here is to forestall our opponents, to prevent the implementation of those scenarios that they are trying to force it on us. As they report to me, one of the main tasks of the NATO intelligence community and their allies is the disintegration of the post-Soviet space. They want to first drive a wedge into our centuries-old good neighbourly relations, and then set them against each other. We went through this. I am sure that if it is not possible to pick up the phone and dial each of you on the phone to resolve a specific issue, this will also turn into

a tragedy. This cannot be allowed. Therefore, I urge you to under no circumstances sever your relations, even if one of our states adheres to a different point of view in the policies that this or that state is pursuing today. The main thing is not to rush."

Aleksandr Lukashenko, as an example, recalled that for a number of years he called on the now former presidents of Ukraine not to rush to leave the CIS. The question was posed similarly in conversations with ex-President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili, "It's easy to leave. Entering is more difficult. In politics it is very important to be able to wait and not rush."

On the activity of Western intelligence services

The President is firmly convinced that Western intelligence services have become noticeably more active on our territory. The Head of State described the opponents' methods as follows, "The forms of their work are becoming more and more aggressive. They are sending us not just spies, but terrorist agents. They are trying to create extremist cells, forming some regiments from our fugitives, attracting mercenaries. Again, I'm not condensing anything; on the contrary, I can't say everything..."

As an example, Aleksandr Lukashenko cited resonant actions in Machulishchi, when they tried to attack a military airfield and destroy Russian equipment, in Grodno, attempts to blow up the railway in different regions of the country...

"There is no need to explain why this is being done," the President addressed the meeting participants.

And the reasons for such serious activity on the territory of Belarus are simple. The country is a kind of sanitary cordon. "There was a window of a thousand kilometres. Balcony, window — whoever calls it what. It is clear that they will constantly strive to cut it off in order to get there through Smolensk, as always, to Moscow. Frankly, we cannot allow this and we, together with our allies, will adhere to this line in every possible way," emphasised Aleksandr Lukashenko.

"Our policy is transparent and open"

Various attempts at provocations against the Union State do not stop. The Head of State said that the special services of both countries jointly detained about two dozen groups of terrorists, primarily seeking to carry out terrorist operations in Belarus and Russia. And if the West's negative attitude towards Russia can be associated with the Ukrainian conflict, then Aleksandr Lukashenko expressed sincere bewilderment as to why there are any complaints against our country, "What do we owe them? What do we owe NATO? We live quietly, calmly, and don't disturb anyone. I recently spoke with your colleagues from all leading countries — heads of intelligence services. I asked them directly: 'What do you want from us? Didn't you know that we entered into an agreement with Russia, that we have the closest military-political cooperation?'"

According to the President, the claims are related to the fact that Belarus is helping Russia. However, to all such

reproaches, our position is extremely clear, and Aleksandr Lukashenko once again outlined it, “We are helping and will continue to help. We say this frankly, we have never hidden it. This is our union. Since then, when I said that we will not allow to shoot Russians in the back through the territory of Belarus. We adhere to this principle.”

At the same time, the President of Belarus asked a rather rhetorical question to representatives of Western intelligence services, “And you — 50 countries — support Ukraine today. This war has long turned from a Russian conflict with Ukraine into a Russian war against the entire ‘civilised’ West. They don’t deny it. Well then, what do you want from us? We have supported and will continue to support our ally in every possible way. And so are all the states sitting at this table.” Aleksandr Lukashenko cited as an example the situation in

first the Russian language was banned. Then you started strangling Russians, and then Russian-speaking people, and then in Odessa you started burning people. In Russia, Putin was pushed to protect his people. What should he have done? So they asked for it.”

The Head of State gave a hypothetical example, “What if Mexicans behaved this way against US citizens in Mexico? Yes, US would crush this Mexico already.”

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, many mistakes were made in the conflict on different sides, but today the situation has changed a lot, “Today the West is already in conflict with Ukraine; the entire border has been blocked. They are pursuing a brainless policy. There are all sorts of mistakes. But we are there to stop on time. Who is not ready to stop today? You know?”

BY THE WAY

The President of Belarus has repeatedly said that the military will become the most serious opposition to Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Thus, in February of this year, at a meeting with foreign and Belarusian journalists, Aleksandr Lukashenko said that peace must be negotiated primarily with the Ukrainian military, “The Ukrainian military has, to put it mildly, a slightly different point of view and position from politicians and President Zelenskyy. And Volodymyr Zelensky knows this very well. The most professional military men are the most convinced that the war must be stopped. You will see that we — and the Russians first of all — will have to negotiate with the Ukrainian military. And no politicians, but you see what kind of politicians there are — talking heads were gathered from all over the world. Talking, you know, is not doing. Everyone knows how to talk, but they haven’t been there to go fight at the front, or at least go there during a battle. People are thrown there like cannon fodder. And they are ready to sacrifice millions of Ukrainians. The military understands this. And the military will be able to come to an agreement.”

On June 3rd, 2023, at the opening ceremony in Minsk of the new building of City Children’s Clinic No. 9, answering questions from journalists, Aleksandr Lukashenko said, “In Ukraine, according to my information, a serious confrontation and conflict is beginning between Zelenskyy and the Ukrainian military. The military, like no one else, understands what a conflict with Russia is. Military guys are dying there. They see what they are capable of and how long they can fight. And they won’t be able to fight anymore. You see, Russia has changed its tactics.”

The President of Belarus made a disappointing forecast for Zelenskyy on August 18th, 2023. In an interview with the famous Ukrainian journalist Diana Panchenko, the Head of State discussed the elections in Ukraine, “Very many people are beginning to really evaluate Zelenskyy. That is why he is rushing about: calling elections or, taking advantage of martial law, postponing them. And it’s far from a fact that Zelenskyy will win these elections, although you are making the 90 percent of his rating there. Complete nonsense. I’ll tell you, if elections are held in the near future, one of the military (will win), but not him” (not Zelenskyy).”

Kazakhstan, when it was Belarus and Russia that immediately responded to the settlement of the conflict, which was fuelled from abroad, “There is no need to make claims against us. Our policy is transparent, open, and we will always adhere to this policy. We are not hiding anything from you, I say this publicly. We are forced to defend ourselves and help our allies. This policy will continue to be pursued in the future.”

About the situation in Ukraine

During the meeting, the President touched upon Ukrainian issues. He recalled how the armed conflict began, “I once spoke to Volodya Zelenskyy at the beginning of the war, inviting him to negotiations in Belarus (there were three rounds here). I told him that the war is on your land. He shouted to me that we were attacked and so on, by such and such Russians and so on. Why did you provoke Russia? At

The President also spoke about what he had warned Zelenskyy about earlier, “If there is a mess somewhere or some other reason, they will forget about you. Here you go, the Middle East, the internal situation in the US, what happened? The poor guy is walking with his hand outstretched, and they behaved vilely towards even Zelenskyy.”

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, today many criticise Zelenskyy for behaving impudently, demanding support from the West. Meanwhile, it is obvious that he has reasons for this, “He does not behave insolently. On the eve of the war, we sat down at the negotiating table, the Americans said: Zelenskyy, you are fighting until the last Ukrainian. ‘Yes, Sir!’. And we finance you, supply you with weapons. ‘Clear’. Why don’t they supply it, why don’t they finance it? He demands from them, just not publicly.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced, “We need to negotiate. Nobody needs this disgusting situation. And you know that today we, our nearby neighbours, Russia, are ready and have never refused negotiations. Then the West restrained Zelenskyy, now they point to Zelenskyy: well, if he agrees to negotiations there, we are also ready. But what I mean is that a new situation arose and they threw him away. Like in Afghanistan. They will cling to the chassis and fall onto the airfield...”

At the same time, the President pointed out that an internal conflict is now flaring up in Ukraine, “Today there is a severe conflict between President Zelenskyy and the military. It is necessary to look through my statements from six months ago and show where I said that the military would be the most serious opposition to President Zelenskyy. Nobody believed it. Why? Because military personnel die every day at the front. They see what this leads to. They grab you on the street, your machine gun is rusty — go fight. What kind of war is it if a person doesn’t know how to fight? The number of prisoners of war increased. They go and surrender in groups. We see it, we record it.”

The importance of sticking together

The Head of State explained that he touched on the conflict in Ukraine for a reason, “It’s easy to leave, give up, break away (from each other). It will be difficult to drink later. Do not do that. A lot depends on you. Yes, we made some mistakes somewhere. Yes, it didn’t work out somewhere — in Armenia, Azerbaijan. Let’s fix this.”

The President is confident that the escalation of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict would not have happened if the parties had listened to advice and proposals from outside in a timely manner. However, they did not take a peaceful path, and as a result, both Armenia and Azerbaijan are now having a hard time.

Another controversial situation has historically developed on the Tajik-Kyrgyz border. However, the leaders of these states managed to find a mutually acceptable solution, the President noted, “I praise the leaders all the time: well done. More than 90 percent of the boundaries have been agreed upon. And I’m sure that next year they will sign a border agreement.”

The Head of State once again emphasizes that in the current situation, the CIS countries must stick together more than ever, “Why are we fighting? Life is given once... Do not break away under any circumstances, do not leave, because they will throw you away. But for the disadvantaged people who find themselves in a difficult situation, there is only one way out: if they give you a gun, fight.”

About threats in the information sphere

Serious threats have emerged today in the information sphere. This issue also requires close attention, the President believes. And he emphasises, “Today our journalists and ideologists are on the front line — they are waging this information war. It is very important that we prevent this information war, this opposition, from escalating into a hot war.”

In the information sphere today there is a destructive impact on the population, as well as the spread of fakes, cyberattacks on the critical infrastructure of government agencies, Aleksandr Lukashenko listed. There is another equally important point, “But to be honest, our states, which you represent at this table, also have persons (and quite a few) who are accustomed to barking at each other from behind the fence or from around the corner. We must avoid this. And there is no need to say that we are preaching some kind of democracy, so we cannot calm down some scoundrel who is constantly attacking Armenia, then Azerbaijan, Belarus or Russia. We can do everything. We have to do this. We shouldn’t allow this fight in our house. Let’s get through these events.”

About the calm factor

The President noted that after the collapse of the USSR, which helped maintain a multipolar world, states ceased to be as strong as before. Therefore, it is very difficult to resist fights in the Pacific, Indian or Atlantic oceans. Hence the advice, “I’m just telling you in everyday terms from my experience: we need to get through this. We don’t want to fight, we fought enough. Enough. We need to hold on to our economy so that they (opponents) cannot raise people from within. If there are no internal reasons, no one will come to us. And the internal reasons are the economy.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that the nature of trusting relations between the CIS countries is determined by the common history, the economic, scientific, educational potential inherited from the once united country, and interpersonal contacts, “This is our economic space. Yes, a lot here depends on Russia. But let’s be honest: Russia becomes different every month, every year. Today, more than ever, due to certain conditions, Russia is the cementing, unifying link of the entire post-Soviet space. You know, due to what conditions. Let’s preserve this economic space. Let’s preserve this common market.”

About cooperation between intelligence services

The President of Belarus is firmly convinced that strength lies in unity, “Only by joining forces can we confront threats. Cooperation between security agencies is a platform that makes it possible to better understand each other’s interests, take them into account and take specific measures to de-escalate the situation. Where necessary, we need to advise each other and help. It is very important. This is the only way we will act. I am sure that the format of such meetings will serve as an example for other departments... Belarus and the Belarusian people are always open to you and ready for any mutually beneficial cooperation. We are ready to do everything we can for you. You know very well what we are capable of. This is your job.”

Vladimir Velikhov
Photo by BelTA

WHAT IS THE OPPOSITE OF THE DIVIDE AND CONQUER APPROACH?



Attempts by the West to undermine the existing systems of power in the CIS, electoral chauvinism, Belarus' successes in countering external pressure, possible outcomes of conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. Director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service Sergei Naryshkin spoke about this at the event and in communication with journalists.

Why the Belarusian experience is indicative

During the meeting between Aleksandr Lukashenko and the heads of the intelligence services of the CIS countries, the head of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service first of all thanked the Belarusian side for the opportunity to hold the event in Minsk and separately expressed gratitude to the Head of State, “Thank you for such a frank story on your part about the key events that are taking place in the world, and in the CIS space. We know that Minsk always welcomes us hospitably, it’s always very cosy and comfortable to work here.”

Sergei Naryshkin especially noted the Belarusian experience of countering external pressure. The Belarusian government and society each time withstood this onslaught with honour and proved that pressure from the Euro-Atlantic bloc must and can be resisted, as the head of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service emphasised

Current trends

Sergei Naryshkin is confident that the West, despite noticeable failures in its destructive line in the post-Soviet space, does not abandon the habit of rudely interfering in

the affairs of the CIS countries in order to divide them, deprive them of political will and economic potential, and prevent the formation of an alternative centre of power in Eurasia. The head of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service draws attention to current trends. In his opinion, not having the strength, as before, to act directly, through so-called humanitarian interventions, the Western bloc uses methods of hybrid warfare, which affects literally all spheres of life of the state and society. Of particular concern now are the recent increased attempts by the Western bloc to undermine the existing systems of power in the CIS by inciting ethnic separatist and xenophobic sentiments.

It is especially significant that the national radical agenda always goes hand in hand with pro-Western and anti-Russian, as well as anti-Chinese agendas and slogans. This is the kind of selective chauvinism that results, the head of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service shared his observation.



How can you resist your enemies?

Sergei Naryshkin recalled that it was under such slogans that the Anglo-Saxons carried out the colonisation of Ukraine for decades, which resulted in the current tragedy of the Ukrainian people and society, “All of the above is a modern manifestation of such a classical maxim of the Anglo-Saxons, which sounds like ‘divide and conquer’. The answer to this destructive strategy can only be the opposite principle, which was formulated by one European thinker back in the 19th century, and it sounds like ‘unite and lead’.” This is not only about increasing the internal consolidation of society and each state of the Commonwealth, the head of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service emphasised. It is equally important to expand and strengthen foreign policy

coordination between our states, including in the sphere of responding to destructive Western activity in relation to the Commonwealth as a whole.

Following the meeting with the President of Belarus, Sergei Naryshkin answered a number of questions from journalists.

About the speech of the Head of State

The President made a rather detailed and in-depth analysis of the development of the geopolitical situation in the world as a whole and in the regional aspect, primarily in the Commonwealth space. Aleksandr Grigorievich also gave very useful political advice on how to act in the current difficult situation, when the Western bloc is abusing its position and is trying to destabilise the situation in our countries, to disunite, to separate the Commonwealth states into their own apartments. But we do not give in and will not give in.

About joint actions of special services

Information received by the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service indicates that the Western bloc, led by the United States, regards Russia and Belarus as a single geopolitical centre of power that is capable of withstanding external threats. In many ways, this ability of the Union State to develop quite successfully and consistently in an unfavourable external environment is connected precisely with the activities of the special services, including the KGB of Belarus and the Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia. The special services of both countries are focusing on the challenges and threats that come from the group of ‘totalitarian liberal’ regimes in the West. They are constantly monitoring them, developing methods to counter them, and they are succeeding. Relations between the intelligence services of Belarus and Russia are trusting and systemic.

About Ukraine

This (counter-offensive of the Ukrainian Armed Forces) can be qualified as a complete failure. Ukraine did not achieve any success on the battlefield, but at the same time suffered sensitive, sometimes irreparable losses in both manpower and military equipment. Unfortunately, the strategy of the Ukrainian authorities and the Kyiv regime remains the same: to continue hostilities, not to conduct any peace negotiations with the Russian Federation. Moreover, Zelenskyy, by his decree, forbade himself and all his subordinates from talking with Russians about peace — and this is such a public ban.

There is also a strict attitude from the owners in Washington and London: no peace. There are still Ukrainians, fight. And this non-public ban is very effective, because the Kyiv elite understands well that if they do not follow this Western directive, then there will be bad consequences for them personally. The goals of the Russian Federation remain the same. Russia must eliminate all factors that threaten the

security of our country. This comes first. The conditions for this are the demilitarisation and denazification of Ukraine, ensuring its non-aligned, neutral status. We would like to achieve these goals peacefully, but if the other side of the world does not want to, then we will have to achieve these goals through military means. Unfortunately.

About the conflict in the Middle East

This is a great tragedy for the Palestinian and Israeli people. Cruelty begat even greater cruelty. For now, the situation, in my opinion, is at a dead end, and, unfortunately, there is no way out of it.

The Israeli leadership says it will end the fighting only when Hamas is destroyed. This is hardly possible... And against this background, the Palestinians are being driven out of their territory, this is a humanitarian catastrophe of enormous proportions.

Unfortunately, international mechanisms for resolving the Middle East conflict are not working. First of all, the so-called Middle East Quartet (a union of the European Union, Russia, the United States and the UN to consolidate efforts for a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict) is not functioning, because its work has been blocked by Washington for several years. A fundamental solution to this crisis lies only in the

DIRECT SPEECH

Kamchybek Tashiev, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Chairman of the State Committee for National Security of Kyrgyzstan, “In a rapidly changing world, we must take equally quick response measures to prevent discord between our countries. The CIS countries must act as a single bloc on all issues, especially on security issues. Therefore, this meeting in Minsk is very necessary and useful for us.”

Saimumin Yatimov, Chairman of the State Committee for National Security of Tajikistan, Colonel General, “The main subject of the meeting is the fight against the enemy’s subversive activities, terrorist organisations and manifestations. We must move away from the ossified dogmatism that views subversion and terrorist activity as an autonomous, separate phenomenon. The tasks of intelligence and counterintelligence are to get from the phenomenon to the essence.

It is necessary to find out what is important, determining and logical in terrorist activity. These phenomena are necessarily initiated, subsidised, organised, planned and implemented by a specific subject of international relations. We must check the quality and depth of the operational response and develop common steps for the benefit of our states and peoples.”

VERBATIM

To resist the information expansion of the West and the spread of destructive, illegal, and unreliable information is the common task of the CIS countries. This was stated by the Head of the Administration of the President of Belarus Igor Sergeyenko at the 19th Meeting of Heads of Security Agencies and Intelligence Services of the CIS Countries. According to him, the information impact of the West is designed to a greater extent on hesitant people, who at a critical moment may show weakness, “They are trying to create pockets of social tension among young people by spreading outright fakes about total mobilisation, explosive devices in crowded places, increasing prices for essential goods, the disappearance of certain food products from store shelves, a decrease in the level of social protection, and so on. The purpose of these fakes is to sow distrust, fear, panic, cause an emotional, sometimes inadequate reaction, and generally destabilise society. From any information — photos and videos — they are trying to make a so-called information projectile in order to hit the psyche of the average person.” The Head of the Presidential Administration emphasised that Belarus has developed and is implementing a mechanism to prevent negative information impacts on the population via the Internet.

implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on the formation of a sovereign Palestinian state with its capital in East Jerusalem.

Current areas of cooperation

After the meeting, the President hosted the 19th Meeting of Heads of Security Agencies and Intelligence Services of the CIS Member Countries

The agenda included issues related to intelligence activities. The heads of the special services reviewed the results of interaction, discussed current areas of cooperation to ensure the security of the Commonwealth countries in the context of a deteriorating international and regional situation. The participants came to a consensus that the global transformation of the world order is characterised by the emergence of new challenges and threats initiated by the West, its attempts to have a destabilizing effect on internal processes in the CIS space, fraught with serious risks for political and socio-economic stability.

As a result of the meeting, a memorandum was adopted, which gave a positive assessment of the work in this format, confirmed intentions to use the existing potential to further improve the forms and methods of interaction and further deepen cooperation in ensuring the security of the Commonwealth states.

Aleksandr Pimenov

READINESS FOR THE MOST INTENSIVE COOPERATION



Minsk and Caracas agreed to restart relations

Belarus and Venezuela are long-time political and economic partners and allies. A lot has been done over the past years. However, the situation in the world, the pandemic, and the sanctions policy of the West have made adjustments to the implementation of the plans. Therefore, today the main task is to jointly restore trade and economic cooperation to its former dynamics. And Aleksandr Lukashenko, at a meeting with the Vice President for Planning, Minister of Planning of Venezuela Ricardo José Menéndez Prieto, especially emphasised this, noting that Belarus is ready for the most intensive cooperation with Venezuela. But for this it is necessary to use all those programmes that were once defined. It is necessary to conduct an audit of all joint projects. Add something. What is not relevant today should be excluded from action plans. And update the roadmap that was once defined.

Start reboot

Since 2017, Ricardo Menéndez has headed the Venezuelan part of the Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation. Therefore, he has an excellent grasp of the situation in bilateral relations.

By the way, Minsk and Caracas announced their readiness not only to restart bilateral relations, but to take them to an even higher level back in October. Then the President of Belarus met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela, Yván Eduardo Gil Pinto, and proposed to revise all those areas and issues of cooperation that were defined back in the days of Hugo Chávez, and to develop an appropriate action plan for the near and medium term, and perhaps long term. The current visit of the Vice President of Venezuela to Belarus is precisely intended to kickstart this reset.

Where exactly to start? Aleksandr Lukashenko expressed his opinion on this matter: In his opinion, it is necessary to use all those programmes that were once defined. Everything is on topic. Nicolás Maduro, President of Venezuela, was present and took an active part in the formation of those programs that are preserved today, “Once again, I want to emphasise: everything that we proposed then, what we planned, it is in demand for Venezuela... Therefore, I think we need to conduct an audit of all our projects. Something to add. What is not relevant today should be excluded from our action plans. And update our roadmap, which we once defined with you.”



*Welcoming the guest,
Aleksandr Lukashenko noted,*

“I’m pleased to meet you. We have known each other for a long time. You know Belarus well. We started from scratch during the life of our mutual friend Hugo Chávez. We did a lot. But not through our fault, not through the fault of Belarus and Venezuela, there was a certain pause in our relations. They existed, these relationships, but not so intense. Fortunately, we have not lost the directions that were previously defined in our cooperation. And the main thing I would like to tell you is that we are ready for more intensive, the most intensive cooperation with Venezuela. You know our capabilities. You need them: technology and more. We need to start!”

Mission: promote peace policy

The President of Belarus drew attention to the fact that significant changes have occurred in the world over the past years. Aleksandr Lukashenko called one of the main, very striking events that the Venezuelans managed to protect their sovereignty and independence, “You are just great! You defended the country, and the current generation of Venezuelans will always be grateful — you defended the country. You stood up to everyone and survived. Venezuela today has the greatest respect throughout the world. You cannot even imagine how much respect you, the current generation of Venezuelan politicians, have throughout the world. We are among those countries that greatly respect your courage and your steadfastness in defending your sovereignty and independence.”

Ricardo Menéndez thanked the Head of the Belarusian State for the opportunity to meet and conveyed warm greetings from the President of Venezuela Nicolás Maduro personally to Aleksandr Lukashenko and the entire Belarusian people, “We love Belarus very much and admire it. In his time, Comandante Hugo Chávez taught us to love and admire Belarus and its people. This is not only about your country’s heroic historical past, but also about your vision for the future.”

The politician recalled that the current leader of Venezuela drew attention to a very important point. Namely, that Belarus and Venezuela are the architects of the new world, promoting a policy of peace where there is no place for sanctions or aggression. Ricardo Menéndez also conveyed to Aleksandr Lukashenko Nicolás Maduro’s wish to organise a personal meeting in the near future and discuss issues on the bilateral agenda.

The main task is to intensify relations

Cooperation with Venezuela is a striking example that demonstrates how important friendly and warm relations between the leaders of countries are for the development of bilateral ties. Despite the great distance between the states, both Aleksandr Lukashenko and Nicolás Maduro (like Hugo Chávez before) were and remain committed to the idea that Belarus and Venezuela are reliable partners. Yes, the events of recent years, sanctions pressure, and the policies of Western countries have made their own adjustments. And now the joint main task is to reboot the relationship and restore the former dynamics.

This is precisely what Ricardo Menéndez emphasised in a conversation with journalists, commenting on the results of the meeting with Aleksandr Lukashenko. The main goal for today is to restore momentum and overcome all obstacles along the way. There have already been certain achievements. At the moment, we are talking about taking relations to a new level, strengthening ourselves in the fight against sanctions, moving forward with common efforts and planning a new stage of joint activities for the near future in ten years.

According to the Vice President of Venezuela, Minsk and Caracas have focused their attention on a number of mutually

beneficial topics. First of all, we are talking about restarting joint production of tractors and cars. There is interest in joint cooperation in the petrochemical industry. The topic of logistics is very important. The parties are now working closely on all these issues.



Ambassador of Venezuela Ricardo Menéndez

Place all the accents

It is worth recalling that during the visit of Venezuelan Foreign Minister Yván Eduardo Gil Pinto to Belarus, the parties agreed that the first serious step towards rebooting bilateral relations would be to hold the next meeting of the Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation in the Belarusian capital. The event, by the way, took place at the end of November and in fact confirmed that mutual interest is not only in words. Then, during the visit of the head of the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry, the issue of supplying Belarusian equipment and subsequent assembly in Venezuela was actively discussed. Therefore, now the journalists asked Ricardo Menéndez if there were any specifics already. The Vice President recalled that joint Belarusian-Venezuelan enterprises have been created in Venezuela, which are the largest in the region. We are talking about the joint production of tractors (enterprise capacity — 10 thousand units per year) and the joint assembly of MAZ cars (production capacity — 5 thousand units per year). There is a conversation not only about the production of this equipment, but also about its sale both in the domestic market and in the markets of neighbouring countries. Ricardo Menéndez emphasised that during the current visit and the meeting of the joint commission, there were discussions and the development of a production plan for 2024, which will allow placing all the emphasis, identifying the volumes and directions in which the parties will move both in terms of production and sales it on the regional market.

Vsevolod Yevseyev

Photo by BelTA

A PROVEN STRATEGY AND TACTICS BRING RESULTS



Relations between Belarus and Vietnam can be described as mutually respectful. Both countries support each other on international platforms and have serious contacts at the highest level. A significant upswing in bilateral relations emerged after the meetings of the President of Belarus with the leadership of Vietnam. The fact that the potential for interaction is still enormous is evidenced by the agreements reached during the official visit of the government delegation led by Prime Minister of Belarus Roman Golovchenko to Vietnam.

Interest in developing connections

The fact that our countries maintain relations of traditional friendship was evidenced by the warm atmosphere that reigned during the meeting of the Prime Minister of Belarus Roman Golovchenko with the Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam Nguyen Phú Trọng. The head of the Belarusian Government expressed gratitude for the opportunity to hold it, “During meetings at all levels, we see warmth and interest in the development of relations between Belarus and Vietnam. We really appreciate that you also found the opportunity to host our delegation. People in Belarus remember your visits very well and know that you are a great friend of our country.”

He recalled that thousands of Vietnamese citizens studied and worked in our country. In addition, Belarusian officers and specialists helped their Vietnamese comrades in the fight against foreign invaders. “Analysing the development of our relations over the past three decades as an independent Republic of Belarus, we see that it is after your visits to our country, after the meetings of the President of Belarus with you, that our relations are experiencing a significant rise,” Roman Golovchenko emphasised.

Activity is good

The achievements in Vietnam’s economy are a source of pride. Prime Minister of Belarus Roman Golovchenko emphasised this during a meeting with President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Võ Văn Thưởng. The Head of the Belarusian Government conveyed warm words of greetings and best wishes from the President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko to his Vietnamese counterpart.

The head of the Belarusian Government emphasised that the parties have always been close to each other, “We have complete mutual understanding on issues of an international nature and now the task is to bring trade and economic relations to a level that would correspond to our relations.”

For his part, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Võ Văn Thưởng noted that interaction with the republics of the former Soviet Union is of great importance for Vietnam, and Belarus is no exception, “Your visit will be significant in the sense that we will be able to intensify ties in the near future.”

He also asked to convey warm wishes to President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko.



Potential for effective action

Belarus contributes to strengthening Vietnam’s food security by supplying fertilizers, both potash and organic. It was this fact that Prime Minister of Belarus Roman Golovchenko noted at a meeting with his Vietnamese colleague Phạm Minh Chính. He also said that in early November of this year, an agreement was reached on the creation of an enterprise in Vietnam for the production and distribution of organic fertilizers. There are active supplies of food products and food products to the country. At the end of nine months, their exports exceeded \$7 million. This, of course, is not enough, the Prime Minister of Belarus believes. Moreover, at the end of last year, food exports from Belarus amounted to more than \$8 billion.

By the way, in order to be closer to the Vietnamese consumer, a decision was made to build an enterprise in Hưng Yên province to produce dairy products from Belarusian raw materials and using our technologies.

