

HIGHLIGHTS

- Vladimir Putin reviews utility rates situation in Far East
- Third Eastern Economic Forum guests take advantage of e-visas
- Pankaj Saran: India intends to step up cooperation with Russia in Far East



EASTERN ECONOMIC FORUM NEWS

20 January 2017, Zolotoy Rog

Third Eastern Economic Forum guests may take advantage of e-visas

Foreign visitors will be able to use a single-entry eight-day visa to arrive at any of the five regions covered by the free port regime.

The State Duma Committee on State Building and Legislation has recommended that the lower chamber of Parliament pass a law on a simplified visa procedure at free ports, the Zolotoy Rog business newspaper learned from the Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East <http://www.interfax-russia.ru/FarEast/news.asp?id=786157&sec=1671>

13 January 2017, OTV

Gaidar Forum experts name Primorsky Territory's EEF one of Russia's key platforms for international economic dialogue

According to Vladimir Salamatov, a section moderator and General Director of the International Trade and Integration Research Centre, the call to establish a common economic space from Lisbon to Vladivostok was first made at the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok in autumn 2016.

“This Forum is very important for Russia as a whole. It is attended by our own leaders and heads of other states, as well as major corporations from all over the world. The issue of economic cooperation between Russia and the European Union was not raised by chance.

Even within the limitations imposed by sanctions, all parties are interested in creating a common economic space. Key barriers to developing international cooperation were identified at the Forum”, he said. http://otvprim.ru/society/primorskij-kraj_13.01.2017_47065_eksperty-gajdarovskogo-foruma-nazvali-vef-v-primorje-odnoj-iz-glavnykh-ploschadok-mezhdunarodnogo-ekonomicheskogo-dialoga.html

THE FAR EAST'S ECONOMY

27 January 2017, Kommersant

Alexander Mamut's company to design project for developing Russky Island

Alexander Mamut's company is to develop Russky Island. His Strelka consulting bureau has signed a contract with the Agency for Housing Mortgage Lending to design an urban environment concept, including a development plan for a 390-hectare area on the island where some 500,000 square metres of new housing could be built and improvements made to an embankment and a park. The total value of the contract is close to RUB 4 billion.

<http://kommersant.ru/doc/3204846>

26 January 2017, TASS

Indian Ambassador Pankaj Saran: India intends to step up cooperation with Russia in Far East

Indian Ambassador to Russia Pankaj Saran told TASS in an interview that India and Russia intend to work together to promote mutual investments and other forms of economic cooperation in the Russian Far East. "The Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East has informed us of the various initiatives being advanced in that region", he said. "We hope to be able to take a more active part in the Eastern Economic Forum and we are also planning to hold Russian-Indian meetings at a high level dedicated exclusively to that region. India and Russia are already discussing several potential specific projects in the Far East." <http://tass.ru/opinions/interviews/3974044>

20 January 2017, Rossiyskaya Gazeta

Vladimir Putin reviews utility rates situation in Far East

Electricity rates in the Far East will be brought in line with the Russian average within three months; reduced domestic rates will be applied retroactively from the beginning of this year. This was discussed at a meeting between the Russian President and his Envoy to the Far Eastern Federal District, Deputy Prime Minister Yury Trutnev, who also briefed the President on other areas of his work. Last year saw another four laws passed, aimed at improving living standards and investment conditions in the Far East. Four new free ports were set up, mechanisms to support the implementation of investment projects were improved, and a decision to allocate free one hectare-sized land plots was adopted. Eleven more bills are in the pipeline, including one on visa-free entry to Vladivostok Free Port. <https://rg.ru/2017/01/20/reg-dfo/putin-proveril-situaciiu-s-tarifami-na-dalнем-vostoke.html>

12 January 2017, Skolkovo

Skolkovo plans aquaculture centre at Far Eastern Oceanarium

Quoting the Skolkovo press service, ENV reported that the plans were outlined by Roman Kulikov, Head of the Biotechnology in Agriculture section within Skolkovo's Biomed Technology cluster, and the renowned marine biologist from Vladivostok Sergey Maslennikov. https://sk.ru/news/b/articles/archive/2017/01/09/skolkovo-plans-to-set-up-aquaculture-centre-of-excellence-in-russia_1920_s-far-east.aspx

10 January 2017, Rambler News Service

Ministry of Labour and Social Protection weighs replacing insurance premium discounts with subsidies for ASEZ residents

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection is considering replacing insurance premium discounts with subsidies for payers who are residents of an advanced special economic zone (ASEZ) or Vladivostok Free Port. The Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East believes that revising the existing measures for supporting development in the Far East is “unacceptable.” <https://rns.online/regions/Mintrud-prorabativaet-zamenu-lgot-po-strahovim-vznosam-dlya-rezidentov-TOR-na-subsidii-2017-01-10/>

4 January 2017, OTV

Primorsky Territory Tourism Department Director Konstantin Shestakov: our region is counting on developing marine tourism

Russian–Japanese relations saw a boost in cooperation following the second Eastern Economic Forum. The development of tourism in Russia’s Far East is one of eight areas of cooperation, while Japan is a strategically important market for Primorsky Territory. http://otvprim.ru/society/primorskij-kraj_04.01.2017_46853_konstantin-shestakov-primorje-delaet-stavku-na-razvitie-morskogo-turizma.html