

In November 2018, the third meeting of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation was held in Beijing, where the parties agreed: firstly, to expand mutual trade; secondly, to increase mutual investments; thirdly, to strengthen interregional ties; fourthly, they signed an action plan for the Year of Belarus' Education in China in 2019; fifthly, to intensively develop partnerships in the field of science, where the need to deepen further scientific cooperation and implement new forms of cooperation is evident. The parties have the necessary prerequisites for the successful implementation of the tasks set out in each of these vectors of development, which makes them the object of close attention of representatives of the international segment of Belarusian and Chinese journalism, whose professional duty is to adequately cover the implementation of the entire set of plans aimed at achieving the level of comprehensive strategic partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation in Belarusian-Chinese relations. How are these creative tasks being solved in practice? The book has been translated using artificial intelligence.



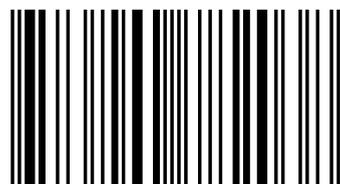
Boris Zalessky

## Belarus - China: a vector of trust

Chronicle of strategic partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation



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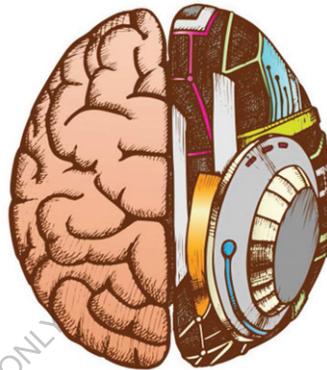
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## Towards shared innovation

The High-Level Forum on International Cooperation under the One Belt and One Way Initiative, held in May 2017 in Beijing, focused world attention on the fact that the mega-project of the reviving New Silk Road is not just a trade route, but a channel for the movement of ideas and joint creation of innovations based on their own national technological developments, which should be based on algorithms to match the scientific potential of the countries participating in this global initiative. In the Republic of Belarus, one of the most important directions of movement along this path is seen as "forming centers of research and scientific exchange at the interstate level and with state support".<sup>1</sup> and are already taking concrete steps to address this issue, in particular in cooperation with the People's Republic of China.

It should be reminded that Belarus and China have been developing scientific and innovative contacts since the early 1990s. Since 2016, the formation of joint research and scientific-practical centers and the joint development of sectoral science are considered in the Republic of Belarus already among the key areas of trusting comprehensive strategic partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation with the People's Republic of China. In this segment of Belarusian-Chinese interaction three main vectors are distinguished. The first is in the field of scientific research, where the parties are involved in major joint projects. The second is in the sphere of innovation activity, where a network of joint innovation centers and scientific laboratories is being formed and developed. The third is in the field of education, where joint training and mutual internships are conducted for specialists, teachers and students. Such facts testify to the progressive development of bilateral relations in these directions.

Currently, 28 Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical projects are being implemented, including those in microelectronics, optical and laser technologies, biotechnology, new materials. Their list was approved at the first meeting of the Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation of the Belarusian-Chinese

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<sup>1</sup> Participation in the round table of Heads of State at the "One belt and one path" forum [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: [http://president.gov.by/ru/news\\_ru/view/uchastie-v-kruglom-stole-glav-gosudarstv-na-forume-odin-pojas-i-odin-put-16194/](http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/uchastie-v-kruglom-stole-glav-gosudarstv-na-forume-odin-pojas-i-odin-put-16194/)

Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation, which was held in June 2016 in Minsk and Brest. In other words, the number of joint projects has increased at once by 40 per cent. "Another very important innovation is that for the first time the Ministry of Science and Technology of China is working on the issue of direct targeted funding for these projects. It's never happened before, the financing went to different lines"<sup>2</sup>.

By May 2017, the parties had held 11 meetings of the Commission on Cooperation in Science and Technology of the Intergovernmental Committee, which considered many topical issues, including the joint financing of innovative projects. A landmark event in this regard was the Belarusian-Chinese forum on commercialization of scientific and technological results, held in August 2016 in Minsk, which brought together about 150 representatives of scientific and business spheres and presented about two hundred innovation projects. As a result of the Forum, a list of 43 promising scientific, technical and innovation projects was compiled, which aroused the greatest interest among potential investors. In addition, the forum included the signing of documents on cooperation between Belarus and China in the field of industrial, financial and research cooperation and on cooperation between the Belarusian Innovation Fund and Chinese venture capital companies to develop the private equity and venture capital markets. At the same time, an agreement was signed to establish a centre for the development of innovative technologies in the field of industrialization of scientific and technological achievements.

In September 2016, the State Committee on Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China signed a memorandum on cooperation in co-financing Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical projects, which will allow the Chinese side to directly finance joint projects. And at the same time it was said that "a list of 25 joint Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical projects has been prepared and approved

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<sup>2</sup> Mihovich, S. Belarus and China plan to realize in 2016-2017 about 30 joint scientific-technical projects / S. Mihovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-planirujut-realizovat-v-2016-2017-godah-okolo-30-sovmestnyh-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-206324-2016/>

for 2016-2017<sup>3</sup>. And at the end of December 2016 the Chinese-Belarusian Centre for Commercialization of Innovations opened in Minsk, which is designed to "accompany scientific-technical and innovation projects, to search for investors in order to create joint ventures in the industrial park "Great Stone"<sup>4</sup>. A number of other facts also testify to the fact that scientific and technical interaction between Belarus and China is reaching a qualitatively new level today.