However, the partnership between the two countries is not limited to trade; there is an important area of humanitarian cooperation. In this context, the field of education was particularly emphasised. Cooperation with Vietnam in this area has been carried out since 1962. During this period, 152 candidates and 3 doctors of science were prepared for the country. In the current academic year, 65 Vietnamese citizens are studying in Belarusian institutions of higher education. In June of this year, the Education Days of the Republic of Belarus were held in Hanoi, and an updated agreement on

Belarus and Vietnam maintain relations of traditional friendship with a high level of political trust. The countries have formed a solid legal basis for the development and strengthening of cooperation in many areas, in particular, such as economy, trade, culture, education, science, technology. It is expected that the visit of Prime Minister of Belarus Roman Golovchenko to Vietnam will give new impetus to the strengthening and development of bilateral ties.



further cooperation was signed. Great potential is seen for training specialists for Vietnam in such areas as the semiconductor industry, IT technologies, nuclear and radiation safety.

However, the development of intercultural communications will be facilitated by the agreement signed in Hanoi on the mutual abolition of visas. This step will certainly stimulate an increase in tourist flow in both directions, especially since both countries have already begun to work on the issue of opening a direct flight between Minsk and Hanoi.

As an important partner in the region

In turn, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Phạm Minh Chính said that they consider Belarus an important partner and want to develop existing ties. He noted that, advocating stability and development in the region and in the world, the country pursues an independent multi-vector policy and is a responsible member of the international community. At the same time, Phạm Minh Chính emphasised that Belarus is traditionally considered a friend in Vietnam, “For us, Belarus is a faithful friend; we value traditionally friendly relations and traditionally good cooperation between our countries.”

As the Prime Minister of Vietnam stated, they are ready for multilateral cooperation with the Republic of Belarus.

There is a solid foundation

And the official visit of Prime Minister of Belarus Roman Golovchenko to Hanoi began with the laying of wreaths at the monument to the fallen heroes and the mausoleum of the first president of Vietnam, the leader of the Vietnamese national liberation movement, Hồ Chí Minh. According to established tradition, this is a significant point in the program of official delegations' stay in Hanoi.



After the wreath-laying ceremony, Roman Golovchenko held talks with the Chairman of the Hanoi People's Committee Tran Sy Thanh, who noted that bilateral relations between Vietnam and Belarus are developing in many areas, and trade and economic interaction is underway. He expressed the opinion that the visit of the Belarusian Prime Minister will further strengthen existing ties and give new impetus to cooperation. The parties also expressed confidence that the Cooperation Programme between the cities of Minsk and Hanoi for 2024—2026, the signing ceremony of which took place during the meeting, will update the previous agreement, and relations not only between the capitals, but also between the countries will develop even better. Roman Golovchenko emphasised at the meeting that Hanoi is developing dynamically and is the centre of the country's political and economic life. According to the Belarusian Prime Minister, the city is a shining example of 'what a modern metropolis and its hardworking residents can achieve under the wise leadership of city authorities'.

"I am convinced that constant interaction between our capitals, primarily their business and scientific communities, will become the locomotive of interregional Belarusian-Vietnamese cooperation," the Prime Minister of Belarus expressed his position,

adding that the signed Programme for the Development of Trade, Economic and Humanitarian Cooperation Between Minsk and Hanoi for the period 2024-2026 is aimed at this. The programme contains the main areas of cooperation that the parties agreed to develop. However, in order to fill it with real useful activities, the relevant services of Hanoi and Minsk must develop and approve annual plans.

Many promising projects

As part of the official visit of the Prime Minister of Belarus to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Belarusian delegation visited the production site of the MAZ Asia Joint-Stock Company. A project for the construction of a plant for the production of dairy products from Belarusian raw materials was also presented here. A meeting took place between Roman Golovchenko and the Secretary of the Party Committee of Hung Yên Province Nghia Nguyen-Huu, at which the parties expressed a mutual desire to intensify interaction in a variety of areas.

The Prime Minister of Belarus noted that he was glad to be visiting Hung Yên province, since Belarusians have the most active interaction with this region. He indicated that it was in the province that the MAZ Asia production site, the largest in Vietnam, was located.



During the meeting, Roman Golovchenko also touched upon the project to build a plant for the production of dairy products. He also offered to cooperate together in the field of ecology and spoke about Belarusian proposals for the supply of equipment for sorting and processing municipal waste to the region.

The Secretary of the Party Committee of Hưng Yên Province expressed his readiness to intensify cooperation. He emphasised that there are good conditions for the development of relations between Belarus and Vietnam.

New interaction niches

Belarus is striving to reach a new level of cooperation with Vietnam.

This was stated by Deputy Foreign Minister Yevgeny Shestakov at the opening of the Belarusian-Vietnamese business forum, which was held in Ho Chi Minh City. He emphasised that Vietnam is a traditional trading partner of Belarus in Southeast Asia, and the structure of the economies of the two countries is complementary. Indeed, domestic agricultural raw materials and food products occupy a strong, stable niche in the Vietnamese market, and our mining dump trucks, tractors and other automotive products have been known in Vietnam for many decades. Many people in Vietnam remember the Minsk motorcycle, known since the times of the USSR.

It is the Belarusian tractor that is depicted on the 200 Vietnamese dong banknote. In turn, our consumer is well acquainted with such Vietnamese products as rice and coffee.

By the way, the speaker did not fail to mention the legendary Vietnamese balm Golden Star. Or, as they used to call him, Star. Helps generations of Belarusians in the treatment of colds, flu, headaches and other ailments. Yevgeny Shestakov stated: a number of flagship domestic enterprises operate on raw materials supplied from Vietnam, including rubber, equipment and electronics. All this indicates the interdependence and complementarity of the Belarusian and Vietnamese economies. Moreover, these processes will only intensify over time, the deputy minister expressed confidence.

The diplomat also noted with satisfaction that the current free trade agreement between the states of the Eurasian Economic Union and Vietnam has created additional favourable conditions for effective interaction between the business circles of the two countries, which is also confirmed by the growth of mutual trade turnover.

The Belarusian-Vietnamese business forum, as well as the collective exposition of the Republic of Belarus at the Vietnam Expo 2023 exhibition, became an excellent opportunity for Belarusian and Vietnamese businesses to find new niches of interaction, strengthen existing ones and establish long-term ties.



There was something to surprise with

Yes, it was in Ho Chi Minh City that the international exhibition Vietnam Expo 2023 was held in December, at which proposals from more than 30 domestic manufacturers were presented, and the products of the largest engineering and petrochemical enterprises of the republic were demonstrated.

The educational opportunities of our leading educational institutions and the advanced developments of scientific institutions were also presented at the stands.

Thus, General Director of Minsk Tractor Works OJSC Vitaly Vovk expects that the new product developed by the plant employees specifically for Vietnam — MTZ 541, which is designed for work in rice fields — will take its rightful place in this market, “We tested this model for two years, and today the first tractor arrived as a commercial product,” he said. “This is a big market, serious competition with Japanese manufacturers. The most important thing is to approach this market differently: the country is large — more than 100 million people. We are considering organising the assembly, but this will depend on the possibility of receiving a subsidy from the state to make it profitable to buy the kits.”

The CEO emphasized that the market is interesting for the manufacturer, “Vietnam has always been a good partner for us; they have always loved our products. It’s time to return to this market with another new product and work together with our dealer network to ensure that the Belarusian tractor appears on the new Vietnamese banknote.”

Together with tractor manufacturers, the Minsk Automobile Plant, which, by the way, has its own assembly plant in Vietnam — MAZ Asia — presented its products. The company produces a wide range of equipment that is in demand in this region: dump trucks, truck tractors, buses and more. There are specifics and technical parameters for making equipment that is not subject to the vagaries of the tropical climate.

There was something to surprise representatives of Belarusian science as well. The exhibition demonstrated a wide range of products: from those attractive for the agricultural industry to those for biomedical purposes (medicines, individual test systems for diagnosing various diseases).

Domestic confectionery, drinks and other goods were also widely represented. In general, exports of food products to the Vietnamese market reached the million-dollar mark. Manufacturers, naturally, do not intend to stop there: the market capacity allows for a multiple increase in supplies, because the local consumer knows and loves products under the ‘Made in Belarus’ brand.

It is worth saying that approximately 1,200 exhibitors from more than 20 countries took part in Vietnam Expo 2023.

Big things ahead

Contracts worth \$26 million were signed at Vietnam Expo 2023. Nikolai Borisevich, Director of the National Marketing Centre, spoke about the effectiveness of business meetings in the format of direct communication. He emphasised that our country’s participation in the international exhibition Vietnam Expo 2023 and the Belarusian-Vietnamese Business Forum is prestigious, because there were 400 expositions (China, India, South Korea and Belarus). Nikolai Borisevich noted that the Vietnamese market is traditional for Belarus, but it is necessary to work taking into account new conditions, challenges, systematically and purposefully. There was a pause caused by the pandemic. Now businesses from both sides are showing interest. It is also necessary to take into account the fact that many years of friendly relations existed and continue to exist. That’s why you need to be able to convert political advantage into added value of business cooperation.

According to the director of the NMC, the more domestic manufacturers participate in such exhibitions and forums, the more opportunities appear, the more this will result in practical results. Moving on to specifics, Nikolai Borisevich recalled that 36 Belarusian companies representing various industries took part in the exhibition: food industry, petrochemicals, mechanical engineering, science and technology. The results are in: 15 documents, three framework agreements on partnerships and 12 contracts totalling \$26 million were signed.

Vsevolod Yevseyev

ВЛАДИМИРСКАЯ ОБЛАСТЬ И РЕСПУБЛИКА БЕЛАРУСЬ



ОТКРЫВАЮТ НОВУЮ СТРАНИЦУ ВЗАИМООТНОШЕНИЙ

Россия и Беларусь – новый виток отношений

Торгово-экономическим отношениям Владимирской области и Республики Беларусь не один десяток лет, и с каждым годом торговые связи только укрепляются. Так, по итогам 2022 года по общему объему внешнеторгового оборота Беларусь занимает второе место среди стран СНГ – партнеров Владимирской области. По сравнению с аналогичным периодом предыдущего года этот показатель вырос на 8,8 % и составил 225,4 млн долларов. Увеличение произошло как за счет роста экспорта, так и за счет импорта товаров.

В 2023 году позитивная динамика сохранялась. Темпы прироста взаимной торговли увеличились более чем в 3 раза, а проверенное годами сотрудничество вышло на новый виток развития.

В апреле 15 владимирских предприятий участвовали в бизнес-миссии в Республику Беларусь. Было проведено свыше 50 рабочих встреч и переговоров с 34 белорусскими предприятиями, подписано около 20 соглашений.

Вот некоторые итоги бизнес-миссии: ООО «Красное Эхо» (г. Гусь-Хрустальный) и ОАО «Гродненский стеклозавод» – филиал «Елизово» (г. Гродно) – договорились об изготовлении формокомпонентов и запчастей, о совместном обучении персонала.

Гусевский стекольный колледж и Могилевский государственный политехнический колледж намерены совместно разрабатывать новые профессиональные и дополнительные образовательные программы для своих учебных заведений.

Владимирская научно-производственная фирма «Адгезив» и минские компании «МАЗ», «Атлант» и КБ «Дисплей» будут проводить испытания опытных образцов продукции с дальнейшим применением на белорусских заводах российских герметиков, клеев и гибридных полимеров.

Судогодское производственное объединение «Гефесд», которое занимается оптовой торговлей мебелью и оборудованием, договорилось с компанией «СпСтрим» (г. Минск) об открытии своего представительства в Республике Беларусь, а с компанией «Умные города и технологии» – о поставках промышленного антистатического оборудования на объекты газоснабжения.

Камешковская компания «Модуль ЛТД», которая производит бронированное и банковское оборудование, провела переговоры о дальнейшем взаимодействии с руководством Главного управления строительства и эксплуатации Вооруженных Сил Республики Беларусь и Управления ракетно-артиллерийского вооружения Минобороны Республики Беларусь, а также с компанией «БелЮвелирТорг».

Взаимодействие на высоком уровне

Взаимодействие с Беларусью продолжилось в мае 2023 года: республику во главе с губернатором Александром Авдеевым посетила делегация Владимирской



области. Ее представители участвовали в форумах и бизнес-сессиях с презентацией промышленного, экономического и инвестиционного потенциала Владимирской области, посещали ведущие предприятия и технопарки, обменивались опытом в сфере культуры, патриотического воспитания, строительства, спорта, туризма и сельского хозяйства.

На встрече с Президентом Беларуси Александром Лукашенко губернатор 33-го региона Александр Авдеев обсудил основные направления сотрудничества.

«У нас с Беларусью много общих точек роста. Договорились с Александром Григорьевичем активнее развивать связи и в экономике, и в социально-гуманитарной сфере. Достигнуты договоренности с ведущими компаниями Республики о сотрудничестве в поставках стройматериалов. Прорабатывается вопрос участия белорусских строительных и проектных организаций в реализации крупных инфраструктурных проектов во Владимирской области. Не исчерпаны возможности взаимодействия в сфере сельского хозяйства и продовольственной безопасности, обмена турпотоками, развития культуры», – подчеркнул Александр Авдеев.

По результатам визита в рамках заседания Рабочей группы по сотрудничеству Беларуси и Владимирской области был подписан Меморандум о взаимопонимании между Национальным центром маркетинга и Центром поддержки экспорта Владимирской области. Руководители Торгово-промышленных палат республики и 33-го региона подписали соглашение о сотрудничестве. Теперь предприятия Владимирской области могут участвовать в торгах Белорусской универсальной товарной биржи.

Еще одним важным шагом в сотрудничестве стало участие в открытии Белорусского инвестиционного форума губернатора Владимирской области Александра Авдеева. Форум прошел в Москве 23 ноября



и объединил представителей власти и бизнеса России и Беларуси.

«У компаний Владимирской области и Беларуси есть взаимный интерес к развитию кооперационных связей, экспорта и импорта, к реализации совместных проектов. Таковых уже 19, но потенциал сотрудничества гораздо выше», – сказал губернатор Владимирской области Александр Авдеев.

На Белорусском инвестиционном форуме губернатор отметил тесные связи в гуманитарной и туристической сферах и пригласил туристов из Беларуси на празднование 1000-летия Суздаля в 2024 году.

Важно, что Беларусь интересна владимирским производителям и как бизнес-партнер. Это объясняется выгодными условиями для ведения бизнеса и понятным налогообложением. Владимирские бизнесмены успешно торгуют с Беларусью, а во Владимирской области работают более 30 предприятий, учрежденных гражданами республики.

Время поиска новых компетенций

Во взаимодействии Владимирской области и Беларуси Центр поддержки экспорта 33-го региона играет важную роль. Большая часть экспортеров нашего региона сотрудничает с республикой много лет, а значит, пользуется услугами ЦПЭ. И если 2022 год стал для владимирских предприятий годом испытаний и возможностей, то 2023-й – годом наращивания новых компетенций. В условиях санкций институты господдержки предлагали новые меры помощи. В том числе и Центр поддержки экспорта Владимирской области.

22 июня в Суздале прошло Окружное совещание по вопросу реализации национального проекта

«Международная кооперация и экспорт». Его организатор – АО «Российский экспортный центр». В совещании участвовали представители 18 регионов ЦФО, Минпромторга, Минэкономразвития, Аппарата Полномочного представителя Президента Российской Федерации в ЦФО, ОАО «Российские железные дороги», Центрального таможенного управления ФТС России. В итоге были выработаны конкретные меры, направленные на оптимальное развитие несырьевого неэнергетического экспорта в изменившихся условиях. Они войдут в обновленную редакцию нацпроекта, который будет продлен до 2030 года.

В 2023 году направление экспорта сменило вектор с европейских стран на Ближний Восток: Турцию, Египет, ОАЭ, Иран, Марокко, Вьетнам, Индию. Еще больший вес приобрели Саудовская Аравия, Северная Африка и Китай.

В помощь бизнесу и в целях популяризации экспортной деятельности во Владимирской области в июле 2023 года Центр поддержки экспорта региона провел «Международный день Владимирской области» – форум, в котором участвовали представители деловых кругов государств Ближнего Востока и Африки. Пять делегаций, несколько десятков бизнесменов и общественных деятелей. Пленарное заседание, общение в формате B2B, более 90 переговоров, посещение владимирских предприятий. Как результат – достигнутые договоренности о сотрудничестве и перспективные соглашения на ближайшие годы.

Господдержка – то, что нужно экспортерам

Международная выставочная деятельность – одна из самых востребованных услуг Центра поддержки экспорта Владимирской области. В 2023 году Центр организовал участие 50 компаний в международных выставках. 21 компания побывала на выставках в составе коллективных стендов в Москве, Казахстане и Египте. Еще 29 компаний смогли отправиться на международные выставки с индивидуальными стендами. В результате владимирские производители представили свою продукцию в Азербайджане, Казахстане, Киргизской Республике, Узбекистане, Турции и Индонезии.

При составлении планов на следующий год Центр поддержки экспорта ориентируется на запросы владимирского бизнеса, изучает эффективные направления, интересные с точки зрения экспортных взаимоотношений. И уже в первом квартале 2024 года запланированы три коллективные выставки:

- с 6 по 8 февраля – «Aguatherm Moscow 2024» (Россия);
- с 27 февраля по 1 марта – «BuildTech-2024» (Узбекистан);
- с 26 по 28 марта – «UzFood» (Узбекистан).

В 2024 году в Беларуси запланировано участие владимирских компаний в международной выставке «Лесдревтех-2024».

На всех международных выставках коллективные региональные стенды организует Центр поддержки экс-

порта 33-го региона. Компании лишь доставляют образцы продукции, презентуют их и находят заинтересованных партнеров.

Также среди наиболее востребованных услуг по-прежнему поиск бизнес-партнеров за рубежом. За год во владимирском ЦПЭ семнадцать компаний получили эту услугу. В основном интересуют страны СНГ, в том числе и Беларусь, а также Турция, ОАЭ и Китай.

Интересна и услуга по транспортировке: Центр оплачивает до 80 % затрат при перевозке экспортной продукции по территории РФ. В 2023 году ею воспользовались шесть предприятий. Они отправили свою продукцию в Азербайджан, Грузию, Турцию и Беларусь.

Все Центры поддержки экспорта работают в постоянном взаимодействии с Российским экспортным центром. В свою очередь РЭЦ предоставляет широкий спектр финансовых и нефинансовых решений, способствующих развитию экспортно ориентированных компаний. Это может быть мобилизация ресурсов торговых представительств, которые помогут сформировать базу «теплых» контактов. Или помощь в оформлении контрактов, где требуется умение ориентироваться в законодательстве другой страны.

Сейчас особенно востребованы финансовые продукты Группы РЭЦ. Например, льготное кредитование, субсидии на участие в выставках или **страховка экспортных сделок**. За 20 тыс. рублей предприниматель может застраховать сделку на 10 млн. Практически все, кто выходит на зарубежные рынки, пользуются страховкой отсрочки платежа. Она защищает не только от полити-



ческих и экономических рисков, но и от невозможности оплаты со стороны иностранного партнера. Такая страховка покрывает абсолютно все риски. В течение 30 дней с момента просрочки компания получает страховую выплату на свой счет.

Еще один продукт – **банковская гарантия НДС**. Те, кто возмещает НДС, могут получить его в ускоренном порядке всего под 1 %. Это помогает оперативно вернуть деньги в оборот и продолжать работать с полной финансовой мощностью.

Общая нацеленность на результат

Экспорт сейчас – это сложно, но возможно. И владимирские предприниматели понимают, что каждый вложенный рубль господдержки будет эффективным только тогда, когда принесет трехкратный объем поддержанного экспорта. Это задача номер один как для Центра поддержки экспорта, так и для владимирских предприятий. В 2024 году Центр поддержки экспорта в рамках популяризации экспортной деятельности во Владимирской области сделает акцент на участии компаний в международных выставках как с коллективными, так и с индивидуальными стендами. Больше средств будет направлено на авансирование транспортировки товаров за рубеж. Повышенное внимание будет уделено финансовым услугам Группы РЭЦ.

В области созданы все условия для ведения экспортной деятельности, и предприятия стараются увеличивать свое присутствие за рубежом. Беларусь – один из важнейших стратегических торгово-экономических партнеров Владимирской области, поэтому Центр поддержки экспорта продолжит развивать это важное направление совместно с компаниями региона.

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Looking forward to New Year's magic

The location for the next start of the large-scale republican New Year's charity campaign Our Children this year was the residence of the Belarusian Father Frost in the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park



150 children received invitations to the opening of the event in Belovezhskaya Pushcha. Each delegation took part in the quest and, using a map, found envelopes with messages from the children of each region and the city of Minsk in the estate of the Belarusian Father Frost. The owner of the fairy-tale estate promised to fulfil all the children's dreams and desires. It was from the very heart of the protected forest that the good and bright New Year's campaign *Our Children* was launched. From the Brest Region, the marathon of goodness set off across Belarus. In the format of a teleconference, the Grodno, Gomel, Mogilev, Minsk, Vitebsk regions and Minsk joined the ceremony.

"We are launching the campaign together with the whole country. In all corners of Belarus, there are children and adults on the air who are setting off on an express train of good deeds - the *Our Children* campaign. It has been spreading across the country for more than 25 years, initiated by our President. We see what is really being done in Belarus for a happy and comfortable childhood," emphasised Deputy Prime Minister Igor Petrishenko. He noted that the country pays great attention to the development of education and creative opportunities for young Belarusians. On the eve of the New Year, both adults and children expect miracles and gifts. "Elderly people also need a holiday. We are creating this holiday for them too. Literally in a week, the *With All Our Hearts* campaign will start, during which we must pay attention to older people with our sensitive attitude, creativity, sincere and kind deeds," said the Deputy Prime Minister, warmly congratulating everyone on the upcoming winter holidays.

Chairman of the Brest Region Executive Committee Yuri Shuleiko added that the *Our Children* campaign will not leave a single child unattended. "We love you. Our country is doing everything so that you study and are healthy," emphasised the head of the Brest Region.

The kids who were invited to the festival in Belovezhskaya Pushcha found themselves in a real fairy tale. The weather matched the festive mood. In the estate of the Belarusian Father Frost in Belovezhskaya Pushcha, after a long thaw,

the centuries-old forests were bound by a light frost. The unique pearl of the country greeted the participants of the event with white snow, elegant beautiful Christmas trees, and multi-coloured flashing lights.

"I'm very glad to be here. I hope to get a lot of impressions and meet kids from my area. It was interesting to visit Belovezhskaya Pushcha in winter, to see the estate of Father Frost. I would like to ask him for well-being and sweets," said schoolgirl Yekaterina Mikhalkovich.

Marina Rusak had never been to Belovezhskaya Pushcha before. The invitation to the celebration on the day of the start of the *Our Children* campaign was a big surprise for her. "It's beautiful here, just like in a fairy tale. I had never been to Father Frost's before, but I wrote letters to him. I



have a request for him, but I won't say anything about it — it's a secret. I'll tell him personally," admitted the girl. The Minsk Palace of Children and Youth also had a direct connection with the estate of Father Frost in Belovezhskaya Pushcha. Live streaming is new this year. All regions joined the central site in Belovezhskaya Pushcha online.

And in Minsk, the city New Year's charity campaign *Our Children* was opened by the ice show *The Tale of the Magic Hours*. The spectacular performance took

ON A WAVE OF KINDNESS AND CORDIALITY



place at the Minsk Arena speed skating stadium of the multidisciplinary cultural and sports complex. The guests were 2 thousand children aged 10-14 years — children under guardianship, from large, low-income families, orphans, disabled children, children from families of internationalist soldiers, military personnel and others.

Ice show is a new format of events. According to the plot, dark forces wanted to cancel the New Year, and good wizards — the Storyteller, the Fairy of Snow Clouds, Father Frost and the Snow Maiden, Snowflakes — did not let this happen. At the festive performance there were fiery ice skating dances and spectacular performances by young artists.

In addition to the fairy tale about how stolen New Year's time was returned, an interactive programme was organised for the audience. And the start to the event

was given by the ringing bells in the hands of the young participants of the performance.

The *Our Children* campaign will last until January 15th and will give thousands of young Belarusians the opportunity to fulfil their desires.

Traditionally, on these days, government officials, deputies, heads of organisations and companies visit orphanages, foster homes, and guardianship families. Various festive events are held in schools, gymnasiums, colleges, and kindergartens. And on December 26th, the country's best high school students will gather together a traditional city ball at the Palace of Children and Youth. Very soon, on December 29th, a theatrical New Year's performance will take place at the Belarusian State Circus with the participation of the city leadership.

Inga Likhtarovich
Photo by BelTA

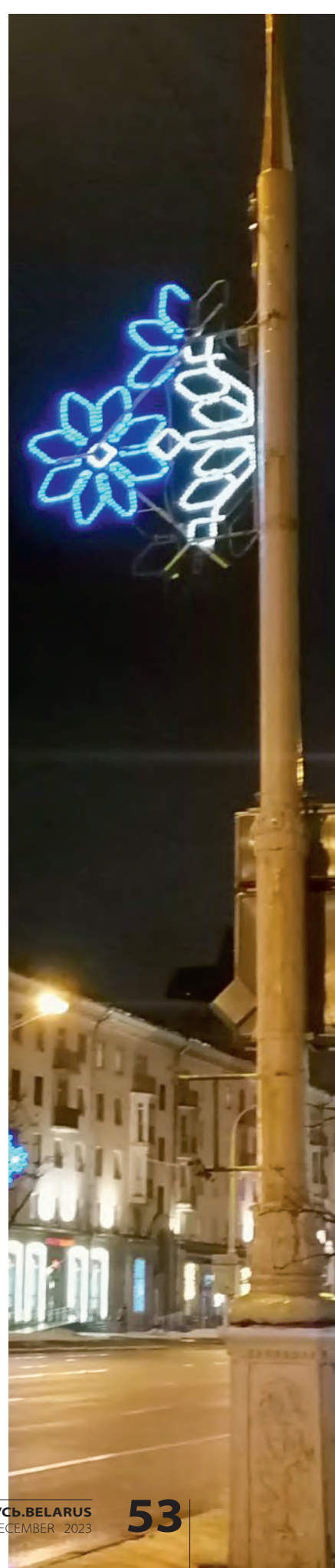


New Year lights of the big city

Festive illumination, the total length of which was about 280 kilometres, was turned on in Minsk even earlier than in previous years

Light arches, compositions, balls, cups, gazebos and even houses... And also animals, including not only representatives of the Zodiac signs, but also proud moose. All this beauty sparkled and pleased the eye. Of course, the illumination canvas would not be complete without dragons in luminous green decoration. How else? After all, 2024 will pass under the banner of the Wood Dragon: a wise mythical creature capable of giving a person a lot of joy. However, as the eastern tradition says, this powerful and bright animal of the Chinese calendar will be kind to us only if we treat him, the Master of 2024, with respect and celebrate the New Year noisily and cheerfully, by the way, not necessarily at home. Unlike the quiet homebody Rabbit, the symbol of 2023, the Green Wood Dragon is a big fan of magical holidays with bright lights, sparkling fireworks, loud laughter, fun and genuine joy. The Minsk residents took this to heart: they gave the Dragon their respect. Surely those who plan the New Year's celebration of lights in advance have learned that the Year of the Green Dragon — one of the rarest years in the Chinese calendar — occurs once every 60 years. The last such year was in 1964, and the next one will not come until 2084. That's probably why the organisers thought about new things. Even if this is just a guess, I admit, it's nice to think about it. There really were a lot of new products in the illumination environment...

Exactly on Sunday evening, December 10th, as soon as it got dark, a 30-meter beauty, the main Christmas tree of the country, was lit on Oktyabrskaya Square. This long-awaited moment was met with shouts of 'hurray!', 'wow!'. Along with the sonorous voices of girls and children, men's voices also boomed loudly. You could even hear shouts of 'bravo'. There was applause, as in the theatre. No wonder: the tree sparkled magically! The action really looked theatrical. So, in my opinion, the Dragon was pleased with such a charming start. The main colours of the Christmas tree decoration were red, green, blue, gold, silver and snow-white. The palette was diluted with shades of turquoise, blue and purple. The green beauty seemed to be wrapped in a special cloth, according to the specialist, of more than 20 thousand pixels, and the length of all the lights was 3.2 km! The geometry of the decoration was complemented by matte and glossy balls, carved milled toys in the form of stars, snowflakes, cornflowers, figured angels and ice crystals. Next to the Christmas tree there was a town of colourful wooden houses, where craft and trade shops operated. In the gazebos you could see a couple of Father Frosts, with whom those who especially wanted to take pictures took pictures. As for Oktyabrskaya Square itself, 6 more new illuminated trees have appeared there. By the way, this square, which in Minsk is also called Central Square, is a mandatory





place for meetings and selfies on New Year's Eve. However, it will still be popular in 2024, as the lights here will delight Minsk residents and guests of the capital until January 15th. After the ceremonial switching on of the main Christmas tree, bright lights began to work throughout the capital. The main highways were also lit up with multi-coloured New-Year-themed lights, and the central and other squares of the city were transformed. By the way, in total in Minsk city services installed 27 New Year trees and more than 500 light structures, 117 of them are three-dimensional light figures. However, let's get back to the new things. The new designer Christmas tree delighted the eye with red and gold tones at the Sports Palace; its height was 18 meters. A shining arch was installed at the base. The composition

was complemented by a light canopy-tent, imitating a starry sky.

