



UN in RUSSIA

Activities for Sustainable Human Development



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Launch of Russian Human Development Report 2002–2003

The 2002–2003 National Human Development Report (NHDR) was launched in Moscow. Academics and politicians, along with representatives of international and non-governmental organizations, the diplomatic corps, and the mass media all gathered at the State History Museum on the Red Square.



The ceremony was opened by the UN Resident Coordinator and the Resident

Representative of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Stefan Vassilev. In his welcoming speech, he noted that the previous NHDR-2001, which focused on the generational aspects of human development, was one of three reports chosen in the contest for the best Human Development Report in the category “Excellence in Human De-

Left to right: Vassiliy Nebenzya, Stefan Vassilev, Sergei Bobylev

velopment Innovations – Concepts and Measurements”. Reports to the contest were submitted from over 100 countries worldwide. The present Report, the eighth in succession, prepared by a team of leading Russian experts, provides an analysis of key social, economic and environmental challenges within the framework of sustainable human

development and the Millennium Development Goals. Its central theme is “The Role of the State in Economic Growth and Socio-economic Reform”. The first section examines challenges in the context of economic and demographic trends, income, employment, health, and education, and presents Human Development Indices for each of the Russian regions. In the following section, the authors analyse principal stages in the process of reforming the Russian State and the interaction between the State, business and society. Stefan Vassilev emphasized that the most valuable capital of the Russian Federation is neither oil nor gold, but a human capital. Just that very capital must

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be developed and effectively utilized by the State and society.

People's well-being, i.e. the economy's capacity to meet a certain level of material, cultural, spiritual and other needs, is a principal indicator of human development. So the Russian state policies need to be focused on economic tasks: ensuring stable economic growth via market reforms and via technological and structural modernization of the economy. One

determinant of successful human development is the presence of a large stratum of small and medium-sized businesses, which give economic and social stability. This is closely linked to another, equally urgent issue, namely creation of a civil society in Russia, which could encourage individual initiative, and promote accomplishment of individuals.

Budgetary policy is a key mode of state influence on human development and needs to be focused on social, humanitarian and intellectual goals, the Report noted. In recent years, Russia has invested 1.6% of GDP in science (compared with average 2.2% in the developed world), 3% in education (compared with 6%), and 2.4–3.5% in healthcare (compared with 8–14%). A fourteen-fold difference in the incomes of the poorest and wealthiest ten-percent of the population is unacceptable.

The Deputy Director of Department of International Organizations of

UN Development Programme

the Russian Foreign Ministry Vasily Nebenzya and the Ombudsman of the Russian Federation Oleg Mironov highly appreciated actuality and practical value of the Report and congratulated its authors on the completion of such an important and complex work.

The Report's Editor-in-chief, Professor of Economic Department of Moscow State University Sergei Bobylev represented his colleagues – the chapters' authors.

The presentation concluded with a lively Q&A session involving the Report's authors and the audience.



In September 2003 Mr. Stefan Vassilev was appointed UN System Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative to the Russian Federation. From 2001–2003, he headed European CIS Countries

Mr. Stefan Vassilev Appointed UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative to the Russian Federation

Cluster at UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS in New York. From 1995–2001, Mr. Vassilev worked as Senior Political Adviser to the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in the Hague.

From 1992–1995, he was Acting Permanent Representative, then Deputy Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the UN and OSCE in Vienna. From 1991–1992, and from 1987–1990 Mr. Vassilev worked at Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria. In 1990, he was

National Security Adviser at National Security Council to the President of Bulgaria.

Mr. Vassilev has extensive experience of UN and international organizations System programme coordination as well as of diplomatic work. He has an M.A. in International Law and a personal diplomatic rank of Ambassador. Mr. Vassilev is fully fluent in English, Russian, and Macedonian, with working knowledge of French, Serbian and Croatian. He is married, with one daughter.

Biodiversity Conservation in Kamchatka: Threats and Problems

On October 2nd 2003 the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with support from the International Press Club held a press conference regarding work in Kamchatka. Held in the Central Journalist House, the press conference centered on the project: "Biodiversity conservation in Kamchatka: first results of project implementation. Threats and problems for protected areas".



Mr Yuri Karmadonov, Dr Eric Brunat and Dr Elena Armand during the press conference

There were several spokespersons at the conference representing both UNDP and its Russian partners. From UNDP, Dr Eric Brunat, UNDP Russia Deputy Resident Representative and Dr Elena Armand, Head of UNDP Environment Unit attended. Mr Yuri Karmadonov, who is based out of Kamchatka, also attended in his capacity as project manager for the UNDP project "Demonstrating sustainable conservation of biological diversity in four protected areas of Russia's Kamchatka Oblast". Professor Alexander Chumikov, General Director of the International Press Club, project partner and head of awareness research group was also present.

Mr Brunat provided an overview of UNDP's work and practice areas. He stated that UNDP is part of a global UN network in the field of development, which advocates changing social life through providing countries with sources of information, knowledge, experience and resources, in order to help people build a better life. UNDP in Russia implements and coordinates activities of 14 agencies in the field of economic development, governance, gender issues,

HIV prevention, and environment protection.

Ms Armand noted that protecting the environment and biodiversity conservation are priority areas within the context of UNDP-Russia's activities. In 2002 UNDP with assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) commenced imple-

mentation of a project concerning biodiversity conservation within protected areas. Four protected areas in the Kamchatka Oblast were selected as pilot areas for the project which was implemented under the auspices of the RF Ministry of Natural Resources and with generous support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Mr Yuri Karmadonov presented the project's major outcomes during the first year of implementation. Of particular note, the project team developed management plans for the nature-protected areas, including the establishment of an inspection system. The project supported development of an environmental education programme, as well as the impetus for the legal framework for biodiversity conservation and ecotourism development to be revised and improved. Furthermore, and of direct relevance for biodiversity conservation being made relevant within socio-economic spheres of influence, a fund for small-scale business support has been established. In addition the creation of a trust fund for biodiversity conservation at the protected areas is in the preparatory stage.

