

U N IN RUSSIA

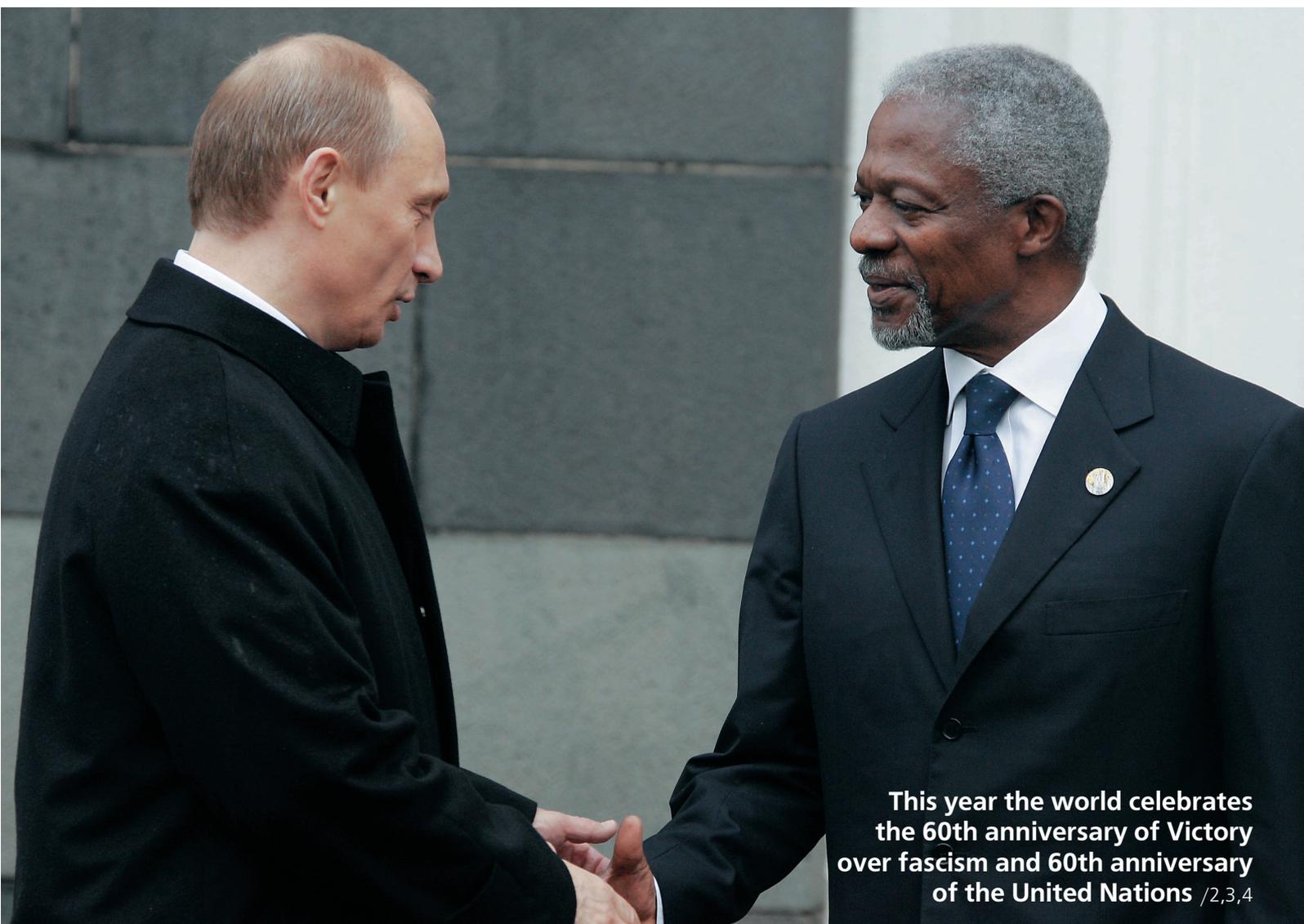
Translating economic growth into sustainable human development with human rights

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**This year the world celebrates
the 60th anniversary of Victory
over fascism and 60th anniversary
of the United Nations** /2,3,4

People /11

"Though we still hear shooting from the gorge we believe that sooner or later peace will be restored in our region", said Sultan Khizriev, one of those people who continued to give lessons during the four years of military actions in dilapidated schools

Opinions /15

Roberto Bertollini, Director of Special Programme on Health and Environment, WHO Regional Office for Europe: "Air pollution from particulate matter is shortening our lives. It currently claims an average of about nine months from the life of every European"

Interview /13

It is one thing to be proud of one's country when everything is OK, when "planes are flying and tanks are moving forward" and everyone feels secure! But when your country is going through a difficult period – it is at that time that your country needs you most, Oleg Gazmanov says

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Kofi Annan: The UN and Russia Work Closely

(extracts from interview to ITAR-TASS on the threshold of Victory Day)

- This year Victory jubilee coincides with the 60-th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. In your view what is the historical and political interconnection between the two?

- **The relationship between the two dates is not a mere coincidence. The United Nations was formed out of the ashes of the World War II, by visionary leaders who wanted to ensure that the horrors of that war would never be repeated. Ultimately, the mission of the United Nations is the same one that was on the lips of many who observed the first Victory Day: 'Never again.'** But this anniversary year is also a fork in the road: it is a year in which we are thinking ahead, and engaging in a constructive debate among nations and world leaders about the future: how to defeat poverty; how to build a collective security system able to meet our common threats; and how to increase respect for human dignity in every land. That is why, in March this year, I placed before Member States a report setting out proposals for affordable ways to reach the Millennium Development Goals, far-reaching reforms of the international security system, and concrete action to increase respect for human rights. I have put forward an agenda that will provide a focus of discussion and debate in the months leading up to a summit meeting at the United Nations in September. I hope that political leaders will come

to New York ready to take bold steps, including on ways to adapt the United Nations itself.

- How would you characterize the UN/Russia relations and cooperation on the major issues of the UN agenda?

- **The United Nations and Russia work closely on many fronts in peace and security. In the Middle East, we work side by side with Russian officials as part of the Quartet in trying to bring a just and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians. We work very closely on a number of other political issues such as Afghanistan, the Balkans, Georgia/Abkhazia and Azerbaijan, where the UN and Russia are involved in mediating conflict situations. Russia is also a contributor to UN peacekeeping mission around the world. And, of course, Russia plays an active role in joint efforts in combating terrorism. Just several days ago, after many years of negotiations the General Assembly adopted Convention on Nuclear Terrorism initiated by the Russian Federation. It was a vital step forward in multilateral efforts to prevent nuclear terrorism. I am also deeply grateful that last November, I received the Russian Federation instrument of ratification for the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. President Putin's leadership on that issue made it possible for the Protocol to enter into force earlier this year.**

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UN Information Centre

Events

Twin Anniversary in Adults' and Children's Eyes

2005 is the year of two anniversaries – 60 years since the end of the Second World War and 60 Anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations. One does not have to have a degree in history to realize that the two events are closely related. What may escape an ordinary person's attention, however, is the intricacy of interrelationship between the end of the most devastating conflict in the history of mankind and the emergence of a multilateral organization called upon, in the words of its Charter, to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

Joined by a number of other countries, Russia came up with an initiative to declare 8 and 9 May of 2005 as the remembrance Days for the victims of the Second World War. On 9 May, the General Assembly held a special meeting on this occasion. Addressing the Assembly, the Deputy Secretary-General Louise Fréchette said: "As fascism fell, the United Nations rose. As the ashes settled and the dust cleared, among the new features of the landscape was a new organization designed to better manage the world's affairs – and most of all to help prevent such catastrophes from happening ever again."

Two days prior to that General Assembly session the Russian mission in New York organized an important cultural remembrance event – a concert at the General Assembly hall where the St.-Peterburg philharmonic orchestra conducted by Yuri Temirkanov played Dmitry Shostakovich's world famous Seventh Symphony. According to Louise Fréchette, the many delegations in New York were

lucky to be able to listen to this masterpiece, something that "the men and women of Leningrad could only have dreamt of in those dark days of hardship, horror and human suffering."