Another New Year's beauty traditionally decorated Independence Square. The luxurious 18-meter spruce, dressed in gold, has become an absolute novelty in format. As Tatyana Bugorkova, Head of the Design Department of the Minskreklama enterprise, told the television news even before the illumination was turned on, it reminded of the real Belovezhskaya spruce, the same forest beauty that we all know from childhood, when we went with our parents to the winter forest, and then listened to New Year's fairy tales and watched good old cartoons.

You could admire another new Christmas tree at the Belarusian State Circus. The design solution for this ten-meter beauty sends us back to the second half of the last century



CREATING A MOOD

the symbols of the creativity of Belarusian writers and poets — a pen and a ‘paper’ scroll. One could also see a luminous lyre adjacent to the pillars opposite the Belarusian State Philharmonic. Luminous compositions have been thought out, as they symbolically inform about the type of occupation at a particular enterprise in the city, in institutions, schools, and universities. And even in kindergartens. Beauty in numbers is amazing! 123 kilometres of illumination of overhead and cable lines! Almost 4 thousand light strings and almost 500 light figures in the form of animals and balls. The bright decoration of the capital consists of 3 million LED light bulbs. It turns out that each Minsk resident will get one, and guests of the capital will get another million.

According to MIR 24 correspondent Olga Zabelich, Valery Kuchmel feels like a magician and sorcerer once a year. The dispatcher of the operational duty service has been lighting the New Year’s illumination in Minsk for almost 20 years. New technologies allow you to switch on the illumination in the city in one click.

“This happens through the server, directly through the computer. Templates are created if necessary. You can turn on all the trees entirely, or each one separately with one click. We turn on the city, Christmas trees, illumination. People are walking, and we are working,” says Valery Kuchmel, dispatcher of the operational duty service of the Mingorsvet enterprise.

thanks to toys in the form of touching characters from fairy tales and cartoons, light strings of red flags, which were a mandatory attribute at the New Year holidays of the Soviet era. According to Tatyana Bugorkova, looking at this retro-style Christmas tree, the older generation will definitely remember the years of their childhood, and kids will have a wonderful opportunity to see what the New Year tree looked like when their parents and grandparents were young. And the Christmas tree near the National Library of Belarus was decorated with ‘icicles’, perfectly summer milled cornflowers, ringing bells and even angels.

By the way, along the streets and avenues, it was impossible not to notice the various lighting design elements in the form of stars from Belarusian ornaments, storks, and flowers on the lighting poles. In the vicinity of Yakuba Kolasa Square, for example, the rich imagination of designers was embodied in



CREATING A MOOD

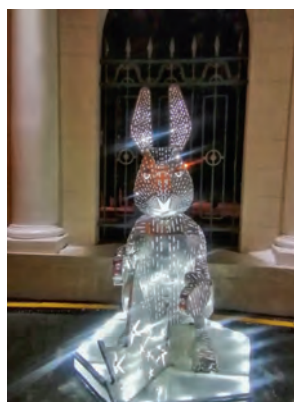
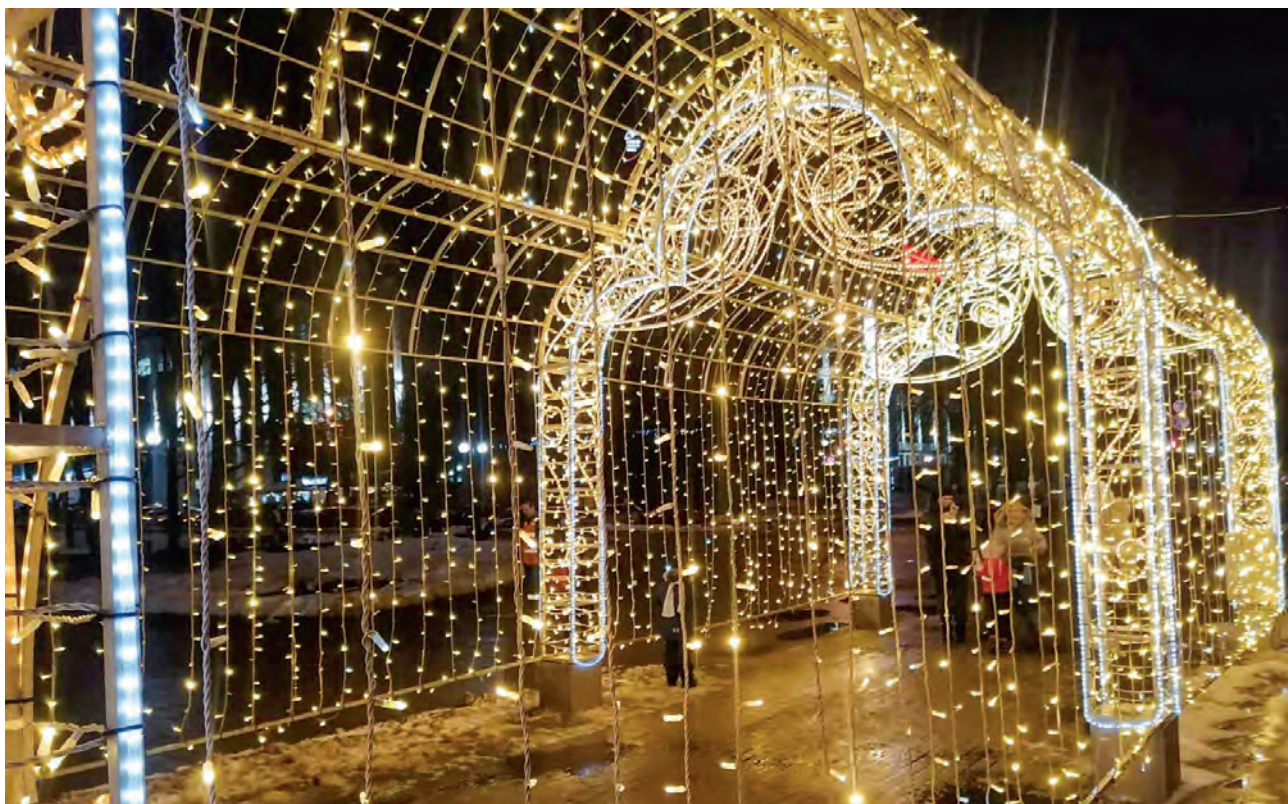


“All equipment used at our enterprise is energy efficient. We use LED designs, LED themes, light strings, lamps. The total power consumed in our city is 982 kilowatt-hours. This is less than 4% of the citywide load on outdoor lighting,” noted Yevgeny Staselovich, Deputy Head of the Production and Technical Department of the Mingsorsvet enterprise.

“The festive illumination will work from the moment the city outdoor lighting is turned on, when dusk falls. It will work until midnight, with the exception of the days of the New Year and Christmas in places where the festive illuminations and New Year trees are expected to work throughout the night,” said the Chief Engineer of the Mingsorsvet enterprise, Aleksandr Vorobtsov.

The work of the New Year's illumination is monitored by 11 teams of electricians. They do this remotely. In the event of a problem, the duty team will repair any Christmas tree in Minsk so that every light is lit and lifts your spirits. New Year's illumination in Minsk worked properly before the New Year, and it will also work until January 15th.

It is amazing how many people work to ensure that the holiday takes place without incident and passes in joy. Take, for example, the rescuers from Grodno, who held the Safe Christmas Tree charity event, which has already become a good tradition, for 60 boys and girls from special boarding schools and orphanages in the city. On the territory of Fire Rescue Unit No. 1, the festive illumination on the 33-meter tower was lit. Next to the huge spruce tree, a historic fire truck also shone with lights. Together with Snow Maiden, Snowflakes and Father Frost, the children repeated the safety rules, decorated the Christmas trees with toys they



made with their own hands, and received gifts. Employees of the state enterprise Minsktrans and the Minsk Metro also worked hard. Public transport in Minsk was decorated with shining lights, and New Year's trains were running in the metro. Holiday greetings were broadcast inside the carriages and on monitors. In Minsk you could find elegant trams, buses, trolleybuses and electric buses. They set out on the routes on December 18th, thereby creating a New Year's festive mood for Minsk residents and guests of the capital.

According to established tradition, on the eve of the New Year, Father Frost and Snow Maiden descended into the Minsk metro. Traveling from

Oktyabrskaya station, they presented sweet gifts. Particular attention was paid to the youngest passengers.

The New Year festivities in the regions of Belarus kicked off with a procession of the main New Year's characters, fun games, concerts and quizzes. The atmosphere of miracle and magic was created by illumination on festive trees and building facades. For theatrical performances, everyone gathered in advance in order to have time to take the best seats near the stage, where they were already greeted by Father Frost and the Snow Maiden. Both adults and children came to recharge with positive energy and good mood.

Mikhailina Cherkashina

Hospitable invitation, or How tourism is becoming one of the priority areas in the country

The tourism potential of Belarus today is based on the diversity, beauty and pristine nature, the uniqueness of the historical and cultural heritage, memorable places associated with the names of outstanding figures of world history and culture. However, besides everything, the country also has an advantageous geographical location. A person who wants to visit the geographical centre of Europe just needs to buy a ticket to Minsk.

An attractive area for guests

In order to improve the tourism industry, in recent years we have developed and adopted a number of regulatory documents. But the main one is still the National Programme for the Development of Tourism in the Republic of Belarus. The main objectives of the programme are the creation of the necessary infrastructure in tourist areas, the effective and rational use of natural resources and historical and cultural heritage, as well as the expansion of domestic and inbound tourism opportunities.

It is obvious that the country, by all indications, has an exceptionally rich natural, historical and cultural potential, favourable for international tourism. Belarus has a relatively mild climate, an abundance of rivers and lakes, and no large industrial areas. In addition to natural reserves and wildlife sanctuaries, there are villages where the preserved historical environment coexists with the traditional way of life.

Of particular value for educational tourism are the monuments of Polotsk — the spiritual cradle and first capital of the Belarusians, the architectural and cultural complex of the former residence of the Radziwills in Nesvizh, the castle

好客的邀请，或旅游业如何成为国家的优先方向之一

吸引游客的地区

近年来，为了完善旅游业，我们制定并通过了一系列规范性文件。但最主要的还是《白俄罗斯共和国国家旅游发展计划》。该计划的主要目标是在旅游区建立必要的基础设施，有效合理地利用自然资源和历史文化遗产，扩大国内和入境旅游的机会。

显然，白俄罗斯拥有异常丰富的自然、历史和文化潜力，有利于国际旅游业的发展。白俄罗斯气候相对温和，河流湖泊众多，没有大面积的工业区。除了自然保护区和野生动物保护区之外，还有一些村庄，其保存完好的历史环境与传统的生活方式相得益彰。

波洛茨克纪念碑（白俄罗斯人的精神摇篮和第一座首都）、涅斯维日的拉齐威尔故居建筑（涅斯维日承包）和文化综合





体、米尔城堡综合体（已列入联合国教科文组织世界文化和自然遗产名录）对认知旅游具有特殊价值，除此之外，还有布列斯特要塞、利达城堡、博布鲁伊斯克要塞、平斯克古迹、斯洛尼姆古迹、莫吉廖夫古迹、戈梅利古迹（古典主义风格的宫殿和公园建筑群、彼得保罗大教堂），以及其他与重要历史事件有关的地方。

适合各种口味的旅游

我们已经提到，白俄罗斯拥有发展旅游业的巨大自然潜力。这里有广阔的、保存完好的森林、森林-湖泊、森林-河流综合体，包括各种动植物、狩猎场和渔场，风景如画，具备组织徒步旅行、骑马、骑自行车、水上（游船、摩托艇、独木舟、帆船）旅游、在自然环境中休闲和治愈的条件。

另一个重要事实是，全国近十分之一的领土被列为受特别保护的自然综合体。其中包括别洛韦日森林国家公园、纳拉齐国家公园、拥有原始自然风光的布拉斯拉夫湖泊、普里皮亚季国家公园（自然、文化和历史遗产的独特结合）、别列津斯基生物圈保护区—欧洲中部野生自然的神奇一角、纳利博克斯卡娅野生动物保护区、蓝色湖泊。

此外，纳拉齐国家公园全年都有娱乐活动。度假区内有宾馆和娱乐设施，风景如画的湖边旅游营地和休息场所，还组织狩猎和钓鱼活动。在世界首批自然保护区之一的别洛韦日森林国家公园，维斯库利和卡缅尤基宾馆、泰什凯维奇伯爵之家别墅和圣诞老人住所可供游客使用。

分布在全国各地区的三十多家狩猎农场为游客提供狩猎旅游服务。生态旅游、乡村旅游和体育旅游正在发展中。

考虑游客的愿望

您可以在数十家博物馆、剧院、民间工艺和手工艺品中心以及城市和城市居民区了解白俄罗斯的历史、民间艺术、军事成果、文化和艺术。是的，不仅是首都，全国各地的其他地方都

休闲与认知

REST AND LEARNING

complex in Mir (included in the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage List), Brest Fortress, Lida Castle, Bobruisk Fortress, monuments of Pinsk, Slonim, Mogilev, Gomel (palace and park ensemble in the style of classicism, Peter and Paul Cathedral), as well as other places associated with important historical events.

Recreation for every taste

We have already noted that Belarus has rich natural potential for the development of tourism. It includes extensive, well-preserved forest, forest-lake, forest-river complexes, including a variety of flora and fauna, hunting and fishing grounds, picturesque landscapes with conditions for organizing walking, horseback riding, cycling, water (boats, motor ships, kayaks, sailing) tourist trips, rest and recreation in the natural environment.

Another important fact is that almost a tenth of the country's territory belongs to specially protected natural complexes. They include the national parks Belovezhskaya Pushcha, Narochansky, Braslav Lakes with pristine nature, Pripyatsky (a unique combination of natural, cultural and historical heritage), Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve — an amazing corner of wild nature in the centre Europe, nature reserves Nalibokskaya Pushcha, Blue Lakes.

By the way, year-round recreation is organised in the Narochansky National Park. In the resort area there are guest cottages and recreational facilities, there are tourist sites and recreation areas on the picturesque shores of the lakes, organised hunting tours and fishing are held. In the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park — one of the first nature reserves in the world — tourists can enjoy the hotels Viskuli, Kamenyuki, the House of Count Tyshkevich, the residence of Father Frost.

More than thirty hunting farms located in all regions of the country provide their services for organising hunting tours. Ecological, rural and sports tourism is developing.

Take into account the wishes of tourists

You can get acquainted with the history of Belarus, its folk art, military glory, culture, and art in dozens of museums, theatres, centres of folk crafts and crafts in cities and towns. Yes, not only the capital, but also other places throughout the country are distinguished by truly Belarusian hospitality and comfort. Hotels, tourist and recreational complexes, camp sites, restaurants, cafes, bars, and over two hundred large sports facilities are available to tourists.

Based on the wishes of tourists, Belarusian tour operators are developing a wide variety of routes around the country. Actually, the organisational structure of the tourism sector is currently being rebuilt as an important means of recreation and health improvement for people, as well as a potential source of replenishment of the state budget. Conditions are being created to attract investment in this industry. Much work is being done to build and reconstruct tourist facilities, create the necessary conditions for the operation of tourism enterprises, and provide advertising and information support



for the country's tourism opportunities. As you know, the Logoisk and Silichi ski and sports centres have been built, the residence of Father Frost in Belovezhskaya Pushcha, and the Augustów and Dnieper-Bug canals are being restored. New hotels are being actively reconstructed and built, the best of them — in Minsk, Vitebsk, Gomel — are certified as 3 and 4 stars.

In the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park, the residence of Father Frost organically complemented the infrastructure of the entire local tourist complex and marked the beginning of the formation of a new tradition of celebrating the New Year holidays for children and adults, giving them a meeting with the world of a fairy tale.

Ideas for development

The presence of the trans-European communication corridor Paris — Berlin — Warsaw — Brest — Minsk — Orsha — Moscow is important for the development of tourism in Belarus. The main part of the transit tourist route Belarusian Equator passes through it. In the area of this corridor, unique recreational and tourist resources of not only national but also global significance are concentrated, and a tourism infrastructure is being created.

In recent years, a number of intergovernmental agreements on cooperation in the field of tourism have been concluded with India, China, Russia, Syria, Armenia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and other countries. Festivals and folklore holidays held in Belarus, including the International Festival of Arts *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk*, international festivals of medieval culture in Nesvizh, Novogrudok, Zaslavl, become attractive tourist events. On the territory of the republic, within the framework of international programmes of UNDP and UNESCO, a number of projects are being implemented that are of great importance for the development of tourism. First of all, the creation of a cultural and tourist zone on the basis of the castle complexes of Mir and Nesvizh (Mir—Nesvizh), the commissioning of the Belarusian part of the Augustów Canal.

Tourism activities on the territory of the Republic of Belarus are carried out by more than six hundred enterprises, of which the absolute majority are private. All of them are licensed by the Ministry of Sports and Tourism. The scale of tasks for the development of tourism as one of the priority sectors of the economy, the intersectoral nature of the tourism industry and activities, the importance of tourism for improving the health of the population and the formation of a healthy lifestyle, educating young people on the knowledge of historical and

充满了白俄罗斯人的热情好客和舒适惬意。酒店、旅游和娱乐综合体、露营地、餐馆、咖啡馆、酒吧、两百多个大型体育设施供游客使用。

白俄罗斯旅游公司正在根据游客的意愿在全国范围内开发各种线路。事实上，旅游业是人们娱乐和健康的重要手段，也是补充国家预算的潜在来源，其组织结构目前正在调整。正在创造条件吸引对该部门的投资。目前正在开展大量工作，以建设和重建旅游设施，为旅游企业的工作、国家旅游机会的广告和信息支持创造必要条件。如您所知，洛戈伊斯克和西利奇滑雪运动和娱乐中心、别洛韦日森林圣诞老人故居已经建成，奥古斯托夫斯基运河和第聂伯-布格斯基运河正在修复。正在积极重建和建造新酒店，包括明斯克、维捷布斯克、戈梅利的3 星级和 4 星级酒店。

在别洛韦日森林国家公园圣诞老人的住所补充了当地整个旅游综合体的基础设施，并为儿童和成人新年假期新传统的形成奠定了基础，让他们与童话世界相会。

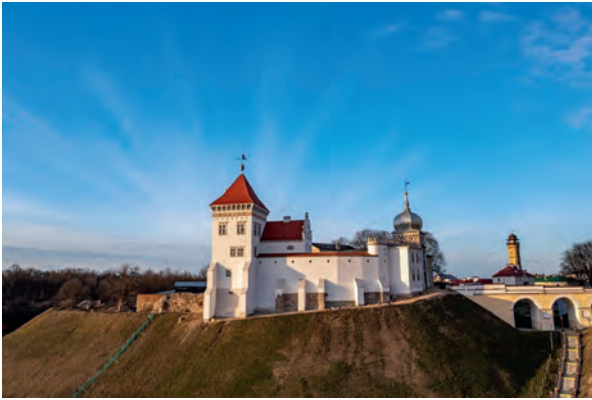
发展理念

巴黎—柏林—华沙—布列斯特—明斯克—奥尔沙—莫斯科的跨欧交通走廊对白俄罗斯旅游业的发展具有重要意义。白俄罗斯过境旅游路线的主要部分就经过这条走廊。独特的娱乐和旅游资源不仅在国内而且在世界上都具有重要意义，这些资源都集中在这一走廊地带，旅游基础设施也正在建设之中。

近年来，白俄罗斯与印度、中国、俄罗斯、叙利亚、亚美尼亚、塔吉克斯坦、吉尔吉斯斯坦等国签订了一系列政府间旅游合作协议。在白俄罗斯举办的节日和民俗节，包括维捷布斯克斯拉夫集市，在涅斯维日、新格鲁多克和扎斯拉夫举办的中世纪文化国际节，都成为了极具吸引力的旅游活动。在联合国开发计划署和联合国教科文组织的国际计划框架内，国家正在实施一系列对旅游业发展具有重要意义的项目。首先是在米尔和涅斯维日城堡的基础上建立文化旅游区，以及奥古斯特运河白俄罗斯段的投入使用。

在白俄罗斯共和国有六百多家企业从事旅游活动，其中绝大多数为私营企业。所有这些企业都有体育和旅游部颁发的许





可证。将旅游业作为经济优先发展领域之一的任务规模，旅游业和活动的跨部门性质，旅游业对改善居民健康和形成健康生活方式的重要性，对年轻人进行历史和文化价值知识教育——所有这些都决定了国家领导层对旅游业问题的高度重视。

农业旅游方兴未艾

白俄罗斯是一个拥有蓝色湖泊和原始森林的国家。我们生活在这个国家，为其独特的自然环境感到自豪，我们拥有大自然赐予我们的巨大财富，并乐于与他人分享。这就是为什么厌倦了持续不断的喧嚣和无休止的匆忙的大都市居民在计划假期时，越来越多地不是去拥挤的海滨度假胜地，而是去宁静而迷人的白俄罗斯庄园，在那里主人会提供娱乐和康复服务，组织狩猎和捕鱼，向客人介绍本地区的自然潜力和民族文化传统。

农业旅游或也被称为农村旅游、乡村旅游、绿色旅游，是农村地区的娱乐方式之一。农业旅游与生态旅游、健康旅游等假期类型有关。农业旅游爱好者可以住在乡村小屋或舒适的庄园里，体验农村生活。清晨的公鸡歌唱、悠闲的生活、大自然和清新的空气——这就是农业旅游的内在魅力。在草棚里住，到森林里采蘑菇和浆果——怎么样？

同时，农业生态旅游并不是一个新现象；至少在欧洲，它早在 20 世纪 70 年代就已为人所知。它在法国、意大利和西班牙最为发达。这种度假方式在塞浦路斯和克罗地亚也很普遍。乡村旅游出现和发展的主要原因是，收入一般的城市居民需要与大自然独处，放松身心，了解农民家庭的生活。不仅可以品尝到新鲜的水果和蔬菜、肉类和奶制品，还可以参加农业劳动。客户的愿望得到了尊重，旅游业的车轮也随之转动起来，为游客提供了数以百计的乡村房屋、小屋和城堡供其选择，并配有自产牛奶、自家葡萄园的葡萄酒、钓鱼、草棚和各种娱乐设施。据各种数据显示，目前欧洲乡村旅游的收入占旅游业总收入的 10% 至 20%。

从广义上讲，当其他产业在技术上与适当的自然和休闲环境相适应时，农业旅游是地域方面占主导地位的关键产业。农业旅游也应被视为生态旅游的一种。

农业旅游公共协会创始人瓦莱里娅-克利库诺娃坚信，农业旅游在白俄罗斯有着广阔的发展前景：“今天，我们的目录中大约有 250 个活跃的农庄。而白俄罗斯的估计上限是 1000-1500 个。这表明我们仍处于起步阶段。”在谈到吸引外国游客时，这位专家强调，首先这些人感兴趣的不是舒适度，而是真实性——生活条件、天然食品、当地传统和民俗。农庄的主人会尽量考虑到这一点。

鲍里斯-萨维利耶夫

cultural values — all this determines the significant attention that the country's leadership pays tourism issues.

Agrotourism is gaining ground

Belarus is a land of blue lakes and pristine forests. We live in this country and are proud of its unique nature, we own the enormous wealth given to us by nature, and are happy to share it with other people. Therefore, tired of the constant bustle and endless rush, residents of megalopolises, planning a vacation, increasingly go not to crowded seaside resorts, but to the calm and attractive estates of Belarusians, where their owners will provide recreation and health services, organise hunting and fishing, and introduce guests to natural potential of the region, national cultural traditions.

Agrotourism or, as it is also called, rural tourism, 'green tourism', is one of the types of recreation in rural areas. Agrotourism is associated with such types of recreation as ecotourism and health tourism. Agrotourism lovers can stay in rustic houses or comfortable estates and get a taste of rural life. Roosters crowing in the morning, leisurely life, nature and clean air are the inherent delights of agrotourism. A 'hotel' in a hayloft and a trip to the forest to pick mushrooms and berries are exotic for foreign tourists, but profitable for a Belarusian village.

Meanwhile, agroecotourism is not a new phenomenon; it has been known, at least in Europe, since the 1970s. It was most developed in France, Italy and Spain. This type of holiday is widespread in Cyprus and Croatia. The main reason for the emergence and development of rural tourism is the need of middle-income city dwellers to relax alone with nature and get acquainted with the life of a peasant family. And not only try fresh vegetables and fruits, meat and dairy products, but also take direct part in agricultural work — as they say, stand at the plough yourself. The client's wishes were respected, the wheel of the tourism industry began to turn, giving tourists a choice of hundreds of rural houses, huts and castles, complete with fresh milk, wine from owners' vineyard, fishing, hayloft and a variety of entertainment. Currently, rural tourism in Europe brings, according to various sources, from 10 to 20 percent of the total income of the tourism industry.

In a broad sense, agricultural tourism is the dominant key industry in the territorial aspect, when the rest adapt technologically to the corresponding natural and recreational environment. Agrotourism should also be considered as one of the types of ecological tourism.

The founder of the Rest in the Village public association Valeria Klitsunova is convinced that agrotourism in Belarus has a great future, "Today our catalogue contains about 250 operating estates. While the estimated limit for Belarus is 1,000—1,500. This indicates that we are still in its early stages." Speaking about attracting foreign tourists, the expert emphasises that, first of all, such people are not interested in comfort, but in authenticity — living conditions, natural food, local traditions and folklore. And the owners of agricultural estates try to take this into account.

Boris Savelyev

Дар'я ЗУБКО: “Мяне зацікавіла адаптацыя беларусаў у Кітаі...”



Кандыдат гістарычных навук Дар'я ЗУБКО жыве і працуе ў Кітаі. Выкладчык Другога Пекінскага ўніверсітэта замежных моў. Мне давялося наведаць гэтую вышэйшую навучальную ўстанову. Тут працуе Цэнтр даследаванняў Беларусі. У двары ўніверсітэта ўсталяваны помнік народнаму песняру Беларусі Янку Купалу. Ва ўніверсітэцкай бібліятэцы на паліцах з славістыкай, русістыкай я знайшоў невялікі падбор кніг беларускіх пісьменнікаў – Міхася Лынькова, Васіля Быкава... Нават давялося патрымаць у руках выдадзенага ў Мінску амаль паўвека назад “Сымона-музыку” Якуба Коласа з ілюстрацыямі Міколы Селяшчука. Ёсць бібліятэка кніг і ў Цэнтры даследавання Беларусі. Дарэчы, удзел у яе фарміраванні прымалі Саюз пісьменнікаў Беларусі і Выдавецкі дом “Звязда”... Наша размова з Дар'яй – пра яе кітаязнаўчыя зацікаўленні.

— Перш-наперш хацеў бы запытацца, а як усё ж прыйшло да вас зацікаўленне кітаістыкай?

— Увогуле, я ніколі не думала, што буду цікавіцца Кітаем. Раней мне здавалася гэта чымсьці недасягальным і зусім далёкім. Аднак, калі я ўпершыню паехала ў Кітай ў 2016 годзе, то зразумела, што менавіта гэтая культура, няхай сабе і зусім далёкая, не падобная да беларускай, рускай культур, мяне цікавіць для вывучэння, для даследавання. Захацелася даведацца, як людзі з іншымі культурамі адаптуюцца да кітайскай. На адной з

莉·祖布科： «我对白俄罗斯 人在中国的适应性 感兴趣.....»。

达莉亚·祖布科，历史科学副博士，在中国生活和工作。她是北京第二外国语学院的教师。我有机会在这所高等学府任教。白俄罗斯研究中心在这里工作。学院里有一座白俄罗斯国家作曲家扬卡-库帕拉的纪念碑。在学院的图书馆里，我发现了一些白俄罗斯作家的书籍--Mikhas Lynkov, Vasil Bykov.....放在斯拉夫学和俄罗斯学的书架上。我甚至有机会手捧雅库布-科拉斯的《音乐家西蒙》一书，这本书近半个世纪前在明斯克出版，由尼古拉-塞列舒克绘制插图。白俄罗斯研究中心也有一个藏书图书馆。另外，白俄罗斯作家联盟和《星星》出版社参与了该中心的组建。我们与达莉亚的谈话是关于她对中国研究的兴趣。

сумесных навукова-практычных канферэнцый я пазнаёмілася са сваім будучым навуковым кіраўніком – доктарам гістарычных навук Аляксандрам Гурко. Ён падказаў, што тэма па адаптацыі беларусаў у Кітаі дагэтуль не разглядалася. Я адразу і вырашыла для пачатку менавіта ёй і заняцца.

— Уражвае ваша грунтоўная манаграфія пра беларусаў у Кітаі... Наколькі складана было сабраць такія шырокія па сваіх абсягах матэрыялы?