Mr Alexander Chumikov presented the results of a unique survey on "problems and threats for the PAs" conducted after the first year of project implementation with the participation of 150 regional experts. Survey results provided an overview of the state of environmental awareness in Kamchatka, what the risk areas for PAs are and what solutions or alternatives can be provided to circumvent them. For example, illegal fishing and poaching were listed among the major environmental threats facing the Kamchatka region. According to environmental specialists, the underdeveloped national legislation in the field of nature protection is one of the main risks for nature protected areas not just in Kamchatka but across Russia. Lack of awareness among local people on environmental issues is also shows a considerable threat. The survey indicated that the primary cause for the lack of awareness was due to an absence of mass media interest to environmental problems facing Russia. Federal mass media monitoring for the last year also showed a lack of understanding of the real biodiversity conservation problems for Kamchatka.

The press conference promoted the establishment of a public movement – "Kamchatka Environment Initiative". Plans for the implementation of this initiative have been developed and include concrete actions aimed at biodiversity conservation along with environment awareness-raising activities. In the near future tenders will be made available with regards to implementation of the initiative as targeted for schoolchildren, students and journalists. This will be carried out by UNDP, MNR Russia, Journalist Union of Russia, some federal agencies and "Kamchatka Environment Initiative".

Improving NGO Legislative Framework

UNDP Russia in collaboration with the State Duma Committee on Public Associations and Religious Organisations recently launched the project “Support to the State Duma for improvement and development of the NGO sector legislative framework”.



UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative Stefan Vassilev (first from the left) during the public hearings

In the framework of the project an expert team composed of experts from the State Parliament and academic institutions was established to provide legal expertise on current laws as well as feasibility studies on potential and actual CSOs contributions to economic, social and democratic development in Russia.

Steering committee with representatives from key ministries, institutions and stakeholders was established with the purpose to support consensus building and facilitation of policy dialogue and partnerships between civil society and government.

Inventory of the needs of the NGO sector in terms of legislating regulations was identified and itemised as result of a series of multi-sectoral round-tables, conducted in different regions of Russia: Moscow, St-Petersburg, Ekaterinburg, Samara and Saratov.

Database of relevant experts, NGOs and academic institutions involved in the improvement of NGO legislative basis as well as respective studies, projects and programmes was set-up.

Strategic plans were formulated to promote broader participation in the legislation review process. These include the development of awareness campaigns and the dissemination of project information through focused media activities and interactive communications with the public using ICT. To this end, monitoring and synthesising of proposals and feedback will be ensured via a project communication web site (on-line in October).

To consolidate the project's participatory approach, public hearings were held on September 22nd at the State Duma with active participation of representatives of the State Duma, key ministries, academic institutions and CSOs from different regions. The hearings brought together a multitude of concerned actors to engage in meaningful dialogue and to agree on key elements that will help develop an appropriate NGO regulatory framework. Based on a preliminary analysis of current legislation and with inputs from experts and practitioners, the participants agreed that the theme requires a strong systematic multi-sectoral approach. Following this assertion, the main intervenants focused on three concrete priorities for the near future.

These are:

- strengthening public policies to foster partnerships between the government and civil society;
- redefining the role of the third sector and its regulatory framework in terms of civic engagement and contribution to social and democratic development;
- building consensus regarding priorities needed to facilitate a legislative review process affecting the NGO sector.

The participants suggested to hold the 2nd round of public hearings, scheduled for December, to develop the priorities outlined above. It was felt that holding hearings immediately following the finalisation of the expert report and analysis, which includes current proposals and comments, could afford the participants an opportunity to formulate final recommendations and to initiate a consolidated action plan. In the meantime, an open e-forum accessible through the project's web site www.ngopravo.ru will facilitate discussions and foster the sharing of information, didactic materials, proceedings and tools as they emerge from the project's implementation.

*Rachid Alouach,
UNDP Civil Society Adviser*



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

Impasse Resolved

The last group of the 1,000 Chechen internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ingushetia's Bella camp has been relocated to Satsita camp on 29 September, ending weeks of uncertainty for the displaced people and marking a positive step towards better co-operation between UNHCR and the local and federal authorities.

After the last group departed, Bella camp was closed and its infrastructure dismantled to be moved to Satsita camp, where the UNHCR provided 166 tents for accommodation.

The decision to close Bella camp was taken by the Russian federal authorities on 1 August. The authorities refused to maintain a camp with such reduced number of inhabitants but no alternative shelter was identified and offered to those Chechen IDPs who chose not to return to Chechnya for a time being. On 28 August, at the suggestion of UNHCR, a joint assessment of alternative shelter in Ingushetia was begun with the Chechen Migration Department, the Ingushetia Government, and a number of international organizations. In Sunzhensky District 141 rooms in 10

temporary settlements were identified which could be upgraded to provide better shelter than canvas tents. As the rehabilitation process has to take some time, UNHCR offered new tents to IDPs who volunteered to relocate to Satsita camp.

Many of the IDPs told UNHCR they were very pleased with the smooth resolution of what had appeared to be a threatening situation at one point. In the last two weeks of September, they felt they were being pressured to go back to Chechnya when local authorities cut off supplies of water, gas and electricity at Bella camp.

After extensive negotiations between UNHCR, the local and federal authorities as well as the displaced people themselves, the authorities made a number of guarantees to Bella's inhabitants, most of whom those to stay in Ingushetia for now instead of returning home.

One point of contention was a group of 85 Chechens who were not registered with the migration authorities and feared that they would be ex-

cluded from any relocation within Ingushetia. After UNHCR intervened with the Federal Migration Service (FMS) in Moscow, this group received assurances that they would be registered at their new home in Satsita camp.