As part of its effort to emphasize the interrelationship between the two important dates, the UN Information Centre in Moscow, jointly with its partners from among the civil society – the network of the schools of peace and the Municipal Centre 'Street Children', with the support from the Russian public committee for the observance of the 60th anniversary of the United Nations, has organized a children's drawing contest under the motto '60th Anniversary Since the End of World War II and the Establishment of the United Nations.'

Most Russians are aware of the activities of the United Nations related to the maintenance of international peace or provision of humanitarian aid. However, other important aspects of the World Organization's work that affect our daily lives, such as the eradication of poverty and disease, specifically HIV/AIDS, correcting gender imbalance, improvement of the state of natural environment, protection of human rights, etc – are much less known by the public at large.

The competition was conceived as a means of stimulating the interest among schoolchildren in the study of multi-faceted activities of the United Nations. With this aim, at the preparatory stage, the UNIC held a number of meetings with schoolteachers in order to help them get better acquainted with the subject and provide them with information materials which they could further use as part of their advocacy work at their schools. Such special lessons were meant as an invitation for reflection on the tremendous significance of the victory in the Second World War



The competition winners are Julia and Kira Ferber

and enormous price that the international community had to pay for it, as well as on the foundations of the United Nations and the Organization's complex mission in light of challenges of today's world.

Children from more than 30 schools took part in the competition by sending to the UNIC some 50 pre-selected works. The jury of the competition awarded the main prize to twin schoolgirls, Julia and Kira Ferber, of Moscow's School No 789, while five-year-old Xenia Guseva, who attends Sunday school at the Trinity Cathedral in Konkovo, became the youngest participant in the competition to win the sympathy prize of the jury.

On 20 May, the prizes and souvenirs were presented to the winners at a special ceremony at the UNIC. In a home-like atmosphere over a cup of tea the children were able to tell others about themselves and make new friends. And of course, there was a surprise, a musical one – a singing group of the Arensky Children's Musical School No. 32 performed several songs and a Hymn of Peacemakers, written by themselves.

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United Nations Association of Russia

Russian Committee on the United Nations 60th Anniversary Continues Working

Russian Committee on the United Nations 60th Anniversary implements its activities within the framework of the UN jubilee celebration. The Committee emphasises the participation of the youth in the UNA-Russia activities. In the course of the project "Real sounds of history" young people interview veterans of the Second World War and record their memories. Moreover, a number of scientific and popular publications will be issued. One of such unique publications

will be a book, which includes speeches made by the leaders of Soviet and Russian delegations at the UN General Assembly from the very foundation of the world organization.

The Committee's aim is to inform the society on the UN achievements and the role of Russia in its activities. The main goal is to enhance the contribution of our country into the implementation of the goals declared in the UN Charter.

You can find any additional information on the Russian Committee on the UN 60th Anniversary on the web site: www.una.ru

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UN Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization

Director-General Participates in the Celebrations of the 60th Anniversary of the End of World War II

On 9 May 2005 in Moscow, the Director-General of UNESCO Koïchiro Matsuura, alongside some 50 heads of state and government and the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, participated in the 60th anniversary celebrations of the Allies' victory over Nazi Germany.

The festivities started with a military parade at the Red Square, followed by a joint wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and a reception in the Kremlin. In the afternoon, Mr. Matsuura attended, together with President Putin and President Chirac, an inauguration ceremony



Left to right: President of France Jacques Chirac, President of Russia Vladimir Putin, Director-General of UNESCO Koïchiro Matsuura

of the monument to General Charles de Gaulles designed by Zourab Tsereteli, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador.

The festivities gave the Director-General an opportunity to have talks with a number of Heads of State and Government, including President of France Jacques Chirac, President of China Hu Jintao, President of Israel Moshe Katzav, Prime Minister of Portugal Jose Socrates, Prime Minister of Japan Junichiro Koizumi, as well as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors Zourab Tsereteli and Ara Abramyan.

Russia and UNESCO Prepare for the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis

On 17-19 May 2005, under the auspices of UNESCO Saint Petersburg held the International Conference 'UNESCO between Two Phases of the World Summit on the Information Society'. Konstantinovskiy Palace, sea-side residence of the President of the

Russian Federation, hosted over 450 delegates from 50 countries representing all continents.

This global interest to the conference is evident: it was the fourth UNESCO event and the last one in preparation to

the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (Tunis, 16-18 November 2005) – considerably larger-scale and more important forum which will enable leading politicians to discuss and lay foundations for and ways of shaping of a new stage of the human civiliza-

tion development – global Information Society.

Underpinning UNESCO's approach to the WSIS process is a set of four inter-linked principles rooted in the origins and character of the Organization: freedom of expression; equal access to education; universal access to information, including a strong public domain of information; and the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity, including multilingualism.

The Saint Petersburg conference was preceded by three thematic meetings conducted by UNESCO in preparation to the Summit:

- Freedom of Expression in Cyberspace (3-4 February, Paris),
- Multilingualism for Cultural Diversity and Participation of All in Cyberspace (5-6 May 2005, Bamako, Mali),
- ICT for Capacity-Building: Critical Success Factors (11-13 May 2005, Paris).

At the opening ceremony Alexander Sokolov, Minister of Culture and Mass Communications of the Russian Federation, emphasized that “the conference takes place in the moment when the whole world, all countries, intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations, and business society are in the process of preparation to the Summit, when a new international information policy is being actively developed alongside with regional and national strategies for transition to the Information Society”.

By forwarding the initiative to conduct this conference and by organising it, Russia carried out an outstanding international event, claiming to be an initiator of integration of UNESCO, Russian and world intellectual elite efforts for the aim of influencing the future world development.

Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, emphasised that Russia supports UNESCO efforts aimed at attracting attention of the global community to humanitarian aspects of the Information Society development, its ethic, legal and socio-cultural problems.

Françoise Rivière, the Assistant Director General of UNESCO, in her speech at the opening plenary of the Conference underlined that “...it is devel-

opment and introduction of information technologies, which facilitates access to knowledge that can become an important tool to eradicate poverty throughout the world”.

Evgeniy Kuzmin, direct initiator of the conference and chairman of its program committee, member of Intergovernmental Council of UNESCO “flagship” Programme “Information for All”, head of Archives Department of the Russian Ministry of Culture and Mass Communications, said that “global Information Society is a new phase and at the same time a new paradigm of human civilization development. For those who experience “information poverty” global Information Society is still an abstraction today. For others, information-rich ones, it is already a reality of the present day, sometimes even of yesterday. It should also be mentioned that new technologies that resolve some problems are at the same time creating many others. The



most crucial of them is an increasing inequality in access to vital knowledge, that is a widening gap of incomprehension between information-rich and information-poor people. This leads to increased social marginalization within countries; on the global scale this excludes entire countries and even regions from the process of global development”.

Leading experts, well-known scholars and politicians discussed a wide range of topics in Saint Petersburg:

1. Building the Information and Knowledge Societies: Concepts, Strategies, Programs.
2. Human Capacity Building for Knowledge Societies. Personal Information Culture.
3. Education in Knowledge Societies.
4. Science and Innovations in Knowledge Societies.

5. Cultural Diversity in Knowledge Societies.
6. Universal Access to Public Domain Information.
7. Development of Communications and Freedom of Expression.
8. Stakeholders' Partnership and Cooperation to Foster Information Society Development.
9. Business Environment for Knowledge Societies.
10. Information Society Technologies and Infrastructure for the Knowledge Societies.
11. Policies of Cultural and Scientific Heritage Digitization and Preservation.
12. Role of NGOs in forming Information Society.

Each of these topics was discussed at a special section, and their results were transformed by the participants into corresponding recommendations, which will be published in Russian and English in early June. After summarizing the results of the three-day-conference, it became evident that recommendations drafted during the conference can and should be presented for discussion at the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis not only by UNESCO, but by national delegations of countries participating in the preparation to the Summit as well.

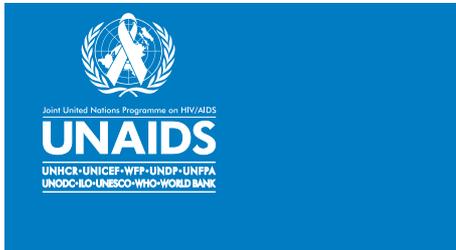
The main organizers of the conference were Ministry of Culture and Mass Communications of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications of the Russian Federation, Federal Agency on Culture and Cinematography, UNESCO, Russian National Commission for UNESCO, Russian Committee of the UNESCO Programme “Information for all”, Institute of the Information Society, and Centre on Informatisation in the sphere of Culture.