— Матэрыял для манаграфіі сапраўды збіраўся вельмі складана. Трэба было не толькі абагульніць ужо вядомыя гістарычныя дадзеныя, але і правесці шматлікія апытанні сярод беларусаў, якія зараз пражываюць у Кітаі. Апытальны ліст палучыўся вельмі вялікі, што сталася даволі нязручным для маіх рэспандэнтаў. Але я разумела, што калі даваць яго часткамі, то на кожную з асабістых частак я не здолею сабраць патрэбную колькасць чалавек. Добра, што сучасныя тэхналогіі дазваляюць рабіць гэта ў тым ліку дыстанцыйна, таму за некалькі гадоў мне удалося апытаць патрэбную колькасць рэспандэнтаў. Праца, між іншым, цікавая, якая сама па сабе падштурхоўвае да многіх тэм даследаванняў.

— Вы ўжо даволі доўга працуеце ў Кітаі, можаце зрабіць пэўныя высновы пра ўзровень зацікаўленняў кітайскага боку беларускай культуры, гісторыі нашай краіны, беларускай літаратуры... Што найбольш вылучылі б у сувязі з гэтым?

— Сярод студэнтаў сустракаецца зацікаўленасць да беларускай мовы і культуры. Вядома, яна не такая высокая, як хацелася б. Аднак некаторыя студэнты ў якасці сваіх дыпломных работ выбіраюць тэмы, звязаныя з культурай Беларусі, нашымі СМІ, беларускай міфалогіяй. Зразумела, кітайская навуковая моладзь шукае новыя вопыты, зазірае ў іншыя практыкі, маладыя даследчыкі схільны да параўнання. Гэтая акалічнасць і развівае зацікаўленні Беларусцю, беларускай культурай.

— Ці можна ўжо гаварыць пра існаванне беларусістыкі ў Кітайскай Народнай Рэспубліцы?

— Так, я сказала б, што беларусістыка ў Кітайскай Народнай Рэспубліцы ўсё ж такі хутчэй існуе, але пакуль толькі на пачатковых этапах. Паглядзім, што будзе далей. Перспектывы развіцця залежаць ад многага. У тым ліку – і ад нашай, беларускай, зацікаўленасці з разлікам на тое, каб пра нас ведалі ў свеце.

— У Другім Пекінскім універсітэце замежных моў, дзе вы зараз працуеце, існуе Цэнтр даследавання Беларусі. Калі ласка, раскажыце крыху пра яго працу, пра тое, што ён сабою зараз уяўляе.

— **Спачатку, я хачу ведаць, як вы пачалі цікавіцца Кітаем?**

— Я ніколі не думала, што буду цікавіцца Кітаем. Раней, калі я была ў Беларусі, я ведала, што Кітай – гэта вялікая краіна, якая мае вялікую гісторыю і культуру. Але я не ведала, што гэта значыць для беларусаў. Я пачала цікавіцца Кітаем, калі пераехала ў Кітай. Я пачала ведаць, што Кітай – гэта не проста краіна, якая мае вялікую гісторыю і культуру, але яна мае і сваю навуковую і культурную традыцыю. Я пачала ведаць, што Кітай – гэта не проста краіна, якая мае вялікую гісторыю і культуру, але яна мае і сваю навуковую і культурную традыцыю.

— **Вы працавалі над гэтай кнігай у Беларусі, у Кітаі, ці ў іншых краінах?**

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— Наш Цэнтр уяўляе сабой асобнае памяшканне, у якім змяшчаецца невялікая бібліятэка як навуковай, так і мастацкай літаратуры. Маюцца беларускія сувеніры і партрэты знакамітых людзей Беларусі. Пры Цэнтры праводзяцца заняткі, семінары і канферэнцыі. Часам мы ладзім відэаканферэнцыі з беларускімі ўніверсітэтамі для нашых студэнтаў, дзе яны абменьваюцца вопытам па пытаннях культуры. Таксама пры Цэнтры склалася праца па перакладах твораў беларускіх аўтараў. Дзякуючы матэрыялам, якія сабраны за апошнія гады, складаюцца падручнікі. Штогод Другі Пекінскі ўніверсітэт замежных моў праводзіць Дні міжнароднай культуры, у якіх прымае ўдзел і наш Цэнтр.

— У Кітаі ў апошні год-паўтара з’явіліся публікацыі перакладзеных на кітайскую мову твораў беларускіх пісьменнікаў Алеся Бадака, Андрэя Федарэнкі, Алены Брава, Міколы Мятліцкага, Навума Гальпяровіча і іншых аўтараў. Ці ёсць які-небудзь розгалас у сувязі з гэтымі публікацыямі? Ці ёсць, на ваш погляд, перспектывы ў прадстаўленні сучаснай беларускай літаратуры ў Кітаі? Што патрэбна зрабіць для развіцця зацікаўлення ў кітайскіх перакладчыкаў сучаснай беларускай паэзіяй і прозай?

— Як правіла, на сайце ўніверсітэта з’яўляецца адпаведная інфармацыя аб зробленых перакладах твораў беларускіх пісьменнікаў, а на сайце Міжнароднага радыё ў Кітаі можна знайсці інтэрв’ю з перакладчыкамі. Яшчэ Цэнтры Беларусі маюць сумесныя зносіны паміж сабой, таму кожны беларускі цэнтр у Кітаі ведае, якая праца праводзіцца ў дадзеным накірунку.

З нагоды чакання добрых перспектыв у цяжка сказаць нешта канкрэтнае. Я б нават так сказала, што пакуль існуюць Цэнтры, якія фінансуюцца ўніверсітэтамі, дзе працуюць выкладчыкі з Беларусі, то такая праца будзе весціся. Нягледзячы на тое, што нашы перакладчыкі працуюць бясплатна, патрэбна ж, каб перакладзены беларускі твор усё ж такі пабачыў свет кнігай, яго яшчэ трэба апублікаваць, а гэта патрабуе ўкладання немалых сродкаў.

Каб зацікавіць кітайскага чытателя творамі беларускіх пісьменнікаў, важнае месца ў першую чаргу займае вядомасць аўтара. Калі творчасць беларускага пісьменніка будучы ведаць не толькі ў Беларусі, а і ў Расіі, у англамоўных краінах, то цікавасць да яго адпаведна вырасце і сярод кітайскай аўдыторыі. Патрэбна болей і нам самім пісаць пра беларускую літаратуру ў розных замежных выданнях.

— Ці ёсць сярод кітайскай студэнцкай моладзі чытачы і адпаведна даследчыкі творчасці беларускіх пісьменнікаў?

— Так, ёсць. Асабіста ў мяне студэнты пісалі дыпломныя работы па творчасці Святланы Алексіевіч, Якуба Коласа і Янкі Купалы. У другіх калег нават рабілі



литературы. Здесь есть белорусские сувениры и портреты знаменитых людей Беларуси. В Центре проводятся занятия, семинары и конференции. Иногда мы организуем видеоконференции с белорусскими университетами для наших студентов, где они обмениваются опытом по вопросам культуры. Также в Центре сложилась работа по переводам произведений белорусских авторов. Благодаря материалам, которые собраны за последние годы, составляются учебники. Каждый Второй Пекинский университет иностранных языков проводит Дни международной культуры, в которых участвует и наш Центр.

— В Китае в последний год-полтора появились публикации переводов белорусских писателей Алесия Бадака, Андрея Федаренки, Алены Брава, Микола Мятлика, Навума Гальпяровича и других авторов. Есть ли какой-нибудь резонанс в связи с этими публикациями? Есть ли, на ваш взгляд, перспективы в представлении современной белорусской литературы в Китае? Что нужно сделать для развития интереса китайских переводчиков к современной белорусской поэзии и прозе?

— Как правило, на сайте университета появляется соответствующая информация об опубликованных переводах произведений белорусских писателей, а на сайте Международного радио в Китае можно найти интервью с переводчиками. Еще Центры Беларуси имеют совместные связи друг с другом, поэтому каждый белорусский центр в Китае знает, какая работа ведется в данном направлении.

Ввиду ожидания хороших перспектив трудно сказать что-то конкретное. Я бы даже так сказала, что пока существуют Центры, которые финансируются университетами, где работают преподаватели из Беларуси, то такая работа будет вестись. Несмотря на то, что наши переводчики работают бесплатно, нужно же, чтобы переведенное белорусское произведение все же увидело свет в книжной форме, а это требует немалых затрат.

Чтобы заинтересовать китайского читателя произведениями белорусских писателей, важное место в первую очередь занимает известность автора. Если творчество белорусского писателя известно не только в Беларуси, а и в России, в англоязычных странах, то интерес к нему соответственно возрастет и среди китайской аудитории. Нужно больше и самим писать про белорусскую литературу в различных зарубежных изданиях.

— Есть ли среди китайской студенческой молодежи читатели и соответственно исследователи творчества белорусских писателей?

— Да, есть. Лично у меня студенты писали дипломные работы по творчеству Светланы Алексиевич, Якуба Коласа и Янки Купалы. У других коллег даже делали

невялікія пераклады твораў беларускіх пісьменнікаў. Таксама праводзяцца конкурсы чытачоў, на якіх студэнты дэкламуюць ў тым ліку і беларускія вершы. — У КНР на сённяшні дзень працуе некалькі, калі не памыляюся – болей дзесяці, Цэнтраў культуры, Цэнтраў даследванняў Беларусі. У чым вызначаецца паміж імі пэўны камунікат, ці ёсць пэўная праграма ўзгодненых дзеянняў?

— Так, я ўжо адзначыла гэтую сувязь. Цэнтры культуры і даследвання Беларусі ўзаемадзейнічаюць паміж сабой і перыядычна прымаюць удзел у сумесных навукова-практычных і культурных канферэнцыях. Таксама ў сацыяльных сетках існуюць агульныя чаты кітайскіх і беларускіх калег, дзе, як правіла, абмяркоўваюцца агульныя пытанні, абмяркоўваюцца вынікі зробленай працы і будуецца планы на будучыню.

— Якія ў вас асабіста надалей планы па вывучэнню Кітая, па развіццю беларуска-кітайскіх гуманітарных, літаратурных сувязяў?

— Я хачу вывучаць кітайскую вёску: побыт, культуру, традыцыі... Таксама хачу сабраць інфармацыю аб карысных лекавых травах, сабраць рэцэпты страў, з дапамогай якіх можна лячыць многія хваробы. Напрыклад, у Кітаі прастуду лячыць курыным булёнам, але гэта не такі булён як у нас. Ён гатуецца ў гаршчочку, куды дадаюць яшчэ ягады годжы, імбір і іншыя інгрэдыенты. А булён з чорнай курыцы карысны для жаночага здароўя. Вось я хачу больш падрабязна даведацца пра розныя рэцэпты і падзяліцца імі з беларусамі.

Што датычыцца развіцця гуманітарных беларуска-кітайскіх сувязяў, то планую працягваць пісаць падручнікі, праводзіць анлайн-семінары, канферэнцыі, запісваць відэаўрокі і далей выкладаць беларускую мову і літаратуру, каб больш кітайцаў мела магчымасць знаёміцца з самабытнай культурай нашай краіны.

— Зыходзячы з свайго навуковага вопыту, з уласнага кітайскага досведу, што б вы параілі пачынаючым кітаістам у Беларусі?

— У першую чаргу ніколі не здавацца перад цяжкасцямі вывучэння кітайскай мовы і працягваць вучыцца нават пасля заканчэння ўніверсітэта. Таксама трэба абавязкова чытаць кітайскую літаратуру і глядзець кітайскія фільмы, праз якія можна даведацца аб сучаснай кітайскай моладзі, іх ладзе жыцця, інтарэсах і асаблівасцях культуры. Мне гэта вельмі дапамагае ў працы – стараюся быць са студэнтамі на адной хвалі. — Дзякуй, Дар'я, за размову. Спадзяюся, што ад году ў год будзе дадавацца плёну ў развіццё беларуска-кітайскіх гуманітарных стасункаў, а таксама будуць пашырацца ўяўленні пра беларусаў і Беларусь, пра нашу гісторыю і культуру і ў няблізкім да нас тэрытарыяльна Кітаі.

Гутарыў Аляксей Карлюкевіч



- 如果我记错的话, 现在有十多个白俄罗斯文化中心和研究中心在中国工作, 是什么决定了它们之间的某种联系, 是否有某些计划?

- 是的, 我已经注意到了这种联系。白俄罗斯的文化中心和研究中心相互交流, 定期参加科学实践和文化联合会议。在社交网络上, 中国和白俄罗斯的同事们也经常聊天, 通常会讨论共同的问题, 讨论工作成果, 并制定未来计划。

- 在研究中国、发展白俄罗斯-中国人道主义和文学联系方面, 您个人进一步的计划是什么? И

- 我想研究中国乡村: 日常生活、文化、传统。我还想收集有关有用药材的信息, 收集可以治疗多种疾病的菜谱。例如, 在中国, 我用鸡汤治疗感冒, 但鸡汤和我们喝的不一样。它是在锅里煮的, 里面加入了枸杞、生姜和其他配料。而乌鸡汤对女性健康有益。在这里, 我想更多地了解各种食谱, 并与白俄罗斯人分享。

至于白俄罗斯-中国人道主义关系的发展, 我计划继续编写教材, 举办在线研讨会、会议, 录制视频课程, 并在未来教授白俄罗斯语言和文学, 让更多中国人有机会了解我们国家的独特文化。

- 根据您的学术经验和自己的中文经历, 您对白俄罗斯的中国文学初学者有什么建议?

- 首先, 永远不要在学习汉语的困难面前放弃, 即使大学毕业后也要继续学习。阅读中国文学作品和观看中国电影也很有必要, 这样可以了解现代中国年轻人、他们的生活方式、兴趣爱好和文化特点。这对我的工作帮助很大--我努力与学生们保持一致。

- 谢谢你, 达莉亚, 谢谢你的谈话。我希望白中人文关系的发展每年都能取得更丰硕的成果, 也希望白俄罗斯人和白俄罗斯的历史和文化以及与中国之间的了解能够不断扩大。

阿列克斯-卡尔柳克维奇进行了对话



About Georgy Skrebitsky and Vera Chaplina, Russian and Soviet nature writers who travelled extensively throughout Belarus with its rich forests, rivers and lakes. Their love for nature and the surrounding world was talentedly reflected in literary works, in particular, in the book *In Belovezhskaya Pushcha*.

GREETINGS FROM THE MID-TWENTIETH CENTURY

With special love, I look at the shelf with books about the beauties of our nature in my book collection.

Especially those that remain from my childhood. Sometimes very well read. But all editions are without marks, with covers and without any aging. Although I remember for sure that I was not the only one reading them... Konstantin Paustovsky, Mikhail Prishvin, Boris Zhitkov, Valentin Bianki... Their large and small books and very thin little books bring pleasure, reminding me that I compared their writing observations with my view of my native Svisloch River, of the forests that coexisted next to my beloved village of Zatitova Sloboda — Bluzhsky Bor, Rovchak, Boynya... Our summer holidays took place in these pine, aspen and birch



forests. We rushed into the forest in autumn and spring, and even in winter. We collected pine cones and worked with the elders to prepare firewood. In the spring we looked for morels and elfin saddles. If something in our relationship with nature did not coincide in comparison with book discoveries, we went for advice to adults, to our parents, to older brothers and sisters...

And yet, such artistic natural history books have remained with us from our earliest childhood forever. Even if their covers are not in front of our eyes, even if we read them from a school or rural library... Just as several collections by Georgy Skrebitsky and Vera Chaplina remained. Their authors, talking about forests and rivers, plants and animals, taught us to love nature and the world around us.

Russian and Soviet nature writers Georgy Skrebitsky and Vera Chaplina, collecting materials for their books, travelled around Belarus... I would like to talk about one of their works...

'Pages of the Past (Instead of a Preface)' are the first pages that precede a book, the title of which contains a clear and well-known address. Yes, today the authors of the Moscow publishing house, for obvious reasons of geopolitical disruption, would write a little differently. But we quote the preface from 1949 from the book *In Belovezhskaya Pushcha*, published by the Detskaya Literatura State Publishing House of the Ministry of Education of the RSFSR in a circulation of 30,000 copies. "In the West of our country, along the very border with Poland, there are huge centuries-old forests — the forests of Belovezhskaya Pushcha. They spread over many tens of kilometres.

If you look at the Pushcha from an airplane, it is a continuous green sea of forests. As long as the eye can reach them, they go into the distance, disappearing behind the horizon. The forests of the Pushcha amaze with their majesty and diversity. There are pine forests, mixed broad-leaved forests, light oak forests and swampy lowlands overgrown with alder.

This wealth of vegetation provides food for various wild animals inhabiting the Pushcha all year round. Several centuries ago, there were still wild horses in the Pushcha — tarpans, and the mighty forest beauty — the aurochs. Huge herds of bison, deer, elk, roe deer, wild boars and other animals also found shelter in these virgin forests.

Belovezhskaya Pushcha acquired its name at the end of the 13th century.

As the chronicle says, Prince Vladimir Volynsky, dissatisfied with the frequent devastation of Brest by the enemy, decided to choose a safer place for the new city. The choice settled on the confluence of two rivers — Lesnaya and Belaya, from where dense, ancient forests stretched far all around.

The newly founded city was named Kamenets. According to the conditions of that time, a watchtower, painted white, the White Vezha, was built right there on a high hill. This tower has survived to this day. It is very high — its height is more than thirty meters; It was built in three tiers, with basements from which passages were made to the rivers. The upper edge of the tower is jagged, and in the thickness of the walls there are still traces of a spiral staircase leading to these battlements.

The bricks from which the tower is made are so strong that even now they can make fire.

The abundance of valuable animals in the Pushcha already in ancient times attracted the attention of the rulers of this region. Back in the 12th century, before Pushcha became known as Belovezhskaya, Vladimir lived here for a long time, hunting for aurochs, bison and deer. Vladimir Monomakh was a wonderful hunter. He saw hunting not only as fun, but also as the work necessary for a real warrior."

...Georgy Skrebitsky and Vera Chaplina arrived in Belovezhskaya Pushcha two years after the Great Patriotic War: "Finally, in the summer of 1947, our long-standing dream came true, and we went to Belovezhskaya Pushcha..."

They were not yet members of the Writers' Union, but each already had serious literary experience behind them. And most importantly, both Skrebitsky and Chaplina were not accidental people in natural history literature. In 1937, based on materials devoted to the study of bird nesting instincts, Georgy Alekseyevich defended his Ph.D. thesis. And in 1939 and 1940, published the following works in *Scientific and Methodological Notes on Nature Reserves — Study of Bird Behaviour During the Nesting Period and The Influence of the Nature of the Nesting Colony on the Behaviour of Gulls*. Scientific research on Lake Kiyove near Moscow became the basis for Georgy Skrebitsky to create the story for children *Island of White Birds*, which was published in Detgiz in 1942 with illustrations by L. Bruni. In Detgiz in the first half of the 1940s, other books by the writer, who will eventually take a worthy place among nature writers, were also published — *Simps and Cunning People, On Protected Paths*; a lot of small works were published as publications of the Moscow Zoo...

Vera Chaplina was born in April 1908 in Moscow into a noble family. First she came to the Moscow Zoo in the youth group. And then she stayed to work at the zoo for many years. One amazing story was connected with her work. A lion cub was brought to the zoo after it was abandoned by its parents. The cub was given the nickname Kinuli. Vera Vasilyevna became so attached to the animal that for some time she took the lion cub home to raise. About the little animal living in a communal apartment on Malaya Dmitrovka, they wrote in newspapers and made documentaries. And Vera Chaplina wrote a separate book, which she called *Kinuli*. The story was republished quite often in the USSR and translated into other languages. In 1945, like Georgy Skrebitsky, Vera Vasilyevna decided to become a professional writer.

...Moscow writers made at least two trips to Belovezhskaya Pushcha — in 1947 and 1948. The narrative is



structured in such a way that the book consists of separate sections telling about acquaintance with the outstanding inhabitants of the Pushcha — of course, bison, beavers, wolves, wild boars, black storks... Many inhabitants — animals and birds — have specific names and nicknames. Like, for example, the tame raven Petka. Most of the stories observed by the writers also outline the nature of the relationship between animals and birds and the reserve's workers. In the book by G. Skrebitsky and V. Chaplina, we discover interesting people who are in love with their work, we get to know them by name and patronymic. "...At the office we were met by the director of the reserve, Nikolai Sergeyevich. We knew him even earlier, before the war, when he worked in other reserves. Nikolai Sergeyevich always loved nature very much. He was a real explorer and naturalist. He lived in the forests for months at a time, studying the life of wild animals. The Great Patriotic War found him in distant Pechora. From the very first days, Nikolai Sergeyevich went to the front and stayed there until the last day, until Victory Day. The war ended, and Nikolai Sergeyevich again returned to his

favourite work - protecting and studying his native nature. After the war, he had a difficult task: it was necessary to restore the forestry and wildlife management of Belovezhskaya Pushcha, and most importantly, to breed bison again. Needless to say, how delighted we were with Nikolai Sergeyevich! After all, we haven't seen him for so many years! Apparently, it was not easy for him during these years. More than one wrinkle appeared near his eyes, but his eyes remained young and perky, especially when he spoke

about plans for the restoration of Belovezhskaya Pushcha.

"Yes, the Germans did a lot of damage here. Well, it's okay, soon we'll breed bison and deer again, we'll build a new museum — we're already selecting material for it... However, what can I say, you'll see everything for yourself. Now come to me and rest after the journey.

Nikolai Sergeyevich lived in the same house where the reserve's administration was located.

All three of us approached the house, surrounded by a green front garden. A very young woman, thin and agile, came out onto the porch. She easily ran down the steps and came up to us. "And here is my wife, Lyubov Vladimirovna," Nikolai Sergeyevich introduced us..." It turns out that during Skrebitsky and Chaplina's trip to Belovezhskaya Pushcha, Nikolai Sergeyevich was the director of the reserve — judging by the book. But the writers, without giving the last name, changed the first name; only the patronymic name was real. Sergei Sergeyevich Donaurov (1913 — 1976) is 'hiding' under the name 'Nikolai Sergeyevich'. He graduated from Kazan State University with a degree in zoology. In 1935 or around this time he began working in the Caucasus Nature Reserve. Since 1938 — in the Pechora-Ilych Nature Reserve in the Komi Autonomous



Soviet Socialist Republic. In July 1941, Sergei Sergeyevich was drafted into the Red Army. He fought on the Stalingrad front and was wounded. He was awarded the Order of the Red Star, the Order of the Patriotic War, 2nd degree, and the medals 'For Military Merit' and 'For the Defence of Stalingrad'. After the Great Patriotic War — director of the reserve. He persistently worked on developing the scientific basis for breeding bison in free-range conditions... In one of Vera Chaplina's notebooks, a clarifying inscription was preserved, "Brest, 11, Moskovskaya Str., apt. 86 Lyudmila Konstantinovna Donaurova and Sergei Sergeyevich."

The book *In Belovezhskaya Pushcha* was published in one year in two publishing houses at once — in Detgiz and in the Karelofinsky Book Publishing House in Petrozavodsk. Each publication had its own illustrations. The Moscow book was designed by Georgy Nikolsky. Petrozavodsk — A. Kozlov. There were other publications — in Smolensk and Stavropol. In 1950, the book was translated into Hungarian and published in one-volume and two-volume versions. A Czech edition appeared in 1952. The book was published in German three times — in 1952, 1953 and 1955. The total circulation of the three German publications is 90,000 copies. In Russian, the narrative of G. Skrebitsky and V. Chaplina *In Belovezhskaya Pushcha*, unfortunately, has not been republished since 1954.

There is also a Belarusian translation of the book — published in 1951. The translator was the famous children's writer Vital Volsky. The circulation of the Belarusian edition is 10,000 copies. Vital Volsky was born in 1901, only two years older than Georgy Skrebitsky. Prose writer, translator, playwright, screenwriter, literary critic, local historian. Candidate of Philology. In the late 1920s — 1930s, he worked at the State Cinema Committee of the BSSR, and was the director of the Belarusian Drama Theatre named after Yakub Kolas in

Vitebsk. In 1932 — 1936, Director of the Institute of Literature and Art of the Academy of Sciences of the BSSR... His fate was mixed with many different and terrible things... The writer was also worried about the topic of Belovezhskaya Pushcha. In 1946, he wrote the script for the documentary film *Belovezhskaya Pushcha*. In 1948 — 1980s, V. Volsky's books *On Forest Paths*, *In the Forests Above Bereza*, *On Beaver Lakes*, *Seagulls Over Naroch*, *Native Land*, *Journey Through the Country of Belarusians*, *Good Day*, *Bereza* were released... It is quite logical that it was Vital Volsky who undertook the translation of the educational, natural history and even largely local history book by G. Skrebitsky and V. Chaplina.



The book was designed by book graphic artist Anatol Tychyna. Many of his illustrations and bookplates that he created are masterpieces of book graphics...

Georgy Skrebitsky died in 1964. Vera Chaplina — in 1994... Belarusian translator of their *Belovezhskaya Pushcha* narrative Vital Volsky — in 1988. Illustrator of the Minsk edition Anatol Tychyna — in 1986... Why not create a new edition of *In Belovezhskaya*

Pushcha in memory of them?! The book will certainly have readers!

The 'farewell' section in the book *In Belovezhskaya Pushcha* was the section 'Departure'. "... We all went out onto the porch. Petka was jumping around the car, croaking excitedly. He apparently really wanted to get inside, but the door was locked.

"And there's the stork," said Nikolai Sergeyevich.

In the blue, cloudless sky, a huge white bird swam closer and closer to us. It silently glided and landed on the roof of the barn near the old nest from last year.

We looked around for the last time. The bushes in the front garden were already starting to turn green. A real green spring has come!

Oh, how I didn't want to leave!

Vladimir Fedorovich walked across the courtyard in high boots, with a gun in his hands. In the evening he was going to go to the nearest unprotected forest.

We said goodbye to him, got into the car and set off on the way back, full of the most vivid memories of the time we spent in the Belovezhskaya Pushcha nature reserve.

And here again, like a year ago, a car quickly carries us along a smooth, already dry road. And all around were fields and copses covered with the first greenery of spring, all bathed in the dazzling light of the sun. And, looking at this sunny expanse of native fields and forests, one can't help but think: there is so much in the nature of our great country, which has no equal in the whole world!"

That country no longer exists... Today it is not so easy to come from other parts of the post-Soviet space to Belovezhskaya Pushcha, where, of course, there is something to see even today... It stands, the beautiful Belovezhskaya Pushcha, as an unshakable outpost of eternity... And the book *In Belovezhskaya Pushcha* seems not only greetings from the middle of the 20th century...

Ales Karliukevich



AN INSCRIPTION THAT GIVES AN OBJECT A CERTAIN HISTORICAL VALUE

...For the honour and praise of the Lord... is the name of this exhibition at the National Art Museum, which displays dated and signed works of sacred art of Belarus from the 16th — 19th centuries



PECULIARITIES OF THE MUSEUM EXHIBITION



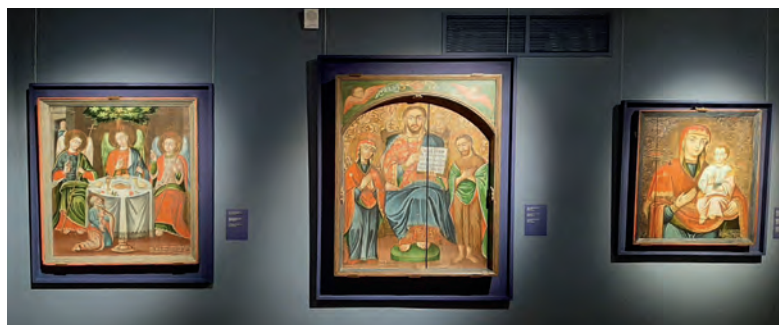
It is known that a feature of sacred painting is its anonymity, since the icon painter in this case did not consider himself the creator of the work. According to him, he was only fulfilling the will of God. That is why at the current exhibition most of the icons have neither the author's signature nor the date of creation. And the names of some icon painters are known only from written sources. There are only a few signed works.

As the curator of the exhibition, Leading Researcher of the Department of Ancient Belarusian Art Lyubov Sysoeva, clarified, the collection of sacred art of the 16th — 19th centuries in the collection of the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus is one of the largest in the country. It includes icons, altar paintings and sculptures, works of decorative and fine art, handwritten and early printed books.

According to the specialist, it is difficult to overestimate the importance of searching for dated works in any genre of fine art. Of course, this information is especially important for objects created several centuries ago. After all, the stylistic and technical-technological data of a dated work make it possible to create a group of objects



PECULIARITIES OF THE MUSEUM EXHIBITION



close to it, to arrange them in a certain sequence, build the evolution of the development of art history. In addition to finding the date, there is evidence about the owners of the objects, their purpose, and geographic location, which makes it possible to compile a 'biography' of the work and include it in the general process of history and culture of the corresponding region and time.