The FMS also agreed to restore utilities at Bella camp, calming tensions and making the IDPs feel that their rights were again being respected.

UNHCR expressed hopes that the more constructive approach, which took into account the rights and interests of all parties, would be replicated in the future, replacing heavy-handed tactics such as cutting off utilities.



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UNHCR staff member is speaking with displaced Chechens

UNHCR Assists to Stateless Persons

UNHCR continues providing legal counselling on residence registration and citizenship issues to Baku Armenians (mainly in Moscow) via its partners, two legal agencies: Legal System and Rakhmilov and partners.

In 1989, following the outbreak of conflict in Azerbaijan over the disputed territory of Nagorny Karabakh, thousands of Armenians living in the Azeri capital Baku were forced to flee their homes. By 1990, over 4,000 persons had been evacuated by

the Soviet authorities to temporary accommodations in Moscow. Since the dissolution of the USSR in 1991, these Baku Armenians have become stateless people, unable to return to their homes in Azerbaijan, rejected in Armenia, and possessing passports from non-existent state.

By 1 October 2003, some 111 Baku Armenians have been recognised as the Russian Federation citizens and issued with the Russian Federation passports, after the fact of their lawful residence was established

through the courts of law. The above-mentioned law agencies provided services to them through court procedure.

In July 2002, the USA opened the resettlement programme for Baku Armenians. By the end of September 2003, 1,228 persons were found eligible for resettlement in line with the selection criteria established jointly with UNHCR, out of this number 940 were granted refugee status including 325 who have already departed.

Hear Our Voices!



Aishat Bisultanova

The UN Team in the Russian Federation finished working on the 2004 Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Chechnya and Neighboring Republics, which is to be launched in November 2003. In developing Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeals, the international humanitarian community seeks to support governments in affected states in fulfilling their responsibility to assist and protect people in need. To this end, UN agencies, NGOs, and governments work in partnership to ensure common analysis and strategy development to promote efficiency, accountability, and good use of resources. The theme for the 2004 Consolidated Appeals is "Hear our Voices". It is designed to give a voice to individuals and families who have benefited from humanitarian aid. Please listen to some voices from the North Caucasus.

Aishat Bisultanova, Grozny:

"I am Aishat Bisultanova. I live in Leninsky district of Grozny. In 2001 I was caught up in a shelling and lost a leg. My elder daughter was wounded. I have three children and all the four of us have to live on my pension. PINF (People in Need Foundation) helps us. If it wasn't for them we would not be able to survive because no one in the family works.

During the war my children and I stayed here, in Grozny. I have elder-

ly parents and because of them I could not leave the city with my children. We suffered from cold and hunger. Not a single foreign organisation was present here during the war and no assistance was provided to us. After the war a lot of organisations arrived, People in Need, the UN, and started to help us. The assistance they give us, the food, clothes and footwear, help us make ends meet.

I could not provide clothes for my child to wear to school and they came and brought everything including notebooks. And he could go to school.

For me, the most important thing is to get a prosthesis, if possible. We have a lot of needs and it is impossible to explain everything but the main thing for me is a prosthesis.

I would like to say to the people who allocate funds to support organisations such as the UN and PINF that the money does reach us. There are no jobs here today and the few ones that are available do not pay well. There are lots of disabled people in Chechnya like myself and I wish they would be reached by this assistance too. I would like to see this assistance continued for another two or three years so that the people could get by".

Zareta Gumakova, Sputnik IDP camp, Ingushetia:

"My name is Zareta Gumakova and I am a gynaecologist. I graduated from the Astrakhan Medical Institute in 1992. Afterwards I lived and worked in Grozny being employed by the city maternity hospital No. 1. When the first war started I worked as a doctor at spontaneously established medical stations and during the second war I fled, like all the others, to Ingushetia to seek refuge. My

family rented a flat here, as there were not enough tents for everybody.

I joined the Agency for Reconstruction and Development when still in Grozny, in August 1999. I learnt then that there was an organization helping people and I joined it and went on missions to distant areas of our republic as a member of psychological rehabilitation team. I have been working in Sputnik camp since November 1999, first as a general practitioner, providing health care to adults and children.

Now I have resumed doing what I was trained for. I register and provide care to pregnant women; treat ailing women, I give them necessary



Zareta Gumakova with one of her patients

medicines free of charge. When necessary I refer my patients to local hospitals for treatment. In addition, they receive material and humanitarian assistance: financial support for treatment outside the republic, food parcels, infant starter kits. We cooperate with WHO, UNICEF, Medecins du Monde, Islamic Relief. For instance, WHO provides medical equipment and UNICEF – medicines on a monthly basis.

While at the beginning of our life here the needs of IDPs were focused primarily on general medical problems, but later the demand for my speciality has grown, as life goes on, and despite emergencies the population continues to grow.

OCHA

United Nations Office for the
Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

There have been quite a lot of marriages here, and these couples have had their first child born in the camp. And, of course, other families had babies too. We had 134 newborns last year here in Sputnik camp alone. In 2000 we had 78 newborns, so in 2002 the population growth was the biggest.

Taking into account the dire financial situation, difficult social conditions, and the lack of jobs, the needs of the people continue to grow every year. I would like to say that assistance has reached the people here and the people have needed this assistance.

I think, they are grateful to the humanitarian organizations for this support over the last four years. Without it they would not have managed.

For the future, I would like to be able to continue this work and I would call on the donors and humanitarian organizations such as UN, UNHCR, UNICEF and others not to forget about us as health problems remain, and people need medicines provided to them free of charge, they need food and other forms of humanitarian assistance. We are hoping that they will be aware of our problems and remember us”.