Thus, in mid-May 2017, the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus, the Chinese investment company "China Merchants Capital" and NWAO "Industrial Park Development Company" signed an agreement on key terms of the agreement on the establishment of the Chinese-Belarusian venture fund "Great Stone," which will amount to at least \$20 million. The founders of the new structure - the Belarusian Innovation Fund, the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Investment Fund and the Industrial Park Development Company - propose to channel these investments into high-tech industries - "high-tech, innovative products, innovations in traditional sectors of the economy"<sup>5</sup>. The Fund plans to finance the initial stages of projects in the industrial park: "These may be unmanned aerial vehicles (NAS projects), projects in the food industry (BSU, for example, developed edible film packaging)<sup>6</sup>. And the parties have already started looking for venture capital projects "to finance them with the help of the Belarusian-Chinese Foundation this year.<sup>7</sup> as the founding documents will be prepared in the coming summer months and the fund itself should be established by 1 September 2017.

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<sup>3</sup> The best joint projects of young scientists from Belarus and China will receive financial support [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/luchshie-sovmestnye-proekty-molodyh-uchenyh-belarusi-i-kitaja-poluchat-finansovuju-podderzhku-221347-2016/>

<sup>4</sup> Karuna, O. Chinese-Belarusian Centre for Commercialization of Innovation opened in Minsk / O. Karuna // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/kitajsko-belorusskij-tsentr-kommertsializatsii-innovatsij-otkryt-v-minske-225839-2016/>

<sup>5</sup> Belarus and China have agreed on the key terms of the joint venture fund [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitaj-dogovorilis-o-kljuchevyh-uslovijah-dejatelnosti-sovmestnogo-venchurnogo-fonda-247427-2017/>

<sup>6</sup> Karuna, O. Belarus and China create a venture capital fund with an initial volume of \$20 million / O. Karuna // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-sozdajut-fond-venchurnyh-investitsij-s-pervonachalnym-objemom-20-mln-225848-2016/>

<sup>7</sup> Matievsky, M. Belarus and China expect to establish a joint venture fund by September 2017 / M. Matievsky // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitaj-rasschityvajut-uchredit-sovmestnyj-venchurnyj-fond-k-sentjabrju-2017-goda-247444-2017/>

Just a week later, in the twenties of May 2017, Minsk hosted the Belarusian-Chinese Scientific and Technical Forum, organized by the National Academy of Belarus, the People's Government of Harbin, the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus, the Harbin Science and Technology Directorate, the Republican Center for Technology Transfer, the Academy of Sciences of Heilongjiang Province. More than four hundred scientists and experts from two countries participated in the forum. They considered promising directions and mechanisms for the development of scientific and technical cooperation between Belarus and China in the framework of the "One belt and one path" concept, which were identified as priorities for the subsequent implementation of joint scientific and technical projects, including "issues of cooperation development in the field of new materials and technologies, energy-saving technologies, food industry, agriculture, construction technologies"<sup>8</sup>. This integrated approach makes the Belarusian-Chinese Science and Technology Forum a very important stage in the development of all scientific and innovation cooperation between Minsk and Beijing, ensuring the formation of new mutually beneficial programmes and projects in advanced fields of science and technology.

It is not by chance that representatives of the Chinese Heilongjiang Province and its administrative center Harbin are among the organizers of this scientific and technical forum. This is due to their serious desire to establish joint laboratories and scientific and technical centers with partners in Belarus. Moreover, the parties are already "planning to intensify scientific and technical cooperation in the field of medicine and pharmacy, industry, ecology, agriculture and to implement several innovation projects on the basis of the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park "Great Stone"<sup>9</sup>. Here it is pertinent to remind that in June, 2016 in Harbin the Sino-Belarusian center of agricultural microbiology has opened where at the first stage the project

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<sup>8</sup> More than 400 scientists and experts participate in the Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical forum [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/bolee-400-uchenyh-i-ekspertov-uchastvujut-v-belorussko-kitajskom-nauchno-tehnicheskome-forume-248649-2017/>

<sup>9</sup> Belarus and China discussed the prospects of establishing joint scientific and technical centers [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-obsudili-perspektivy-sozdanija-sovmestnyh-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-tsentrov-248589-2017/>

"Microbial technology of liquidation of oil pollution and emergency oil spills" is planned to be realized, and also "to create a pilot zone for clearing of oil pollution in China"<sup>10</sup>.

Another new entity of the Belarusian-Chinese innovation infrastructure is planned to be created on the basis of the Belarusian National Technical University and the Sino-Belarusian Industrial Park "Great Stone. The agreement on the establishment and organization of such a joint centre for the incubation of innovation projects was signed in mid-May 2017 by the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus and the Ministry of Science and Technology of China. The centre is expected to support entrepreneurs and participants of the youth start-up movement in scientific, technical and innovation activities. For this purpose "its structure will include a startup center, an expert council, a coorking center and a rapid prototyping laboratory"<sup>11</sup>.