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Highlight

Time to Live Media Project Will Loop 15 Russian Cities

On 15 May 2005, the worldwide Candlelight Memorial Day, the 'STO' TV Channel in St. Petersburg hosted the first telethon. For the first time a TV station broadcast a live talk show lasting four-and-a-half hours, which was devoted to HIV/AIDS topics. The problem was discussed by physicians, representatives of city authorities, public organisations, people living with HIV/AIDS and other interested parties. The TV programme launched a series of talk shows hosted by well-known TV anchors Vladimir Pozner and Elena Khanga that will take place in the cities of Barnaul, Irkutsk, Kazan, Krasnoyarsk, Nizhni Novgorod, Tomsk, Tver, Ulan-Ude, Ulianovsk, Pskov, Vologda, Orenburg and Volgograd between May 2005 and May 2006.

The goal of the Time to Live project is to raise public awareness about HIV/AIDS, to cover problems specific to



particular regions and to engage decision makers in committed response to AIDS.

Following the successful telethon on World AIDS Day in December 2004, a working group bringing together representatives from UNAIDS, AIDS Foundation East-West, Focus-Media, PSI, Internews, IMC Consulting (EU/Tacis Project), TPAA, the NGO Forum and the Community of PLWHA decided that the concept should

be used for a massive nation-wide campaign. UNAIDS co-sponsors UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Bank are taking active part in the project. The 'Time to Live' Project is supported by the Federal Service of the Russian Federation for Surveillance in Consumer Rights Protection and Human Welfare. The project will be partly financed by the GLOBUS project. The initiative will be part of Russia's engagement in the World AIDS Campaign 'Keeping the Promise'.

Three more successful TV show took place in Ulan-Ude, Ulianovsk and Tver.
(To be continued)

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A Small Marathon for Small People

On 11 June 2005 in the Sokolniki park in Moscow, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), together with Johnson&Johnson, Pfizer, and Transatlantic Partners against AIDS, organized a charity family race in support of children living with HIV/AIDS. It is one of the so-called 'breakthrough initiatives' proposed and implemented by a group of



representatives of various spheres, including business, government, media, and religious organizations, in the framework UNDP "Leadership in Action – For a Russia without AIDS" project.

The aim of the marathon was to draw the attention of the society to the problem of HIV/AIDS in Russia in general and to children living with HIV/AIDS, in particular. According to Shombi Sharp, responsible for UNDP HIV/AIDS projects in Russia, "nowhere is this reality more heart-wrenching that the rapidly increasing number of children, the most vulnerable members of society, born to HIV infected mothers." In 2003 alone, 3,000 children were born to HIV infected mothers, but with simple preventive measures in most cases HIV infected mothers can

give birth to healthy children. To solve this and other problems we need to speak up loud and clear about HIV/AIDS, and events like the marathon can help a lot.

Representatives of federal and Moscow city services dealing with HIV/AIDS problem, and of the Orthodox Church, who spoke at the event, supported the initiative.

The race attracted families, which could both enjoy an entertainment programme and help collect funds, which will be used to organize summer vacations for children living with HIV/AIDS, by buying souvenirs and making donations. And then came the race, and even small children were eager to run knowing that their effort would bring real help to other children who need it.

Who Will Lead to Breakthrough?



The 'Training of Trainers' seminar within the framework of the UNDP Leadership Development Programme took place on 16-22 May, 2005 at the hotel 'Zhemchuzhina' Sochi, Russia.

The training has completed a series of 'Leadership in Action – For a Russia without AIDS' seminars that have been organized in Russia throughout the year. During these seminars nearly 80 people

from different sectors of Russian society have been practicing leadership development skills required for combating the spread of HIV/AIDS. As a result of the 'Leadership in Action' Programme, 11 breakthrough initiatives addressing specific issues of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Russia were launched.

The 'Training of Trainers' Programme was targeted to further personal and professional development of participants of the LDP Programme and training of future national leadership trainers (coaches). 26 most active participants from the Russian Federation and Ukraine who had participated in the Leadership Development Programme were selected for the TOT seminar.

As a result, the training has greatly enhanced personal and professional

development of participants of the LDP Programme from both Russia and Ukraine, which was confirmed by the feedback of participants at the end of the seminar. Moreover, the training has brought together Ukrainian and Russian professionals working in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention, thus creating the opportunity for development of the Ukrainian-Russian regional network of HIV/AIDS servicing organizations.

Oksana Yermakova



Appointments

Kemal Dervis Appointed UNDP Administrator



The United Nations General Assembly, representing 191 countries, on 5 May unanimously confirmed Kemal Dervis, a former finance minister of Turkey and senior World Bank official, as the next Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Mr. Dervis is expected to offi-

cially start his four-year term on 15 August 2005. Mr. Dervis will succeed Mark Malloch Brown, who in January 2005 was appointed as Chief of Staff to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

As Turkey's Minister for Economic Affairs and the Treasury, Mr. Dervis, 56, implemented a recovery programme that lifted Turkey out of a devastating financial crisis in 2001.

Before his recruitment as Turkey's finance minister, Mr. Dervis worked at the World Bank for 22 years. While serving as Director of the Central Europe Department, he oversaw the European Union programmes for reconstruction of Bosnia in the mid-1990s. As Vice President for Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, he played an instrumental role in developing the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers initiative, aimed at broadening and deepening the reform agenda in the

poorest countries with the involvement of civil society in the policy formulation process.

In addition to his native Turkish, Mr. Dervis speaks fluent English, French, and German. He holds a doctorate in economics from Princeton University and Master's and Bachelor's degrees from the London School of Economics.

I am thrilled that the Secretary-General and the General Assembly have placed their confidence in me as the new UNDP Administrator, Mr. Dervis said. I relish the opportunity to work for an organization which has always stood at the frontlines of the battle against poverty and has been a leader in fighting for the right of all people to live with freedom and dignity. I will also greatly value the opportunity to contribute to the general strengthening and reform of the UN system proposed by Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

With Sympathy and Respect to Snow Leopard

For the first time residents of three Russian republics, two krais and one oblast decided to cooperate to preserve unique nature of their native land. Their efforts will be supported by a new UNDP project recently approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The project's title is "Biodiversity Conservation in the Russian Portion of the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion."

REFERENCE: The project was presented to GEF in February 2004. After responding to comments of the GEF member states and the GEF Secretariat in July 2004 an updated project document was sent for final approval that was received in March 2005. Partners of the project are: the Global Environment Facility, the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, administrations of Altai, Tyva and Khakasiya republics, Krasnoyarsk and Altai krais, Kemerovo oblast, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). Duration of the project is five years (2005-2009), total cost amounts to US \$15.2 million, of which GEF allocates US \$3,515,000.

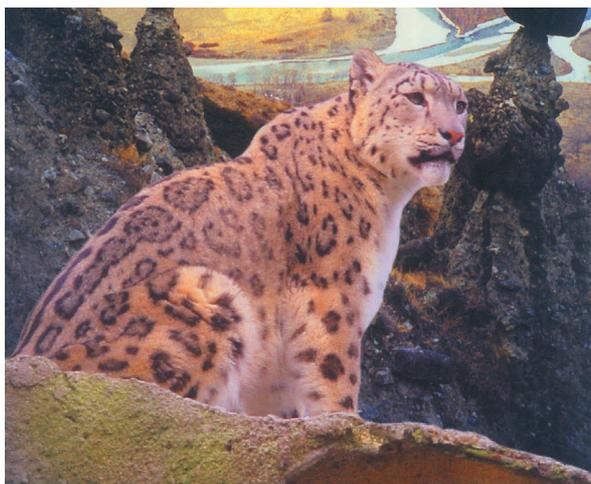
The project in the Altai-Sayan region is one of eight UNDP/GEF projects in the area of biodiversity conservation that are implemented or prepared for implementation in Russia. A specific feature of this project is participation of six federal divisions for the first time united on the ecological basis to preserve a unique ecoregion.