*NGO implementing partners
distribute food aid from WFP*

WFP

UN World Food Programme

Christoph Czerwinski Appointed New WFP Head of Office



World Food Programme Moscow office is delighted to welcome Mr Christoph Czerwinski, who was appointed Senior Emergency Coordinator and Head of WFP office in Russia. Mr Czerwinski took his new responsibilities as of end of August 2003, after Mr Bhim Udas had completed his over 3 years' assignment in the country.

Mr Czerwinski, a national of Canada, has over 22 years of international working experience with FAO and WFP. He worked for WFP as Deputy Country Director in China and as Country Director in Djibouti. Before joining WFP team in Moscow, Mr Czerwinski was Country

Director in Egypt for 5 years. He has a B.Sc for Agriculture and a M.Sc. in Regional Planning.

During the years of his service, whilst at these demanding positions and as senior officer at WFP headquarters in the Regional Office for Asia, East and Southern Africa Regional Bureau, his responsibilities included management of Cambodia and Viet Nam operations, implementation of programmes in Lesotho, Malawi and Zambia in Africa. Notably, he managed the complex Mozambican refugee emergency in Malawi. He also

spent three years as Assistant to two WFP Executive Directors.

In the Russian Federation Mr Czerwinski will have overall responsibility for the operational activities of WFP in the country, for programme development and implementation, as well as for other aspects of managing a country office.

Mr Czerwinski speaks English, French and German fluently, and is willing to learn Russian.

He is married with two children.

World Food Programme (WFP) Mission Statement

WFP provides emergency food assistance:

- to save lives of people in refugee and other emergency situations;
- to improve the nutrition and quality of life of the most vulnerable people at critical times of their lives;
- to help build assets and promote self-reliance of poor people and communities, particularly through labour-intensive works.

For more information on WFP and its activities,
visit our web site at www.wfp.org,
or contact WFP, Russia,
Tel: (7-095) 956-49-68, Fax: (7-095) 956-49-89

Cluster Meeting in the UNESCO Moscow Office

On September 9–11 the UNESCO Moscow Office organized the second Cluster Meeting for Secretaries General and representatives of the National Commissions for UNESCO of the countries covered by the Office: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation. The meeting was held in Moscow, at the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE). The First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ms Eleonora Mitrofanova, the Deputy Minister of Education Mr Nikita Bantsekin, the Director of the IITE Mr Vladimir Kinelev and representatives of other relevant ministries and organizations participated in the official opening ceremony of the Cluster Meeting.

The first day of the meeting started with the summing up the results of

the current biennium and the first experience of cooperation between partners from six countries and the UNESCO Moscow Office in its new status as a Cluster Office. The discussion on strategic priorities for the coming biennium (2004–2005) was an essential contribution to future cooperation.

Training session on the creation of websites, as well as the use of information and communication technologies, held by experts from the UNESCO Headquarters, was received with great interest by the participants.

Training session on the interaction with mass media and public relations received special attention.

The recently published UNESCO Moscow Office Activity Report for the period 2002–2003 was presented during the meeting and highly appreciated.



Left to right: The Deputy Minister of Education Mr Nikita Bantsekin, Director of the UNESCO Moscow Office Mr Philippe Quéau, the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ms Eleonora Mitrofanova, the Director of the IITE Mr Vladimir Kinelev

The 32nd Session of the UNESCO General Conference

The 32nd session of the General Conference – UNESCO's supreme governing body – took place from September 29 to October 17 in Paris.

About more than 3000 participants attended the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) among which five Heads of State, and more than 300 ministers. Among the major themes that were discussed: the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, cultural diversity, multilingualism on the internet and human genetic data.

A high point of the 32nd session was the return of United States (they withdrew from UNESCO in 1984 citing concern over mismanagement). Mrs Bush gave an address to the delegates attending the 32nd Session of UNESCO's General Conference: "We have much to offer and we have much to learn (and) given the many challenges in our world today, our work is more urgent and more important than at any time in UNESCO's

history". Mrs Bush was designated UNESCO Honorary Ambassador for the UN Literacy Decade (2003–2012) by the Director-General.

Besides the fundamental standard-setting work, the General Conference determines the policies and the main lines of work of the Organization, in keeping with its Constitution. It examines report by the Director General, it adopts the Draft Programme and Budget for 2004–2005 whose five priorities are: education for all; water resources and associated ecosystems; ethics of science and technology; promoting cultural diversity and dialogue between cultures; and access to information and knowledge.

In the field of culture, the preliminary Draft of an International Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was examined as well as a Draft Declaration Concerning the Acts Constituting a Crime against the Common Heritage of Humanity. In the area of communication

and information, two texts were studied at the Conference: Recommendation on the Promotion and use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace and a Draft Charter on the Preservation of the Digital Heritage. In communication, UNESCO promotes the concept of "knowledge societies" – stressing contents, diversity and participation – rather than that of "information society" which puts too much emphasis on technical issues. A round table was held on October 3 and 4, for the benefit of education ministers and based on the theme of "The Quality of Education". Round tables participants searched for means to improve access to education, with a view to ensuring that children not only attend school but also do well. About science, the possibility of drawing up an international instrument on bioethics was discussed. The Draft International Declaration on Human Genetic Data was presented for adoption during the session: it sets out the ethical principles that should govern the collection, processing, storage and use of such data.

From Heart to Heart

A benefit concert starring Oleg Gazmanov, People's Artist of the Russian Federation and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, was held recently in St. Petersburg. The concert was organized with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund and the company Vision International People Group.

Photo by Alexander Nikolaev, Capital's Eye Agency (CEA)



The development and strengthening of collaboration between members of the business and entertainment communities is an important part of UNICEF's operations around the world. The horizons of UNICEF's traditional projects are being broadened by joint programmes with large international companies and famous performers, designed to draw the attention of the public at large to the issues of defending and observing the rights of children.