The exhibition in the main museum of the country presents works of icon painting, altar painting, artistic metal, and handwritten books. The earliest of these works is the Gospel, on the last handwritten sheet of which the year of correspondence from an earlier sample is recorded — 1568, and there is a note in cursive writing by Mikhail Borzobogaty.



PECULIARITIES OF THE MUSEUM EXHIBITION



Signed and dated works of art from the 16th — 19th centuries with author's and historical inscriptions are rare and unique monuments. In the collection of the National Art Museum, Lyubov Sysoeva clarifies, just over 80 of them have been identified.

The earliest icons with dates date back to the first half of the 16th century; researchers associate their distribution both with the growth of the personal beginnings of the icon painter of the New Age and with the importance of the order. The largest number of signed icons dates back to the 18th — 19th centuries: *Our Lady of Hodegetria*, 1718; *Miracle of George and the Dragon*, 1736; *Cathedral*

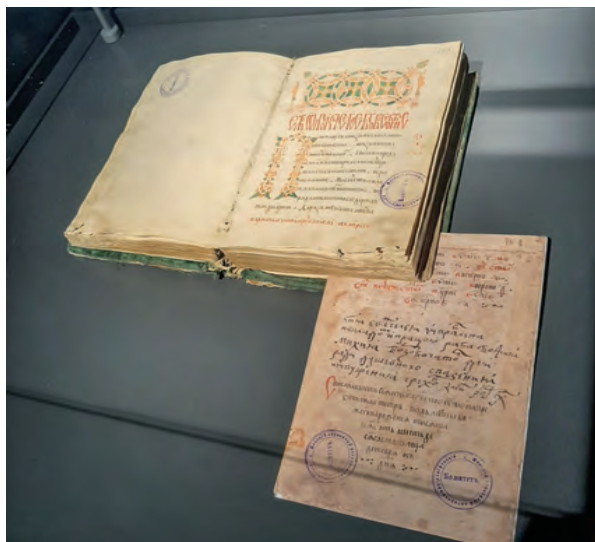
of the Archangel Michael, 1743; *Virgin and Child*, 1750, and so on. The inscriptions are placed both on the front side of the icons and on the back (Monogrammer A.W. *Our Lady Hodegetria*, 1750; Jan Wyszynski (?). *Our Lady of Mercy*, 1792(?)).

The essence of the texts is varied. There are inset inscriptions indicating the name of the contributor or icon painter, and there is information about renovations. Thanks to this, icons become important historical documents of the era. For example, the date of the contribution of the icon to the temple could be timed to coincide with one of the holidays of the church calendar. They signed, first of all, large images that stood in plain sight — on the choir or as part of the local row of the iconostasis, including temple icons.

The inscriptions can be short and quite lengthy, notes Lyubov Sysoeva. In the 18th century, their content



PECULIARITIES OF THE MUSEUM EXHIBITION



became more informative: they recorded not only the names of the icon painters, whose 'works' created the icons, but also the customers, whose 'zeal' we owe to the appearance of the image by the author's brush (Vasil Markiyanovich. (1730–?). *Deesis*, 1758, *Trinity of the Old Testament*, 1761). Such works are very important: every new name or another work by an already famous master makes the picture of the development of Belarusian artistic culture more complete and holistic. In most cases, the signature also indicates the date of creation of the work, which allows specialists and experts to better understand the logic of the artistic processes that took place in Belarusian icon painting of the 17th — 19th centuries.

In general, the inscription on an icon, like on any other material source, gives the object a certain historical value, adds important information about the history of the creation and existence of the thing, and carries valuable information about the people and the time of its appearance. Signed icons are the main works for the attribution of church painting and are of particular interest to researchers. That is why the organizers of the exhibition did not limit themselves to showing icons only with dates and signatures of the masters.

In a word, the current exhibition displays works with a wide variety of inscriptions; tablets show the edges of icons, usually hidden from the eyes of visitors. These are not only the inscriptions of the owners and customers, but also other marks by which you can read the fascinating history of the monument.



PECULIARITIES OF THE MUSEUM EXHIBITION



It must be said that a separate part of the exhibition space is occupied by icons of the festive row of the iconostasis of the St. Nicholas Church in the city of Petrikov, Gomel Region. They were created in 1838 at the time of the construction of the church, built on the site of a wooden one that burned down during a thunderstorm in 1772. A new church was built at the expense of the parishioners and merchants of Kebets, Morgun, King, Korulsky, as evidenced by the inscription on the back of the icon *The Last Supper*.

The exhibition also shows artistic castings of the 17th — 19th centuries, intended for worship in churches: bowls, altar crosses, tabernacles, on which you can see the dates of their creation and other accompanying inscriptions. In total, this certainly interesting and educational exhibition shows 37 signed and dated works of sacred art of Belarus from the 16th to 19th centuries, 15 of which, restored by specialists in the restoration workshops of the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus, are being exhibited for the first time.


Vsevolod Yevseyev



VISIT US

ON A ROYAL SCALE

On tour to Belarus, the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia came with performances of the highest standard — time-tested classics. The ballet *Ivan the Terrible* by Sergei Prokofiev and the opera *The Tsar's Bride* by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov were held in Minsk with great success.



“This is, of course, a great event. We have never received the illustrious team in full before, so this is a great happiness and confirmation that our peoples are truly incredibly close in cultures, languages and ideas of what we value today,” the General Director of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus Yekaterina Dulova shared her thoughts with reporters before the opening of the tour.

For the uninitiated, let's be more specific: these tours are exchange tours. A year ago, Yekaterina Nikolaevna and the General Director of the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia, Vladimir Urin, agreed that the team of the Moscow Bolshoi Theatre would definitely perform on the Minsk stage. And in October 2022, the Belarusian Bolshoi hosted a tour at the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia. This was an event not only for the troupe, but also for the sophisticated Moscow audience. On the famous stage of Russia, Belarusians showed our unique performances: the national opera by Vladimir Soltan *King Stakh's Wild Hunt* directed by Anna Motornaya and the ballet by Pyotr Tchaikovsky *The Nutcracker* in the original choreography of Valentin Elizariyev. It would be hard to say that the current tours are small. Yes, they only lasted four days. But how! Tickets were sold out within a month, and at lightning speed. And on the day of the performances, they asked for 'an extra ticket' a block



■ Yekaterina Dulova, general director of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus and Vladimir Urin, ex-director of the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia at the press approach before the opening of the tour of the opera *The Tsar's Bride*



from the Bolshoi Theatre building. According to the theatre, 10 trucks with decorations arrived in Minsk! And about 500 people in total, including about three dozen costume designers and make-up artists! They brought the entire orchestra as well.

Vladimir Urin, in turn, informed journalists that the repertoire for the tour was selected jointly. "Many factors influenced the fact that we brought these two performances. We wanted it to be something that was

not part of your repertoire. And the unconditional desire was for these to be Russian titles. Therefore, we settled on *The Tsar's Bride* and *Ivan the Terrible*. These are performances that are part of the Bolshoi Theatre's golden fund and have been running for decades," he said. And added that the main thing that the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia wanted to give to the Belarusian audience was the joy of communicating with art.

The tour opened with the opera *The Tsar's Bride*. Honored Artist of Russia, performer of the role of Lyubasha Agunda Kulaeva admitted before the start of the performance during the press approach: going on tour to Belarus was her long-standing desire, "I was in Minsk 20 years ago, and it was a completely different city. Performing here is a very big responsibility,

because many people wrote to me and were waiting for me. And we need to justify all the expectations and love of the Belarusian public."

The role of Gryazny in the opera was performed by People's Artist of Azerbaijan Elchin Azizov. And here's what he said before the performance, "Today, stars of the first magnitude will gather on the stage of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus. This is a story that is applauded even before the artists start singing. The curtain opens, the

viewer sees the picture and begins to applaud because it is beautiful. And then we start singing."

As you know, the history of Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's opera *The Tsar's Bride* began in 1916. And in 2014, the set design of Fyodor Fedorovsky, People's Artist of the USSR, was restored. They still decorate modern opera productions to this day. In Minsk, the opera was conducted by maestro Konstantin Chudovsky, guest conductor of the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia. We repeat: together with the troupe of artists, the orchestra also came. According to Chudovsky, he easily adapted to new conditions. "The orchestra immediately sounded perfect. The acoustics here are excellent, it's very pleasant to play and you can hear everyone. We get great pleasure from performing at the Belarusian Bolshoi," he said.

The opera *The Tsar's Bride* shocked the audience. It took place, as they say, on a royal scale. The applause of opera fans accompanied each brilliantly performed part during the stage action, and after the end of the performance the audience gave a long ovation with shouts of 'bravo'.

Exchange tours, as already mentioned, are a historical event. And the plans that are being discussed at the level of the ministries of culture of Belarus and Russia, as has already become known, are big. Perhaps the project of larger-scale tours will come true and the two most talented troupes, expanding the cultural space, will more than once exchange stages that are convenient for both one and the other creative team. As reported in



■ Scenes from the play *The Tsar's Bride*

the media, we are ready to support the interaction of the main theatres next year at the level of the Union State.

Let us remind you that artists of the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia have performed on the Minsk stage more than once. And the Belarusian troupe, starting from 1940, has performed both opera and ballet on the Moscow stage 12 times: as we see, there are such statistics. Most recently, in October, on the occasion of the creative anniversary of People's Artist of the USSR Valentin Elizariyev, as part of a retrospective of the Master's ballets, leading Russian ballet soloist Eva Sergeenkov and principal dancer Artemy Belyakov danced the roles of Odette-Odile and Siegfried in Pyotr Tchaikovsky's ballet *Swan Lake*. And the ballerina Yelizaveta Kokoreva and the first ballet soloist Aleksey Putintsev appeared on our stage in Ludwig Minkus's *Don Quixote* in the images of Kitri and Basilio. The last time the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia brought Pyotr Tchaikovsky's ballet *Swan Lake* staged by Yuri Grigorovich

to the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus was back in April 2009. Just then there was the opening of the Year of Russian Culture in Belarus. The main roles were performed by stars Svetlana Zakharova, Nikolai Tsiskaridze, Andrei Uvarov. Pavel Klinichev conducted.

Let us turn, however, to the ballet *Ivan the Terrible*. We knew in advance: the audience was in for a stunning spectacle. There is no such performance in the repertoire of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus. And the Russians have had this production, which has become a legend, on their posters for half a century. Experts say: this is one of the most famous ballets of Yuri Grigorovich, it has its own powerful intrigue, confronting strong and extraordinary personalities such as Ivan the Terrible and Prince Kurbsky. The ballet was staged in 1975 and resumed in 2012.

On the Minsk tour, Grigorovich's classics were presented by two

equal compositions. The stage action lasted two and a half hours, not counting the intermission. In the language of dance, the key moments of how Tsar Ivan the Terrible, the son of Grand Duchess Yelena, reigned for 50 years — by the way, she was from the ancient Glinsky family, which took root on Belarusian lands. The tragic story of the life and reign of the first Russian Tsar is a huge creative challenge for the soloists and corps de ballet: the performance is complex. We were told about this by the performers of the title roles, already made up for stage characters, with whom we met an hour before the performance.

The first to come out to the journalists — already in the costume and makeup of the Tsar's bride, and then Ivan the Terrible's wife Anastasia — was Svetlana Zakharova, People's Artist of Russia, laureate of the State Prize of Russia. Here's what she told us, "The ballet *Ivan the Terrible* is a great ballet. It was created by the

VISIT US

efforts of talented people. When I found out that there would be a tour in Minsk, I considered it an honour to come here and show my Anastasia. Fourteen years ago we were here with the play *Swan Lake*. I remember the amazing audience, the comfortable, good stage: it is a little smaller than the stage of the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia, but technically we fit into it. As for the ballet *Ivan the Terrible*, it is rarely taken abroad. Probably because *Spartak* and *Swan Lake* are the main performances of our theatre, and this one is about the history of Russia. It is understandable and

costume and makeup of the heroine is a rare success. Respect to the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus for this opportunity. Svetlana Zakharova looked amazing, one might say, iconic. From the far rows of the stalls, from the stalls, not to mention the balcony, you can't see all the details of the makeup and costume. From afar, we would hardly even notice how outwardly Artemy Belyakov's Ivan the Terrible resembles the historical artistic variations of his image. By the way, the appearance-image of the king, as the principal dancer of the ballet troupe admitted, takes

although initially we planned to bring other works, but in the end we chose, probably, the best productions."

Artemy described his character as follows, "My Tsar Ivan the Terrible is restless, sharp, aggressive, and then almost prayerfully lyrical. These transitions are not easy both as an actor and physically." The artist also said that in ballet, to determine the character he portrays, it is necessary to focus on music. When asked if it was difficult for him to work, he answered, "Everything in this performance is difficult from beginning to end.



close to us, as well as to viewers in neighbouring countries. Very little information has been preserved about the first wife of Tsar Ivan the Terrible, whom he loved very much, about my character. Her faith in God and love for the king, her endless patience and compassion are the main theme of the play. I really love this ballet, even though it is difficult. There are such deep meaningful scenes that it gives you goosebumps." Seeing the soloist up close in the

two hours to create in the dressing room! Incredible, but true: this is a whole art. We saw the artist in 'royal makeup'. And here is how he justified the choice of the play for the tour in Minsk, "I think it is very important in the context of current world events — the ability to look in one historical paradigm. Have a common historical past and a common spiritual view of historical events. It is very important. And in this regard, the choice of the performance is also wonderful,

■ Before the start of the play *Ivan the Terrible*, Svetlana Zakharova (in the centre) was the first to communicate with journalists; the People's Artist of Russia appeared in the image of Anastasia, the wife of Ivan the Terrible)

■ We saw Artemy Belyakov (on the right), the premiere of the ballet troupe, who danced the part of Ivan the Terrible, in 'royal makeup', which, according to him, took two hours to do

■ Denis Rodkin (Prince Kurbsky), another principal dancer of the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia, also has complex makeup

■ The male ballet of Artemy Belyakov and Denis Rodkin staged by Yuri Grigorovich Grigorovich is always strong and charismatic, but it is in *Ivan the Terrible* that it is one of the most complex in the classical repertoire in general

■ Svetlana Zakharova as the bride of Ivan the Terrible



Ivan the Terrible's characteristic scenes are constantly changing. As I already said, from temperamental, harsh, aggressive to lyrical... I think the controversial image of *Ivan the Terrible* has not been fully revealed in literature; historically, no definite conclusions have yet been made. But what Yuri Grigorovich created on stage is a reflection on the inner life of *Ivan the Terrible* and his spiritual turning point." According to Artemy Belyakov, Yuri Grigorovich's performances are always contrasting and imaginative, so it is impossible to say that some characters stand out and some are lost against their background. But Belarusians, as the Moscow guest put it, will be able to feel inspired by this performance, because they live in the same historical space with the inhabitants of Russia.

to see us. "If you see me without makeup, you won't recognise me," he admitted to reporters. "I'm completely different in life." As for the part of the prince, the artist, as we later saw, has a brutal, almost forceful portrayal of the role. The male ballet parts in Grigorovich's productions are always strong and charismatic, but in *Ivan the Terrible* it is one of the most complex in the classical repertoire in general. Denis also told us about this. How did he create the image of the prince? "I didn't make this character historical. For me, he is rather a collective image, an image of a Russian hero. In my case, this hero is positive. Circumstances so happened that at a certain point in his life he had no other choice, which is why he ran away from *Ivan the Terrible*. At the same time, Kurbsky loved his

country and did not want to betray the tsar, but this is how it turned out. The drama of the image lies in the fact that Kurbsky still loved Anastasia. My principal dancer's career began with this role. Yuri Grigorovich saw me in Kurbsky and entrusted me with dancing parts in other ballets, including *Spartacus*. *Ivan the Terrible* is the most Russian ballet about Russian history. It is simple to dance, and at the same time difficult from the point of view of the image. I really love this performance and my role. Proud and happy that it is at the Bolshoi Theatre. And coming to Minsk is a wonderful choice. Belarus and Russia have a closely connected history. And the Belarusian people, just like the Russian people, will understand this performance not only with their heads, but also with their hearts. The performance reflected many human qualities: betrayal and love, hatred and



■ The final scene after the ballet ends

envy, patience and compassion... When Grand Opera artists danced *Ivan the Terrible* at the Paris Opera, this performance did not sound the way it should have sounded. Although they were delighted with its scale, they did not deeply understand it. And the Belarusian people will appreciate not only the scale, but also the soul of this performance.”

And so it happened. We appreciated it!

At first, the crowd scenes of the first act, where classical dance enriched with national Russian elements dominated, captured attention. The bell ringers announce that a young king has ascended the throne. The boyars are unhappy with his election. In despair is the handsome Prince Kurbsky, who loves Anastasia, whom the Tsar chooses as his wife. In contrast to the crowd scenes are the duets of Tsar Ivan and Anastasia: acquaintance at the show and the further development of relations between the happy lovers, the celebration of the victory over foreigners, the illness and recovery of the tsar, the rapture of the spouses with mutual feelings at the beginning of the second act...

But the happiness, as they say, was short-lived. The boyars are plotting a conspiracy, in which Prince Kurbsky is also involved. In their hands we see a cup of poison, and Anastasia becomes the victim of these court intrigues and atrocities. Kurbsky is shocked... And again the bells ring, in a completely different tone: they spread the news of the death of the queen, the betrayal of the boyars. The

king is in despair; the ghost of his beloved appears in his fantasies. This is perhaps the most powerful scene in the ballet. The duet of the ‘ghost’ Anastasia and Ivan, who has lost his beloved, is stunning with emotional fullness. Queen Anastasia is buried in a church where candles are burning... Ivan the Terrible mourns his beloved wife. He is already hatching plans for cruel revenge. Apparently foreseeing such a turn of events, Kurbsky flees the country, and the boyars expect reprisals. The Tsar instructs the guardsmen to put an end to the traitors. The scene when Ivan the Terrible walks on the backs of the servants looks eerie — it symbolises the birth of a new king, who, with the loss of Anastasia in the fight against the boyars, lost his soul. And again the bells sound alarmingly, announcing the terrible times ahead. Yes, we appreciated with delight and gratitude the solidity and scale of the performance, the skill of the performers, the scenography of Simon Virsaladze with his stunning costumes, the play of light and the orchestra, masterfully performing the music of Sergei Prokofiev, which it was simply impossible not to listen to with your heart. However, the whole story about Ivan the Terrible is read just as completely and deeply in the choreographic interpretation of the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia.

Valentina Zhdanovich

Photo by the author and from
the archives of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus

VIVA OPERA!

The Minsk International Christmas Opera Forum, which was held for the thirteenth time, was attended by the State Academic Bolshoi Theatre of Uzbekistan named after Alisher Navoi, as well as the Samara Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre named after Dmitry Shostakovich with productions that are not in the repertoire of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus

SPECIAL FESTIVAL



■ Director Anna Motornaya at the dress rehearsal of the opera *Iolanta*

The festival of opera music opened with the premiere of Pyotr Tchaikovsky's opera *Iolanta*. The poetic story of a blind girl, whose sudden love for an unknown knight helps her endure painful treatment in order to see the light and colours of the world, at one time, as the story goes, so touched Tchaikovsky's heart that he created one of his most beautiful and life-affirming creations.

The performance was staged by three main theatre specialists — conductor Artem Makarov, director Anna Motornaya and set designer Lyubov Sidelnikova. Let us remind you that this production of Pyotr Tchaikovsky's opera will be the fifth on the stage of the Belarusian Bolshoi Theatre. Before this, the composer's brightest work was staged in 1952, 1975, 1993 and 2004.

This is an absolute masterpiece of Pyotr Tchaikovsky, a lyrical philosophical confession of the composer. "Today it is impossible to talk about *Iolanta* as a fairy tale," said the



theatre's chief director, winner of the Francysk Skaryna medal, Anna Motornaya, on the eve of the dress rehearsal of the play. "This opera combines a medieval French legend, a mystical feeling, symbolism, sacredness, Orthodox spirituality — and



■ State Academic Bolshoi Theater of Uzbekistan named after Alisher Navoi presented an emotional, bright, oriental coloring of Georges Bizet's opera *The Pearl Fishers*

lot of debate about it. As for me, after three serious auditions I must state its highest quality." And Hector Berlioz noted, "The score of this opera... contains a significant number of beautiful expressive passages, full of fire and rich colour, and



■ Samara Academic Opera and Ballet Theater named after Dmitry Shostakovich showed the fabulous story of Sergei Prokofiev *Love for Three Oranges*

on this basis a real liturgical performance was created. This is the rarest opera that comes to an absolutely bright finale with catharsis. And we must present it to the viewer in such a way that everyone can feel this catharsis." The fact that the audience felt it could be seen from their enlightened faces, as well as from the ovation they gave after the end of the performance. The theatre's chief conductor, People's Artist of Bashkortostan Artem Makarov was at the conductor's stand that evening. The State Academic Bolshoi Theatre of Uzbekistan named after Alisher Navoi presented Georges Bizet's emotional, bright opera *The Pearl Fishers* with an oriental flavour. The premiere of this opera took place in 1863 in Paris. At his young age (Georges Bizet was only 24 years old at the time), the composer looked for inspiration in the simplest things, for example, the simple plot of the opera *The Pearl Fishers* attracted his attention. This is the story of the rivalry between two friends, pearl divers Zurga and Nadir, who are in love with a beautiful girl named Leïla.

After the premiere, playwright Ludovic Halévy wrote, "The score has already been criticised by many, there has been a



■ The Bolshoi Theater of Belarus presented Gioacchino's opera at the forum Rossini *The Barber of Seville* by Italian director Aldo Tarabella

■ At the Gala concert of opera stars Viva Opera! The audience's favorite, People's Artist of Belarus Stanislav Trifonov also took part

does the greatest honour to Mr. Bizet, who will have to be recognised as a composer...” Many people still believe that it was the opera *The Pearl Fishers* that became the forerunner for the writing of another brilliant creation by Georges Bizet — *Carmen*.

The opera was conducted by Honoured Artist of Uzbekistan Fazliddin Yakubzhanov.

The Samara Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre named after Dmitry Shostakovich showed the fairy tale story of Sergei Prokofiev *The Love for Three Oranges*.

Initially, the idea for an opera about three oranges came from the legendary director Vsevolod Meyerhold, who published a theatre magazine in Petrograd in 1914—1916, called *The Love for Three Oranges*. The very first issue of the magazine published a play of the same name, written by Meyerhold in collaboration with director Vladimir Solovyov and poet Konstantin Vogak, based on a comic fairy tale by Italian playwright Carlo Gozzi, author of the famous *Turandot*. Meyerhold specifically gave Prokofiev a play to read with the expectation that he would write an opera. Sergei Prokofiev actually wrote the music and composed his own libretto based on the play, but this happened in America, when he was commissioned by the Chicago Opera House. The opera was ready in October 1919, and the production took place in December 1921 and was a great success. In America, *Three Oranges* was performed in French. In 1926, the first production of *The Love for Three Oranges* took place in Russian at the Leningrad Opera and Ballet Theatre. The performance was staged by Meyerhold's student Sergei Radlov (1892—1956) and Nikolai Foregger (1892—1939), who would later become the chief director and artistic director of the Kuibyshev Opera Theatre (1938—1939). However, *Three Oranges* was never staged in Kuibyshev (Samara). The current production is the first. And so they brought it to us!

By the way, the performance was included in the long list of the Russian national award Golden Mask 2021, and also received the Russian national award Onegin for the performance of the part of Truffaldino (Anatoly Nevdakh).

The conductor, the artistic director and chief conductor of the Samara Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre Yevgeny Khokhlov, expressed great satisfaction from participating in the Christmas Opera Forum when he spoke with journalists. We also went to see the most famous comic opera by Gioacchino Rossini, *The Barber of Seville*, by Italian director Aldo Tarabella. By the way, the brilliant Italian composer Gioacchino Rossini had a wonderful sense of humour and, they say, was an excellent cook. According to the recollections of his contemporaries, people made reservations for dinner with Rossini a month in advance. So we attended the performance



and tasted the ‘product’, and we enjoyed all its components. And, of course, the bright music of Rossini.

The legendary barber Figaro, maestro of scissors and razors, a trickster and a wit who can equally masterfully arrange a new hairstyle and a new destiny, returned to the Belarusian stage at the end of the last, anniversary season for the Bolshoi Theatre. Guest soloist of the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia Goderdzi Janelidze and soloist of the Boris Pokrovsky Chamber Stage of the Moscow Bolshoi Valery Makarov took part in the comic opera by Gioacchino Rossini *The Barber of Seville*. These artists are certainly known and loved by the Belarusian public. While our audience has already heard Valery Makarov in the role of Count Almaviva, Goderdzi Janelidze sang the role of Don Basilio in the opera by Gioacchino Rossini for the first time in Minsk.

Also, the main roles in the opera were performed by our soloists Aleksey Makshantsev (Figaro), Dmitry Kapilov (Bartolo), Anastasia Mikhnovets (Rosina), Marina Likhosherst (Berta), Ruslan Maspanov (Fiorello), Svyatoslav Sakharov (Officer). The performance was conducted by Vladimir Ovodok.

The beautiful final point of the festival was the Gala concert of the stars of the opera stage *Viva Opera!*

The closing of the Minsk International Christmas Opera Forum 2023 was attended by both guests and Belarusian soloists — singers whom, we are absolutely sure, our audience loves and knows. The list of participants in the Gala concert was so impressive that we will not list the names of all the stars. Let's just name the countries from which they came to Minsk. These are Russia, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Georgia, North Ossetia-Alania and others. Of course, we also enjoyed the singing of our opera elders, as well as the voices of young performers. The Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus was represented by people's artists of the country Anastasia Moskvina, Vladimir Gromov, Stanislav Trifonov and other artists. The Symphony Orchestra was conducted that evening by the theatre's chief maestro, People's Artist of Bashkortostan Artem Makarov.

Mikhailina Cherkashina

LISTAPAD HAS PASSED. LONG LIVE LISTAPAD!



The results of the 29th International Film Festival Listapad 2023 have been summed up in Minsk. And in those same days, an opinion was expressed: it is necessary to immediately begin preparations for the anniversary film forum.

The echo of the film wave of *Listapad* is still rolling across Belarus, despite the pre-Christmas and pre-New Year bustle. On social media and in personal meetings, film lovers and film experts discuss films that they managed to watch during the festival. Someone is looking for opportunities to see those pictures that were not possible to see. And plans are made: to watch this film and that one... Fortunately, online film screenings are possible, and everything will be done in time. As they say, where there is a will... And here I am not alone, having taken note of a number of films that I have not seen and want to watch in order to see for myself in which direction both the Belarusian and the film industry of other countries is moving. Yes, it was simply impossible to cover the entire festival programme with so many films presented at the film forum.

Let me remind the reader: this year over 2,000 applications from 107 countries were submitted to the MIFF. The geography of participants is wide: Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa. However, it is worth noting that there was a strict pre-festival screening, and therefore, for example, 11 films were shown in the 'feature film' category, 27 in the non-fiction category. 36 works from different countries were selected for

the competition program of animated films: Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Portugal, Colombia France, Belgium, Iran, Australia, Malaysia, Switzerland, India.

And one more reminder. This year, by decision of the Head of State, the winner of the special prize of the President of Belarus 'For the Preservation and Development of Traditions of Spirituality in Cinema' was the theatre and film director, chairman of the *Listapad* film festival, Artistic Director of the Film Actor Studio Theatre, People's Artist of Belarus Aleksandr Yefremov. The prize at the opening of the film forum was presented by Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus Igor Petrishenko. And at the closing ceremony, he presented a special prize from the President of Belarus 'For Humanism and Spirituality in Cinema' to the director of the film *Katya-Katya* Anna Chernakova (Russia). The film was presented to the public in the competition programme for children and youth.

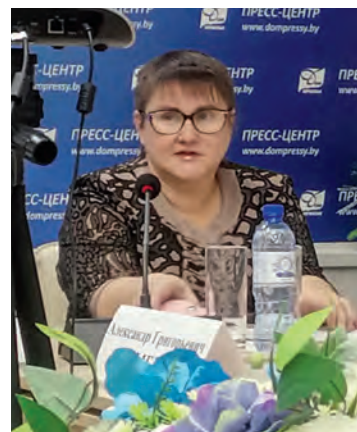
For those who don't know: the Minsk International Film Festival *Listapad* is the country's largest film forum, which takes place in November for a week in the Belarusian capital. It started in 1994. It was noted and continues to be remembered primarily by popular films from Belarus and abroad. This

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European-level film festival annually brings together film industry professionals, film lovers, and famous cultural figures from many countries.