Against this background, it is becoming increasingly important for the Belarusian-Chinese scientific and innovation cooperation to intensify cooperation between Belarus and regional science institutions in China, which is already characterized by a wide range of partnerships with great innovation potential. An eloquent illustration in this regard is the Chinese company Huawei, which "creates a scientific and technological center in Belarus with the Institute of Heat and Mass Transfer named after A.V. Luikov. Other institutes of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus are also developing mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields, in particular, unmanned aerial vehicles, nanotechnology and materials science<sup>12</sup>. In particular, such structural subdivisions of the National Academy of Belarus as the Institute of Physics and Technology, the Stepanov Institute of Physics, the Institute of Chemistry of New Materials, the Institute of Microbiology, the Central Botanical

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<sup>10</sup> The Sino-Belarusian center of agricultural microbiology was opened in Harbin [Electron resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/kitajsko-beloruskij-tsentr-selhozmirobiologii-otkrylsja-v-harbine-198355-2016/>

<sup>11</sup> Belarus and China have signed an agreement on the establishment of an innovation project incubation centre [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitaj-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sozdanii-tsentra-po-inkubirovaniju-innovatsionnyh-proektov-247121-2017/>

<sup>12</sup> Grishkevich, A. Belarus develops scientific cooperation with Chinese regional institutions / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-razvivaet-nauchnoe-sotrudnichestvo-s-kitajskimi-regionalnymi-uchrezhdenijami-234788-2017/>

Garden, which have developed a number of joint projects of mutual importance, make a significant contribution to the implementation of the main directions of scientific, technological and innovative interaction with Chinese scientists and researchers. In total, the National Academy of Belarus is implementing over \$4 million worth of projects in China. <...> Realistically achieve a minimum of 10 times that" .

Thus, NASB jointly with Ningbo University is implementing the project "Process of pressure processing and equipment complex of economical precision rolling of shafts with spiral surfaces", the results of which will be used to create in Belarus the production of new generation of anchors used in the mining industry and significantly improving the safety of underground operations. "The project assumes export of the given kind of production in 2017-2020 in volume over \$800 thousand"<sup>13</sup>. In addition, scientists from the Belarusian Academy of Sciences, together with the BSU and the Chinese ZTE Corporation, are working to establish a Belarusian-Chinese research laboratory for Internet technologies, which will promote innovative solutions for monitoring trade flows and implement joint projects and research in the field of REID technologies. In addition, China Electronics Technology Group<sup>14</sup> is interested in cooperation with organizations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus in a wide range of areas: energy, information technology, lidar and lidar technologies, production of new materials.

An important mechanism for exchanges in the commercialization of scientific developments has been the establishment of joint science and technology parks and centres. Agreements on mutual establishment of such centres with the governments of Chinese provinces Henan, Shandong, Jilin and Guangdong are already in force. In January 2014, an agreement was signed on the establishment of a joint laboratory on optoelectronic and laser technologies between the Institute of Physics of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Institute of Oceanic Instrumentation of the

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<sup>13</sup> Belarus and China are planning to implement about 30 joint scientific and technical projects [Electronic Resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-planirujut-realizovat-okolo-30-sovmestnyh-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-198938-2016/>

<sup>14</sup> Chinese companies are interested in developing scientific and technical cooperation with Belarus [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: [https://belarus-online.by/?news=8108\\_kitajskie-kompanii-zainteresovany-razvivat-nauchno-tehnicheskoe-sotrudnichestvo-s-belarusju-209431-2016](https://belarus-online.by/?news=8108_kitajskie-kompanii-zainteresovany-razvivat-nauchno-tehnicheskoe-sotrudnichestvo-s-belarusju-209431-2016)

Shandong Province Academy of Sciences. And in May 2016 the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Academy of Sciences of Shandong Province already signed the Agreement on comprehensive scientific and technical cooperation in order to start the transition to specific projects and developments, as well as "to create a special organization for the transfer of Belarusian technologies for enterprises and organizations in Shandong Province"<sup>15</sup>. At the same time, a joint Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical institute "Zhong Xin" was opened in Minsk. Its founders were the Scientific and Practical Center for Materials Science of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Electronic Company of Linya, located in Shandong Province.

It is quite possible that the cooperation of the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus with the state enterprise Zhongguancun Development Group, established in 2010 to support and develop the National Innovation Demonstration Park, which includes 29 subsidiaries and is financed by the People's Government of Beijing, will contribute to the overall picture of Belarusian-Chinese science and innovation cooperation. At least in discussing opportunities for joint projects, the parties identified "information and communications technology, aerospace, bio- and nanoindustry, medicine and pharmacy, and energy-efficient and industrial technologies" as priorities<sup>16</sup>.

