

were about to need suitcases to put their salary. In 1999, the modest salary of \$50 was equal to two million Belarusian rubles.

Today The National Bank of Belarus (NBB) promises to maintain stable ruble and predicts a slight change in the national currency rate against the Russian ruble and the US dollar. Of course they see reasons for the Belarusian national currency stability.

The most important reason is that the NBB doesn't finance the budget deficiency anymore and consequently it doesn't produce unreasonable monetary issuance. The other reason is in high interest rates on credits issued in Belarusian rubles. As money is expensive, the population is reluctant to exchange rubles for dollars and it helps the NBB to restrain the pressure at the foreign currency market.

Another factor that helps to keep stable the Belarusian ruble is the favorable situation in the foreign trade. First of all, it concerns the trading relations with Russia. As a result of oil prices growth, our eastern neighbor has accumulated substantial assets that allow it to increase the amount of products purchased from Belarus.

But now when everything seems rather good we are to introduce the Russian ruble on our territory. It is unlikely that we will be able to realize these plans on 1 of January, 2005, because time is needed to prepare society for this step.

In spite of the fact that all agreements on the introduction of a common currency are ready, the NBB conducts an open contest to create a new graphic symbol for the national monetary unit — the Belarusian ruble. It proves that we connect the future with stable Belarussian ruble. But we are too much dependant. Even our stability is a consequence of oil prices growth.

What will we have in our purse in a year or two?

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**THE GENDER PROBLEM IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS:
THE WAYS OF SOLUTION IN BELARUS
ГЕНДЕРНАЯ ПРОБЛЕМА В МЕЖДУНАРОДНОМ БИЗНЕСЕ:
ПУТИ ЕЕ РЕШЕНИЯ В БЕЛАРУСИ**

Работа посвящена гендерной проблеме в международном бизнесе и путям ее решения в Беларуси. В ней затрагиваются причины существования этой проблемы, объясняются необходимость и экономическая выгода ее решения.

Один из наиболее действенных путей решения гендерной проблемы, по мнению автора, — это проведение гендерно чувствительной политики, позволяющей женщинам с разным социальным опытом и социальным капиталом получить реальные жизненные шансы сделать профессиональную карьеру, повысить свой социальный статус.

В работе также представлены результаты гендерных исследований и краткая характеристика проекта развития женского лидерства, проводимого ООН в Республике Беларусь.

Women have made great strides over the last century in areas where they were not historically equal to men. But the gender problem is burning all over the world and especially in the countries of the former USSR, Belarus is no exception. The fact that there is still women and men's work, and still separate play for boys and girls, show how these are apparent even today. By breaking down these stereotypes and allowing men — or women — to be as feminine or masculine as they choose give them a chance to be individuals. And that is why the United Nations Development Programme supports the idea of expanding the public space for women in Belarus.

This Project is for women aspiring to social, political and professional success; for men willing to support active women' striving for self-realization and for anyone interested in the sustainable democratic development of Belarus.

Society creates artificial barriers in the way of women's professional, political and social careers thus depriving itself of the great potential that this social group possesses. Gender equality is a prerequisite to the effective development of this country. The goal of the Project is to ensure the real access to the sphere of decision-making for Belarusian women.

In order to feel motivated, reach out and participate in the decision-making women must first attain self-affirmation. Up-to-date education, relevant knowledge and skills are all ingredients of success that would allow women to become leaders. The Project provides an opportunity to get the education that fits women's needs, status and employment.

Providing equal opportunities means not only that women must be able to gain the education that would allow them to access such traditionally masculine spheres as big politics, serious business, higher levels of power. Equal opportunities are founded, first and foremost, on equal rights.

Women who aspire to participate in decision-making face an invisible obstacle in the form of the public opinion. The stereotypical view on the limited role of women in the public sphere still exists in our

society. It cultivates in women the predisposition to passiveness and dependence, and, at best, provides them with a sort of a greenhouse — a limited scope of possibilities of personal self-realization.

But nevertheless you might be asking what for in general it is necessary to rise this problem in our country when with such serious economic problems it is unreasonably to worry democratic transformations to a society? But it's an economic problem, not only social one!

Women represent the biggest social-demographic group in Belarus. There are above 5 000 000 women that make up 53 % of all the population living in this country. Today women face with excessive loadings on work, growth of unemployment and poverty. In each branch of the economy there are significant distinctions in the incomes received by men and women. You can see that the average wages of women make 81 % from average wages of men. In spite of the fact, that women and men have the same educational level.

Thus, the gender problem is really urgent in our society because having refused from a social equality of men and women we refuse huge prospects of successful economic development of our country.

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THE PERSPECTIVES OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM IN BELARUS ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ РАЗВИТИЯ ТУРИЗМА В РЕСПУБЛИКЕ БЕЛАРУСЬ

Множество стран во всем мире ведут активный туристический бизнес, что существенно пополняет государственную казну. Развитие туризма становится все более актуальным и в Беларуси. Благодаря неповторимости природы, выгодному географическому положению и богатому историческому прошлому у страны есть все шансы преуспеть в этой индустрии. Но отсутствие развитой инфраструктуры значительно тормозит процесс становления данного сектора экономики.

Tourism is becoming more and more popular all over the world. A lot of countries, such as Egypt, Greece, Turkey, Slovenia, and others have risen to higher levels, increased their economy and replenished the state Exchequer due to the development of tourist business. What prevents Belarus from expansion of tourism?

On the one hand, Europe abounds in different resorts. It's possible to visit ancient palaces and famous places. Those who are not interested