At the end of August, one such programme, **From Heart to Heart**, took place on the open square outside the Peter and Paul fortress. It demonstrated convincingly that there is great potential in collaboration between business, members of the entertainment world, and international humanitarian organizations.

"Our main aim is to draw the public's attention to the issues of social protection, especially helping handicapped children, children who have lost their parents, health care and preventative medicine for everyone, and promoting a healthy way of life", said Dmitry Buryak, President of the Vision International People Group Co., in defining the mission of the company's program. "All of this is a

direct obligation of Russian business, if they want to be able to claim that they're civilized".

The free benefit concert of UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Oleg Gazmanov and his group *Escadron* was conceived and held as part of the programme. Also organized was the collection of funds at the concert for children born of HIV-infected mothers who have handed them over to



Photo by Alexander Nikolaev, CEA

Oleg Gazmanov

the care of the RF Clinical Hospital for Infectious Diseases in Ust-Izhor (Leningrad oblast).

Around 15,000 spectators gathered on the open square outside the Peter and Paul fortress. A torrential down-pour didn't seem to be much of a bother; the crowd began dancing in the rain under their umbrellas.

Mr Gazmanov began the concert by calling upon the public to consider the children who, by a whim of fate, are now in the RF Clinical Hospital for Infectious Diseases, and to offer them material support. Many of those present responded enthusiastically. The contributions were collected by unpaid volunteers from the non-profit organization "A Look into the Future", a long-time UNICEF partner in the programme Young People: Their Health and Development. The idea of "the whole world helping" was a good one: \$2,000 was collected.

"We are very grateful to Oleg Gazmanov, the company Vision International People Group, and the UNICEF, and not just for the money", said the hospital's head physician, Dr Yevgeny Voronin. "Of course, there's no such thing as having too much money; we used it to buy a home video theater, and now we show cartoons and educational programmes to the kids who have already lived in the hospital wards for five or six years now, and who don't have any other home. We're very, very interested in getting the problem of HIV-infected children who have been abandoned by their parents discussed openly and publicly, and in making sure it is presented in the correct light by people who inspire complete trust, in the presence of people whose opinion deserves respect. It requires a great deal of effort to overcome the stereotypes surrounding HIV-infected children;

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Photo by Alexander Nikolaev, CEA



Dr Yevgeny Voronin

even getting our kids into a class at pre-school is a real problem. This is why it's so important to talk about this out loud, without being afraid to bare the truth and draw people's attention to it".

How to fight against the social stigmatization of those infected with HIV was one of the topics at a press conference in which the main participants were Mr Gazmanov, Mr Buryak, Dr Voronin, and Angela Hawke, the representative from the Geneva Regional Bureau of UNICEF. Mr. Gazmanov stated his position succinctly:

"Why did I become a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador? Because I share the fear and disquiet over the fate of our country's young people, because we have to convince young men and girls not to take drugs, to get involved in sport, and to lead a healthy way of life. If I manage to save even a few people, to keep them from making a deadly choice, that'll be just fine".

Speaking at the press conference and at the concert, Ms Hawke once again stressed how important collaboration with stars of the stage and members of the business community is for UNICEF. "Your participation in our project has made you part of the worldwide movement for the inter-



Photo by Alexander Nikolaev, CEA

Ms Angela Hawke

ests of children", Ms Hawke told the representatives from Vision International People Group. "The motto of the movement is *Leave No Child Out*; today, those taking part in the project have shown convincingly just how real it can be made in our life".

Something for a Real Star

Marie-Louise Marian, the well-known German dramatic actress and star of the TV series *Lindenstrasse*, which has enjoyed a successful run in Germany for the last ten years, believes it to be her life's calling to participate in the work of UNICEF. She has now become the Goodwill Ambassador for the German National Committee (GNC) for UNICEF, and is taking an active part in the fund-raising campaign for the UNICEF projects.



Ms Marian made friends with Russian children

This October, Ms Marian, accompanied by Reinhard Schlagintweit, Chairman of GNC UNICEF, visited St. Petersburg. The GNC UNICEF has had a long and successful history of collaboration with UNICEF in Russia. Money is collected throughout Germany with the help of 8,000 volunteers, united by 120 clubs across the country.

The aim of the visit was the making, with the participation of Ms Marian, of a TV documentary about UNICEF's projects in St. Petersburg to air on ZDF, one of Germany's leading television channels. The task of the programme is to get viewers actively involved in public life and to involve them in the financing of the projects it covered.

St. Petersburg began by acquainting her with Lyubov Ogneva, the city's Ombudsman for Children's Rights. She talked about the problems typical of a great metropolis: the acute housing problem, the shortage of spaces in nursery schools, assistance for indigent families, and holding lessons in school on the Convention on Children's Rights. Ms Ogneva receives as many as 2,000 appeals for help every year. In October 2003, exactly five years had passed from the moment when, under an agreement with the RF Ministry of Labour and Social Development, UNICEF launched its first pilot project to introduce the post of Ombudsman for Children's Rights in Russia. Ms Ogneva became one of the first such commissioners in the country.

Photo by Alexander Nikolaev,

The *Juventa* youth-friendly clinic is well-known among the city's teenagers and college students. The ties between the clinic and UNICEF are close and go back a number of years. *Juventa* has become a unique pioneer in and leader of the development of a network of youth-friendly clinics across the country. Its staff members are constantly holding seminars for their colleagues from other cities; one such meeting took place recently in Kaliningrad. Some 30,000 young people come annually to the clinic for the first time, and around 200,000 medical consultations were held last year. The amount of time spent in consultations and disease prevention is growing every year. Preventative medicine is yielding returns, and young people are beginning to pay more attention to their health.

"The most important thing for youngsters," believes Dr Pavel Krotin, the chief physician at the clinic, "is to be open and honest with them, and not to judge them in any case".