The higher educational institutions of the two countries, which have already signed over a hundred agreements and are creating joint laboratories and research structures in such areas as optical, electronic, magnetic, plasma technologies, identification systems, and road surfaces, are not left out of the processes of expanding Belarusian-Chinese interaction. "Recent agreements with the Ministry of Science of China provide for \$10 million to fund joint research projects in promising areas"<sup>17</sup>. To

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<sup>15</sup> Karuna, O. Chinese province Shandong is interested in transfer of the Belarusian technologies / O. Karuna // [Electron resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/kitajskaja-provintsija-shandun-zainteressovana-v-transfere-belorusskih-tehnologij-194533-2016/>

<sup>16</sup> Belarus offered China's Zhongguancun partnership in venture capital investment and high technology [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predlozila-kitajskoj-zhongguancun-partnerstvo-v-sfere-venchurnyh-investitsij-i-vysokih-211548-2016/>

<sup>17</sup> Interview with V. Makei, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, BelTA news agency (January 13, 2017, Minsk) [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/ace33f437fd634f6.html>

be more precise, there are <sup>18</sup>"more than 120 direct cooperation agreements" between higher educational institutions and centers of Belarus and China.

The Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics, which participates in such major joint projects and programmes as the development and manufacture of microwave devices and devices, software and hardware to solve the problems of electromagnetic compatibility and interference immunity of radioelectronic devices, the creation and transfer of new technologies in the field of microelectronics and hydroacoustics, has shown effective results in joint scientific and technical developments. Suffice it to say that in 2014, eight contracts for almost \$1.5 million were fulfilled in this Belarusian university on orders of Chinese corporations and organizations. And in 2015-2016 three more contracts with a total amount of funding of 3.8 million dollars were concluded.

Another interesting example is the Belarusian-Chinese Centre for Scientific and Technological Research established by the Science and Technology Park of the Belarusian National Technical University "Polytechnic" and the Chinese company "Henan Gaoyuan". One of the goals of its creation was to conduct joint research and master new technologies in the field of design, construction and operation of highways. The centre has already developed a diagnostic system for asphalt and concrete pavements in Henan Province, which has been evaluated by the Chinese side as "internationally advanced". They also actively cooperate with such provinces of China as Jilin, Shandong, Heilongjiang and Guangdong. "Every year, with the assistance of the center, Belarusian organizations conclude contracts for various educational and scientific services worth about \$1.5 million<sup>19</sup>. In addition, BNTU and Northeastern Shenyang University are considering the possibility of opening a Belarusian-Chinese centre of advanced applied engineering and technical scientific research, on the basis

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<sup>18</sup> Belarusian and Chinese universities are developing cooperation under more than 120 agreements [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belarus.by/ru/press-center/press-release/beloruskie-i-kitajskie-vuzy-razvivajut-sotrudnichestvo-po-bolee-chem-120-dogovoram-i-0000022732.html>

<sup>19</sup> Bogush, V. Belarusian-Chinese interaction in the field of education and science makes a real contribution to strengthening of friendship between the peoples (in Russian) / V. Bogush // [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/opinions/view/belorusko-kitajskoe-vzaimodejstvie-v-oblasti-obrazovanija-i-nauki-vnosit-realnyj-vklad-v-ukreplenie-druzhyby-4501/>

of which joint research projects will be implemented, development and promotion of commercialization of modern high-tech technologies and innovative products.

The example of F. Skorina State University of Gomel, which in February 2017 reached an agreement on cooperation with the University of Sichuan, founded in 1896, located in Chengdu city and having 28 institutes, 41 laboratories, 9 research bases, 16 scientific institutions, is also very telling. In total, the University of Gomel has already signed more than 20 cooperation agreements with Chinese universities and research centers, under which the most productive relations are formed with Nanjing University of Science and Technology, Shanghai Professional Institute of Industry, Commerce and Foreign Languages, as well as with Jiangsu University of Education. In particular, at the F. Skorina State University of Gomel, cooperation with Chinese partners focused on joint work in the field of vacuum-plasma technologies and manufacturing of special equipment. For this purpose, back in 2013, Gomel and Nanjing University of Science and Technology established joint laboratories, where they are now engaged in the development of "scientific bases of plasma chemical synthesis and study of the structure and properties of nanocomposite coatings based on polymers with antibacterial activity"<sup>20</sup>. The following figures also tell a lot: "Since 1992, 335 citizens of China have been studying at the State University named after F. Skorina. They graduated from the University and received a bachelor's degree of 140 people, a scientific degree of Master of Science - 168, a diploma of specialist - 26"<sup>21</sup>. And in the near future the first regional Confucius Institute in Belarus will open here. The priorities of this international cultural and educational centre will be Chinese language teaching and training, academic exchange, and dissemination of Chinese culture and traditions.

