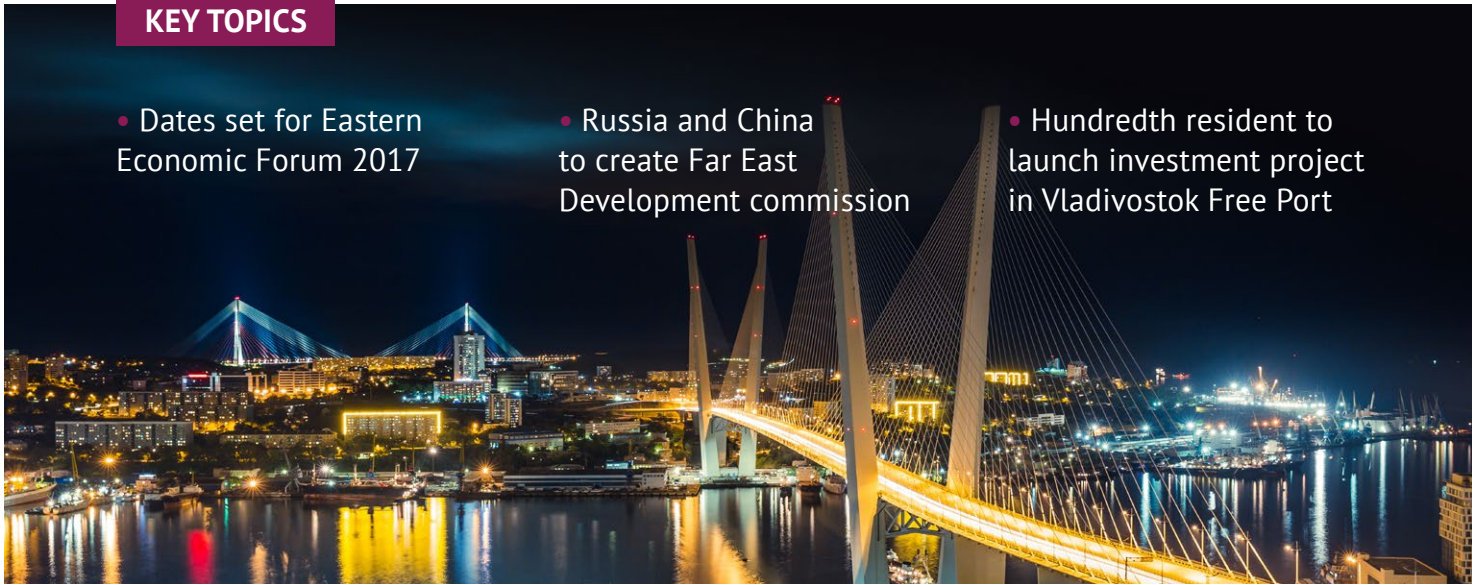


KEY TOPICS

- Dates set for Eastern Economic Forum 2017
- Russia and China to create Far East Development commission
- Hundredth resident to launch investment project in Vladivostok Free Port



EASTERN ECONOMIC FORUM NEWS DIGEST

November 25, 2016, Interfax

Dates set for Eastern Economic Forum 2017

At the first meeting of the Eastern Economic Forum Organizing Committee, the Chair of the Committee Yury Trutnev issued a number of instructions on preparing Vladivostok's infrastructure and hotels, as well as the campus of the Far Eastern Federal University in advance of the Forum. Separate instructions were issued for the preparation of the EEF business programme.

In accordance with the schedule set by the President of the Russian Federation, the third Eastern Economic Forum will be held on September 6–7, 2017.

According to Advisor to the President of the Russian Federation and Executive Secretary of the Eastern Economic Forum Organizing Committee Anton Kobayakov, "The Forum has now established itself as one of the most important global political events. In just two years, the EEF has grown to become a major platform for international communication, focused on the priority development of the Russian Far East and its integration into the economy of the Asia-Pacific region. <http://www.interfax-russia.ru/FarEast/news.asp?id=786157&sec=1671>

STATE POLICY IN THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST

November 20, 2016, minvostokrazvitia.ru

Vladimir Putin discusses economic cooperation with Chinese and Japanese leaders at APEC summit

Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping discussed Russian–Chinese cooperation during high-level negotiations between the two countries. In particular, the President of Russia noted the positive trend in trade and economic relations.

To date, Chinese investors have announced more than 20 investment projects to be implemented in the Advanced Special Economic Zones and the Vladivostok Free Port, with an investment volume of around USD 3 billion. Joint work on the project to develop the Primorye-1 and Primorye-2 international transport corridors is ongoing.

During his meetings with Vladimir Putin, the Prime Minister of Japan Shinzō Abe commented on the renewed vigour in their bilateral relations and underscored the importance of the recent second Eastern Economic Forum.