The most traditional way of conservation is creation of a developed and well functioning system of specially protected areas. Most importantly, the system should be well functioning. It is not enough just to establish a sanctuary or a nature park. It is essential to provide trainings to the management and the security service and to ensure coordination among regional protected areas at different levels. All these meas-

REFERENCE: According to classification of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the planet has 200 ecoregions of major significance for conservation of the global biodiversity (Global 200 Programme). The Altai-Sayan region is one of these 200 regions.

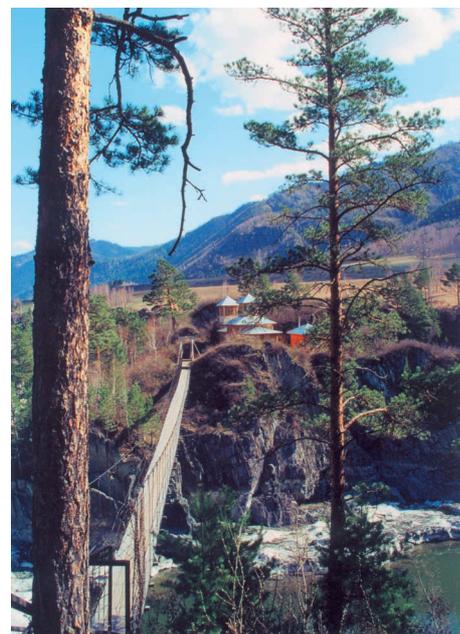
ures are stipulated by the UNDP/GEF project together with creation of new specially protected areas (this component to be fully funded by WWF).

Apart from direct and most obvious ways of preserving an opportunity for future generations to see a unique mountain taiga and its inhabitants, high-altitude plateaus with ancient Scythian barrows, peaks of sanctuary mountains covered with snow, and other beautiful sights, the UNDP project suggests a number of components connected with people rather than rare and endangered species. The major cause is a disastrous socio-economic situation in local and native communities. The environmental situation is affected by such factors as the unemployment level, the average per head income and the level of population awareness of the precious environment they live in. The local population should be granted an opportunity and legal support to provide for their living without causing damage to nature around them.



These problems will be addressed in the framework of components on alternative livelihood and ecological education and awareness.

The project participants hope that the project will help both the snow leopard to survive and continue living in the mountains of the Altai-Sayan ecoregion and the local population to acquire new professions (e.g. rangers in a nature park) and get new jobs. A micro-credit programme can help those wishing to start their own small business (certainly, with-



out exhausting natural resources). According to experts living in the region, development of tourism, especially ecological tourism can be an alternative to extensive use of natural resources in the region. This is the area where the knowledge of local guides is needed.

However, the project aims should not be overestimated. The role of GEF (and UNDP) projects is to initiate and stimulate the local development process, to provide the local population with instruments for realization, provide it with an opportunity to study and share lessons learned in other regions, but in no case to solve all environmental problems in the region!

With all my heart I wish the project a successful start and certainly to achieve all its goals. It will require coordinated efforts of many people, from decisions-makers in the area of conservation at the federal level to people living in this wonderful land.

Elena Armand,
Head of Environment Unit, UNDP

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UN Office for the Coordination
of Humanitarian Affairs

To Ensure That Aid Arrives in Time...

At 6:13 Moscow time on December 26, 2004 the following message from Vladimir Boreiko, an adviser to the Russian Ministry of Emergencies (EMERCOM), hit the web-page of the virtual on-site operational coordination center (OSOCC) on the server of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA): "EMERCOM of Russia and the Russian National Emergency Humanitarian Response Corps are ready to fly on site at a moment's notice". This happened 2 hours and 19 minutes after the collision of the Indian, Burmese and Australian lithosphere plates in the Indian Ocean and 38 minutes after the first catastrophe alert was made public by the OSOCC. Shortly afterwards similar statements of readiness to provide assistance came from Norway, Austria, China, the UK, Cyprus and many other countries ready to respond to the largest natural disaster of modern times. A search and rescue operation of unprecedented scale with dozens of participating countries was launched in no time at all.

What is the virtual coordination center? This is a state-of-the-art hi-tech mechanism used by OCHA to ensure continuous exchange of information among actual and potential participants of humanitarian operations. By its nature, it is an internet-based database accessible to registered users in any location of the world 24 hours a day. Visitors to the virtual OSOCC may leave messages, ask questions, discuss issues relevant to elimination of consequences of natural disasters and other emergencies online. Therefore, the virtual OSOCC is a "remote meeting point" for participants of emergency operations, a headquarters of sorts that coordinates most urgently required activities. This is just one of a whole set of mechanisms created by OCHA to increase efficiency of the international community's joint activities in emergencies.

Another illustrative example of such mechanisms is the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination system (the so-called UNDAC Team) which includes more than 160 professionals in emergency

response from 57 countries and 13 international organizations. In a normal situation these people work in various countries of the world in their main professional capacities, be it a teacher or a minister. The only dissimilarity from their colleagues is that they are always "on the line". If a major disaster occurs in any country and the authorities appeal for international aid, each member of the UNDAC team receives an alert message from OCHA and must advise of his/her availability for immediate mobilization. A small team is formed afterwards which is sent on site to assess the situation, define priorities of emergency response and assist local authorities and communities in coordinating the emergency activity. The whole process of mobilization from the receipt of the appeal for assistance until the dispatch of the UNDAC Team to the emergency site as a rule does not take more than a few hours. Therefore, UNDAC is an international reserve capable of turning into an emergency response vanguard at any moment. UNDAC members are devoted people ready to go without unnecessary reflections or preparations and help victims, often sacrificing their personal or family plans. It would probably be relevant to mention that they do it free of charge.

The UNDAC Team currently has four representatives of the Russian Federation. They are all officers of the Russian EMERCOM. One of them, Vladimir Boreiko, flew to Sri-Lanka together with the Russian search and rescue team on December 27, 2004 to participate in UNDAC's activities in that country. Pursuant to the personal assignment, during the first 10 days after the tragedy Vladimir managed the aid reception center deployed at the Colombo airport whose coordinated and effective work was critically important at that moment.

Needless to say that Russia's assistance to the tsunami victims was



not limited by the above only. In addition to the search-and rescue team comprised of 26 people and 3 dogs and equipped with 2 machinery units and a helicopter, Russia sent to the affected countries humanitarian cargoes containing food, water, tents, medicines and other essential items to the tune of over USD 12 million. Russian mobile hospitals operated in Indonesia and Sri-Lanka. In addition, Russia decided to allocate USD 10 million to UN agencies for assistance to the tsunami victims.

Participation in this humanitarian operation is not the first or the last instance when Russia extends a helping hand to people affected by disasters in other countries. Technical and scientific capacities of the Russian EMERCOM, its ability to respond quickly, as well as professional and personal qualities of its staff have long since won deserved international recognition. Active interaction of EMERCOM with international organizations mutually strengthens their capacities, improves the efficiency of international disaster response and creates conditions to ensure that aid arrives in time...

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Children from Out of Russia Are Not Strangers

Since September 2000, Moscow Department of Education, UNHCR Office in Russia and Center for Cross-Cultural Education 'Etnosphera' have been jointly implementing the project "Education, Social-Psychological and Cultural-Linguistic Adaptation of Forced Migrant and Refugee Children in Moscow". The leading academic institutions and public organizations working in the sphere of migration and education are also involved in this project. The research and methodological support of the project is provided by the research-and-methodical council and the Chair of International Education at the Moscow Institute of Open Education.

The project has been implemented in four stages. During the first stage (January 2001 – January 2002) a "zero" language class, based at a school in the Southern Okrug (administrative area) of Moscow, was organized for non-Russian-speaking refugee and asylum-seeker children aged 6.5 to 8 years. The ultimate goal of the project was to prepare the "zero" class students for entrance the first grade and further successful learning on a par with their Russian-speaking coevals.

During the second stage (January 2002 – January 2003) in addition to the "zero" class there was opened a preparatory language class for children aged 9-12 years who needed, apart from learning Russian as a foreign language, a fast-track propaedeutics course in primary school subjects (mathematics, Russian language, environment).