The main goal of the film forum is to popularise the cinematic art of Belarus. And this means: support for feature films, the formation of its high socio-cultural status; maintaining a single cinematic space with Russia, the CIS and Baltic countries, and foreign countries; development of creative contacts and exchange of experience with domestic and foreign colleagues; providing assistance to creative youth in the field of cinematography. (You

of Sichuan Blue Eyes Film and Television Culture Media, Irina Driga, Head of the Cinematography Department of the Ministry of Culture of Belarus, Igor Ugolnikov, People's Artist of Russia, film director, screenwriter, producer, TV presenter, Aleksandr Semenyuk, Russian film critic and film expert and others, spoke about many other things. At the meeting, guests expressed their impressions of the shows, wishes for the future, and discussed the multi-vector nature of the festival. They talked about the upcoming, anniversary 30th Listapad, the organisation of which, according to Irina Driga, needs to begin immediately.



can read more about this on the website of the press centre of the Press House, where meetings with journalists took place: <https://www.dompressy.by/>)

On the closing day of the festival, at a press conference, the directorate and members of the jury of the film festival summed up the results of Listapad, highlighted the most interesting and unusual works, talked about how the master classes and creative meetings went, assessed the film festival, as they say, from different sides and told what especially impressed the organising committee, invited guests and Belarusian spectators. And Yuri Aleksei, General Director of the Belarusfilm film studio, Lei Han, film and television actor from China, producer, General Director

■ At a press conference following the results of the Listapad festival. In the photo (from left to right): Director of the Belarusfilm film studio Yuri Alexey (right) presents Lei Han, film and television actor, producer with a memorable gift

■ Igor Ugolnikov - People's Artist of Russia, film director, screenwriter, producer, TV presenter

■ Aleksandr Semenyuk Russian film critic and film expert

■ Sergei Bagirov, Russian director

■ Irina Driga, head of the cinematography department of the Ministry of Culture of Belarus



Yuri Aleksei shared his impressions, “For me, the festival is an exam: for the first time I was its director, for the first time I led, made decisions, organised a lot. I want to say that the most important thing is that we were able to expand the geography of the festival: applications were received from 107 countries this time. I am proud that our Belarus has reached such a respectable level. And I’m sure the whole world was watching us. At the festival, we held a number of negotiations and signed a number of agreements, in particular with the People’s Republic of China. It is very important for us to enter this huge market. And when we start selling our films there, there will be an economic effect. We also signed an agreement with Igor Ugolnikov on the production of our Belarusian film about Belarusian partisans together with Russia. We signed an agreement with our partners from Tatarstanfilm. We negotiated and prepared an agreement with Lendokfilm, and thus we are entering into an international project: Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan participate in it. And Belarus joined. I am very proud that the opening film was the work *Filmmakers*, shot at the Belarusfilm film studio: this is the debut of the young director Kirill Khaletsky. A lot, a lot happened these days. Together with you, we have promoted our country to the level of world cinema and set a new pace. Next year there will be the 30th anniversary film festival, preparations for which will begin immediately — taking into account the current festival. I am sure that with partners like Igor Ugolnikov and friends from China, we can handle any festival. I watched a lot of good films. I won’t characterise them. I’ll just say: if we



united so many countries at the Minsk festival, it means we have strengthened our partnerships at the global level.” Next, Igor Ugolnikov thanked his Belarusian colleagues for the opportunity to be in Minsk, with which he has had years of fruitful cooperation, “It is very important for me that we did not just sign an agreement on our future work with Belarusfilm — on the film *Old Man Minai. Partisan Legend*. We will start filming together next summer. We really hope that we will be able to present the picture in May 2025: for the 80th anniversary of the Victory not only in Belarus and Russia, but throughout the world. I have seen many *Listapad* festivals. And I am very glad that his guiding idea, which was in the slogan of the Moscow film festival ‘For the humanism of cinema, for peace and friendship between peoples’, is perfectly suited to Minsk, especially now. I think that the 30th Film Festival next year will be significant thanks to many efforts.

After all, the country’s festival has an important position. And this is its main feature, its showcase, its ideology. And in the current situation, it is necessary to demonstrate the openness of Belarus, its confidence in the future.”

Guest from China Lei Han, who spoke after Igor Ugolnikov, said that he really liked the festival. “The film forum is quite interesting. I am pleased that a large number

■ Konstantin Andryushechkin, programme director of the animated film competition (center), is pleased with the results of the festival.





■ Yevgeny Serov, the Russian director of the film *The Tailor from Brooklyn*, which received the Grand Prix and the Listapad gold for the best film of the film festival, shares his impressions of the film forum with television journalists

of countries took part in it, and that I was able to see the work of talented directors and actors. However, the main moment that impressed me most was the episode at the opening ceremony

of the film forum, when, during a song broadcasting footage from the past on the screen, the entire hall stood up as a sign of respect for the cinema masters of past years — actors, directors, screenwriters, including to those who have passed away. I was very moved by this moment because I saw the open soul of Belarusians,” admitted Lei Han. He knows that Chinese films have taken part in the film festival before. Lei Han was very pleased that in Belarus there is respect not only for representatives of the older generation of directors, actors and screenwriters, but also for young and still little-known ones. Lei Han expressed confidence that the festival will get better every year, as well as the hope that more and more young directors from the People’s Republic of China will be able to take part in it.

According to the guest from China, the signature event of the 29th film forum was the signing of an agreement on a joint project. On November 20th, 2023, a signing ceremony was held, at which Yuri Aleksei and Lei Han documented the cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and the People’s Republic of China in the field of cinema. By the way, the ceremony was attended by the Minister of Culture of Belarus Anatoly Markevich and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People’s Republic of China to Belarus Xie Xiaoyong. Anatoly Markevich congratulated his colleagues on signing the agreement and noted that the film will be about the friendship of peoples, reflecting the productive cooperation of Belarus and China. Xie Xiaoyong emphasized that a historical event had taken place, and the decision to create a joint cinema is a project that will expand cooperation in the field of culture and cinema between the countries. (<https://listapad.org/>).

Lei Han also clarified that he would really like to show the talent of Belarusian directors, screenwriters and actors in this film, and also for films from the PRC to take part in the 30th festival. And towards the end of the press conference, Lei Han received from the hands of Yuri Aleksei a memorable gift, symbolising their future joint work.

According to the famous Russian film critic and film expert Aleksandr Semenyuk, ‘a film festival is not only a place where they watch films, but also a place where trends over the past period are monitored’. And within the framework of the Minsk Film Forum, as he put it, you can see exactly what is

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happening in the global film process, “Since cinema reflects the picture of the world, and the picture of the world today is changing quickly and catastrophically, it is very important to monitor how quickly cinema is changing. The era of literary-centric, narrative cinema is coming to an end, or rather, has practically ended, when events were told only with the help of a plot, according to the principle: what I see is what I sing. Now the era of symbolic cinema has finally arrived. And in this sense, Chinese cinema, with its hieroglyphic language, the language of symbols, directly corresponds to the nature of symbolic cinema. The language of cinema is symbolic in itself, it speaks the language of myth, the language of archetypes.” Therefore, according to the film critic, strategic partnership with Chinese colleagues is important for the Belarusian film industry, since Chinese cinema gravitates towards symbolism, mythology and archetypes.

Aleksandr Semenyuk also drew attention to how unique Belarusian culture and folklore are, “It also gravitates towards symbolism. And I think that future projects will be a very good start and an excellent prospect for creating such new Belarusian cinema.”

As an example of symbolism in cinema, he cited Igor Ugolnikov’s film *Podolsk Cadets* — a Russian military-historical feature film about the feat of Podolsk cadets during the defence of Moscow in the fall of 1941. At the end of the film there is an image of overcoming death with life. “Remember, the cadets are returning after a terrible battle, frost has appeared. And this frost is on them: they are pale, their overcoats are covered with frost. It was as if they had come out of the other world, as if they had been in hell. And new Siberian divisions are coming towards them, the soldiers there are dressed in brown sheepskin coats, they have healthy, ruddy faces. And now the meeting of those people who have been in the embrace of death and healthy young people — this is the image of the turning point in the Great Patriotic War. And this kind of figurative cinema should prevail today. And, accordingly, young people, those who study in film schools, they need to be taught exactly this. Because today the main problem is the inability of viewers to read complex mythological, archetypal images from the point of view of film criticism. And the task of directors and screenwriters is to create such images and put them into films,” Aleksandr Semenyuk concluded his speech with these caring words.

Russian director Sergei Bagirov also touched upon the topic of further development of Belarusian cinema. The main issue that worried him was: why are there so few Belarusian-made films in the *Listapad* categories? By the way, representatives of its organising committee also spoke about this at the forum. And the whole point, as it turns out, is in the regulations of the film forum, which states: only those films that have not yet been released in Belarus can participate in competitive screenings. Well, a solution to the problem needs to be sought, and options have already been voiced: either to shoot films specifically for the film forum, or to work on the regulations.

“I would like to have at the film festival not only Chinese cinema in all categories, but also Belarusian cinema in different

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categories,” wished Sergei Bagirov. “I would like even more interesting movies and even more communication with colleagues. Because this is the only way we can build future prospects in life. Every year I shoot one series in Belarus, I see your specialists. They can do a lot, they just need to be given the opportunity to do it. As for this festival, I see it as a rehearsal for the big event that will take place next year. The rehearsal, in my opinion, was successful.” It was nice to hear from Sergei Bagirov and how much he likes our country, people, and their attitude towards each other.

Irina Driga spoke about the current state and prospects of Belarusian cinema. She also shared her thoughts on what the organising committee should work on when preparing

it, we will select new bright films. This is a new wave, a new generation, a new stage of our film forum.” It was interesting to hear from Irina Driga an assumption about what trends will dominate the film industry in the near future. The aphorism from her lips ‘there is a crisis in the West, but in the East the sun rises, as it is supposed to by nature’ perfectly illustrated the answer. As an example, she cited statistics on the number of viewers who attended competitive screenings. So, even films that had previously won awards at various festivals received less attention from our viewers than films that came from the countries of the East, as well as the Cinema of the Young. “This means that our viewers find something in oriental cinema that captivates the whole world.”



■ The festive closing ceremony, the presentation of prizes to the winners in a variety of categories, left no one indifferent



the future festival. According to her, the results of the 29th MIFF *Listapad* are also certain conclusions for Belarusian filmmakers. After all, the festival also showed how domestic cinema looks compared to other countries; it made it clear where to move in the future and how to develop. Irina Driga also said that a good film, no matter what, should be based on a good literary script. She gave examples of films with an interesting story that won the most audience sympathy. In her opinion, there are two important themes that will always find a response in the hearts of viewers: the theme of love and the theme of death. Also relevant, according to her, is the patriotic theme that exists in Russian films. “Such films collect millions and billions of dollars at the box office — this is also an indicator of what we need to strive for,” Irina Driga is sure. “I’m glad that our film festival has returned after the COVID period and is maintaining the vector of movement that was set. We present modern cinema from the CIS countries, post-socialist countries and Eastern countries. We presented the works of filmmakers from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, which we knew little about before, and other countries. Now, thanks to the festival, thanks to the fact that people apply for

Irina Driga also said that the cinema of the People’s Republic of China became a remarkable discovery of the 29th Listapad and especially in the Cinema of the Young category. “I really like the principle that in films that are produced in China, they speak well about the country and show the people at their best. I watched a wonderful film *Butterfly Lovers*, there was a phrase that should be adopted by Belarusian cinema: ‘The past must be made to serve the present, and what is outside the country must be put at the service of China.’ It was only for the sake of such a deep phrase that this film was worth making, not to mention the fact that it is a very beautiful, spectacular film from the point of view of cinematography, showing how the traditions of the past work for the present. This is an example to learn from.” Irina Driga believes that today the Chinese film industry is on the rise and is a world film leader, “The cooperation that our National Film Studio plans to develop with the PRC will be mutually beneficial not only in terms of promoting and selling films to one of the world’s largest markets, judging by the box office in the People’s Republic of China, but also in terms of creativity. Because technology, ideology, and craftsmanship in China are at a high level.



■ The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Sajad Haider Khan, went up on stage three times and received diplomas (they were won by films from Pakistan), which he promised to hand over to the winners.

And thank you that this was shown on *Listapad*, because Chinese films do not appear in commercial release very often here. Therefore, the idea of cinema days, non-competition screenings of films from the CIS countries and Eastern countries should also be present within the framework of the festival. I think that such a programme will be of interest to both specialists and ordinary viewers.”

Irina Driga also proposed several ideas for the future at the 30th Film Forum. “The anniversary *Listapad* should be the embodiment of all the best that this has to offer. We’ve seen 29 films that have won gold over the years of the festival’s existence. Probably one of the events will be related to the screening of such a retrospective. And we would like, to the extent that we have enough strength and resources, for those people who took part in the creation of these films to take part in it. I think such an event will be able to reflect the scale of the festival and will become a source of pride for us. And also an opportunity to show the unifying role of our festival as a festival reflecting the cinema of the CIS countries. That is, the role that was originally assigned to it in the festival movement must be revived.” This is the hope expressed by Irina Driga. And she thanked the festival, “Let’s say thank you to this festival and immediately begin preparations for the next one.” The programme director of the animated film competition, Konstantin Andryushechkin, and the programme director of the feature film competition, Tatyana Komonova, also took part in the discussion of the results of the film festival.

The closing programme of the MIFF *Listapad* 2023 was festive and memorable. Before it started, musical hits were played in the lobby of Dom Kino. Festival participants and guests exchanged impressions, contacts, and took photographs as souvenirs. Television journalists and other media representatives rushed to interview some of the winners, as well as the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Sajad Haider Khan. By the way, he then went up on stage three times and received prizes (they were won by films from Pakistan), which he promised to give to the winners. In the feature film competition, the



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prize for best director was won by Sarmad Sultan Khusad (the film *Kamli*). This film also received the Audience Award. And in the non-fiction film competition, the jury diploma ‘For the Best Cinematography’ was awarded to the film *Cry from the Mountains*, directed by Karim Shalvani. And all this is Pakistan.

The jury also paid attention to the film *Filmmakers*, which opened the festival. Director Kirill Khaletsky was awarded a jury diploma ‘For Sincerity and Cheerfulness’.

The prize for the best non-feature film was awarded to the work *God! I Feel Your Approach!* (Russia, directors Nikolay Burlyayev, Dmitry Chernetsov). The prize for the best film in the animated film competition went to the film *In the Shadow of the Cypress Tree* (Iran, directors Shirin Sohani, Hossein Molayemi). The jury recognised the Indian drama *Zoo* directed by Manish Tiwari as the best picture of the children’s competition *Listapadzik*. In the Cinema of the Young competition, the Viktor Turov prize was awarded to a film called *Emperor* (Russia, director Alfiya Khabibullina). The Grand Prix and *Listapad* gold for the best film of the festival went to Yevgeniy Serov’s Russian film *The Tailor of Brooklyn*. This is a psychological drama about an emigrant who survived the horrors of the Holocaust; the main theme of the film was the character’s repentance.

There were other prestigious awards that were presented by members of the jury. The winners were invited to the stage and they left it with flowers and diplomas, with joyful smiles and applause. A beautiful show, a worthy finale. And then everyone watched the winning film, *The Tailor of Brooklyn*.

Valentina Zhdanovich

Photo by the author

THE NOBLE MISSION OF THE COUNTRY'S MAIN MUSEUM



In the centre of Minsk there is the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus (the State Art Gallery of the BSSR from 1939 to 1957, the State Art Museum of the BSSR from 1957 to 1993). Today it is the country's largest collection of Belarusian and foreign art. The display facilities, branches and depositories of the museum contain more than thirty thousand works, which form almost thirty different collections and make up two main museum collections: a collection of national art and a collection of art monuments of countries and peoples of the world.

Time of formation and painstaking work

The official history of the museum dates back to January 24th, 1939. According to the Resolution of the Government of the Council of People's Commissars of the BSSR, a state art gallery of the Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic was created in Minsk. By the way, in addition to the departments of painting, sculpture and graphics, a department of the art industry was organised in the gallery by a special resolution.

The pre-war period of the gallery's work under the leadership of Nikolai Mikholaп, a famous Belarusian ceramic artist, was a time of intensive formation of art collections. In such a short period of time, its employees managed to do a lot in collecting

exhibits: the most valuable works of religious art in churches were removed and registered, large funds of paintings, graphics and decorative and applied arts were collected.

Thanks to the efforts of the director and the work of a few employees on the eve of the war, the gallery's funds numbered about three thousand works, of which 400 were on display in fifteen halls.

The basis of the gallery's art collection consists of works from the fine arts departments of historical museums in Minsk, Vitebsk, Mogilev and Gomel. Several works from their funds were donated by the Tretyakov Gallery and the Russian Museum, the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts and the State Hermitage.



The collection of the new gallery also includes works by famous Russian Soviet artists.

After the reunification of the Western Belarusian lands from the BSSR in September 1939, the art gallery received works from nationalised estates and castles in Western Belarus, including part of the collection of the palace of the Radziwill princes in Nesvizh. Thus, the collection was replenished with a rich collection of Slutsk belts, French tapestries of the 18th century, and portrait painting of the 16th-19th centuries.



Tragic fate of the collection

However, the rich collection of the state art gallery in Minsk was not destined to have a long life. In the first days of the war, the fate of the entire congregation was tragic. In a short period of time it will disappear without a trace. The collection was prepared for evacuation, but they were unable to save it and it was not taken out. The art collection in Minsk was left in full and completely intact for the occupants.

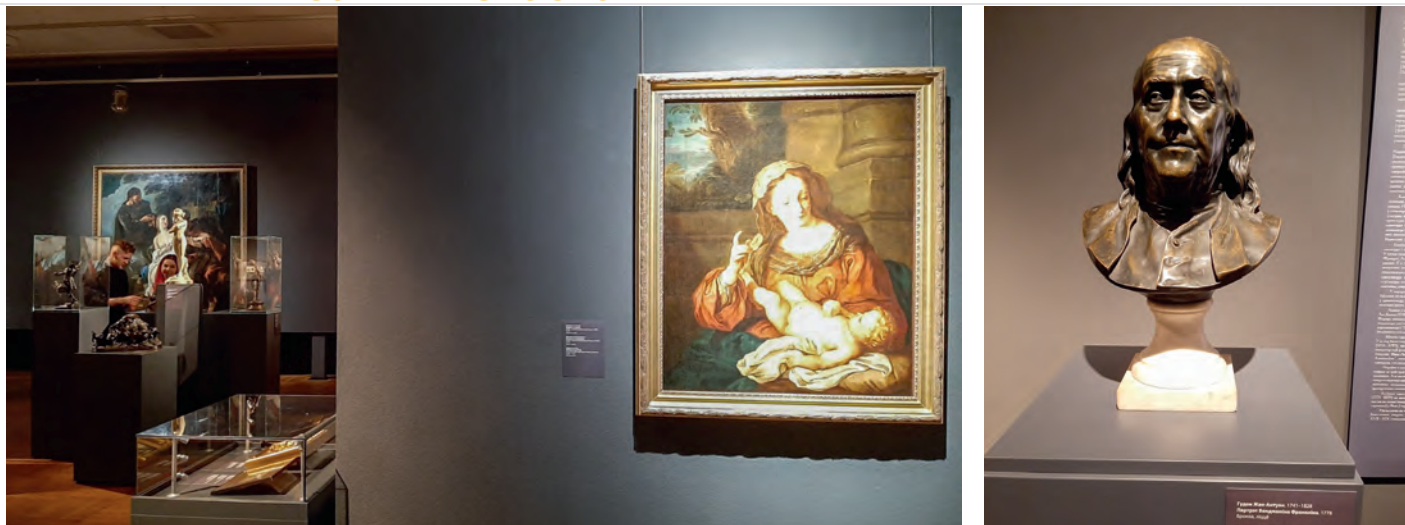
It is known that on the eve of large-scale hostilities in Europe, the Nazi government drew up a special programme for the confiscation of cultural and artistic property in conquered countries. In accordance with this programme, various societies and organisations were created, on the instructions of which high-ranking specialists travelled to different countries as tourists and researchers compiled lists of the most valuable collections and items to be confiscated. The general intermediary Vostok was in charge of accounting for valuables in the eastern territories; it carried out orders for seizures.

The events that took place in Minsk in 1941 in the art gallery indicate that its collection was considered by the Germans to be large and valuable.

The first German units only slightly damaged the gallery. Then G. Pase and K. Mühlmann appeared in Minsk. The former was the director of the Dresden Gallery and specially authorized to create Hitler's personal museum in his homeland, in Linz. K. Mühlmann was the special representative for the registration of cultural and artistic values in the eastern territories.



WE HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW



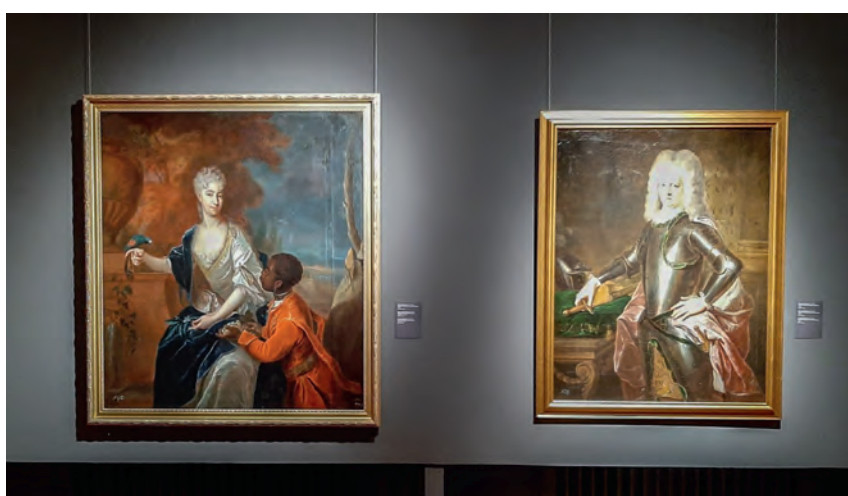
Representatives of the Heritage Society, headed by Himmler, were also present in the city.

In a word, there were a lot of occupiers who wanted to appropriate the Minsk collections, and there was even rivalry between them. The best objects of applied art and canvases, as evidenced by documents, were confiscated. Valuable collections were sent to the Reich. By September 1941, the art gallery's collection was practically lost. At this time, the Gauleiter of Weisrutenia (as Belarus was called by the invaders) Kube complained to Rosenberg that Minsk had lost millions of valuables, since 'valuable paintings, furniture of the 18th — 19th centuries, vases, marble items, watches, etc. were given by the SS to the Wehrmacht for plunder.' Much was taken to an unknown destination, some remained in the German occupation organizations in Minsk: institutions, officer clubs, casinos, etc.

The collection of the State Art Gallery ceased to exist, and its loss can be called irreplaceable. The fate of a significant part

of the gallery's pre-war collection is still unknown. Finding it is difficult due to the lack of a catalogue of the museum's pre-war exhibits. In the Inventory of Museum Valuables Taken by the Nazis to Germany and to the Countries of its Accomplices and Destroyed as a Result of Predatory Acts of 1944, compiled by museum employees based on transfer acts and several catalogues of pre-war exhibitions, there are 223 works of Russian painting, 32 Western European paintings, furniture from the 'blue bedroom' of Alexander II in the Winter Palace, 60 icons of the 16th—18th centuries, 89 works of sculpture, 48 Slutsk belts, 480 pieces of Russian porcelain, 800 of Western European porcelain, 30 pieces of ancient Urech glass, 200 handmade bedspreads by Belarusian weavers, hundreds of works by Belarusian artists of the end of the 19th — first third of the 20th century.

After the war, only a small part of the works was returned — about 500 exhibits that were on the eve of the war at exhibitions in the RSFSR or found by Soviet soldiers at the end of the war



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in Königsberg and other cities of East Prussia (a collection of portraits from Nesvizh) and devastated Minsk. There were some things that the Nazis simply couldn't manage to remove due to their heavy weight — for example, three large wooden sculptures by Aleksandr Grube and the marble Mercury by J. del Ner, a free copy of a work by the Danish master Thorvaldsen, survived.

French art in the Belarusian museum

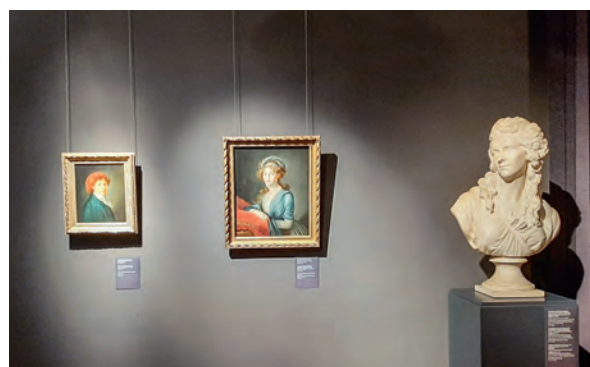
We will return to the story about the formation of the National Art Museum of Belarus, about the formation of its richest collection to date. After all, this is very interesting and educational in its own way. Now is the time to turn to one of the current exhibitions that are on display in museum halls. We are talking about the exhibition *Our Collections. French Fine Art from the Collection of the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus*.

This exhibition continues the series of thematic exhibitions presenting the fine arts of individual European art schools using works from the museum's collection as examples. It presents more than 160 works of painting, graphics and sculpture. It is especially worth noting that some of these works are being exhibited for the first time.

In general, the collection of French art of the National Art Museum of Belarus includes many paintings and graphic works, on the example of which one can consistently and fully demonstrate the development of fine art in France and its influence on other European schools. As it turned out, the museum's collection contains a number of genuine masterpieces created by the great masters of the French school, including Jean-François de Troy (1674—1752), Alexis Grimou (1678—1733), Claude Joseph Vernet (1714—1789), Hubert Robert (1733—1808), Jean-Baptiste Regnault (1754—1829), Louise Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun (1755—1842), François Gérard (1770-1837). No less important are the collection of French engravings and the collection of French book illustrations of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



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Experts note that in the collection of European art of the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus, the collection of works by masters of the French school, the chronological framework of which covers the period from the 17th to the 20th centuries, is one of the most significant in terms of quality and quantity of exhibits.

Yes, for many centuries the French school was the largest European art school. France gave the world Gothic, famous masters of the Northern Renaissance. French artists of the 17th century, along with Italian masters, became major representatives of the Baroque style, and such styles and movements as classicism, empire, and rococo are achievements of purely French art.

So, it will be absolutely fair to say that the works exhibited at the current exhibition *Our Collections. French Fine Art from the Collection of the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus* provide an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with one of the largest art schools in the world, the French school, and to trace the development and evolution art of this country during the 17th — early 20th centuries.

Veniamin Mikheyev

РАДЗІМА – КРЫНІЦА НАТХНЕННЯ



Весткі з Беларусі

ГОЛАС РАДЗІМЫ



У Міністэрстве замежных спраў прайшло Восьмае пасяджэнне Кансультатыўнага савета па справах беларусаў замежжа. Звяртаючыся да ўдзельнікаў сустрэчы, міністр замежных спраў Сяргей Алейнік выказаў прадстаўнікам дыяспары словы падзякі за тую неацэнную працу, якую яны робяць па прасоўванні інтарэсаў Рэспублікі Беларусь і данясенні праўдзівай, аб'ектыўнай інфармацыі аб нашай краіне. Такая падтрымка сёння надзвычай важная, яна дапамагае ўмацоўваць палітычны і эканамічны суверэнітэт, адстойваць гістарычную праўду і супрацьстаяць фальсіфікацыям.

У пасяджэнні бралі ўдзел прадстаўнікі органаў дзяржаўнага кіравання і арганізацый, якія адказваюць за міжнародныя праекты. Як заўважыў намеснік міністра замежных спраў Яўген Шастакоў, гэта выдатная магчымасць абмеркаваць актуальныя пытанні ўзаемадзеяння: «Мы падтрымліваем плённыя кантакты з кожным з вашых аб'яднанняў. У нас адбыўся добры абмен інфармацыяй па

правядзенні ў Беларусі і за мяжой сумесных мерапрыемстваў, прымеркаваных да важных падзей і памятных дат. Адметным стаў удзел прадстаўнікоў нашай дыяспары ў шэрагу тэматычных праектаў, круглых сталах, выстаўках, сустрэчах, якія былі праведзены пры ўзаемадзеянні з беларускімі замежнымі ўстановамі».

У гэтым годзе склад Кансультатыўнага савета павялічыўся, што сведчыць пра рост яго значнасці і зацікаўленасць прадстаўнікоў дыяспары ва ўзаемадзеянні.

