



FIRST MOSCOW CHARITY BALL IN VIENNA



On February, 1 the Moscow Mayor Mr. Yury Luzhkov and the Vienna Burgermeister Mr. Michael Häupl opened the first Moscow Charity Ball to take place in the Celebration Hall in the Vienna Town Hall

According to the first deputy head of the international relations Department of Moscow Mr. Danilin, Vienna received this event with great interest. In particular, history experts remembered the famous ball given by the Russian Emperor Alexander I during the Vienna Congress in 1815 dedicated to the rebuilding of Europe after the victo-

ry over Napoleon. Lots of Austrians visited Vienna balls in Moscow and esteemed them greatly.

The Moscow ball in Vienna started with the polonaise by Tchaikovsky from Evgueny Onegin opera. Young dancers, Moscow girls and their Austrian partners whirled to the sound of the waltz. The program continued with the performance of the leading singers of the Bolshoi Theatre Maria Bogdanovich and Denis Medvedev. The orchestra conducted by Maxim Fedotov performed oeuvres by Glinka and Strauss. Best Moscow chefs cooked special classic Russian dishes for the guests.

The co-chairmen of the Honorary committee of the ball Mr. Luzhkov

and Mr. Häupl addressed the guests with welcoming speeches. The Vienna Mayor expressed huge gratitude to his Moscow colleague for the relations that exist between the Russian and the Austrian capitals and awarded him with the Austrian state decoration "Big golden decoration for merit to the Federal Land of Vienna".

In his turn, Mr. Luzhkov mentioned that Moscow and Vienna are good old friends. "Our relations have a long history, good traditions and excellent perspectives. Enough to mention that last year marked the 50th anniversary of the partner ties between Moscow and Vienna.

Today they cover a wide spectrum of public and household and cul-



Yury Luzhkov (to the right) and Michael Häupl

Aleksy Isaev

tural life of our cities”, the Moscow Mayor said. “For Moscow, Vienna is a partner with whom we cooperate on a long-time and mutually beneficial basis. At present our bilateral links are characterized by active work and sharing expertise in different spheres of city management, municipal and housing economy,

citizen security, culture, youth policies, tourism. Joint projects are being carried out”. Mr. Luzhkov reminded that in September, 2005 the Days of Moscow in Vienna were a great success, and in 2006 the Days of Vienna in Moscow followed. “We are confident that cooperation between our capitals is a fact of

bilateral partner ties as well as a remarkable event of the European life, most important event of international relations on the level of cities and regions”, the Moscow Mayor stressed. The ball, carried out under the aegis of the two capitals, is a charity event. As this year is named the Year of the child in Moscow, all means from the ticket proceeds will be allotted to the needs of the Moscow boarding school #15 named after Yury Nikulin for orphans and children who do not have parental support. A check for 40,000 euros for the Nikulin boarding school was handed to the Moscow Mayor before the ball opened. Mr. Luzhkov wished the organizers and guests of the Moscow Charity Ball in Vienna health, happiness, joy and spree, and thanked the organizers of the Ball, the Vienne Mayor, all Viennese colleagues and friends for supporting the realization of this important project.

Denis Pozharsky

VII MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL SALON OF INNOVATIONS AND INVESTMENTS



Aleksandr Pogorelov

From February, 5 to February, 8 the VII Moscow International Salon of Innovations and Investments took place in the All-Russian Exhibition Center.

The Salon is the largest science and technology forum for innovators, developers, and manufacturers of high-tech production, investment projects in the science and technical sphere and industry. On delivering a speech at the press-conference opening the Salon, the CEO of All-Russian Exhibition Center State Joint-Stock Company, Open JSC (GAO "VVTs") Mr. Musaev

addressed a welcome speech to the participants of the Salon. In his speech he mentioned support he received from different structures of the Moscow Administration in organizing such a large-scale event. The list included the Department on supporting and developing small businesses, Moscow Department of science and industrial policies, and the International center of business contacts "Delcont". About 600 stand holders from 26 Russian regions and 19 countries in Europe, South-Eastern Asia and the US took part in the exhibition. Special multisectoral departments of enterprises and whole regions of the country, along with Russian partners from Byelorussia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and Kirghizia contributed to the exposition. Foreign science and research organizations and independent developers from foreign countries, including Hungary, Belgium, France,

Germany, Israel, Iran, Malaysia and others, participated in the department of "National Expositions". Within the framework of the Salon an international conference took place under the title "Science and technological and innovation policy and its mechanisms". Implementation of the state science and technical policy of the Russian Federation was discussed. Issues of specialist training for innovation sphere and cooperation in the sphere of high technologies between Russia and the European Union, China and the CIS were also on the agenda. Within the framework of the Salon and basing on its results its participants signed more than 200 large-scale agreements and protocols of intentions in the sphere of energetics, resource-saving technologies, biotechnologies, new materials, equipment construction and other fields.

Oleg Morozov

NEW TIMES FOR VNUKOVO

The Vnukovo airport which belongs to the Moscow Administration has grown younger in the last three years. The reconstruction of the oldest "air haven" of the city has been carried out by the city authorities since the summer of 2004, when a plan of fundamental and complex reconstruction of the whole airport zone was elaborated together with German architects.