Along with her film crew, Ms Marian visited almost every office at *Juventa* and talked with the physicians and their patients. In a word, the picture began to take shape. The next fragment of the grand mosaic was added at a shelter for boys, one of the projects of the non-profit organization "Protecting Children". Twelve youngsters aged 17 to 20 live there; each one comes from a troubled background, and has traded life

on the streets for the shelter.

Kolya Petrakov is 18. He spent 5 of those years on the streets: from the time he was 9 until he was 14, home for Kolya was abandoned basements and the crawlspaces under the roofs of high-rises. He got his "education" from his older friends as together they begged for money, sniffed glue, and engaged in other pursuits that were far from healthy or innocent. His mother and father had their parental rights taken away from them, with Kolya going to live first at the "Life" shelter, then at the home for boys.

The home has its own rules to live by. Rule No.1 is: If you don't work, you don't eat. All the youngsters have to find some kind of work and contribute to the common supply of sugar, butter, and toiletries. "Protecting Children" guarantees them 300 rubles a day for food, and everyone takes turns cooking. Should anyone decide to break Rule No.1, he gets no soup and no meat, just sugarless tea and bread. Rule No.2 is: No alcohol. The boys can be expelled from the home for drinking; where could they go then? They simply do not allow themselves to drink. They do their best to find work and get a professional education. At the home itself, they learn to make furniture, which they now produce for their own home and for other "Protecting Children" shelters. (The makers gave some their handiwork, small wooden kitchen boards, to their German guests as well).

Sergei Grudino works at a construction site, and is learning to be a chef at a culinary college. Artyem Yaroshev is still just a construction worker; he hasn't decided where he wants to study yet. Artyem, Sergei, and Kolya had a lively discussion on choosing a profession with Mr Schlagintweit, who at their age also



Photo by Alexander Nikolaev, CEA

Tea for two

did not know what he wanted to be. Kolya now dreams of becoming a social worker.

"I'd like to help the kids that are living on the streets now," said Kolya. "There's so many of them, and it seems to me that I could show them by my own example that it's possible to quit the street life, become a normal human being, and grow and develop".

Ms Marian supported Kolya's desires. She is firmly convinced that "you have to make something of yourself in this life, and to do this you need to learn and develop. Stars aren't born, they're made." Her own life experience is clear proof of this.

Ms Marian's visit to St. Petersburg turned out to be a busy one: filming took place at the Malookhtinsk "Home for Hard Workers", a shelter for physically abused girls, at a medical and counseling centre for street children, and on the streets of the city.

The actress became the eyes for her German audience. She felt it important to convey all the problems, all the tension and pain that she felt talking to the youngsters who were unlucky enough to have experienced so much and who needed help so badly.

"I think we ought to be able to help them," said Ms. Marian. "If we don't, nobody will".



Photo by Alexander Nikolaev, CEA

*Reinhard Schlagintweit and
Kolya Petrakov*

Russia in Cooperation with World Health Organization and ILO Proclaims the Protection of Employees' Health to Be One of the Most Important Tasks



The President of Bashkortostan Murtaza Rakhimov (second from the right) welcomes First Deputy Minister of Health Gennady Onishchenko (centre) and other participants of the Conference in Ufa

On 18–19 September 2003 the 2nd All-Russian Congress “Profession and Health” took place in Irkutsk within the framework of the Baikal Economic Forum. The main purpose of the congress was the discussion of the draft programme “Health of Russian working population for 2004–2015”, prepared by specialists of the Central Directorate of the Research Institute of Occupational Health of the Russian Academy of Medical Science (WHO Collaborating Centre on Occupational Health in Russia), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Social Insurance Foundation, etc.

Over 500 representatives of the legislative and executive bodies, heads of health and social authorities, doctors, social workers, representatives of employers and trade unions, scientists, experts, etc. participated in the congress. Greetings from the President Vladimir Putin, the Government of the RF, ILO, etc. were received.

Professor F. Izmerov, Academician of RAMS highlighted the objectives and strategies of the new concept

“Health of Russian working population for 2004–2015”, which was approved by the congress and sent to President Putin requesting to provide it with a presidential status.

It was emphasized that doubling the gross domestic product in Russia within the next 10 years, as declared by the President, can only be achieved by healthy working people who can increase the labour productivity.

The same topic was continued in Ufa, Bashkortostan 21–25 September, at the First International Conference of WHO Eastern European Network on Integrated Management of Health Determinants at the Workplace, organized by Ufa Institute of Occupational Health and Human Ecology (WHO Collaborating Center on Occupational Health).

The conference was opened by the President of Bashkortostan Murtaza Rakhimov. First Deputy Minister of Health Gennady Onishchenko, Special Representative of the WHO Director-General in Russia Dr Mikko Vienonen, Regional Adviser of the WHO Regional Office for Europe Dr I. Ivanov, Regional Representative of ILO in Europe Dr B. Froneberg, Deputies of the Russian State Duma, scientists of the Russian Academy of Medical Science addressed the representatives of 20 regions of Russia

and CIS countries. During the opening day of the conference practical problems of workers' health promotion, disease prevention and how to build better workplaces were discussed through practical examples in such huge enterprises as the oil-refinery “SALAVATNEFTEORGsINTEZ” with over 30,000 employees and views of “UFA MOTOR CONSTRUCTION UNION”. The conference recommended the practice of holding international conferences of WHO network on workplace health and occupational medicine on a regular basis and also endorsed the “Health of Russian working population for 2004–2015” programme.

It was unanimously agreed that broadening and deepening collaboration with WHO is important in solving complex questions of occupational and workplace health. For instance, Russia should urgently eliminate the practice of “hazard pay”, whereby workers are financially compensated for working in dangerous circumstances which destroy their health. Instead, the risk must be eliminated and work made safe. This is how in the West work accidents, occupational and work related diseases were brought down. In Russia they are still many times more common and hence urgent action is needed.