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<sup>20</sup> Sidorchik, V. Gomel State University named after Skorina cooperates with 25 universities and organizations of China (in Russian) / V. Sidorchik // [Electron resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomelskij-gosuniversitet-imeni-skoriny-sotrudnichestvo-s-25-vuzami-i-organizatsijami-kitaja-2080-2015/>

<sup>21</sup> Lysenko, Y. Gomel University. F. Skorina expands cooperation with Chinese universities (in Russian) / Yu. Lysenko // [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomelskij-universitet-im-fskoriny-rasshirjaet-sotrudnichestvo-s-vuzami-kitaja-234443-2017/>

The Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno, which signed a memorandum of understanding with Chongqing University on February 1, 2013, also intensifies ties with Chinese partners. In January 2017, the parties have already signed an agreement on joint training of IT specialists. This document significantly expands the spheres of cooperation between universities, as it aims at training specialists in demand for the socio-economic development of countries, exchange of teaching staff and development of research activities. In addition, the "agreement allows for recruitment into joint postgraduate studies"<sup>22</sup>. In August 2016 the cooperation agreement was also signed by the Belarusian State University and Guangxi University of Finance and Economics, which unites 17 educational institutions and subdivisions and offers 25 educational directions for obtaining Bachelor's degree. This document "provides for the exchange of lecturers, students, masters and postgraduates, teaching materials and scientific reports, as well as joint research and educational projects"<sup>23</sup>. Four agreements on inter-university contacts were signed in July 2016 between the Belarusian National Technical University and the University of Economics and Finance of Lanzhou, the Belarusian State Agrarian Technical University and the Agrarian University of Gansu Province, the Belarusian State Agricultural Academy and the Agrarian University of Gansu Province, the Belarusian State Economic University and the University of Economics and Finance of Lanzhou.

The dynamics of cooperation between Belarus and China in the field of education is complemented by such figures: 1851 Chinese students studied at Belarusian universities only in 2014/15 academic year. In terms of the total number of foreign nationals who came to Belarus to study, China was in second place after Turkmenistan, ahead of Russia, Nigeria and Iran in this indicator. It is curious that "citizens of China choose philological specialties in Belarus. They are also interested

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<sup>22</sup> Yanka Kupala State University and Chongqing University have agreed on joint training of specialists [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/grgu-imjanki-kupaly-i-chuntsinskij-universitet-dogovorilis-o-sovmestnoj-podgotovke-spetsialistov-230701-2017/>

<sup>23</sup> BSU and Guangxi University of Finance and Economics signed a cooperation agreement [Electronic Resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/bgu-i-universitet-finansov-i-ekonomiki-guansi-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-207125-2016/>

in international relations, international journalism, law and economic specialties"<sup>24</sup>. In Belarus itself, the Chinese language begins to be studied from the first grade as the basic one, while in 2015, entrants take centralized testing in this subject. And another thing: more than 600 Belarusian students were trained in China in 2014/15 academic year.

All these facts show that the promotion of science and innovation in Belarusian-Chinese interaction is becoming a real tool for the implementation of integration processes under the One Belt and One Way initiative. Moreover, at the second Forum of the Association of Science and Technology Parks, High Technology Zones and New Technologies "Silk Road", held in May 2017 in Minsk, it was emphasized that "scientific and technological cooperation between China and Belarus is continuously developing"<sup>25</sup> and is becoming an increasingly significant example of improving innovation infrastructure and expanding scientific and innovation cooperation in the countries along the New Silk Road route. By the way, it should be noted that the Association of Science and Technology Parks, High Technology Zones and New Technologies "Silk Road" itself was established quite recently - in July 2016 - with the support of the Ministry of Science and Technology of China. It includes S&T organizations, research institutes, related services agencies and research institutions from different countries. So the very fact of holding the second forum of the Young Association in Minsk and the fact that it brought together representatives of more than ten states once again underscores the positive influence of the Republic of Belarus on the development of the scientific and innovation component of the Chinese initiative "One Belt and One Way" not only in bilateral but also in multilateral formats.

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<sup>24</sup> Every year about 2 thousand citizens of China study in Belarusian universities [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/ezhegodno-v-belorusskih-vuzah-obuchaetsja-okolo-2-tys-grazhdan-kitaja-173360-2015/>

<sup>25</sup> The scientific and technical cooperation between China and Belarus is continuously developing - Luo Zhanghai [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - Access mode: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/nauchno-tehnicheskoe-sotrudnichestvo-kitaja-i-belarusi-nepreryvno-razvivaetsja-lo-chzhanhoj-248817-2017/>. - Access date: 23.05.2017.

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## New formats for regional interaction

In May 2015, President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China paid a state visit to Belarus, in the framework of which the parties concluded that "at the present stage, direct interaction between regions and enterprises should become a leading force in human and business cooperation between our countries<sup>26</sup>. At the same time, it was noted that the Belarusian-Chinese regional cooperation needs to implement mutually beneficial investment projects in a variety of areas. Already at the end of August 2015, the Directive on the development of bilateral relations between Belarus and China signed by the Head of the Belarusian State included direct and systematic interregional cooperation among the main areas of cooperation, as well as requirements - "to form and approve a program of interregional exhibition and fair events, Days of provinces and regions, cities for the period until 2020 with its annual updating and specification. <...> Every year until 2020 each region and Minsk should ensure that at least \$100 million of direct Chinese investments are attracted within the framework of interregional cooperation".