The third stage of the project (from January 2003) was marked by the increased number of schools involved. In compliance with the recommendations adopted at the Moscow August Pedagogical Readings, "zero" and preparatory language classes were organized at several educational institutions in another three okrugs in Moscow, and schools began to give more consideration to the development of a multicultural

awareness component of their activity. The five base schools currently offering preparatory classes for children of different ages are located in the areas of compact residence of migrants, namely in the Southern, South-Eastern, Eastern and Northern Okrugs of Moscow.

The fourth stage of the project started in January 2004: a school in the Southern Okrug organized a pilot class for teenagers whose educational level did not correspond to their age thus making them unable to study in ordinary school classes. A teaching program in the form of external studies allows

developed RKI (Russian as a foreign language) methodical programs. The successful learning of all subjects in primary and secondary school classes, as required by the state curriculum, is guaranteed through offering a parallel intensive course in Russian as a foreign language, and through integrating the RKI methodical program into general educational subjects.

Migrant and refugee children participating in the project are involved in the cultural and social activity of their schools, having access to the library, computer classes, language laboratory



them, on passing exams at a certain grade level, to receive a state-standard educational document (certificate or attestation).

Thus, for the past four years a system of social-psychological and cultural-linguistic adaptation of migrant and refugee children has been created in Moscow under the guidance of the Moscow Department of Education and in cooperation with UNHCR and Etnosphera Center. Children of different ages are taught the Russian language using the specially

and gym including participation in different sport sections; they also participate in all cultural and educational activities organized at their schools (festivals, excursions, lectures, etc.) The involvement of children in the school cultural and social life facilitates their social adaptation and integration into Moscow community.

Students in cultural-linguistic classes have an opportunity to preserve and develop their ethno-cultural identity. Within the program of additional educa-

tion children may choose to learn their native language (Dari, Pharsi, etc.) or attend classes in other ethno-cultural subjects. During the entire school year students receive support from child psychologists helping them to faster adapt themselves and more easily get involved in the learning process.

The psychological support of the Project is provided by the Moscow Psychological-Pedagogical University and Gratis Center for Psychological Support.

Etnosfera Youth Interclubs have been created and are currently working successfully at schools participating in

the project. These are information centers of multicultural education and clubs of international friendship where children and their parents may have access to the information on different countries and peoples, as well as get an opportunity to communicate directly with representatives of different cultures.

Serious consideration is given to raising the level of ethnological competence among the teaching staff of educational institutions attended by migrant and refugee children.

The informational support of the Project is provided by the monthly

informational-analytical and educational magazine "Etnosfera".

Elena Omelchenko,
Coordinator of the project for the education and adaptation of refugee and migrant children in Moscow jointly implemented by the Moscow Department of Education, UNHCR and Etnosfera Center

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Bella Beshieva

"If I can smell food being cooked in the kitchen of my kindergarten and hear sounds of music from the music room it is a sure sign that life is returning back to normal. We are

very grateful to the World Food Programme for it" – said Bella Beshieva, director of the "Solnyshko" kindergarten in Grozny, Chechnya, who arrived in Nazran to attend a session organized by WFP for directors of secondary schools and kindergartens covered by the School Feeding Programme.

Actually the life in Chechen schools is coming back to normal thanks to the efforts of teachers and school directors who, even during the four years of open war, taught in severely damaged and destroyed schools, sometimes without pay for their work. The United Nations World Food Programme also assists the Chechen system of education to recover from the war by providing hot meals and high-energy biscuits to children within the framework of the School Feeding Programme. WFP started the Programme in 2001 covering 6,000 schoolchildren and by April 2005, this had expanded to

People

For the Sake of the Children in Chechnya

cover 115,500 children in schools and kindergartens in 11 districts of Chechnya.

The agenda for the workshop that Bella was coming to attend included both a group review of the SF programme in the North Caucasus in 2004/2005 and future plans for SF in Chechnya for 2005/2006. Over the four days, the workshop was attended by more than 450 school directors and WFP's cooperating partners as well as representatives from the Ministry of Education and its district branches.

The workshop was opened by Jonathan Campbell who joked that he was

scared to speak in front of so many directors as it reminded him of being back at school, though this day WFP had reversed the roles as this time it was the directors sitting and even being served lunches at the desks like schoolchildren! The agenda then covered the global hunger problem, WFP's school feeding programme and fund raising activities around the world. Working in small groups, the directors then reviewed the year through interactive discussion, identifying their best practices and lessons learnt in the course of the programme implementation. They discussed their problems (mainly shortage of cooks, furniture, dishes, lack of gas and





electricity supply etc.) and their different solutions. After the group discussions, the group leaders made presentations based on the group experience. WFP's cooperating partners helped facilitate discussion. The deputy Minister of Education, Abdulla Dadaev, also took active part in the discussions throughout all four days of the workshop. The presentations and discussions all helped both the school directors and the WFP staff, who organized the workshop, identify ways to improve the programme by studying the best practices and lessons learnt.

Most directors emphasized that the school feeding encouraged children to attend school, stay healthy and concentrate better in their learning. Many directors pointed out that the SF helped them to improve the school environments and retrieve some sense of normality after the war. For WFP staff, whose movements to Chechnya are restricted, it was a unique chance to meet with all the directors and learn about the state of things in the field.

Discussing plans for SF in Chechnya for the 2005/2006 academic year, the workshop's facilitators focused on community mobilization; involving parent, student and teacher committees, local NGOs, administrations, benefactors and the general population in the programme implementation. Inspiration came from examples of community mobilization from SF programmes around the world presented as introduction, including Assinovskaya school No.3 in Sunzhenski region. There senior schoolchildren and parents repaired the roof of the school canteen using building materials provided

by WFP and the local administration. In 2005, WFP will continue to strengthen its school feeding programme in Chechnya, with training in community mobilization and building school capacity a core priority. With all groups working together, Chechen schools can play a critical role in resuming normal life after the war.

The seminar was a definite step in this direction, providing an opportunity for all school directors of Chechnya to meet and discuss urgent matters, with the Ministry of Education even claiming that the conference was psychological rehabilitation for the school directors!

The school directors' comments on the School Feeding Programme:

Akhmargadzhi Dibiroy, Director of the Zamai-Yurtovskaya Secondary School, Nozhayurtovskiy District: "The school feeding programme is vitally needed for Nozhai Yurt region. Thanks to this programme our teachers and parents have more respect for UN and the government of the Republic. The children had often fainted through hunger or malnourishment before the programme was introduced at the school. Since WFP started to provide hot meals they do not faint any longer. Their complexion has changed and they look healthier and happier now. We are very grateful to WFP for taking care of our children."



Madina Turkhaeva, Director of the School No.6, town of Shali: "On behalf of all the school staff I would like to thank WFP for the assistance provided to our long-suffering children. They always ask for second helpings and we are happy to see them joyful and full of energy."

Azhar Umarova, Director of the Proletarskaya Secondary School, Grozny Rural District:

"The fact that the children eat together at school improves discipline and the educational process in general. And the fact that an organization such as WFP takes care of them has a very positive impact on their behaviour and elevates their mood."

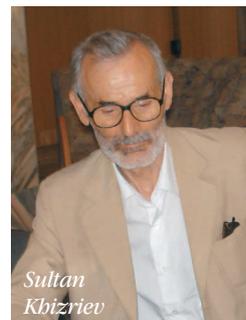
Svetlana Magomedova, Director of the Skurgaloyevskaya Secondary School:



"From the morning our schoolchildren look forward to having hot meals at school together. The food that WFP provides to them is very important for their physical and

mental development. It is so important that the programme continues till life in the region returns back to normal."

Sultan Khizriev, Director of the Koren-Benoyskaya Secondary School,



Nozhayurtovskiy District: "I am so happy that my school is covered by the School Feeding Programme. Thanks to the Programme the attendance rate has increased and

the schoolchildren can concentrate better on the school subjects. Though we still hear shooting from the gorge we believe that sooner or later peace will be restored in our region and the school feeding programme is strengthening our confidence."