The participants of the Conference in Ufa visit the oil-refinery “Salavatnefteorgsintez”

First European Training Course on Laboratory Diagnosis on Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Held in Moscow

Since the first Global Alert on this new emerging disease on 12 March 2003 up to 15 September 2003, a total of 8098 cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and 774 deaths have been reported to World Health Organization (WHO). On the 5th of July WHO declared that the last human chain of infection of SARS was broken. The preliminary epidemiological and ethological findings indicate that the SARS corona-virus, a novel corona virus in the human population, circulates in animal population as well and that a recurrence of the disease is a distinct possibility in the next years and there is no place for complacency. In view of this a 4 day workshop for 17 Russian laboratory technicians together with laboratory specialists from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Belarus and Ukraine had been organized in Moscow during the 16th and 22nd of September 2003.

The workshop was organized by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and WHO Office in Lyon, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation and the Central Research Institute for Epidemiology in Moscow.

The course was given by scientists from the Pasteur Institute in Paris, the Robert Koch Institute in Berlin and the Global WHO office for laboratory strengthening for infectious diseases in Lyon.

The content of the workshop was tailored to the needs of WHO's Global Strategy to maintain the current SARS free status and to be able to detect and react immediately to an eventual re-appearance of this new disease. During the course the different laboratory techniques such as assays (PCR and ELISA) for SARS diagnostic were briefly evaluated. Both tests (Polymerase Chain Reaction, PCR and Enzym Linked Immuno

no Surface Assays, ELISA are modern and extremely sensitive tests, which are in use in national reference laboratories for infectious disease diagnosis and require skilled and trained personnel to use the tests and interpret the results.

The comparison of the ELISA's and the different PCR methods clearly demonstrated the differences of the commercial assays from Russia, Germany and China regarding sensitivity and specificity to detect viral antigen in samples of suspected cases.

As the disease generally starts with an upper-respiratory tract, flu-like illness and after 3-5 days develops into the more serious atypical pneumonia and respiratory disease syndrome, the illness is difficult to distinguish from many other respiratory diseases, caused by many different microbes.

Within this context it is crucial to have a laboratory network in place, which



The participants of the First European Training Course on Laboratory Diagnosis on SARS in Moscow

will be able to identify the SARS corona virus infection as early as possible. Making the diagnosis of SARS sufficiently early during the disease will permit the implementation of timely control measures such as effective infection control in hospitals and so will avoid further spread of the disease in the community. At the same time it is necessary to remain vigilant for cases of atypical pneumonia, especially in health care settings and health care workers. This workshop has positively contributed to improve the notification and laboratory confirmation of SARS cases in the future.

*Dr Bernardus Ganter
Regional Adviser,
CDS/CSR, WHO/EURO*

For your UN file 

International Days

20 November
21 November
29 November

1 December
3 December
7 December
10 December
29 December

Africa Industrialization Day
World Television Day
International Day of Solidarity
with the Palestinian People
World AIDS Day
International Day of Disabled Persons
International Day of Civil Aviation
Human Rights Day
International Day for Biological Diversity

Health Care Managers Visit Western Canada



British Columbia and Chuvash Deputy Ministers of Health, other members of the Study Tour and Canadian guests met at the Ministry of Health in Victoria BC

In July 2003, a group of senior Russian health care managers visited Western Canada as part of the WHO/Canadian International Development Agency Programme – Health Care Policy and Stewardship in Russia. Five of the participants were from the Chuvash Republic and one represented the Russian Federation Ministry of Health. The Chuvash Republic is in the process of comprehensive health care restructuring and is one of two pilot regions in Russia participating in the World Bank Health Care Reform Loan Programme in Russia. CIDA has been supporting the Chuvash Ministry of Health with Canadian experts to assist in the development of their Strategic Plan for Health Restructuring and the Study Tour was part of initiatives to familiarize the participants with health care organization and issues in Canada.

During the Study Tour which included seven communities in British Columbia and Alberta, visits were made to many sectors of health care including primary care practices, hospitals (local, city, children's and teaching), community care programmes, ambulance services as well as to educational facilities where family practitioners and nurses are trained.

The delegation led by Chuvash Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Nadezda Markarova also met with counterparts including BC's Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Penny Ballem to discuss areas of common interest in the restructuring and financing of health care.

The delegates have indicated that the experience and knowledge gained from the visit were significant. Already, Dr Alla Samoilova, Head Doctor of the Chuvash Perinatal Centre has introduced some of the approaches, which she observed in Canadian Maternity and Children's Hospitals of brightly decorated hallways and rooms and donor plaques celebrating the births in the hospital.

The roles and approaches to training of nurses in BC and Alberta were particularly insightful, given the plans in Chuvashia to expand the role of nursing, particularly in the primary care and community care. The integrated approaches to emergency and ambulance services as well as the extensive standards used in these services were noteworthy as well. The participants were also very interested in initiatives in both provinces such as telephone hot lines and

Help Links which enable the public to receive health advice by telephone from qualified nurses and thus reduce visits to physicians and hospitals.

Commenting on the visit, Dr Markarova said: "The opportunity to see and learn about international experiences in health care including the strengths and weaknesses of various approaches is invaluable as Chuvashia moves forward with the implementation of its restructuring and plans to achieve international standards in health care".

The Study Tour was organized and facilitated by Ms. Mary Collins, who is now serving as the WHO Health Care Policy Adviser, Health Care Policy and Stewardship Initiative Programme in Russia and was a former Minister of Health and Seniors for Canada.