It should be reminded that the first systemic steps to organize interregional cooperation between Belarus and China were made back in 2002, when "the Action Plan for the Activation of Belarusian-Chinese Trade and Economic Cooperation through the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Chinese Committee for the Promotion of International Trade for 2003-2004" was developed<sup>27</sup>. In November 2005, the 7th session of the Belarusian-Chinese Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation and the signed intergovernmental agreement on the principles of cooperation between the executive and administrative bodies of the Republic of Belarus and local governments of the People's Republic of China gave new strategic impulses to the interaction of the regions of the two countries. But perhaps a cardinal breakthrough in the development of interregional cooperation as an effective

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<sup>26</sup> State visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Belarus [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: [http://president.gov.by/ru/news\\_ru/view/gosudarstvennyj-vizit-predsedatelja-knr-si-tszinpinga-v-belarus-11366/](http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/gosudarstvennyj-vizit-predsedatelja-knr-si-tszinpinga-v-belarus-11366/)

<sup>27</sup> Zalesky, B. International Relations and Media. View from Belarus / B. Zalesky. - Palmarium Academic Publishing : Saarbrücken, Deutschland / Germany, 2014. - - C. 399-400.

mechanism to increase Belarusian exports, attract Chinese investments, establish joint ventures and industries took place in 2014-2015, when "cooperation of 29 regions, cities and districts of Belarus with 45 provinces and cities of China was established"<sup>28</sup>.

The fact that today almost all Belarusian regions and Minsk have twinning agreements with two or three Chinese provinces and big cities shows that both sides adhere to the view that interregional contacts can raise the economic level of Belarusian-Chinese cooperation to the highest political level. The evidence of such political level is the joint declaration of Belarus and China on the establishment of relations of trust all-round strategic partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation signed by the leaders of the two states in September 2016. That is why Minsk and Beijing intend to further exploit the potential of regional ties, as "in order to further increase the volume of bilateral trade, it is crucial that contacts not only between the presidents and governments, but also between regions are strengthened"<sup>29</sup>. At the same time, the attitude of the Belarusian side today is as follows: "In the near future, inter-regional cooperation will cover most provinces and major cities of China"<sup>30</sup>.

In order to coordinate the parties' activities in this direction as fully and effectively as possible, in September 2014 the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China established a working group on interregional trade and economic cooperation, the first meeting of which was held in August 2015 in Beijing with the participation of representatives of the governments of such Chinese provinces as Heilongjiang, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Sichuan, Gansu, Guangdong, Hubei and Beijing cities. In the final documents, the parties recorded "priority specific measures for the implementation of the agreements

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<sup>28</sup> Snopkov, N. Belarus and China have reached the unprecedented high level of cooperation / N. Snopkov // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/interview/view/belarus-i-kitaj-vyshli-na-bespretседentno-vysokij-uroven-sotrudnichestva-snopkov-5115/>

<sup>29</sup> Speech to students of Beijing University [Electronic Resource]. - - 2016. - URL: [http://president.gov.by/ru/news\\_ru/view/poseschenie-pekinskogo-universiteta-14540/](http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/poseschenie-pekinskogo-universiteta-14540/)

<sup>30</sup> Myasnikovich, M. Participation in the Silk Road economic belt will increase the attractiveness of Belarus / M. Myasnikovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/interview/view/uchastie-v-ekonomicheskompojase-shelkovogo-puti-povysit-investprivlekatelnost-belarusi-4964/>

concluded, priority joint projects, as well as promising areas"<sup>31</sup>. The second meeting of the working group was held in the Chinese city of Urumqi in September 2016. The participants focused their attention on the fact that "in order to achieve concrete results, the development of interregional cooperation should follow the principle of transition from quantity to quality, which means that joint initiatives and selection of projects should be more carefully implemented"<sup>32</sup>. A concrete outcome of the meeting was the adoption of the road map for deepening the Sino-Belarusian interregional cooperation, which includes more than 30 joint projects. And, I suppose, their successful implementation is not far off.

In this already rather ramified system of inter-regional interaction, which, as it was mentioned above, has dozens of participants from both sides, the **Gansu** province - the only Chinese region that registered its representative office in July 2014 in the Republic of Belarus in order to promote "the development of trade and economic cooperation, joint projects, establishment of contacts between entrepreneurs" - stands out from the others by its effective methods of developing mutually beneficial cooperation with Belarusian partners.<sup>33</sup> and in September 2015 opened the Centre for Commerce, Science, Technology, Education and Culture on the basis of the Science and Technology Park BNTU "Polytechnic".

Interest in Belarus in this Chinese region, which has rich reserves of oil and coal, powerful transport infrastructure and alternative energy, the population of which exceeds 25 million people, manifested itself in 2003, when the branch of the Chinese Committee for the Promotion of International Trade of the Gansu Province and the UE "Grodno branch of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry" signed an Agreement on Cooperation. Four years later a new document appeared - the Agreement

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<sup>31</sup> The twin regions of Belarus and China have developed a road map for deepening trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/regiony-pobratimy-belarusi-i-kitaja-razrabotali-dorozhnyu-kartu-uglublenija-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-159508-2015/>

<sup>32</sup> The regions of Belarus and China have signed a road map to deepen cooperation [Electronic Resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/regiony-belarusi-i-kitaja-podpisali-dorozhnyu-kartu-uglublenija-sotrudnichestva-211142-2016/>

<sup>33</sup> Zhujun, D. Belarus - one of the most important countries for China on the New Silk Road / D. Zhujun // [Electron resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/interview/view/belarus-odna-iz-vazhnejshih-dlja-kitaja-stran-na-novom-shelkovom-puti-5137/>

on the Establishment of Fraternal Relations between Grodno Region and Gansu Province, which stimulated the implementation of projects with other Belarusian regions as well. In particular, establishment of joint ventures for assembly of MTZ tractors and Gomselmash combines here in 2014-2015. In 2014, the parties signed a memorandum of cooperation to strengthen economic and trade cooperation and developed the Program of Cooperation of Grodno Region and Gansu Province for 2014-2020, which tried to systematically take into account the most important aspects of the development of bilateral partnership and twinning relations.

