

KEY THEMES

- Dates changed for 4th Eastern Economic Forum
- Japanese Prime Minister Abe to attend SPIEF 2018 and EEF 2018
- Far East attracts RUB 3.7 trillion in private investment over 4.5 years



EASTERN ECONOMIC FORUM NEWS

6 March 2018, RIA Novosti

Galushka: EEF will become increasingly important for the Far East

The Eastern Economic Forum has confirmed the international community's high level of interest in the Far East, the Minister for the Development of the Russian Far East said at the final meeting of the Ministry's collegium on 6 March. He said Russia's foreign partners have started talking about transforming the Far East, both at the state level and among the business community.

<https://ria.ru/economy/20180306/1515819602.html>

5 March 2018, TASS

Dates changed for 4th Eastern Economic Forum

The EEF 2018 will take place on 11–13 September in Vladivostok. The event had previously been scheduled for 6–7 September 2018. Adviser to the President of the Russian Federation Anton Kobyakov said the Forum dates were changed due to the schedule of multilateral international events involving senior public officials.

Organizers continue to work on preparing the EEF 2018 business programme. As in the previous years, the focus will be on industry and investment, but in 2018 the programme will reportedly devote more attention to the development of human capital.

<http://tass.ru/ekonomika/5007804>

21 February 2018, Komsomolskaya Pravda

Japanese Prime Minister Abe to attend SPIEF 2018 and EEF 2018

Adviser to the Russian President Anton Kobayakov and Japanese Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Russia Toyohisa Kozuki held a meeting in Moscow at which they exchanged views on prospects for economic cooperation between Russia and Japan, above all in the context of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's participation in the SPIEF 2018 and the EEF 2018.

Kozuki noted that a representative Japanese delegation is expected to attend the forums. Among others, it will include the Japanese Association for Trade with Russia and Newly Independent States (ROTOBO) and the Japan External Trade Development Organization (JETRO).

<https://www.kp.ru/daily/26797/3832791>

9 February 2018, OTV-Prim

Chinese government to encourage businessmen to take part in EEF in Vladivostok

During the opening ceremony of the Years of Russian-Chinese Interregional Cooperation, the Chinese government urged Chinese businessmen to take part in the EEF 2018. The ceremony was held in Harbin and was attended by Yury Trutnev and Vice Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Wang Yang, who also invited Russian enterprises to the first China International Import Expo, which will be held this year in Shanghai.

otvprim.ru/economics/primorskij-kraj_09.02.2018

STATE POLICY IN THE FAR EAST

22 February 2018, Interfax

E-visas may be available for another 5 Far East regions in 2018

In addition to Knevichi Airport in Vladivostok, the e-visa mechanism may be extended to such airports as Yelizovo (Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky), Ignatyev (Blagoveshchensk), Novy (Khabarovsk), Khomutovo (Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk), and Ugolny (Anadyr) in 2018, bringing the number of Far Eastern regions that allow foreigners to enter using e-visas to six.

The federal law allowing foreigners to enter Russian territory under the simplified visa regime took effect on 1 August 2017.

As of 5 February, almost 8,000 e-visas had been issued to citizens of 18 countries in the Far East, including 2,000 this year. Over 5,100 people from 14 countries entered the Primorsky Region via e-visas. E-visas were most frequently used by citizens from China (3,300 people) and Japan (1,600 people).

<http://tourism.interfax.ru/ru/news/articles/47358/>

8 February 2018, RIA Novosti

New ASEZ could open on Russian-Chinese border with investment of USD 1.5 bn

Russia and China are discussing the establishment of a new cross-border advanced special economic zone (ASEZ) near the border checkpoints of Pogranichy (Primorye) and Suifenhe (China) with total investment of USD 1.5 billion.

The ASEZ is expected to unite a territory of 413 hectares (233 hectares from the Russian side and 180 hectares from the Chinese side) and ensure the free movement of people, goods, and services. Russian and Chinese residents of the ASEZ will be able to supply their products to the markets of both countries without restrictions.

<https://ria.ru/east/20180208/1514192322.html>

FAR EAST ECONOMY

6 March 2018, Vesti.Economics

Far East attracts RUB 3.7 trillion in private investments in 4.5 years

As a result of a new economic policy, 1,200 new investment projects have been announced and 120,000 jobs have been created, Minister for the Development of the Russian Far East Alexander Galushka said at the final meeting of the Ministry's collegium on the results of 2017.

Galushka said that thanks to the new mechanisms – special economic zones, the Free Port of Vladivostok, and infrastructure support – some of the largest construction projects in the country have been launched in the Far East, including the Amur Gas Processing Plant, the East Petrochemical Complex, the Zvezda shipbuilding complex, major livestock complexes, and cross-border bridge crossings in the Amur Region and the Jewish Autonomous District.

<https://www.vestifinance.ru/articles/98570>

27 February 2018, TASS

New layout of Vladivostok to help implement 37 projects for almost RUB 23 bn

Changes to the city's master layout will help to ensure the implementation of 37 investment projects of residents of the Free Port of Vladivostok for the construction of logistics infrastructure, new residential buildings, sports and tourism infrastructure, construction material facilities, and aquaculture. Total declared investment under these projects amounts to RUB 22.8 billion, and 1,077 jobs are expected to be created.

<http://tass.ru/v-strane/4990025>

15 February 2018, RBC

Novatek to spend up to USD 1.5 bn on building LNG terminal in Kamchatka

The construction site of the LNG terminal in Kamchatka will be determined in the coming months. Among the options being considered are Bechevinskaya Bay and Avacha Bay. When building the transshipment complex, designers will take into account the region's seismicity in order to protect the project against earthquakes.

Novatek plans to build the terminal in Kamchatka before 2023. The company will build unique tankers for Russia that are designed for 360,000 cubic metres of fuel.

<https://www.rbc.ru/rbcfreenews/5a8562509a794723e13978b7>

4 February 2018, TASS

Japan to present Russia plan for modernization of Vladivostok infrastructure

The Japanese government intends to offer Russia a plan to modernize Vladivostok's urban infrastructure using Japanese technologies, including improvements to traffic and the construction of tourism facilities and areas around railway stations. This plan was prepared on the eve of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to Russia in May and will soon be handed over to Russia.

<http://tass.ru/ekonomika/4928241>

NEW MECHANISMS FOR FAR EAST DEVELOPMENT: SUCCESS STORIES

1 February 2018, TASS

Almost 110,000 Russian submit applications for 'Far Eastern hectare'

More than 109,400 Russians have submitted applications for a 'Far Eastern hectare', and more than 35,000 people have already received plots under this programme; applications are mainly being filed by residents of the Far East, while the leaders in terms of the amount of land provided are currently the Primorsky Region and the Khabarovsk Territory. The 'Far Eastern hectare' programme grants each Russian citizen the right to receive a land plot of up to 1 hectare in the Far East free of charge.

<http://tass.ru/obschestvo/4920468>