WFP

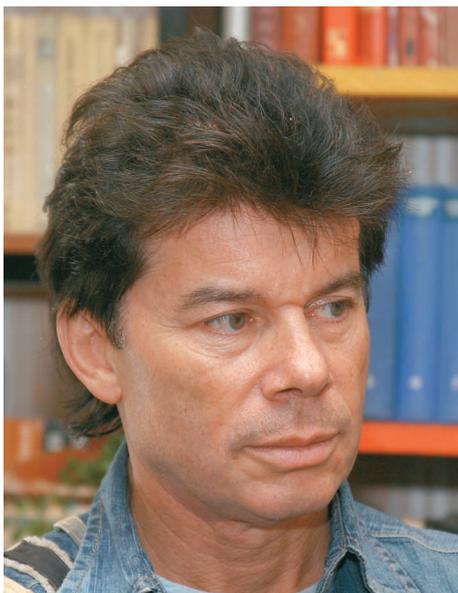
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When Your Country Needs You Most

OLEG GAZMANOV, People's Artist of Russia, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, responds to UN in Russia correspondent's questions.



- *What does it mean to you – to be a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador?*

- It means to me an additional responsibility and additional opportunities. I composed popular songs and became a popular singer. It is the people who keep coming to my concerts that made me popular. They do not only enjoy my songs, they also listen to what I have to say. I have this feeling that I need to give them back something, pay them back, and I am willing to do it. I would like my popularity to serve a noble cause; I would like to put it to good use, towards the implementation of positive activities and programmes. I am far from being indifferent towards the fate of the younger generation in Russia, and I see the need to speak to young people about the detrimental impact of drugs and HIV/AIDS as my civic duty. Whatever I say should be of benefit to them. I must make them pay attention to my words, reflect on their meaning, so that ultimately they would become strong advocates of a healthy life style.

- *What sort of programmes have already been implemented?*

- We have designed a special programme "Don't Even Try It!", where popular actors and youth leaders are involved. It

includes both a series of concerts, and various lectures, sport events and contests meant to promote information about drug abuse and the risk of HIV-infection. Not only do we give advice to young people and tell them what to do, but we also try to create a festive atmosphere, so that they could have fun and treat all these recommendation as some sort of a game, rather than another boring lecturing by adults. I plan to continue this programme in the future.

- *What problems do you see to be most pressing for Russian people today? What are the sore points that you would like to name? What does the responsibility before the younger generation imply?*

- The Russian society has been undergoing certain transformations. Over the recent years, life priorities and principles have changed dramatically. Such a situation is difficult for all of us. Drastic political changes adversely affect public well-being on the whole and public confidence in the future. Corruption, ethnic intolerance, feud among religious confessions – such phenomena are typical of our current reality. In many respects, the responsibility of popular people before younger generation lies in a proper response to the

evolving environment, in setting an example of perseverance and self-restraint, in helping the weak to find their way and keep their head at a difficult moment.

OUR REFERENCE: UNICEF Goodwill Ambassadors first appeared in 1954, being recruited from movie stars, musicians, sportsmen. They include such famous people, as Roger Moore, Vanessa Redgrave, Susan Sarandon, Robbie Williams, Odry Hepburn, Harry Belafonte, Anatoly Karpov.

- *What should be done to protect young people from temptations of adult life?*

- I have three children, and I believe that setting one's own example is the best upbringing. I try to act in such a way so that I wouldn't feel ashamed to face those who come to my concerts and my children wouldn't say: "You say one thing to us while acting differently..." It is very difficult and very boring to teach good things; as to bad things, they catch on so easily!

- *What is most important for you when communicating with children? What do you learn from them?*



Oleg Gazmanov meets children at Social Rehabilitation Centre «Otradnoye» in Moscow

- There shouldn't be any particular circumstances for a person to make him or her feel happy. The most important thing is how a person feels about himself/herself, his/her inner life. I believe that adults should learn as much from children as children should learn from adults. This is an absolute fact. I strongly believe that all children are born talented and happy. Children possess certain superior wisdom, and we often make them do things that will be of no use to them in the future. The ability to wonder at many things is children's principal quality. Actually, our life, our future depends on this ability. It is bad if a person is no longer amazed at anything. Every moment of your life is precious and amazing, and one should try to wonder as much as possible and make others feel amazed. Try to do something positive and creative. These are the things you should learn from children and teach them to learn.

- *You are the person who is capable of setting himself an objective and reaching it successfully. How do you manage to do this?*

- I have built up my own character. At some stage, I started going in for sports. If I was out of breath by the end of the concert, I took up jogging in the morning. I trained both my spirit and my body. You cannot reach any goal unless you work hard. This is a universal law and you cannot get round it. Both your spirit and your body must work hard. If it doesn't happen, a person starts going down the hill.

- *What should be done to bring up a person to feel proud of his country?*



- Nowadays, it is very difficult to feel proud of this country and to cultivate this feeling among its residents, as very many bad things are happening that do not contribute to encouraging this feeling. But one should also demonstrate strong will, character and attitude. It is one thing to be proud of one's country when everything is OK, when "planes are flying and tanks are moving forward" and everyone feels secure! But when your country is going through a difficult period, through a transition period – it is at that time that your country needs you most and when you need to provide support. Many people are not supportive and blame everyone on earth - politicians, government officials – everyone but themselves. They

believe that it is the government that should provide for them better living conditions. But you can be proud of your country only when you yourself do something for its benefit.

I live close to the Serebryany Bor area in Moscow. This is a place for rest and recreation, with a river flowing and pine-trees growing all over the place. When people arrive here to picnic on the grass, leave heaps of garbage behind and say later on that the country is indebted to them... I don't understand such an attitude. Why can't they remove the garbage and put it into the available trash bins? To make a person feel proud of his country is a two-way street. Those in power should meet the wishes of people, while people should treat such an attitude with respect. Otherwise, nothing good will come out of it.

- *What are your artistic plans?*

- I always have so many of them. I am about to release a new album and will continue with my involvement in a project to combat drug abuse.

- *What is your motto?*

- To enjoy to the maximum extent possible every moment of my life without hurting anyone around me.

Anna Chernyakhovskaya



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World Health Organization

Opinions

Russia Should Take Fresh Air Problem Seriously

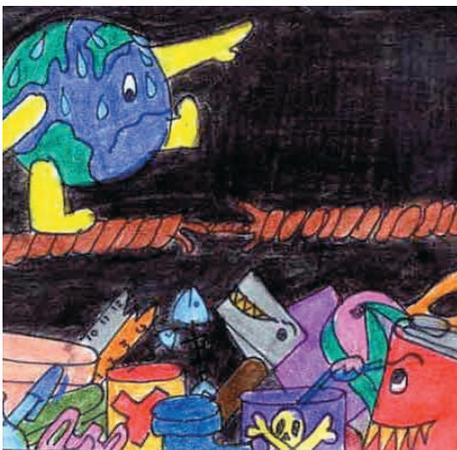
The World Health Organization's European Centre for Environment and Health on 30-31 May in Moscow conducted a consultation meeting on health care as a basis for air quality management in eastern Europe, Caucasus & Central Asia. The aim was to elaborate strategic plans on how to make the air we breathe cleaner and less dangerous.

Our love affair with the car is fading fast. For years roads have dominated European cities and car travel is the norm. In Russia car traffic has exponentially grown since the transition started in early 1990s.

In big cities now cars are everywhere, on roads, parks and sidewalks: new cars, old cars, broken cars, fancy cars. Often the only place to walk is in the middle of the street. A common scene is a car standing, and the exhaust pipe smoking in harmony with the driver.

However, it is now clear that we are paying a high price. The air pollution caused by vehicles, particularly the fine particles they emit, is affecting our health.

When you cross a busy road, you may take the air you breathe for granted, but you should not. It has become dangerous. As you sit in your car in "probki", or traffic jams, you may think that you are cut off from pollution outside but in fact you are not. You may



think that big cities have always meant dirty air? It is true, but in the old days the air was dirty from industry, now it is dirty from small microscopic particles, especially from diesel engines.

We are attacked by tiny particles which penetrate our blood circulation directly through the lungs and can cause heart and lung disease. They kill.



Fine particles are either direct products of all kinds of combustion or are formed in the atmosphere from gaseous pollutants. They can also be particles that car tyres (winter spikes especially) grind off the asphalt and throw into the air.

World Health Organization has recently tried to establish a "safe level", but the scientists who examined the research found none. So we know that air pollution is always bad for us.

Even a sudden short rise in air pollution increases the risk of respiratory or cardiac symptoms, emergency hospital admissions or death. Air pollution from particulate matter is shortening our lives. It currently claims an average of about 9 months from the life of every European.