Creating an atmosphere of trust in the relations between the province and the region is primarily facilitated by the exhibition and fair vector of interregional cooperation, which the parties began to develop in August 2014, when Gansu was the first among the regions of north-western China to organize two exhibitions at once - in Minsk and Grodno - with the participation of almost 50 Chinese enterprises, demonstrating their products in six categories. A year later, in July 2016, in the administrative center of Gansu - Lanzhou - more than ten Grodno enterprises with the potential to increase exports to the Chinese market showed their products at the 22nd International Trade and Investment Fair. Including children's food of JSC "Bellact", products of Dvoretzky flax factory from Dyatlovsky district, Rogoznitsky starch factory and a new enterprise producing whey and fat concentrate "Primeilk". The result of participation in the forum was signed contracts. In particular, for the supply of the first 300 tons of birch juice to ABC Firm, Qin Shu'a Company, and Neman Glass Factory, OJSC - batches of crystal products of Quan Shen Commercial and Industrial Corporation. In addition, preliminary agreements were reached on projects for the joint production of cable products, PVC pipes, baby food packaging, as well as on "free provision of permanent exhibition areas in Grodno to the Chinese side and Grodno - in Lanzhou"<sup>34</sup>.

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<sup>34</sup> Stasukevich, E.E. Enterprises of Grodno region concluded contracts on birch juice and crystal delivery to China / E.Stasukevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/predpriyatija-grodnenskoj-oblasti-zakljuchili-kontrakty-na-postavku-v-kitaj-berezovogo-soka-i-hrustalja-201643-2016/>

The interaction between Grodno and Gansu in the investment sphere has become noticeably more active. Thus, the project of reconstruction of the hotel "Grodno", which was purchased at an auction by the corporation "Gansu Quanshan" for the restaurant and hotel complex, is still under development here and now. In November 2016, the Centre for Traditional Chinese Medicine, which is located in Grodno "in the building of the former dairy kitchen of the children's outpatient clinic on Dovatora Street on an area of about 500 square meters", is<sup>35</sup> to receive its first visitors. In addition, Chinese companies have already been offered concrete investment projects to create logistics centers in the Auls district of Grodno and at Grodno Airport, and in FEZ "Grodnoinvest" - "projects in mechanical engineering, metalworking, production of parts for alternative energy and 57 sites for projects on the August Canal"<sup>36</sup>.

The interaction of Gansu with Grodno Region is only part of the province's extensive plans in Belarus. In September 2015, the Belarusian government and representatives of the province discussed the supply of Belarusian quarry equipment, the creation of production facilities for the production of alternative energy elements, electric motors and generators in Belarus for further export to the European and Eurasian Economic Unions. A year later, "eight agreements on cooperation between Belarus and the Gansu Province were signed as a result of negotiations"<sup>37</sup>. This is the case: on the strategic partnership between the Ministry of Architecture and Construction of Belarus and the provincial construction and investment corporation; on the cooperation between Lakokraska OJSC and Lanzhou Yongxiang Capital Ltd in participating in the auction for the sale of the Raduga sanatorium, Tarasovo Ltd. and Quan Shen commercial and industrial corporation; on the cooperation between Grodno State Medical University and Gansu Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine; on

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<sup>35</sup> Gavritsky, S. Center for traditional Chinese medicine will be opened in November / S. Gavritsky // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/tsentr-traditsionnoj-kitajskoj-meditsiny-v-grodno-otkrojut-v-nojabre-199797-2016/>

<sup>36</sup> Stasukevich, E. "Grodnoinvest" and Commercial Department of Gansu province of China concluded a memorandum of cooperation / E. Stasukevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/grodnoinvest-i-upravlenie-kommertsii-provintsii-gansu-knr-zakljuchili-memorandum-o-sotrudnichestve-201635-2016/>

<sup>37</sup> Anatoly Kalinin met with the Secretary of the CPC Committee of the Gansu Province [Electronic Resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/6542>

inter-university contacts between the Belarusian National Technical University and the Belarusian State Economic University with the University of Economics and Finance of Lanzhou, the Belarusian State Agrarian Technical University and the Belarusian State Agricultural Academy with the Agrarian University of the Gansu Province.

We can only welcome the fact that in 2016 the business interests of the Gansu representatives spread to our country and the Brest region, where they were interested in acquiring two agricultural enterprises at once - the Oktyabr-Agro joint venture and Borovitsa JSC - in the Ivanovo region, which today need investment and financial injection for their recovery. The Chinese side is optimistic about the prospect of these projects, hoping that with the use of advanced technology and material resources in these farms it will be possible to "improve the quality, expand production and sales channels, in particular, to supply it in the future in China"<sup>38</sup>.