Кіраўнік рэгіянальнай нацыянальнай культурнай аўтаноміі беларусаў Омскай вобласці «Буслы» Алена Аўчарэнка ганарыцца тым, што яна ў гэтым годзе ўвайшла ў склад Кансультатыўнага савета. Яна ўдзячная за тое, што ў прадстаўнікоў беларускай дыяспары ёсць цудоўная магчымасць прыязджаць у Беларусь па веды, удзельнічаць у творчых стажыроўках. У сваю чаргу нашы суайчыннікі ў мясцінах, дзе сёння пражываюць, робяць шмат для захавання мовы, культуры, традыцый, нацыянальнай кухні. «Мы працуем, каб не



падвесці старэйшае пакаленне, каб людзі бачылі, што ўсё, што яны рабілі, захоўвалі, было недарэмным. Мы вышукваем інфармацыю, вучымся новаму, вывучаем традыцыі, ствараем музейныя пакоі. І перадаём гэта дзецям», – расказала Алена Аўчарэнка. Яна заўважыла, што ў апошнія гады расце цікавасць да сваіх каранёў. Да беларусаў заўсёды было асаблівае стаўленне. Іх цэняць за адкрытасць, міралюбства, адказнасць і працавітасць. А яшчэ – за аптымізм і актыўнасць, бо ў Омскай вобласці нашы суайчыннікі бяруць удзел у разнастайных мерапрыемствах, што там праходзяць. Ва ўсялякім разе, водгукі пра сябе, як адну з лепшых арганізацый. «Буслы» знаходзяць у мясцовай прэсе, хоць ў гэтым расійскім рэгіёне пражывае больш за 120 нацыянальнасцяў і ёсць шмат арганізацый, якія прадстаўляюць розныя культуры. Адна з ідэй, якую б хацелі ажыццявіць омскія беларусы, – выданне зборніка, што захавае памяць пакаленняў. Сярод актывістаў арганізацыі ёсць людзі, якія збіраюць матэрыялы па гісторыі дыяспары, пра сем'і. Гэта тысячы фатаграфій, па якіх можна вывучаць жыццё перасяленцаў з Беларусі. У сталыпінскую рэформу ў Сібір беларусы выязджалі сем'ямі і нават цэлымі вёскамі. Можна сабраць інфармацыю пра тое, як яны жылі, як сябравалі з іншымі людзьмі, дапамагалі адзін аднаму, якія спраўлялі вяселлі, праводзілі святы. Актывісты суполкі займаюцца патрыятычнай работай, нават была зроблена стужка, якая расказвае пра аперацыю «Баграціён». Клапоцяцца «Буслы» і аб ветэранах, інвалідах.

Алена Аўчарэнка прыехала ў Беларусь з падарункамі. Яна перадала рукавіцы з беларускім арнамантам міністру замежных спраў. Зробленыяны «сярэбраным» валанцёрам Генадзем Бутэнка. Мужчына звязаў ужо больш за 200 такіх рукавіц.

У сустрэчы ў Міністэрстве замежных спраў удзельнічалі прадстаўнікі дыяспары з розных краін блізкага і далёкага замежжа. Так, Ала Сандлер, якая прадстаўляе беларусаў з Вашынгтона, прызналася, што падчас кожнай паездкі ў Беларусь гатова дзяліцца толькі словамі ўсхвалення: «Я люблю сюды вяртацца, падсілкоўвацца той энергіяй, якая мне дапамагае пасля працаваць і жыць у іншай краіне». Жанчына заўважыла, што гэтым разам дарога на радзіму ёй далася лягчэй, са Злучаных Штатаў яна ляцела праз Швейцарыю і Вільнюс, а ўжо з Літвы дабіралася наземным транспартам – так бы мовіць, па праторанай сцежцы. Сёлета гэта ўжо не першы яе візіт: у верасні жанчына выступала на IV Фестывалі мастацтваў беларусаў свету. На пытанне журналістаў, як жывецца беларусам у Амерыцы, Ала Сандлер адзначыла, што там дарэчы аказваецца такая рыса беларусаў, як працавітасць. У ЗША, як і ў любой іншай краіне даводзіцца працаваць вельмі многа, а часам быць гатовым памяняць прафесію, як гэта многія рабілі ў часы пандэміі. У Амерыцы Ала Сандлер паставіла сабе на мэту адрадыць музей славянскіх культур. Без якой-небудзь фінансавай падтрымкі гэта даволі цяжка, часам трэба выдаткоўваць і грошы з сямейнага бюджэту. З кожнай сваёй паездкі ў Беларусь жанчына прывозіць новыя экспанаты.

«Мы рады, што сабраліся, дзелімся вопытам», – заўважыла кіраўнік Ерэванскай беларускай абшчыны Ірына Пагасян. Па яе словах, у Арменіі пражывае вельмі невялікі працэнт прадстаўнікоў нацыянальных меншанстваў, не шмат там і беларусаў. Пры гэтым беларуская дыяспара мае вялікі нацыянальны калектыў «Родныя карані», у якога самыя прыгожыя касцюмы (дзякуючы падтрымцы з Беларусі), шыкоўны рэпертуар. Артысты выступаюць на высокім узроўні – гэта заўсёды культурная падзея ў жыцці Арменіі. Таму іх там добра ведаюць, любяць і запрашаюць на ўсе мерапрыемствы. Абшчына мае дзіцячы лялькавы тэатр і дзіцячую музычную групу. Беларусы Арменіі заўсёды адзначаюць нацыянальныя святы, у гэтым годзе вельмі сур'ёзна рыхтуюцца да Каляд. Ірына Пагасян падзялілася думкай, што вельмі хацелася б зрабіць сумесны праект для моладзі, падлеткаў: каб юныя беларусы з розных краін змаглі сабрацца разам, перазнаёміцца, убачыць Беларусь, яе чысціню і прыгажосць.

У наступным годзе будзе адзначацца 80-годдзе вызвалення Беларусі ад н'мецка-фашысцкіх захопнікаў, і можна сказаць, што патрыятычныя практы будуць вельмі запатрабаваныя. Што робіцца



ў гэтым кірунку. расказаў старшыня Нацыянальна-культурнай аўтаноміі беларусаў Смаленскай вобласці Сяргей Крыўко. Яшчэ ў 2016 годзе арганізацыя распачала працаваць з тэмай памяці. «Аказалася, што ў наш час ужо не ўсе ведаюць, што такое Вялікая Айчынная вайна. Мы вырашылі праводзіць аўтапрабегі. Першыя з іх былі больш азнаямленчыя, каб удзельнікі пабачыць помнікі, адчуць, што ўся Беларусь, Смаленшчына і далей да Масквы – гэта было суцэльнае поле бою» – расказвае Яўген Расціслававіч. У тыя першыя вандроўкі ездзілі людзі розных узростаў. Ужо праведзена восем аўтапрабегаў. Праца не спынялася нават у часы пандэміі, яна проста перайшла ў сеціва, дзе актывісты наладжвалі сувязі з калегамі з Беларусі ды Расіі. Так, да патрыятычнага руху далучыліся прадстаўнікі чатырох абласцей Беларусі, Бранск, Твер, Тула, Маскоўская вобласць. Удзельнікі разам абмяркоўваюць планы будучых аўтапрабегаў, бо гісторыю вайны можна вывучаць з розных бакоў. У апошнія два гады было вырашана больш увагі надаваць вывучэнню партызанскай барацьбы. «Для Беларусі, Смаленшчыны – гэта вельмі значная старонка гісторыі, – упэўнены Сяргей Крыўко. – У тыя часы беларусы знаходзіліся ў інфармацыйнай ізаляцыі, немцы паўсюль гаварылі, што Масква ўжо захоплена, што Германія дайшла да Волгі, да Урала. Гэта колькі патрэбна было мужнасці, патрыятызму, веры, каб арганізавацца і весці барацьбу! Адна справа ваяваць у дзеючай арміі, калі падвоззяцца прадукты, боепрыпасы, ёсць медсанбаты. А партызанам даводзілася спадзявацца толькі на сябе, не разлічваць, што калі атрад патрапіць у акружэнне, то хтосьці прыйдзе на дапамогу. І яны не апусцілі рукі. Я лічу гэта вялікім падзвігам беларускага народа».

Паступова да праекта далучаюцца другія рэгіёны. У Федэральнай нацыянальнай культурнай аўтаноміі «Беларусы Расіі» цікавасць выказалі прадстаўнікі Сібіры і Дальняга Усходу, Мурманска і Архангельска, нават тых тэрыторый, на якіх ваенных дзеянняў не вялося, але іх жыхары ўдзельнічалі ў баях на беларускай зямлі. Аўтапрабегі далі нечаканыя вынікі. Напрыклад, была знойдзена інфармацыя пра чатырох



байцоў Чырвонй Арміі, звесткі пра якіх іх сваякі не маглі адшукаць на працягу 75–80 гадоў. Падчас аўтапрабегаў адбываюцца сустрэчы з краязнаўцамі, работнікамі раённых і школьных музеяў. Па выніках прабегаў пачалі выпускацца інфармацыйныя зборнікі «Атласы памяці». Збіраюцца звесткі пра ваенныя падзеі і помнікі, устанаўліваюцца каардынаты GPS, а пасля інфармацыя перадаецца ў электронныя навігацыйныя карты. Вандроўнік, які едзе праз Беларусь у Расію, у аўтаматычным рэжыме атрымлівае інфармацыю не толькі пра дарогу і аб'екты прыдарожнага сэрвісу, але, напрыклад, пра тое, што побач стаіць помнік героям.

Падчас аўтапрабегаў актывізаваўся яшчэ і міжнародная праца, звязаная з параднёнымі гарадамі. Калі пасля распаду Савецкага Саюза гэты рух на некаторы час згас, то сёння ён зноў набывае папулярнасць, наладжваюцца кантакты ў сферах адукацыі, культуры, спорту, маладзёжных праектаў.

Алена **Дзязюля**

■ Фота БЕЛТА

У БУДУЧЫНЮ – ПРАЗ ПАВАГУ ДА МІНУЛАГА



Цягам месяца ў Беларусі праходзяць Калядныя адукацыйныя чытанні. Гэта штогадовае маштабнае мерапрыемства, падчас якога праводзяцца круглыя сталы, канферэнцыі, кінапаказы, выстаўкі, сустрэчы, скіраваныя на захаванне традыцыйных каштоўнасцяў, выхаванне падрастаючага пакалення. Мерапрыемства ініцыявана Праваслаўнай царквой. Калядныя чытанні аб'ядноўваюць спецыялістаў і вучоных, якія працуюць у галінах багаслоўя, адукацыі, гісторыі, філасофіі, культуралогіі і рэлігіязнаўства.

Урачыстае адкрыццё IX Калядных адукацыйных чытанняў прайшло ў Нацыянальнай бібліятэцы.

Былі падведзены вынікі рэспубліканскіх конкурсаў, якія Праваслаўная царква праводзіць разам са свецкімі арганізацыямі і ўстановамі. Арганізатарамі аднаго з іх “Кніга мне – кніга ўва мне” выступілі Сінаідальны адзел Беларускай праваслаўнай царквы і Саюз пісьменнікаў Беларусі. Аўтары лепшых твораў, якія паказваюць хрэсціянскія каштоўнасці, былі адзначаны ўзнагародамі.

Яшчэ адзін рэспубліканскі конкурс – “Свет міласэрнасці” – праводзіцца з мэтай падтрымкі і распаўсюджвання вопыту супрацоўніцтва ўстаноў сацыяльнага абслугоўвання з царкоўнымі арганізацыямі, а таксама валанцёрскай дзейнасці. Пры падвядзенні вынікаў трэцяга конкурсу – «Бібліятэка – цэнтр Духоўнай асветы і выхавання» – мітрапаліт Мінскі і Заслаўскі Веніямін заўважыў, што практы, якія робяць супрацоўнікі бібліятэк, натхняюць людзей на добрыя справы.

У рамках Калядных чытанняў адбылася прэзентацыя кніжнай калекцыі «Рускія пісьменнікі — класікі і праваслаўе». Гэта серыя з дванаццаці кніг, якія змяшчаюць творы класікаў за трыстагоддзі — ад Ламаносава да Шолахава. Як паведаміў кіраўнік Міжнароднага фонда духоўнага адзінства народаў, прафесар, доктар філасофіі Валерый Аляксееў, калекцыя ўжо прэзентавалася ў Пекіне, Берліне, Мілане, Вене,

Варшаве, Парыжы, Іерусаліме ды іншых гарадах. У гэтым годзе было прынята рашэнне прадставіць яе ў гарадах СНД.

Кожны год для чытанняў выбіраецца агульная тэма для абмеркаванняў. Гэтым разам яна была наступная: “Праваслаўе і айчыная культура: страты і набыткі мінулага, вобраз будучыні”. У Нацыянальную бібліятэку абмеркаваць актуальныя пытанні прыехалі святары, прадстаўнікі органаў улады, дзеячы культуры, вучоныя, кіраўнікі і выкладчыкі ўстаноў адукацыі, медыцынскія і сацыяльныя работнікі.

Мітрапаліт Мінскі і Заслаўскі Веніямін на адкрыцці

пленарнага пасяджэння заўважыў, што на працягу тысячагоддзя наша культура фарміравалася, абапіраючыся на хрэсціянства. Жыццё вернікаў немагчыма без богаслужэнняў, іканапісу, харавага пеньня, царкоўнай архітэктуры. Царква стала месцам яднання людзей, крыніцай натхнення для мастакоў, паэтаў пісьменнікаў і кампазітараў. Праваслаўныя храмы ўпрыгожылі гарады і вёскі. “Нават у скаладаных перыяды для царквы яе ўплыў заставаўся неаспрэчным, і сёння яна працягвае фарміраваць нацыянальную ідэнтычнасць. Традыцыі праваслаўя ўплываюць на нашу культуру, садзейнічаюць яднанню і духоўнай асвеце народа”, – падкрэсліў Патрыяршы экзарх.



Мітрапаліт узняў праблему, якая з’явілася ў эпоху глабалізацыі. Культура заўсёды адыгрывала вырашальную ролю ў фарміраванні светаўспрымання чалавека. Але, на жаль, апошнім часам яна становіцца прасторай сутыкнення розных вобразаў, сэнсаў ды ідэй. Сёння яна можа быць інструментам, які расчалавечвае, уводзіць людзей ад высокага прызначэння рабіць дабыню, дарыць радасць. Прапагандуюцца і насаджаюцца раней не характэрныя для нас нормы паводзін. Пры гэтым яны яшчэ могуць падавацца як нешта сучаснае, крэатыўнае, як рэалізацыя свабоды чалавечай

асобы. Прычына дадзеных працэсаў у свеце, на думку мітрапаліта, звязаная з адступленнем ад духоўна-маральных прынцыпаў, адыходжаннем ад хрысціянскіх падыходаў у культуры і мастацтве. Таму сёння важна расказаць падростаючаму пакаленню пра дасягненні майстроў, якія жылі ў часы Ефрасінні Полацкай, пра Кірылу Тураўскага, Андрэя Рублёва ды іншых. Неабходна беражліва ставіцца да таленавітых творцаў, падмаць пытанні аб тым, наколькі значным і адказным з'яўляецца служэнне людзей мастацтва, Тэму працягнуў Упаўнаважаны па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Аляксандр Румак. Ён

нацыянальнасцяў і этнасаў сфарміраваў унікальную самабытную талерантную беларускую культуру.

Вітальнае слова аддзяржсакратара Саюзнай дзяржавы Дзмітрыя Мезенцава агучыла кіраўнік прадстаўніцтва Пастаяннага камітэта Саюзнай дзяржавы Марыяна Шчоткіна. Прагучалі словы пра тое, што моц кожнай дзяржавы – у захаванні надзейных традыцый: традыцыйнай сям'і, добра, святла.

Намеснік міністра інфармацыі Ігар Бузоўскі звярнуў увагу, што сёння свет знаходзіцца на этапе сур'ёзнай палітычнай, эканамічнай і духоўна-маральнай трансфармацыі. Гісторыя сведчыць, што ў падобнай

стуацыі з выпрабаваннямі спраўляюцца найлепш тыя народы, якія помняць свой гістарычны вопыт, цэняць яго і з павагай ставяцца да фундаментальных каштоўнасцяў. Захаваць і перадаць яго наступным пакаленням можна, калі кансалідаваць намаганні розных структур і ўстаноў. Адным з прыкладаў узаемадзеяння царквы і дзяржавы з'яўляецца факультатыўны курс “Асновы духоўна-маральнай культуры і патрыятызму”. Сёлета можна падводзіць вынікі 20 гадовых партнёрскіх сувязяў Праваслаўнай царквы і дзяржавы, паміж якімі ў 2003 годзе было падпісана пагадненне аб супрацоўніцтве.

Пасяхова ўзаемадзеянне з Праваслаўнай царквой і Нацыянальная акадэмія навук. Гісторыя беларускага праваслаўя былі і застаюцца ў цэнтры ўвагі даследчыкаў. Вучоныя адкрываюць новыя старонкі біяграфій вядомых дзеячаў, працамі якіх папаўнялася духоўна-культурная спадчына беларускага народа: Ефрасінні Полацкай, Кірылы Тураўскага, Афанасія Філіповіча, Іосіфа Сямашкі. Даследчыкам яшчэ неабходна ацаніць падзвіжніцкую дзейнасць Мітрапаліта Філарэта, з якім звязана адраджэнне царкоўнага жыцця на беларускай зямле ў наш час.

Надзея **Бузінойская.**

■ Фота Алены Дзязюлі.



адзначыў, што пад уздзеяннем інфармацыйных тэхналогій змяняецца структура самога грамадства. Дзякуючы інтэрнэту ствараецца новая віртуальная рэальнасць са сваімі правіламі і нормаў паводзін, дзе адбываецца падмена духоўных і культурных каштоўнасцяў. Раней, каб новыя веды абляцелі ўвесь свет, патрабаваліся месяцы, нават гады. У стагоддзе інфармацыйных тэхналогій дастаткова аднаго кліка і некалькіх секунд, каб інфармацыя стала даступнай многім. А часам хапае аднаго слова, каб змяніць ход гісторыі. Беларусь – шматнацыянальная і шматканфесійная краіна, векавы вопыт пражывання на беларускіх землях прадстаўнікоў розных

ЧАС ДЛЯ АДКРЫТЫХ СЭРЦАЎ



З канца 90-х гадоў мінулага стагоддзя ў Беларусі адзначаецца Дзень інвалідаў. У пачатку снежня праходзяць розныя мерапрыемствы, прысвечаныя падтрымцы людзей з абмежаванымі магчымасцямі: выстаўкі, круглыя сталы, канцэрты, дыялогавыя пляцоўкі, пазакласныя заняткі ў школах. У мінулым годзе Прэзідэнтам быў падпісаны Закон “Аб правах інвалідаў і іх сацыяльнай інтэграцыі”, які рэалізуе ў нацыянальным заканадаўстве палажэнні канвенцыі аб правах інвалідаў. Закон прапісвае правы людзей з абмежаванымі магчымасцямі. Разглядаюцца ў ім і пытанні паляпшэння якасці іх жыцця, стварэння і забеспячэння ўмоў для ўключэння ў грамадства, самарэалізацыі. Таму апошнім часам робіцца шмат для стварэння безбар’ернага асяроддзя і інклюзіўных праграм.

Новыя магчымасці

Пра тое, чаго ўдалося дасягнуць у гэтым кірунку, на сустрэчы ў Доме прэсы расказала намеснік старшыні камітэта па працы, занятасці і сацыяльнай абароне Мінскага абласнога выканаўчага камітэта Наталля Ігнатовіч. Яна звярнула ўвагу на тое, што з боку дзяржавы праводзіцца вялікая работа ў справе падтрымкі і сацыяльнай абароны людзей з інваліднасцю. У 2020 годзе ў Мінскім раёне адкрыта аддзяленне дзённага знаходжання для маладых інвалідаў з цяжкімі і шматлікімі парушэннямі здароўя. Вынікі, якіх удалося дасягнуць яго работнікам, даволі важныя. Маладыя людзі тут вучацца самастойна вырашаць побытавыя пытанні, напрыклад, як прыгатаваць сабе сняданак. На тэрыторыі Смалевіцкага раёна адкрыта так званая “трэніровачная кватэра”, дзе людзі з інваліднасцю

могуць знаходзіцца ўжо круглыя суткі. Для людзей з асаблівасцямі, якія да гэтага пастаянна знаходзіліся пад апекай сваякоў, гэта вельмі карысны досвед.

Са студзеня 2023 года ўведзена новая паслуга, калі з персанальным асістэнтам людзі з інваліднасцю могуць наведаць банкі, медыцынскія і навучальныя ўстановы ды іншыя. У сістэме дзяржаўнай падтрымкі таксама прадугледжана і дапамога перакладчыка жэставай мовы. Плануецца ў наступным годзе да першага квартала адкрыць цэнтр прыёму і перадачы інфармацыі для людзей, у якіх ёсць праблемы са слыхам. Так, на жэставай мове праз планшэты можна звярнуцца да спецыяліста, які дапаможа, напрыклад, запісацца да доктара.

Шмат увагі ўдзяляецца і прафесійнаму навучанню. На тэрыторыі тэрытарыяльных цэнтраў сацыяльнага абслугоўвання функцыянуюць рэабілітацыйна-працоўныя майстэрні. Сур'ёзная падтрымка вядзецца па працаўладкаванні людзей з асаблівымі патрэбамі. Выбудавана сістэма ўзаемадзеяння з грамадскімі аб'яднаннямі. Напрыклад, на тэрыторыі Мінскай вобласці функцыянуюць дванаццаць прадпрыемстваў, якія створаны арганізацыямі, што аказваюць дапамогу людзям з інваліднасцю. Таксама грамадскія арганізацыі падключаюцца да праграм па стварэнні інклюзіўнага асяроддзя. На тэрыторыі Мінскай вобласці толькі за бягучы год абсталявана каля 140 аб'ектаў, сярод якіх – установы аховы здароўя, адукацыі, культуры, гандлёвыя цэнтры і дарожна-транспартная сетка. За пяцігодку плануецца зрабіць каля 700 аб'ектаў, даступных людзям з рознымі патрэбамі: і для тых, хто перасоўваецца на інвалідных калёсках, і хто мае парушэнні зроку.

Як раскрываецца талент

Сёння дзеці з інваліднасцю могуць навучацца не толькі ў спецыялізаваных установах, але і ў звычайных школах, дзе створаны інтэгрыраваныя класы. Як заўважыла дырэктар



■ Канцэрт "Ад сэрца да сэрца" прайшоў у Рэспубліканскім цэнтры нацыянальных культур

Мінскага абласнога цэнтра карэкцыйна-развіваючага навучання і рэабілітацыі Людміла Федаровіч, каб дзяцей з інваліднасцю максімальна ўключыць у развіваючае асяроддзе, важна не толькі даць ім веды, але і падтрымаць здольнасці і таленты.

Дзеці з дамоў-інтэрнатаў праяўляюць сябе ў розных сферах. Так, выпускніца Маладзечанскай школы-інтэрната, дзе навучаюцца дзеці з парушэннем зроку, Елізавета Пятрэнка стала паралімпійскай чэмпіёнкай. Яшчэ адзін выпускнік маладзечанскай школы Данііл Савеня браў удзел у фестывалі "Славянскі базар", у праекце "Х-фактар", стаў уладальнікам Гран-пры фестывалю эстраднай песні ў Маладзечна.

Дзеці з Рудзенскай спецыялізаванай школы-інтэрната ездзілі на гульні ў Казань, адкуль прывезлі залатыя, сярэбраныя і бронзавыя медалі за перамогі ў розных відах спорту. На тэрыі школы сёлета адкрыта боча-пляцоўка. Гэта першая ў Мінскай вобласці ўстанова, дзе можна займацца такім экзатычным для нашай краіны відам спорту людзям з інваліднасцю. Андрэй Клок – выпускнік Івянецкага дома-інтэрната – пераможца розных конкурсаў, у тым ліку і рэспубліканскага фестывалю "Мары здзяйсняюцца". Хлопец сам піша песні, і марыць зняць на іх прафесійныя кліпы.

"Я лічу сябе паспяховым чалавекам", – прызнаецца Аляксандр Еўдакімаў. Прычым думкі аб тым, як рэалізавацца, у яго з'явіліся ў 10-гадовым ўзросце, калі ён цалкам страціў зрок. Хлопец нарадзіўся ў Падмаскоўі, на выдатна закончыў Расійскую акадэмію музыкі імя Гнесіных, пасля аспірантуру, абараніў дысертацыю. У 2012 годзе пераехаў у Маладзечна, дзе 10 гадоў працаваў у музычным каледжы, пры гэтым стараўся максімальна

■ Танцальны калектыў "Эрэбуні"





■ Яўгенія Караткевіч і навучэнцы спецыяльнай школы №13 г. Мінска

насыціць сваё жыццё, прымаў удзел у разнастайных творчых праектах, а таксама звязаных з сучаснымі тэхналогіямі. У прыватнасці, са сваім невідучым сябрам-праграмістам стварыў шэраг мабільных праграм. Ён піша музычныя кампазіцыі, валодае чатырма мовамі і кажа, што знайшоў працу сваёй мары. Ён вядзе інтэрактыўныя праграмы ў Цэнтры крэатыўных рашэнняў “Нябачны свет”. Гэта ўнікальны для Беларусі праект, у рамках якога невідучыя трэнеры, музыканты, псіхолагі, артысты праводзяць забаўляльныя праграмы, незвычайныя трэнінгі, квэсты, канцэрты і другія мерапрыемствы ў поўнай цемры.

Творчасць сцірае межы

У гэтым можна было пераканацца падчас канцэрта “Ад сэрца да сэрца”, які прайшоў у Рэспубліканскім цэнтры нацыянальных культур Вольга Якабсон назвала артыстаў канцэрта “Ад сэрца да сэрца”. Разам з творчымі калектывамі нацыянальна-культурных аб’яднанняў, прадстаўнікоў татарскай, рускай, грузінскай, армянскай, індыйскай, казахскай, карэйскай, малдаўскай нацыянальнасцяў на сцэну выходзілі артысты Мінскай гарадской арганізацыі “Беларускае таварыства інвалідаў”.

Установы даўно актыўна супрацоўнічаюць. Разам яны праводзілі разнастайныя мерапрыемствы: выстаўкі, літаратурна-музычныя вечары, канцэрты. Гэтым разам да канцэрта далучылася і спецыяльны госьць з Масквы – Яўгенія Караткевіч. Дзяўчына назвала сябе дзіцём дзвюх краін. Яе бацька – з Гомельскай вобласці, а маці – з Забайкалля. Пазнаёміліся яны ў Расіі, дзе бацька служыў. Сваю каханую ён забраў з сабой у Беларусь. Сям’я асела ў Магілёве. Яўгенія

ўзгадала, што яшчэ з дзяцінства яна разам з ансамблем “Радуга” ездзіла з дабрачыннымі канцэртамі ў дзіцячыя дамы і дамы састарэлых. З таго часу яе не пакідала жаданне быць патрэбнай. Яна скончыла Усерасійскі дзяржаўны інстытут кінематаграфіі ў Маскве. Дзяўчына здымаецца ў фільмах, спявае, сама піша песні, заснавала дабрачынны фонд “Твае таленты так патрэбны планеце”, які выступіў арганізатарам канцэртаў, дзе дзеці з асаблівымі магчымасцямі з Беларусі і Расіі выступаюць разам. Адзін з такіх канцэртаў прайшоў у Маскве ў музеі Перамогі на Паклоннай гары. На яго прыехалі дзеці з Мінска – са спецыяльнай школы №13, якая прымае вучняў з парушэннямі слыху.

На канцэрте “Ад сэрца да сэрца” Яўгенія Караткевіч выступіла разам з гэтымі школьнікамі. Словы песні юныя артысты паказвалі жэстамі. Яўгенія падзялілася, што яе фондам ужо заплававаны наступныя сумесныя фестывалі, якія пройдуць у Беларусі і Расіі.

Лепшы падарунак – песня

Думку, што песні, сустрэчы і новыя знаёмствы могуць быць выдатным падарункам, выказалі дзеці, якія цяпер праходзяць лячэнне ў Рэспубліканскім рэабілітацыйным цэнтры для дзяцей-інвалідаў. У гэтай установе, аснашчанай сучасным абсталяваннем, хлопчыкі і дзяўчынкі атрымліваюць комплексную дапамогу: медыцынскую, псіхалага-педагагічную, сацыяльную.

Сюды па ініцыятыве Упаўнаважанага па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў прыехалі прадстаўнікі нацыянальна-культурных грамадскіх аб’яднанняў: Мінскага гарадскога армянска-асветніцкага таварыства “Айастан”, Міжнароднага грамадскага аб’яднання “Кангрэс азербайджанскіх абшчын”, грамадскай арганізацыі “Абшчына малдаван”, Саюза беларускіх яўрэйскіх грамадскіх аб’яднанняў. Разам з Упаўнаважаным па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Аляксандрам Румакам яны павіншавалі выхаванцаў цэнтра з пачаткам зімы, пажадалі моцнага здароўя і здзяйснення мар. Па традыцыі дзецям былі перададзены настольныя гульні ды іншыя падарункі.