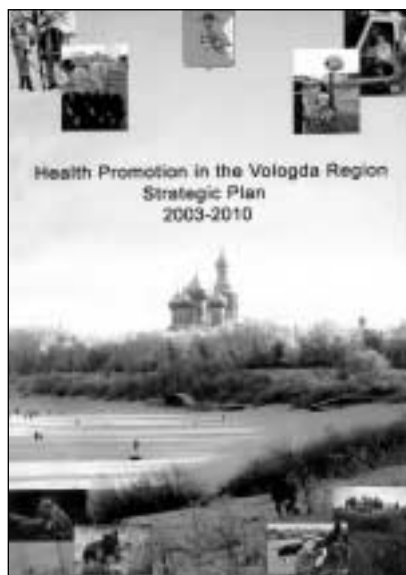
*Ms. Mary Collins,
Adviser,
WHO Health Care Policy
and Stewardship Initiative
Programme in Russia*



Members of the Study Tour enjoy the atrium of the community hospital in Port Alberni BC

Interregional Festival “Healthy Lifestyle” in Vologda

On 29 September – 1 October an Interregional Festival “Healthy Lifestyle” was organized in Vologda. It gathered together several hundred participants from different Oblasts, Republics and big cities of the North-Western Region and Moscow. It marked the launching of “HEALTH PROMOTION IN THE VOLOGDA REGION STRATEGIC PLAN 2003–2010”, which will be the main tool to curb the high rates of non-communicable diseases caused by smoking, excess alcohol consumption, unhealthy diet, accidents and many other risk factors linking with unhealthy lifestyles. The festivities were opened by the First Deputy Governor of the Vologda Region Mr Ivan Pozndnyakov, the Ministry of



Strategic Plan cover

Health Representative in the North-Western Region Professor Alexander Shabrov, WHO Special Representative of the Director General Dr Mikko Vienonen and the Head of the Public Health Department of Vologda Region Dr Alexander Kolinko.

In the true spirit of intersectoral collaboration, the opening day heard interesting views of high level represen-

tatives of education, sports, social-work, WHO's healthy cities programme, church, etc. One day of the Festival was dedicated to innovative outdoor sports events and two days to seminars and group work.

Since mid 1990s Vologda has been spearheading the health policy development in Russia being the «model-student» for WHO's health policy development. In 1997–2001 there was a comprehensive TACIS/EU funded health promotion project, and it is encouraging to see that the initiatives started with the help of external assistance have de-



Youth choir from Vologda

veloped and grown under local management and supervision. First measurable signs of positive change have already been reported: the incidence of stroke has started to decline in the region.

WHO and UN wish Vologda continuous success in this development, which requires consistent and long-term commitment.

World Health Organization (WHO) works with others to improve the health of population, by helping Member States. WHO is a specialized agency of the United Nations with 191 Member States. WHO Headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland. The European Regional Bureau is in Copenhagen, Denmark.

WHO has four main functions:

- to give worldwide guidance in the field of health;
- to set global standards for health;
- to cooperate with governments in strengthening national health programmes;
- to develop and transfer appropriate health technology, information and standards.

For further information please visit

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Special Representative of the Director – General in Russia –
Dr. Mikko Vienonen.

For Optimum Climate of the International Conference



The UNIC made the International Conference of Climate Change one of its top priorities in the second half of 2003. On 20 August, the UNIC organized a meeting for several senior media figures in order to alert them to the forthcoming event. The guest speaker at the gathering was Mr Yuri Israel, Head of the International Organizing Committee of the Conference.

At this meeting the Editor of bi-monthly journal "Russia in Global Affairs," Mr Fyodor Lukyanov, conceived an idea of organizing a conference of representatives of Russia's government agencies, academic community and international organizations in order to contribute to public discussion on ratification by this country of Kyoto Protocol. The conference, which took place on 9 September, proved to be an important contribution to the preparatory process for the Conference. The UNIC Director Alexandre Gorelik attended the gathering and made remarks on the significance of concerted ef-

The International Conference on Climate Change was held in Moscow at the end of September. The scientists and political figures from many countries assembled for this forum under the aegis of the United Nations. The message of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to the Conference was proclaimed. The President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin addressed the participants. The UN Information Centre Communications Adviser Yuri Shishaev told UN in Russia how UNIC Moscow contributed to paving the way for the Conference.

forts by the international community to curb the emission of greenhouse gases.

On 25 September the UNIC Moscow opened at its premises an exhibition of photographs by Valentin Naugolny (1939 - 2000) on the eve of the International Conference on Climate Change. Photography was selected for the exhibition as perhaps the most adequate medium to convey the idea of fragility nature and its beauties and their vulnerability to the effects of human activities. The exhibition was attended by representatives of Russian government agencies and international organizations, ecologists, NGO activists, academics, members of diplomatic corps and journalists. The opening ceremony was covered by Russian national TV Channel "Culture".

At the request of the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UNIC Moscow provided information and logistical support to UNFCCC in making possible their participation in the International Conference on Climate Change. During the Conference, the UNIC provided logistical assistance to Ms Joke Waller-Hunter, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC Secretariat.

Also, during the Conference, the UNIC coordinated the delivery and

dissemination among the participants of information materials of the World Meteorological Organization.

On the opening day of the Conference, the UNIC organized a press briefing for Ms Joke Waller-Hunter, which was attended by representatives of some ten Russian and international media. The UNFCCC Executive Secretary briefed the participants on the role of the UN Framework Convention and the Kyoto Protocol and commented on the international environment surrounding the ratification of the Protocol by major industrialized nations.

The UNIC staff coordinated with the Russian Service of BBC an exclusive TV interview for Ms. Waller-Hunter on 29 September.

On that same day, the UNIC Director gave two interviews to UN Radio in connection with the International Conference on Climate Change which has just opened in Moscow. The first was to the Russian service, and the second one to French service. The Director spoke mainly on the role of the UN Framework Convention and the Kyoto Protocol as part of the overall efforts of international community aimed at reducing the man-made pressure on the world's ecological and climate systems.

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