Large-scale changes touched upon all conditioning systems. Engineering services were replaced, new heating and air-conditioning systems were installed. All terminal equipment was modernized. Sixty two new crystal liquid control displays for quality passenger information were installed.

At the same time works on a new modern international terminal with a surface of 201,000 sqm.

is over which allows the passengers to get from the center of Moscow to the Vnukovo airport in 35 minutes.

Reconstruction works are at full swing. In the nearest months widening of Vnukovo-1 platform is to be completed, and the landing strip #2 is to be opened after reconstruction.

Reconstruction and prolongation works for the landing strip #1 should start soon.



Aleksandr Pogorelov

work is carried out. According to the specialists, after this new terminal is put into operation, output capacity of the new Vnukovo will grow up to 20 mln. Passengers per year (before the reconstruction the airport attended to about 3 mln. people). Thus, the Vnukovo airport will become a center of both Russian and international level.

Not only the airport and the surrounding territories are changing, but transport access as well. This December construction works of the first terminal queue and the forecourt elevated roadway adjoining the airport complex are to be finished. Reconstruction of Kievskoe and Borovskoe highways

Improvements introduced to the landing area will allow accepting heavyweight intercontinental passenger carriers. A hotel complex with a pool, a restaurant, a fitness-club and an underground parking for 400 cars are to be constructed.

On the decision of the city authorities, reconstruction of the Vnukovo village has started as well. Soon its citizens will be able to move to comfortable and equipped houses. Lots of them will also have a chance to work in different structures of the largest Russian airport to be constructed.

Tatjana Bolovinova

THE JUBILEE OF THE FINE ARTS ACADEMY

In 2007 the Russian Academy of Fine Arts (RAFA) celebrates its 250th anniversary. The jubilee of the Academy will be one of the most important events in the cultural life of Russia and the world (the 250th anniversary of RAFA is included into the list of the most important events by UNESCO) and will be widely celebrated throughout the year.

"A full-charged program of events is drawn and approved by the decree of the President of Russia. We are preparing a solemn meeting of the Academy with participation of heads of the Russian state authorities, subjects of the Russian Federation, and numerous foreign guests", said the president of RAFA Zurab Tsereteli. Preparation of the jubilee exhibitions is at full swing. Some personal exhibitions of famous members of the Academy from the funds of the leading Russian museums are open, some will be opened soon. Exhibitions of the Academy in Paris and New-York are to be held. "The opening of our monument abroad, for example, of my exposition dedicated to the fight with the world terrorism which is to be installed on the Hudson river in New-Jersey, can be considered as a part of the jubilee program", Mr. Tsereteli explained. It is well-known that the president of the RAFA is the author of the monument of Charles de Gaulle, installed in Moscow, sculptural groups for the Fundamental library of the Moscow State University and many other monumental statues.

Natalya Krygina



Vladimir Vlasov

AT THE ROOTS OF THE TRADITION

On January, 31 a historical and documentary exhibition entitled "Honorary citizens of Moscow" prepared by the Chief archives department of Moscow, was opened in the Moscow City Duma



Gustavus Vasa Fox

Aleksandr Pogorelov



Aleksandr Pogorelov

Based on the examples of real life stories, the exposition shows the beginning of a wonderful tradition to mark "some selected administrative or public figures who received this honor for their long and useful service or by some special state or public merits gained the right for the gratitude of Moscow citizens" with an honorary title.

City Head prince Aleksandr Alekseevitch Shcherbatov was the first to gain this right. On March 5, 1866 the Moscow City Duma awarded the title of "Honorary member of the city of Moscow" to him "for the use his services rendered to the Moscow capital". The prince presented an image of "an able manager" and was loved by the Muscovites.

Then the honorary title was granted to a peasant Osip Kommissarov from Kostromskaya province who impeded a revolutionary student to kill the Emperor Alexander II. The latter did not leave this act unanswered, and granted nobility to him. Meanwhile the City Duma

conferred to Kommissarov-Kostromskoj a title of "Honorary citizen of Moscow" as a token of special gratitude. The third person to receive this honor was a foreigner, American citizen Gustavus Vasa Fox, Assistant

Secretary of the Navy. He led the US delegation on an official visit to Russia in summer of the same 1866. During the solemn meeting at the station the Moscow Head Shcherbatov told Fox that he was honored with the title of "Honorary citizen of Moscow".

All these historical events are reflected in the documents presented at the exposition.

At the opening of the exposition the Chairman of the Moscow City Duma Vladimir Platonov bridged the past with the present. "We preserved the best traditions of the former Moscow City Duma, including the title of "Honorary citizen of Moscow". Now the approach is different. We grant this honor to those who work in Moscow, love Moscow, whom our citizens know and esteem".

He thanked warmly the Head archives department of the capital for staging interesting and informative exhibitions in the Duma. He expressed hope that this good tradition will be continued as well.

Oleg Filippov

ROCK WITHOUT BOUNDARIES



Mikhail Neborsky

On February, 4 a Moscow rock-group "Kolizej" performed in the culture and business center "Forum Palace" in Vilnius, Lithuanian capital. Young musicians playing traditional hard-rock which is rather rare nowadays received a warm welcome from the fans of this genre, both young and old Lithuanian music

lovers. The public listened to the performance, and encouraged the musicians actively and danced to the sound of the ballads.

The concert was organized by the Moscow House of Compatriots and the Slavic fund of culture of the city of Vilnius.

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