In Moscow the concentration of air pollutants, especially those related to transport and energy production reported by the Moscow air quality monitoring network exceeds the levels of both the Russian standards for air quality and

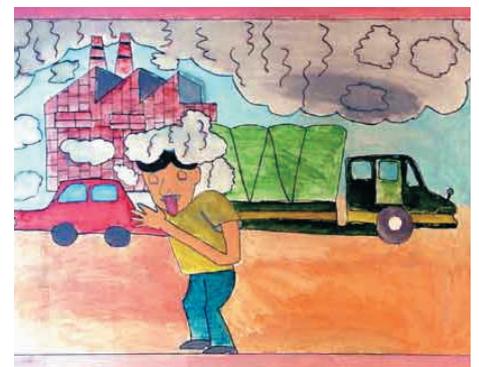
World Health Organization air quality guidelines. It is also higher than in most large cities of Western Europe.

Europe taking action

These issues worry governments and citizens. It has been estimated that early death and disease from air pollution is costing the countries in the European Union up to 162 billion euros a year. In response, new EU regulations come into force in January 2005, as the EU tries to bring pollution down.

The EU's comprehensive strategy on Clean Air for Europe, will be published soon. Long term commitment is needed to reduce everyone's exposure and reduce the deaths and diseases which recent assessments have identified accountable to air pollution.

Some air pollution comes from other countries. However, being a vast country geographically, "imported" pollution is not the major problem in Russia. It is "home made dirt" that people are forced to breathe in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Ekaterinenburg, Vladivostok, etc. No excuse to blame others for it. Each of us sitting behind the steering wheel or travelling in a car – you and me – is to blame!



So what should be done?

1. Diesel engines are particular culprits. There has already been a spurt of activity by car manufacturers to fit particle traps on diesel engines;



2. In some countries drivers get tax incentives to buy less polluting cars;

3. We all (with a few exceptions) are people with legs able to walk, ride a bicycle, take a bus or metro. Cities can be organized in different ways to make it all easier, safer and cheaper.

Side walks must be freed from cars and returned to those to whom they belong, cycle lanes and pedestrian routes must be constructed, walking streets and pedestrian areas must be organized.

All this does not depend on money primarily. But it needs government's and city authorities' push and will to make the changes happen.

Solutions should focus on reduction of emissions, mainly through improvement in public transport, traffic management, use of cleaner cars and lorries.

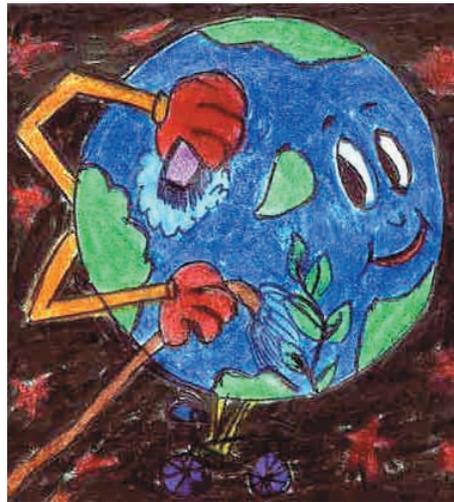


Russia has already banned leaded petrol and there is research underway into air pollution in Russia and its

effects on children. However, if we insist on sitting in our glossy filthy vehicles then we are destroying not only our own health but also our children's health.

Children first

If your child suffers from asthma you know how frightening it can be. Particles penetrating into the blood circulation increase the risk of babies dying from respiratory disease, affect children's lung development, and aggravate asthma.



Children also have to cope with the effects of pollution from chemicals in water, food, furniture or other parts of modern life. Children are more susceptible to environmental hazards, since their organs are developing and permanent damage can be done.

This year we are seeing a wake-up call about the environment and how it affects our health.

In March 2005, the United Nation's Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, to which over a thousand researchers contributed, concluded that human actions are depleting Earth's natural capital, putting such strain on the environment that the ability of the planet's ecosystems to sustain future generations can no longer be taken for granted.

Our children, whose health is at risk even now, must face this future. Air pollution affects children's health. Yet up to now children's special vulnerability has rarely been taken into account. This now has started to happen.

In the US, for example, the Environment Protection Agency revised its cancer guidelines saying that children under two are ten times more vulnerable than adults to certain chemicals, and children between two and sixteen are three times more vulnerable.

No time to lose

In Europe the focus has been on children's environmental health since last summer following a ministerial meeting held in Budapest to adopt a children's environment and health action plan for Europe. The health and environment ministers of World Health Organization's 52 European Member States have signed up and committed to it - including the Russian Federation.

In every country plans should now be established to put further measures into effect to protect our children's health. Consultations should take place with all who have an interest in the future. There is no time to lose.

What is preventing Russia - for instance Moscow - becoming a leader in this process?

Roberto Bertollini,

Director,

Special Programme on Health and Environment,

WHO Regional Office for Europe

WHO is a specialized agency of the United Nations with 192 Member States. It 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.

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World No Tobacco Day

Smoking is highly spread in Russia. Smoking among children and teenagers is one of the major concerns, which in the nearest future may cause drastic growth of mortality and morbidity rates. In such a situation medical doctors are expected to take the leading role in the struggle for people's health and combat smoking. Health professionals of different specialization should take part in these activities. They need the skills to help people stop smoking and be well informed about tobacco impact on a human organism.

Being fully aware of the great role of health professionals in combating smoking globally, the World Health Organization dedicated the World No Tobacco Day 2005 to them and their proactive role.

The Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation organized on 31 May, 2005 an All-Russia Conference 'Health Professionals and Combat Against Tobacco'.

This initiative has found strong support of the Committee on Public Health of the State Duma and the WHO Office in Russia. Over 300 health professionals took part in the Conference. Participation of health professionals, including doctors, pharmacists, nurses, midwives and others was a considerable progress. The proportion among participants was as follows: therapists – 15 per-

cent, psychiatrists – 20 percent, professionals in preventive medicine – 15 percent, pulmonologists – 8 percent, oncologists – 6 percent, phthisiatricians – 3 percent, cardiologists – 2 percent; dentists, neurologists, gastroenterologists, pediatricians and allergologists were also among participants of the conference. Health professionals from all over Russia came to Moscow: they represented Siberia and Far East, the Volga Region, the Urals Region, North – West and Central Regions.

The programme of the conference covered the issues of tobacco smoking impact on children and adolescents' health, growth of cardio-vascular diseases, cancer and tobacco-related respiratory diseases, the UN Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and its implementation in Russia. The issues of global promotion of tobacco industries products, modern methods of prevention and treatment of tobacco addiction were also discussed at the conference.

According to the conference findings, the tobacco epidemic in Russia grows: more than 50 percent of population are tobacco users. The number of tobacco-related diseases grows, for the same reason tobacco-related mortality and morbidity rates grow. At the same time tobacco remains the leading preventable mortality cause.

In many European countries, which have already adopted the national Anti-tobacco programmes, the rate of tobacco users has been stabilized at the level of 30 percent of the adult population.

The set of activities targeted at effective tobacco use control should by all means include certain legislative measures, pricing control and counteraction to aggressive activities of tobacco industries and some others. Thus participants of the Conference stated that it is very important for Russia to become a party to the UN Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in the nearest future.

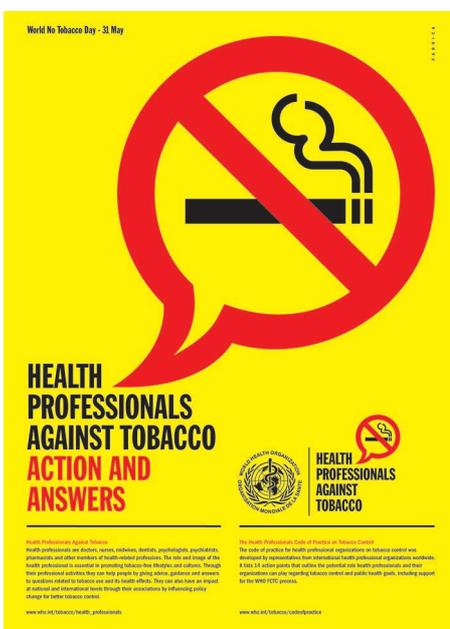
The participants of the Conference concluded that health professionals can and should take a leading role in tobacco control. However, the analyses



that had been conducted, showed the underinvolvement of Russian health workers in these activities, and the absence of relevant legislative and logistic basis. Curriculum of the medical educational institutions does not include the issues of tobacco use control resulting in the lack of skills, knowledge and understanding of the need for immediate intervention. Modern methods of prevention, diagnostics and treatment of tobacco addiction which may be used by health professionals of various specializations are not introduced. There are no regulatory documents on assistance in tobacco abstinence, medical insurance and reimbursement of treatment costs. The laws prohibiting smoking at the working place at the medical institutions do not work.