Трэба сказаць, што дзеці і педагогі рэабілітацыйнага цэнтра таксама падрыхтавалі для гасцей сюрпрызы. Яны правялі віктарыну, расказалі пра сваю ўстанову, паказалі, чаму тут змаглі навучыцца і нават прапанаваць разам з імі выканаць некаторыя практыкаванні. Справа ў тым, што ў рэабілітацыйным цэнтры дзецям даступны не толькі сучасныя метадыкі лячэння, тут робіцца ўсё магчымае, каб зрабіць знаходжанне хлопчыкаў і дзяўчынак максімальна камфортным, падарыць добрыя эмоцыі, раскрыць здольнасці і навучыць новаму. Так, некаторыя заняткі праходзяць у гульнявой форме з выкарыстаннем разнастайных дапаможнікаў, цікавых заданняў, якія дапамагаюць палепшыць памяць, канцэнтрацыю, матарыку, каардынацыю. Дзеці робяць вырабы з розных матэрыялаў і ўражваюць сваёй творчасцю. Яны паказалі

танцавальнага калектыву “Арыранг”, які прадстаўляе грамадскую арганізацыю “Асацыяцыя беларускіх карэйцаў”.

Міжнароднае грамадскае аб’яднанне “Татара-башкірская культурная спадчына “Чышма” прадставіла самую юную артыстку – Сафія Лумпава. Адно са сваіх песень яна выканала на татарскай мове. Старшыня арганізацыі Эльвіра Ляўшэвіч расказала, што арганізацыя створана ў 1998 годзе. У таварыстве – 140 чалавек, а згодна з перапісам, у Беларусі пражывае каля 9 тысяч татар і каля тысячы башкір. Арганізацыя бярэ ўдзел у разнастайных мерапрыемствах, якія праводзіць Апарат Упаўнаважанага і Рэспубліканскі цэнтр нацыянальных культур, а таксама шчыльна супрацоўнічае з пасольствам Расійскай Федэрацыі, падтрымлівае сувязі з рэспублікамі Татарстан і Башкартастан. “Дзякуючы палітыцы і мудраму



■ Творчы калектыв “Плай” абшчыны малдаван

выстаўку ўласных работ і падарылі гасцям сувеніры, якія самі зрабілі.

Прадстаўнікі нацыянальна-культурных аб’яднанняў правялі для выхаванцаў цэнтра дабрачынны канцэрт “Мы – разам!”.

Абавязкова па ўсіх дабрачынных праграмах, якія праходзяць па лініі Апарата Упаўнаважанага і Рэспубліканскага цэнтра нацыянальных культур, прымае удзел танцавальны калектыв “Эрэбуні” Мінскага гарадскога культурна-асветніцкага таварыства “Айастан”. Гэтым разам яго прадставіла Вольга Багушынская з чароўным грацыёзным танцам са збанам. Энергічныя, запальваючыя нумары падрыхтаваў ансамбль яўрэйскага танца “Гіль загав”, лірычныя кранальныя песні – ансамбль польскай песні “Івенчанка” івянецкага гарпасялковага аддзела грамадскага аб’яднання “Саюз палякаў на Беларусі”. Уразілі глядачоў і яскравыя выступленні з барабанами



■ Удзельніца дабрачыннага канцэрта “Мы – разам!”
Вольга Багушынская

кіраўніцтву рэспублікі, у Беларусі мы атрымліваем магчымасць развівацца, захоўваць сваю культуру і радаваць ёй іншых. Мы праводзім нацыянальныя святы, мерапрыемствы, прысвечаныя нашым знакамітым землякам, артыстам, паэтам, пісьменнікам. Так, дзякуючы падтрымцы з Татарстана ў Дубровенскім раёне пастаўлены помнік кампазітару Фарыду Яруліну, аўтару знакамітага балета “Шурале”, які загінуў у 1943 годзе ў баях за Беларусь”, – расказала Эльвіра Ляўшэвіч. Беларускай абшчыне малдаван ужо 25 гадоў і ўвесь гэты час яе творчы калектыв “Плай” радуе сваімі бадзёрымі песнямі. “Мы прыехалі з сонечнага краю, там усюды спяваюць, нават у 40-градусную спёку, калі полюць вінаграднікі. І гэтай весялосцю малдаўскага народа мы заўсёды гатовы дзяліцца”, – заўважыла Антаніна Валько, старшыня Рэспубліканскай грамадскай арганізацыі “Абшчына малдаван”. Да канцэрта ў рэабілітацыйным цэнтры “Плай” падрыхтаваў не толькі песні, гасці раздалі дзеткам марцішоры. У малдаўскай традыцыі такія невялікія ўпрыгажэнні і сакавіка трэба прымацаваць на грудзях, а пасля павесіць на першае дрэва, што зацвіце. Тады ўсе загаданыя жаданні абавязкова здзейсняцца”... Дзякуючы канцэрту юныя выхаванцы рэабілітацыйнага цэнтра змаглі не толькі пазнаёміцца з культурай розных народаў, але і ўбачыць, наколькі цікавым і разнастайным можа быць свет, калі ў ім пануюць дабрыня і сяброўства.

Алена **Дзядзюля**

■ Фота аўтара

ЗАРА ВЫЗВАЛЕННЯ



Беларускі дзяржаўны музей гісторыі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны распачаў вялікі выставачны праект “Адзінай памяці верныя”, прысвечаны 80-й гадавіне вызвалення Беларусі. На працягу года экспазіцыя будзе папаўняцца новымі экспанатамі і распаўядаць пра баявыя дзеянні, пра герояў, сярод якіх прадстаўнікі розных народаў і нацыянальнасцяў, паказваць, як цяжка адваёваўся кожны населены пункт.

“Адзінай памяці верныя” – сумесны праект, да якога далучыліся абласныя і рэгіянальныя музеі Беларусі і музейныя ўстановы ваенна-гістарычнай скіраванасці краін СНД. Дзякуючы экспазіцыі можна будзе прасачыць храналагічна ўвесь перыяд вызвалення, пачынаючы з 23 верасня 1943 года, калі быў вызвалены першы раённы населены пункт – Камарын, да 28 ліпеня 1944 года, калі Чырвоная Армія здзейсніла перамогу над захопнікамі ў Брэсце.

Пры распрацоўцы праекта было прынята рашэнне падаваць інфармацыю часткамі. Першая з іх расказвае пра пачатак вызвалення нашай краіны, другая – пра партызанскі рух. Трэці раздзел, які адкрывае ў наступным годзе, будзе прысвечаны наступальнай аперацыі “Баграціён” – адной з буйнейшых у час Другой сусветнай вайны, у выніку якой была вызвалена ўся Беларусь.

Якрасказала куратар выставачнага праекта, загадчыца навукова-экспазіцыйнага аддзела Беларускага дзяржаўнага музея гісторыі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны Наталля Яцкевіч, пры падрыхтоўцы экспазіцыі былі разасланыя лісты ў музеі Беларусі і краін СНД. У адказ прыйшлі цікавыя матэрыялы, у тым ліку раней невядомыя беларускім музейшчыкам. Так з Татарстана даслана новая інфармацыя аб урадженцах гэтай рэспублікі і дывізіях, сфарміраваных на яе тэрыторыі, якія ўдзельнічалі ў вызваленні Беларусі. На адкрыцці першай часткі часовай экспазіцыі, дзе падаюцца матэрыялы аб вызваленні ўсходніх раёнаў Палескай, Гомельскай, Магілёўскай і Віцебскай абласцей у верасні – лістападзе 1943 года, дырэктар Беларускага дзяржаўнага музея гісторыі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны Уладзімір Варапай заўважыў, што выстаўка – даніна памяці ваеннаму пакаленню, не

толькі ўраджэнцам Беларусі, але прадстаўнікам розных народаў, людзям з розных куткоў Савецкага Саюза, якія сталі плячом да пляча, каб абараніць беларускую зямлю. Аб шматнацыянальнасці сведчыць і назва праекта – “Адзінай памяці верныя”. Выказваючы падзяку калегам, ён заўважыў: “Нас аб’яднала адна ідэя – захаваць і перанесці ў сваіх сэрцах памяць пра нашых герояў. Гэтай ідэяй мы жывём кожны дзень, над ёй працуем, каб як мага больш даведацца, зрабіць, расказаць”. Праект накіраваны на маладое пакаленне, выстаўка будзе выкарыстоўвацца для правядзення музейных урокаў.

У рамках праекту будзе падавацца таксама інфармацыя па гісторыі музея, які ў наступным годзе адзначыць 80-гадовы юбілей. Ідэя аб стварэнні ўстановаў, якая будзе расказваць пра барацьбу беларускага народа, была прынята ў 1943 годзе. Яшчэ ішлі баі, а ўжо збіраліся экспанаты. У кастрычніку 1944 года музей прымаў першых наведвальнікаў.

Мерапрыемствы, прымеркаваныя да вызвалення Беларусі, пройдуць і за межамі краіны. Ёсць дамоўленасць аб тым, каб асобную экспазіцыю, прысвечаную гераічным падзеям, у наступным годзе прадставіць на Паклоннай гары ў Маскве, а таксама ў іншых гарадах СНД.

“Захаванне памяці аб Вялікай Айчыннай вайне, гераічным мінулым народаў Садружнасці з’яўляецца свяшчэнным абавязкам цяперашняга і будучых пакаленняў. Прадстаўнікі ўсіх нацый і народнасцяў аб’ядналіся і кавалі агульную перамогу, як на франтах Вялікай Айчыннай вайны, так і ў глыбокім тыле”, – заўважыў саветнік дэпартаменту па супрацоўніцтве ў сферы бяспекі і супрацьдзеяння новым выклікам і пагрозам Выканаўчага камітэта СНД Віктар Актысюк. Ён расказаў, што ў выканаўчым камітэце СНД праводзіцца вялікая работа па ўшанаванні памяці ўдзельнікаў Вялікай Айчыннай вайны. І гэта якраз тая тэма, што аб’ядноўвае і згуртоўвае народы. Саветам кіраўнікоў СНД было прынята рашэнне абвясціць у Садружнасці 2025 год годам Перамогі, міру і барацьбы з нацызмам.

Дырэктар Інстытута гісторыі Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук Вадзім Лакіза назваў новыя лічбы, звязаныя з тымі трагічнымі падзеямі, што адбываліся ў гады вайны. Дзякуючы рабоце Генеральнай пракуратуры ў рамках расследавання крымінальнай справы аб генацыдзе беларускага народа, даследаванням вучоных, архівістаў, супрацоўнікаў музеяў ўскрываюцца новыя факты злачынстваў, што чыніліся на нашай зямлі. Устаноўлена, што не менш 11 726 населеных пунктаў Беларусі пацярпелі ў гады вайны.

У экспазіцыі прадстаўлены фотадакументальныя матэрыялы, лісты з фронту, зброя, узнагароды, асабістыя рэчы ўдзельнікаў баёў за Беларусь. Распавядаецца пра подзвігі канкрэтных людзей.



■ Дырэктар Інстытута гісторыі Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук Вадзім Лакіза

Асабліва ўвага ўдзяляецца бітве за Днепр, падчас якой савецкія воіны праявілі выключную храбрасць і вынаходніцтва.

Чырвоная Армія пачала стратэгічнае наступленне па тэрыторыі Беларусі ў 1943 годзе, у канцы верасня яна наблізілася да Дняпра. Выстаўка сведчыць, якім вялікім быў кошт кожнай перамогі. Так у баях за Камарын загінула больш за 600 савецкіх воінаў, 20 чалавек атрымалі званне Герояў Савецкага Саюза. Першым фарсіраваў Днепр 360-ы стралковы полк пад



■ Куратар
выставачнага праекта
Наталля Яцкевіч

камандаваннем падпалкоўніка Мікалая Сташэка, ураджэнца Адэскай вобласці.

Пры фарсіравання Дняпра, Дзісны, Сожа ды іншых рэк салдаты, каб пераправіцца на другі бераг, выкарыстоўвалі падручныя сродкі. Такім чынам 15 кастрычніка 1943 года арганізаваў пераправу праз Днепр перадавога атрада, а пасля і ўсяго 685-га стралковага палка, яго камандзір Андрэй Ніканаў – ураджэнец Куйбышаўскай вобласці. У гэтым жа палку служыў Ташмамат Джумабаеў (ураджэнец Кіргізкай ССР, узбек па нацыянальнасці). 15 кастрычніка 1943 года аддзяленне, якім ён камандаваў, першым пад моцным варожым агнём пераправілася праз Днепр у раёне Лоева. Атрад захапіў плацдарм на заходнім беразе. Праз два дні Ташмамат знішчыў з захопленай варожай гарматы два танкі, пяць кулямётных кропак і каля 150 гітлераўцаў. За праяўленыя мужнасць і гераізм сяржант Ташмамат Джумабаеў атрымаў званне Героя Савецкага Саюза. Яму ў той час было 19 гадоў.

У Лоеўскім раёне пры фарсіраванні Дняпра праявіў сябе і камандзір сапёрнай роты 106-й стралковай дывізіі Мікалай Кулебаеў (ураджэнец Пензенскай вобласці). На працягу 32 гадзін пад агнём праціўніка

ён нязменна кіраваў дэсантнай пераправай войск і тэхнікі. На выстаўцы прадстаўлена яго гімнасцёрка, якую ён атрымаў напярэдадні Курскай бітвы. У 1972 годзе герой падараваў яе музею. Роту азербайджанца Меліка Магеранава называлі “ротай герояў”. Падчас уручэння высокай узнагароды – ордэна “Залатая зорка” і прысваення звання Героя Савецкага Саюза гэтаму чалавеку камандуючы фронтам генерал Ракасоўскі сказаў: “Радзіма многім абавязана вам, лейтэнант Магеранаў. Акрамя вашай асабістай доблесці вы сумелі яшчэ і выхаваць цудоўных людзей. Прызнаюся, я яшчэ не бачыў роты, у якой было б 15 Герояў Савецкага Саюза. Фронт ганарыцца такімі афіцэрамі, як вы”. Лейтэнант удзельнічаў у шматлікіх баях, быў паранены падчас бітвы недалёка ад Берліна. Гэта было ўжо шостае раненне. Ён выжыў і вярнуўся на радзіму.

У экспазіцыі змешчана вялікая колькасць партрэтаў герояў, ёсць тут і здымкі, зробленыя з месцаў падзей ваеннымі карэспандэнтамі. Фотаматэрыялы паказваюць, з якім настроем мясцовае насельніцтва сустракала пераможцаў.

Надзея **Бузіноўская**
■ Фота Алены Дзядзюлі

МАЛАДЫЯ, АМБІЦЫЙНЫЯ

Да стагоддзя “Маладняка” – першага беларускага аб’яднання маладых літаратараў Нацыянальная бібліятэка, Дзяржаўны музей гісторыі беларускай літаратуры, Беларускі дзяржаўны архіў-музей літаратуры і мастацтва і Выдавецкі дом “Звязда” яшчэ ў 2019 годзе запусцілі праект “На хвалі часу, у плыні жыцця”.



У яго рамках праходзілі круглыя сталы, навікова-практычныя семінары, прэзентацыі, літаратурныя імпрэзы, выстаўкі. Таксама праводзіліся конкурсы, у якіх бралі ўдзел людзі розных узростаў. Дзеці і дарослыя чыталі вершы Уладзіміра Дубоўкі, пісалі эсэ на творах Змітрака Бядулі.

Да праекта далучыліся даследчыкі розных галін: архівісты, музейшчыкі, гісторыкі, літаратуразнаўцы, філосафы. Адгукнуліся музеі, бібліятэкі і школы рэгіёнаў, праходзілі мерапрыемствы на малой радзіме аўтараў, ствараліся новыя экспазіцыі. Так, Полацкі музей кнігадрукавання, які традыцыйна ў пачатку года праводзіць выстаўку, прымеркаваную найбольш значным літаратурным падзеям, вырашыў стварыць экспазіцыю, прысвечаную стагоддзю “Маладняка”, якая пасля перарасла ў віртуальны праект. Дарэчы, у Полацку сто гадоў таму была адна з філій знакамітага літаратурнага аб’яднання, яна выпускала часопіс “Надзвінне”.

Арганізатары праекта адзначалі юбілейныя даты, звязаныя з жыццём і творчасцю найбольш яскравых і вядомых аўтараў-маладнякоўцаў. Было сабрана багата дакументаў, якія сёння даступныя любому інтэрнэт-карыстальніку.

Вынікамі, якіх удалося дасягнуць за час працы над праектам “На хвалі часу, у плыні жыцця”, падзялілася галоўны бібліёграф інфармацыйна-аналітычнага аддзела Нацыянальнай бібліятэкі Юлія Амосава. За гэтыя гады на сайце бібліятэкі створаны віртуальны музей “Маладняка”, дзе размешчана інфармацыя пра арганізацыю, архіўныя фатаграфіі і дакументы, рукапісы і адсканаваныя творы пісьменнікаў, іх ліставанне, рэцэнзіі тагачасных крытыкаў і артыкулы сучасных даследчыкаў, звесткі пра тое, як ушаноўваюцца імёны паэтаў і пісьменнікаў. Для зручнасці карыстальнікаў інфармацыя падаецца асобнымі раздзеламі, кожны з якіх прысвечаны пэўнаму пісьменніку. Апошні з раздзелаў, які быў прысвечаны падчас святкавання стагадовага юбілею “Маладняка” у Нацыянальнай бібліятэцы, знаёміць з Яўгеніяй Пфляўбаўм – паэткай, перакладчыцай, адной з таленавітых аўтараў, якая ўваходзіла ў кіраўніцтва літаратурнага аб’яднання. Дарэчы, у сучаснага чытача ёсць выдатная магчымасць пазнаёміцца з творчасцю таленавітых жанчын, якія пачыналі сваю творчасць у “Маладняку”. Нядаўна пабачылі свет зборнікі паэзіі Яўгеніі Пфляўбаўм, Зінаіды Бандарынай і Наталлі Вішнеўскай.

Падчас работы над праектам арганізатарам пашчасціла пазнаёміцца са сваякамі пісьменнікаў. Сярод іх – дачка Янкі Скрыгана – Галіна, Яўгенія Дзяржач – сваячніца Міколы Нікановіча, унук Змітрака Бядулі – Яфім Плаўнік. Апошні, дарэчы, падарыў бібліятэцы зборнік навел свайго знакамітага продка. Унук Андрэя Александровіча – Алег – прадаставіў уласны архіў, у якім шмат дакументаў і фатаграфій, кнігі, і нават надрукаваную на машынцы п’есу з праўкамі аўтара.

На імпрэзе ў Нацыянальнай бібліятэцы старшы навуковы супрацоўнік інстытута літаратуразнаўства імя Янкі Купалы НАН, кандыдат філалагічных навук Ірына Багдановіч заўважыла, што 20-я гады, калі зарадзіўся і развіваўся “Маладняк”, – гэта найцікавейшы перыяд для паглыблення ў нашу мінуўшчыну. Вучоная шмат гадоў займалася даследаваннем творчасці “маладнякоўцаў”, з некаторымі пісьменнікамі, сярод якіх Максім Лужанін і Яўгенія Пфляўбаўм, ёй пашчасціла сустрэцца. Яна памятае, як свяціліся вочы пісьменнікаў, калі яны ўзгадвалі пра 20-я гады XX стагоддзя.

Творчасць маладнякоўцаў – была сапраўдным выбухам ў культурным жыцці. Яны гуртаваліся вакол часопіса “Маладняк”. У яго першым нумары, дарэчы, быў змешчаны і верш-наказ Янкі Купалы “Арлянтам”, якім ён звяртаўся менавіта да сваіх маледзейшых калег па пярэ.

Маладыя амбійцыйныя аўтары заявілі, што яны ствараюць новую літаратуру, якую ж самі назвалі “бурапеннай”. Сапраўды 20-я гады – час, калі актыўныя пошукі і эксперыменты з літаратурай вяліся ва ўсім свеце, можна ўгадаць, напрыклад, пра розныя літаратурныя плыні ў Еўропе. Беларуская моладзь заявіла пра тое, што яна прадстаўляе новы кірунак – “маладнякізм”. Маўляў, яна не выпадае з кантэксту, годна ўваходзіць у сусветную літаратурную супольнасць, пры гэтым стварае нацыянальную адметную літаратуру. Маладыя аўтары шукалі новыя формы і зместы, падтрымлівалі адзін аднаго.



Арганізацыя мела дакладную структуру, яе члены запаўнялі анкеты, пасяджэнні пратакаліраваліся. Філіі аб’яднання ствараліся ў розных гарадах. Мясцовыя суполкі маглі мець уласныя выданні – “Дняпроўскія ўсплёскі”, “Уздым”, “Маладняк Барысаўшчыны”, “Надзвінне”, “Світанне” ды іншыя. За кароткі час “Маладняк” налічваў ужо каля 500 сяброў. Гэта быў сапраўдны выбух творчасці. Тут пачыналі сваю літаратурную дзейнасць многія знакамітыя пісьменнікі.

У архівах захавалася багата дакументаў, звязаных з “Маладняком”. Копіі некаторых з іх сёння можна пабачыць у Дзяржаўным музеі гісторыі беларускай літаратуры, дзе праходзіць выстаўка “Бурлівага лёту сляды незмярмы”. Яна аформлена ў стылістыцы таго часу, калі зарадзіўся незвычайны творчы маладзёжны рух. Экспазіцыя пабудавана ў стылі “супрэматызм”, інфармацыя прадстаўлена праз геаметрычныя формы.

Гісторыя “Маладняка” – не толькі пра літаратуру, але і музыку, мастацтва, планы, веру ў свае сілы. Са старых фота, прадстаўленых на выстаўцы, пазіраюць гарэзлівыя, харызматычныя модныя, натхнёныя маладыя людзі. А гэта пакаленне, якое нарадзілася на мяжы XIX і XX стагоддзяў, расло ў галодныя і халодныя гады, у час войнаў і змены палітычнай будовы. Некаторыя з дакументаў, якія захаваліся ў архівах, немагчыма чытаць без слёз, бо ў іх адлюстравана эпоха, тыя складанасці, якія даводзілася пераадольваць маладым людзям. Таму і выстава – гэта не толькі расповед пра моладзь, але і дакументальны адбітак часу – бурлівага, складанага, але вельмі насычанага і надзвычай цікавага. Маладыя творцы XX стагоддзя маглі б натхняць сучасную моладзь, запальваць, паказваць асалоду ў служэнні літаратуры, людзям, сваёй краіне, падштурхоўваць да творчых пошукаў і наогул імкнення знайсці сваё месца, сваю ролю, свае мары. Іх палымныя, шчырыя, энергічныя радкі, напісаныя сто гадоў таму, вартыя таго, каб і сёння гучаць на літаратурных вечарынах, на ўроках у школах і ВНУ.

Ганна Трошына

■ Фота Алены Дзязюлі



“СУЧАСНАЯ БЕЛАРУСКАЯ ЛІТАРАТУРА” – У КІТАІ



У Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі даўно склаліся добрыя адносіны з Другім Пекінскім універсітэтам замежных моў.

Некалькі гадоў назад у бібліятэку Цэнтра культуры Беларусі, які працуе ў кітайскай ВНУ, з дапамогай Пасольства Рэспублікі Беларусь у Кітайскай Народнай Рэспубліцы была перададзена вялікая падборка кніг з серыі “Бібліятэка Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі” (яе выдавец – “Харвест”) на беларускай і рускай мовах. За апошнія гады ў Пекінскім універсітэце сабралася бібліятэка кніг, выдадзеных у Мінску, колькасцю некалькі сотняў экзэмпляраў. Шмат намаганняў дзеля гэта прыклаў тагачасны старшыня пісьменніцкай арганізацыі – народны пісьменнік Беларусі Мікалай Чаргінец. Менавіта збіранне такой бібліятэкі паспрыяла ў некаторай ступені выданню ў Пекіне кнігі “Выбраныя творы сучасных беларускіх пісьменнікаў” на кітайскай мове. Перакладчыкамі твораў, змешчаных у гэтым зборніку, выступілі і супрацоўнікі ўніверсітэта – Чжан Хуэйцінь і Хань Сяе. Цяпер студэнты, магістранты, аспіранты, якія цікавяцца беларускай літаратурай, маюць магчымасць адкрыць для сябе творы беларускіх паэтаў і празаікаў на беларускай і рускай мовах.

І вось – новы падарунак ад беларускіх пісьменнікаў. Карыстаючыся тым, што ў Мінску працавала дэлегацыя выкладчыкаў і арганізатараў адукацыйнага працэса з кітайскай ВНУ, Саюз пісьменнікаў Беларусі перадаў падборку кніг па беларускаму краязнаўству і літаратуразнаўству, а таксама зборнікі твораў беларускіх празаікаў, якія пішуць па-беларуску і па-руску, і выдадзены ў серыі “Сучасная беларуская літаратура”. Вось назвы толькі некаторых з кніг серыі: “Душа твая светлая”, “Чароўная скарбонка”, “Цені дзікага палявання”, “Дараванне”, “Маўклівая размова”... Заўважым, што праект “Сучасная беларуская літаратура” пры падтрымцы Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі рэалізоўвае выдавецтва “Аверсэв”. Мяркуюцца, што бібліятэка серыі будзе складацца як мінімум з 12 кніг. Кітайскія калегі папрасілі па меры выдання прадастаўляць ім і наступныя зборнікі. Таксама СПБ перадаў кітайскім гасцям і шэраг паэтычных зборнікаў, выдадзеных у розныя гады. У тым ліку – кнігі паэтаў-франтавікоў, якія прайшлі дарогамі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны: народных паэтаў Беларусі Пімена Панчанкі, Аркадзя Куляшова, Максіма Танка... У

Пекін паехалі-паляцелі і асобныя нумары часопіса “Беларусь” з кітайскімі публікацыямі твораў беларускіх паэтаў, здзейсненых прафесарам Нанькайскага ўніверсітэта Гу Юем.

Старшыня Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі Алесь Карлюкевіч і прарэктар кітайскай ВНУ Чжан Янь дамовіліся, што ў бліжэйшы час бібліятэку Цэнтра культуры Беларусі ў Другім Пекінскім універсітэце замежных моў папоўняць электронныя версіі кніг сучасных беларускіх пісьменнікаў.

Раман **Сэрвач**

■ Фота Елізаветы Голад

НОВЫЯ ДАМОЎЛЕНАСЦІ

Старшыня Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі, дырэктар – галоўны рэдактар Выдавецкага дома “Звезда” Алесь Карлюкевіч сустрэўся з дырэктарам Інстытута сацыяльнай памяці Акадэміі ваенных навук Аляксандрам Ужанавым.

Аляксандр Яўгенавіч – наш зямляк, ураджэнец вёскі Каменка Рагачоўскага раёна, што на Гомельшчыне. З 1979 года болей 20 гадоў праслужыў ва Узброеных сілах СССР і Расійскай Федэрацыі. Член-карэспандэнт Акадэміі ваенных навук, дацэнт Маскоўскага дзяржаўнага інстытута замежных адносін МЗС Расійскай Федэрацыі. Кандыдат сацыялагічных навук. Член Саюза пісьменнікаў Расіі. Намеснік старшыні Рэгіянальнай нацыянальна-культурна-аўтаноміі “Беларусы Масквы”.

У час сустрэчы А. Карлюкевіч і А. Ужанаў абмеркавалі шэраг пытанняў, якія датычацца ўдзелу беларускіх і расійскіх пісьменнікаў у справе захавання гістарычнай памяці пра падзеі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны, пра прадстаўнікоў розных народаў Расійскай Федэрацыі, якія ўдзельнічалі ў вызваленні Беларусі ад нямецка-фашысцкіх захопнікаў. Гучалі імёны Героя Савецкага Саюза легендарнай снайпершы Таццяны Барамзіной, якая загінула на Міншчыне, пахавана ў Смалявіцкім раёне, камандзіра стралковай роты, удмурцкага паэта Піліпа Кедрова, легендарнага лётчыка Аляксандра Мамкіна, які выратаваў многіх дзяцей з акупіраванай фашыстамі Полаччыны. І ў апошнім пералёце атрымаў раненне, апёкі, не сумяшчальныя з жыццём, але ўсё ж такі здолеў пасадзіць самалёт за лініяй фронту і тым самым выратаваў яшчэ адну групу дзяцей. Такія подзвігі, падкрэсліў А. Ужанаў, варты самага вялікага ўшанавання. Чаму б цяпер не прысвоіць Аляксандру Мамкіну званне Героя Расійскай Федэрацыі, чаму б не адзначыць яго высокай узнагародай і ў Беларусі?..

Старшыня беларускай пісьменніцкай арганізацыі адзначыў, што на пляцоўцы Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі, які шмат увагі надае героіка-патрыятычнаму выхаванню моладзі, грамадства ўвогуле, праводзіцца нямала мерапрыемстваў, якія спрыяюць узнаўленню забытых ці малавядомых старонак ваеннай памяці. Дамоўлена, што Аляксандр Ужанаў прыедзе ў Беларусь дзеля шэрагу сустрэч з чытачамі ў розных рэгіёнах краіны, возьме ўдзел у Мінскай міжнароднай выстаўцы-кірмашы, прэзентуе ў Беларусі сваю кнігу “Міхаіл Калашнікаў” з серыі “Жыццё знакамітых людзей”, якая ўжо двойчы пабачыла свет у маскоўскім выдавецтве “Молодая гвардия”.

Кастусь **Хадыка**