Both sides discussed the continuation of active efforts to implement a plan for Russian–Japanese cooperation in developing the Far East, which includes 18 major projects and initiatives in the fields of energy, infrastructure, agriculture, medicine, and urban development, with an investment volume of around RUB 16 billion. <https://forumvostok.ru/na-sammite-ates-vladimir-putin-obsudil-voprosy-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-s-liderami-kitaya-i-yaponii/>

November 24, 2016, REGNUM

Federal target programmes to include sections on Russian Far East

Dmitry Medvedev has announced that special sections devoted to the advanced development of the Russian Far East will be created within government and federal target programmes in 2017. These will include special measures designed to meet the specific and complex needs of the region, and to ensure that target indicators are met. “Work on creating these sections as part of each key government programme must be completed by March 31, 2017,” the Russian Prime Minister said. <https://regnum.ru/news/economy/2209166.html>

November 25, 2016, minvostokrazvitia.ru

Russia and Singapore to expand their investment cooperation in Far East

The seventh session of the High-Level Russia-Singapore Intergovernmental Commission took place in Singapore. The session concluded with an agreement for the Far East Investment and Export Agency and Singapore Cooperation Enterprise to jointly present projects taking place in the Far East to Singaporean investors. On the sidelines of the event, Changi Airports International, Basic Element, and the Russian Direct Investment Fund signed an acquisition agreement for the Singapore company to purchase Vladivostok International Airport. http://minvr.ru/press-center/news_minvostok/?ELEMENT_ID=4849

November 7, 2016, Rossiyskaya Gazeta

Russia and China to create Far East development commission

Dmitry Medvedev and the Premier of the State Council of China Li Keqiang endorsed the creation of a new intergovernmental commission which will focus on cooperation between the Russian Far East and Northeast China.

The parties discussed practical cooperation in areas such as trade, the economy, mutual investments, education, and collaboration on cultural and humanitarian issues. <https://rg.ru/2016/11/07/reg-szfo/rossiia-i-kitaj-sozdadut-komissiiu-po-razvitiu-dalnego-vostoka.html>

THE ECONOMY OF THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST

November 8, 2016, Tikhookeanskaya Rossiya

Australian company begins development of Chukotka coalfield

Tigers Realm Coal Limited has started its development of the Fandyushkinskoye Polye coalfield. Under the agreement for the work, Chukotka authorities expect the company to produce up to 10–12 million tonnes of coal per annum. The coal is expected to be supplied to countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including China and South Korea, as well as for use in Chukotka itself. Approximately 200,000 tonnes of coal is to be mined in 2017, and 500,000 tonnes per year beginning 2018. <http://to-ros.info/?p=42659>

November 11, 2016, TASS

Japan set to increase tourism to Primorsky Territory

Representatives of the Japanese tourism sector were greatly impressed by the potential of Primorsky Territory as a tourist destination during a recent visit, and now plan to increase tourism to the region.

At a meeting with Russian tourist agencies the countries agreed to exchange information. The Japanese side believes that regular informational support on all the tourist resources and opportunities available will boost travellers' interest in the Russian Far East. "Facilities such as the Primorye Integrated Entertainment Zone and the Primorsky stage of the Mariinsky Theatre are springing up all the time. In attracting Asian tourists, we're planning to further develop the existing range of tourist options," said Mitsuro Okino, from travel agency Oote. <http://tass.ru/turizm-v-rossii/3775528>

NEW DEVELOPMENT TOOLS FOR THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST: SUCCESS STORIES

November 15, 2016, Vesti

Over 10,000 Far Eastern Hectare applications submitted

Recipients of land in the Far East will have access to government support. The Agency for the Development of Human Capital in the Far East will open a specialized centre to provide this support. In particular, citizens will be given assistance in cooperating on the production and sale of products, with plans to create centres for sharing equipment and tools.

Almost 3,500 applications were received from the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia); Primorsky Territory was second with over 2,300 applications; and Sakhalin Region was third with more than 2,000. Residential construction is the type of land use in highest demand. Agriculture is second in popularity.

“At present, only residents of the Far East can submit applications. Beginning 1 February 2017, any Russian citizen can apply to obtain a free hectare of land in the Russian Far East, and the number of applications will obviously increase,” Galushka said. <http://www.vestifinance.ru/articles/77623>

November 28, 2016, minvostokrazvitia.ru

Hundredth resident to launch investment project in Vladivostok Free Port

The Eurasian Diamond Centre has signed an agreement to enter the Free Port Vladivostok. The company intends to create an infrastructure cluster with a total private investment of RUB 32 million and plans to create 16 new jobs. The Eurasian Diamond Centre is a platform bringing together companies working in the diamond industry with a focus on export and import cooperation with countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Vladivostok Free Port now has 100 residents with a total investment of RUB 128 billion and the potential to create 20,175 jobs. http://minvr.ru/press-center/news_minvostok/?ELEMENT_ID=4852

November 16, 2016, RIA Novosti

Implementation of first investment projects as part of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky Free Port gets underway on Kamchatka

The first potential residents intend to build a modern hotel and develop a native-style village in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. The current declared investment for the project stands at around RUB 900 million.

The government of Kamchatka Territory is currently considering another 16 proposals from potential Free Port residents with a minimum total investment of RUB 20 billion. The Vladivostok Free Port policy was expanded to cover Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky in June 2016 <https://ria.ru/economy/20161116/1481458962.html>