In view of the above, it has been included in the final document of the Conference that the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the RF should speed-up the process of joining the convention by the Russian Federation and implementation of the National Strategic Action Plan on Tobacco Control, including solution of all the above mentioned tasks. To facilitate implementation and raise efficiency of the Action Plan, the Conference proposed to create the Association 'Health Professionals Against Tobacco'.

Galina Sakharova
Deputy Director
of the Research Institute of Pulmonology



Journalists' Contest on Health Care Draws Strong Response

On April 11 2005, the WHO/CIDA Health Care Policy and Stewardship Programme held a Seminar and presented awards to the winners of a Journalists' Competition held throughout Russia on the topic of 'Healthcare Reform for everyone'. The competition and the seminar were held in partnership with the Russian Union of Journalists.

The Canadian Ambassador to Russia Mr Christopher Westdal and WHO Director General's Special Representative in Russia Dr Mikko Vienonen presented awards to the winners.

As well, Mr Alberto Palacios-Hardy, Technical Counsellor for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Mrs Mary Collins, Health Care Policy Advisor for the WHO Health Care Policy and Stewardship Programme assisted with the presentations.

The competition was designed to encourage excellence in health journalism and provide an incentive for journalists to write accurately about current health issues at both a regional and local level. Over 140 entries were received representing materials published in printed and electronic formats.

The winners of the competition represented many regions in Russia. Top prizes went to journalists from the Altaysky Krai, St. Petersburg and Nizhny Novgorod Region.



Honorable Mentions went to journalists from the Samara Region, Lipetsk Region, Nishny Novgorod Region and the Republic of Udmurtiya.

The finalists were all invited to attend the seminar along with representatives of other regional media and Moscow based journalists.

The keynote speaker at the seminar was a leading Canadian public health journalist Andre Picard, who is responsible for a Health page published daily in Canada's largest national newspaper The Globe and Mail. His topic 'A Healthy Russia needs a

Healthy Press', focused on the determinants of health, healthy lifestyle and the importance of journalists in informing and educating the public on vital health - related issues. He urged journalists "to recognize the power of your words and the importance of your task. Use that power wisely. Use it well. Be fair, be just and be informative". He said that journalists can make a difference in making people healthier, and in the process creating a healthier nation.

The Secretary of the Russian Union of Journalists Michail Fedotov, spoke about 'Ethics and Journalism'. There was a lively discussion about some of the difficulties faced by journalists in dealing with specific interests which try to influence their stories.

Russian health experts Igor Sheiman and Vladimir Shevsky shared their knowledge of health reform issues with the journalists and encouraged them to be aware of the current developments and to cover the changes proposed and carried out in health care organization and the state policy in this sector.

The documents of the seminar and the contest along with other materials on health issues of interest to Russian journalists will be published by the Russian Union of Journalists and distributed to five thousand journalists throughout Russia.



Summary

You can find the full version of the UN in Russia Bulletin in English at www.undp.ru or www.unrussia.ru (Documents)

UN /Kofi Annan: The UN and Russia Work Closely

"UN and Russia work closely on many fronts in peace and security. Russia is a contributor to the UN peacekeeping mission around the world. And, of course, Russia plays an active role in joint efforts in combating terrorism," UN Secretary-General emphasized in his interview to ITAR-TASS.

UNIC /Twin Anniversary in Adults' and Children's Eyes

The UN Information Centre in Moscow has organized a children's drawing contest '60th Anniversary Since the End of World War II and the Establishment of the United Nations' as part of a global campaign to celebrate the two dates.

UNA-Russia /Russian Committee on the United Nations 60th Anniversary Continues Working

A number of scientific and popular publications dedicated to the UN Anniversary will be issued including all speeches by leaders of Soviet and Russian delegations at the UN General Assembly.

UNESCO /Director-General Participates in the Celebrations of the 60th Anniversary of the End of World War II

In Moscow, Mr. Matsuura, together with President Putin and President Chirac, attended an inauguration ceremony of the monument to General Charles de Gaulles and had talks with a number of heads of state and government.

UNESCO /Russia and UNESCO Prepare for the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis

On 17-19 May 2005 in St. Petersburg, the international conference 'UNESCO between Two Phases of the World Summit on the Information Society' was held. It was the last UNESCO event in preparation to the World Summit.

UNAIDS /Time to Live Media Project Will Loop 15 Russian Cities

On 15 May 2005, the 'STO' TV Channel in St. Petersburg hosted the first telethon devoted to HIV/AIDS topics in a series of talk shows that will take place in Russian cities between May 2005 and May 2006.

UNDP /A Small Marathon for Small People

UNDP organized a charity family race in support of children living with HIV/AIDS in the Sokolniki park in Moscow as a result of a 'break-through initiative' under its "Leadership in Action" project.

UNDP /Who Will Lead to Breakthrough?

The "Training of Trainers" seminar in Sochi has completed a series of "Leadership in Action – For a Russia without AIDS" seminars that had been organized in Russia in the past year.

UNDP /Kemal Dervis Appointed UNDP Administrator

The United Nations General Assembly unanimously confirmed Kemal Dervis as the next Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme. Mr. Dervis is expected to officially start his four-year term on 15 August 2005.

UNDP /With Sympathy and Respect to Snow Leopard

For the first time residents of three Russian republics, two krais and one oblast decided to cooperate to preserve unique nature of their native land. Their efforts will be supported by a new UNDP project "Biodiversity Conservation in the Russian Portion of the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion."

OCHA /To Ensure That Aid Arrives in Time...

OCHA has a whole set of mechanisms to increase the efficiency of the international community's joint activities in emergencies. The UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination system, which responds to major disasters in the world, includes EMERCOM officers.

UNHCR /Children from Out of Russia Are Not Strangers

For five years, the Moscow Department of Education, UNHCR Office in Russia and Center for Cross-Cultural Education 'Etnosfera' have been implementing the project 'Education, Social-Psychological and Cultural-Linguistic Adaptation of Forced Migrant Children in Moscow'.

WFP /For the Sake of the Children in Chechnya

About 450 education professionals discussed in Nazran (Ingushetia) the WFP school feeding programme, which benefits 115,500 children in 11 regions of Chechnya.

UNICEF /When Your Country Needs You Most

"I am far from being indifferent towards the fate of the younger generation in Russia, and I see the need to speak to young people about the detrimental impact of drugs and HIV/AIDS as my civic duty," pop singer Oleg Gazmanov, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, says to UN in Russia:

WHO /Russia Should Take Fresh Air Problem Seriously

The World Health Organization European Centre for Environment and Health convened a meeting in Moscow to work out a strategy on how to make the air clear and less dangerous.

WHO /World No Tobacco Day

Over 50 percent of population in Russia is tobacco users, which should be a major concern to health professionals. WHO dedicated the World No Tobacco Day to them, and the Ministry of Health and Social Development organized an All-Russia Conference on the topic.

WHO /Journalists Contest on Health Care Draws Strong Response

World Health Organization and CIDA awarded the winners of an All-Russian Journalists' Competition on the topic of "Healthcare Reform for everyone" and discussed healthcare reform with them at a seminar.



Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals is a set of specific and measurable targets aimed at reducing poverty and raising living standards, which was adopted by 191 United Nations member-states, including the Russian Federation, at the Millennium Summit in 2000.

These Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to be reached by 2015 or earlier, are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Goal 1 | Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger |
| Goal 2 | Achieve universal primary education |
| Goal 3 | Promote gender equality and empower women |
| Goal 4 | Reduce child mortality |
| Goal 5 | Improve maternal health |
| Goal 6 | Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases |
| Goal 7 | Ensure environmental sustainability |
| Goal 8 | Develop a global partnership for development |