

KEY THEMES

- Ministry for the Development of Russian Far East taking proposals for third EEF business programme
- RUB 6 bln to be spent on concessional lending for 'Far East hectare' recipients
- Two new priority development areas to be established in Far East



EASTERN ECONOMIC FORUM NEWS

21 February 2017, Izvestiya

Yury Trutnev: “We are making sure that each subsequent EEF is more interesting and informative than the previous one”

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yury Trutnev noted that the first Forum opened Far East the investment space. At the second Forum, the first investment projects to be implemented were presented and new advanced special development areas (ASEZ) were announced.

“At the third Forum, we want to hear from the project leaders themselves. By the end of the year, we will have built more than 70 new enterprises. I think that their representatives will talk about whether working in an ASEZ helped them or not and whether we built them a gas pipeline, road, or power line on time since there is nothing more illustrative than successfully implemented projects. None of our promises are a substitute for that. We will also yield the floor to recipients of the ‘Far East hectares’”, Trutnev said. <http://izvestia.ru/news/666236>

20 February 2017, RIA Novosti

Iran interested in participating in EEF

Russian Presidential Advisor Anton Kobayakov and Iranian Ambassador to Russia Mehdi Sanai held a meeting at which they discussed issues concerning Iran’s participation in international events that will take place in Russia in 2017. The parties agreed during the meeting to organize a roundtable as part of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum business programme on the development of the Russian-Iranian business dialogue, which will be attended by representatives of official and business circles as well as the expert community. Mehdi Sanai also expressed interest in taking part in EEF 2017 events. <https://ria.ru/economy/20170220/1488353498.html>

3 February 2017, Ministry for the Development of Russia's Far East

Ministry for the Development of Russia's Far East taking proposals for third EEF business programme

The Eastern Economic Forum website is accepting proposals for the thematic content of the business programme and also on organizing and holding events at the EEF 2017, which will take place in Vladivostok on 6–7 September 2017. Representatives of Russian and foreign business circle, the regional business community, industry associations and public organizations are all invited to take part in determining the Forum's main focuses.

“The Forum is a working tool for the development of the entire macro-region. Thus, it is important that we take into account all proposals from business, the public and experts. We are open to and anticipating new proposals”, Minister for the Development of Russian Far East Alexander Galushka said. http://minvr.ru/press-center/news_minvostok/?ELEMENT_ID=4999

GOVERNMENT POLICY IN THE FAR EAST

17 February 2017, Lenta.ru

'Far East hectare' recipients promised concessional loans

The Far East Development Fund will spend RUB 6 billion on these purposes. The loans will not be given directly to recipients and will only be allocated for developing the hectares received by citizens.

The land recipients will be able to take out a concessional loan at 8–10% p.a., which will enable them to acquire goods needed to develop land (framing for dachas, farming equipment, a greenhouse, etc.). The lending system for land recipients is expected to start operating in pilot mode in spring 2017. <https://lenta.ru/news/2017/02/17/foreast>

13 February 2017, EastRussia

Leonid Petukhov appointed head of Far East Investment and Export Agency

The Far East Investment and Export Agency was established in 2015 to support exports, attract new residents to priority development areas and the Free Port of Vladivostok and make direct investments in projects in the Far East. The Agency's mission is to help all investors implement their projects in as short a period as possible.

Prior to his appointment, Petukhov held senior positions at different Russian and foreign companies. He has experience in management consulting as well as attracting direct investment, particularly in the mining, metals and agricultural sectors. <http://www.eastrussia.ru/news/novym-generalnym-direktorom-agentstva-dalnego-vostoka-po-privlecheniyu-investitsiy-i-podderzhke-eksp>

7 February 2017, RIA Novosti

Japan create council for joint activities with Russia in Kurils

The new structure is led by Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hiroshige Seko, who is responsible for developing economic cooperation with Russia. The interdepartmental council includes representatives of the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and other Japanese agencies. The council considered issues related to the development of cooperation with Russia in fishing, seafood production and tourism in South Kuril Islands at its first meeting. <https://ria.ru/world/20170207/1487313993.html>

FAR EAST ECONOMY

27 February 2017, Vedomosti

Rusagro prepared to invest USD 1 bln in dairy production in Far East

The company plans to invest in the construction of dairy production facilities in Primorye. Chairman of the Rusagro Board of Directors Vadim Moshkovich said the dairy products have great prospects for import to Asia-Pacific countries such as China, South Korea and Japan. “In neighbouring China alone, there is a milk shortage of at least 20 million tonnes per year. We see that Primorye has endless potential in terms of dairy production”, he said. <http://www.vedomosti.ru/business/news/2017/02/27/679112-rusagro-moloka>

20 February 2017, RIA Novosti

Two more priority development areas to be established in Far East

The decision to establish the two ASEZs was adopted by the government’s sub-commission for investment project implementation issues in the Far East and the Baikal Region chaired by Russian Deputy Prime Minister and Presidential Plenipotentiary Envoy of the Russian President to the Far East District Yury Trutnev.

Rosneft will build the Eastern Petrochemical Plant in the Neftekhimichesky ASEZ (Primorsky Territory). Two major enterprises will be set up in the Svobodnenskaya ASEZ (Amur Region). Gazprom has announced it will build the Amur Gas Processing Plant, while Sibur-Holding intends to build the Amur Petrochemical Plant. Total investment in these projects will amount to RUB 1.7 billion, which will help to create more than 7,500 new jobs. <https://ria.ru/economy/20170220/1488387008.html>

NEW FAR EAST DEVELOPMENT MECHANISMS: SUCCESS STORIES

9 February 2017, Interfax

Far East launches 500 investment projects valued at almost RUB 1.4 trln

Private investment makes up the lion’s share of investment at RUB 1.285 trillion. “This figure includes new plants, few factories, new infrastructure as well as production and processing facilities with implementation periods until 2025. The new investments diversify the structure of the macro-region. Seventy-three percent of the new enterprises are not connected with natural resource production. They include manufacturing production facilities, logistics, agriculture and tourism”, Galushka said.

In 2016, 25 new enterprises launched operations as part of the new Far East development tools. There will be more than 50 such enterprises in 2017 and more than 280 over the next three years, which will create 34,000 new jobs. <http://www.interfax-russia.ru/FarEast/main.asp?id=806569>