

Mission Report: Vernadsky Fair

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Place: Moscow, Russia
Date: 17th-20th April 2008
Organiser: Moscow State Centre for the Youth

Agenda

17/4

18:40 Arrival at Moscow airport

18/4

10:30-16:30 Visit and speech at the closing ceremony of the XV Fair of Junior Educational Research in Memory of V. I. Vernadsky and visit of The House of Science and Technological Creativity of Youth. Interviews for the institution newspaper and almanac.

Meeting with A. Revjakin - the head of Independent Ecology Fund of Vernadsky

Onward: sightseeing of Moscow

19/4

10:00-18:00 Visit of the annual competition of abstract works "We and Biosphere" at Moscow State Centre for Youth with D. Monahov, the principal and N.Drozdo, Member of Russian Academy Of Science, visit of the Moscow Annual open fair of children and youth technical creativity and visit of the Moscow State Centre for Youth
Onward: informal meeting with Vernadsky Fair volunteer team at Alexander Leontovich Dacha

20/4

13:00 Meeting with Tatiana Chmatkova and Elena Semenyova from MILSET Russia

18:15 Departure from Moscow airport

Moscow State Centre for the Youth (MSCY)

MSCY is the largest structure of supplementary education in Moscow. It has been found in 1962. The involvement covers ages from 6 to 16. The Center gives children opportunity to develop themselves in the field of Science, Culture, Social Sciences, etc. The Center takes Conferences, local lore expeditions, profile camps and other discovering activities around the whole country. There are nowadays 1200 studying groups (93% of them are free of charge).

MSCY director is D. Monahov

MSCY deputy director is Alexander Leontovich; he is also director of the House of Science and Technological Creativity of Youth

MSCY took part to different MILSET event including: ESI 2003, ESI 2005, ESI AMLAT 2006, ESI 2007, MILSET Europe Annual Meeting 2007 where 3 open projects were presented

MILSET Europe Partner since September 2007

XV Fair of Junior Educational Research in Memory of V. I. Vernadsky

About 130 delegations consisting of 3-7 people each (teachers, tutors, pupils age 14-18 – total 700 persons) present their research works. 69 regions of Russia are represented.

Over 70 experts are working in the commissions, among those there were 50 Doctors of Science. The most important difference the fair is that the main role of an expert is not to assess a work, but to discuss it with its author and the tutor.

The conceptual basis of the fair of junior scientific research works in memory of V. I. Vernadsky includes two main ideas:

- To encourage the young researchers to understand that our Earth is a whole constitution, where all the processes are interacting together.
- To teach them to use educational (scientific) research to better understanding the world surrounding us; to contribute to developing research skills and abilities that we understand as a major part of cultural background.

The fair is an educational program. Its main purpose is to develop the abilities of the young participants, to carry on a successful dialogue with their tutors.

During the fair the participants reported about their research works results in two ways – there is a stand session and oral reports session. It provides the best opportunity of developing both the representation and report skills.

The fair is founded by The Ministry of Education of Russia, The Russian Academy of Sciences Committee of scientific heritage of V. I. Vernadsky, The Ecology Fund in memory of V. I. Vernadsky, Moscow Committee of Education, Regional Department of education, Lyceum 1553 (High school), Moscow State Centre for the Youth

Annual competition of abstract works “We and Biosphere”

Open to Russian children under 18 presenting a project in botany, zoology, ecology, social ecology, chemistry and others. The aim of the competition is to stimulate the research activity of students, to unite young people on the base of the idea of global ecology, general strategy of the survival of humanity and ideas of sustainable development.

Mission

The main objectives of the mission were to meet a new partner and to discover its activities and situations as well as one of the three open activities proposed for 2008. We also exchange about the development of MILSET Europe and Russian involvement.

Result is really positive, the size of the non-formal education centres in Russia is over all expectation and the participation makes this model unique. This gives them the opportunity to develop a large panel of activities (from lecture to expeditions crossing classes, experimentations, etc.)

Alexander and his team are full motivated and are doing an impressive work with external support and their participation into MILSET (Europe) can be really benefit for a large development in Russia, a enlargement of the open activities in Europe and the Russian participation to all event.

I met with MILSET Russia representative, they are mostly absorbed by the setting of science city in Moscow (in collaboration with France) but relay MILSET Europe information over schools in Moscow and organise the participation to our different activities. They sent the MSCY to MILSET activities.

I took part to different event:

- The Vernadsky fair, I made a speech at the closing ceremony and exchange with the organisers, the teachers and the participants. I was also interviewed for the institute magazine and almanac.
- The “We and Biosphere” competition; I had the pleasure to visit the different group (8) with Alexander, Vice-Director, D.Monahov, Director, N. Drozdov the most famous Russian biologist and made some speeches. The increasing participation to this event is a good indicator of the good health of the centre and the interest of youngsters in ecology and biology, especially to daily life topics
- Open fair on technical creativity: the centre is having many Russian, European and world champions in modelling. It's interesting to face an activity which nearly disappear from most of the countries (partly replaced by robotics)

And visit both the Moscow State Centre for Youth and The House of Science and Technological Creativity of Youth