Another important priority of the Gansu Province in Belarus is the development of twinning ties. Characteristically, in this respect, it is not confined to any one Belarusian region. For example, in May 2015, the Treaty of Brotherhood was signed by Grodno and Lunnan, one of the urban districts in the Gansu with a population of about three million people. Parties agreed to "actively exchange and cooperate in the field of economy and trade, science and technology, culture and education, sport, health care"<sup>39</sup>. A year later, a delegation from Baiyinh City visited Brest, where they concluded an agreement of intent to establish friendly relations. Finally, quite recently it turned out that back in 2000, the friendly relations agreement was signed by Slutsk, which is in the Minsk region, and the city of Uwei from the Gansu province. The Chinese side has drawn attention to this fact. And now "both cities are preparing for a renewed cooperation"<sup>40</sup>.

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<sup>38</sup> Vechorko, S. Chinese investors interested in two agricultural enterprises of Brest region / S. Vechorko // [Electron resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/kitajskie-investory-zainteresovalis-dvumja-selhozpredpriyatijami-brestskoj-oblasti-185563-2016/>

<sup>39</sup> Stasukevich, E. Treaty on the twinned connections is signed between Grodno and Chinese city Lunnan / E. Stasukevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/dogovor-opobratimskix-svjazjax-podpisan-mezhdu-grodno-i-kitajskim-gorodom-lunnan-2643-2015/>

<sup>40</sup> Zhujun, D. Belarus - one of the most important countries for China on the New Silk Road / D. Zhujun // [Electron resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/interview/view/belarus-odna-iz-vazhnejshih-dlja-kitaja-stran-na-novom-shelkovom-puti-5137/>

It seems that it's not the "last violin" that the Gansu province will play in the implementation of such a landmark Sino-Belarusian mega-project as the industrial park "Great Stone. The fact is that the eighth resident of this park is a company from this province - "Juxin Malt Technology" - "the investor who is ready to build an enterprise in parallel with the construction of infrastructure"<sup>41</sup>. The company is expected to be the first to establish production facilities in the "Great Stone" - to process barley products, including brewing malt, by investing 112 million dollars in this project. At the same time, Chinese producers will not compete with the Belarusian, "as they intend to send their products only to China and third countries, without affecting the Belarusian market"<sup>42</sup>.

The Chinese province of **Jiangsu** has also been demonstrating diverse and effective solutions to the task of actively developing interregional ties with Belarusian partners over the past few years. In May 2015, it signed a twinning agreement with Mahiliou voblast, marking with this document its first foreign economic priority on Belarusian soil. At the same time, the parties agreed from the very beginning of cooperation to actively promote trade and economic cooperation "with the implementation of specific projects between cities and large business entities"<sup>43</sup>. In addition, the company has identified great prospects for mutually beneficial partnership in the sphere of machine and instrument engineering, woodworking, elevator construction, production and processing of agricultural products. The Chinese side was immediately offered a number of investment projects to establish new and joint productions in various fields in the Mogilev region. "In particular, the establishment of

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<sup>41</sup> Ogneva, Yu. New resident of "Great Stone" will build a brewery for production of brewing malt (in Russian) / Yu. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-postroit-zavod-po-vypusku-pivovarenogo-soloda-162982-2015/>

<sup>42</sup> Anatoly Kalinin took part in the solemn laying of the first stone of the first production in the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/6042>

<sup>43</sup> Kulyagin, S. Cooperation with Mogilev region will become a foreign policy priority of Jiangsu province - Zhang Lei / S. Kulyagin // [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/sotrudnichestvo-s-mogilevskoj-oblastju-stanet-prioritetom-vneshnej-politiki-provintsii-tszjansu-chzhan-2568-2015>

a textile corporation, construction of a cascade of hydroelectric power plants on the Dnieper, production of furniture fittings, cultivation and processing of flax"<sup>44</sup>.

The pioneers in establishing partnerships between the cities of the Mogilev region and Jiangsu were their administrative centers - Mogilev and Nanjing, which in spring 2015 approved the Program of Cooperation until 2017, which outlined their views on the implementation of joint projects. Thus, the citizens of Mogilev offered their Chinese partners to consider the possibility of participation "in the construction of a hotel complex, water park and football arena in the area of the Pechersk Forest Park, shopping center with underground parking along the central street of Pervomayskaya, multifunctional office and business center with a hotel, cinema, car showroom and restaurant in the neighborhood "Kazimirovka"<sup>45</sup>.

The second serious partner of Jiangsu Province in Belarus is likely to be Gomel region, which in spring 2016 signed an agreement with this Chinese region on joint participation in the construction of the economic Silk Road. At the same time, the documents on the establishment of brotherly and friendly relations were signed by the leaders of Mozyr and Zhlobin district executive committees of Gomel region and the cities of Xuzhou and Lianyungang, located in Jiangsu province. The choice of these cities as twins and partners is far from accidental.

Xuzhou is an important point on the route of the Silk Road Economic Belt, a major railway and road junction, where engineering and logistics are well developed, as well as world famous cranes and excavators are produced. The city plans to establish joint production with "Gomselmash" and "Amkodor", to increase mutual trade. "In particular, we would like to buy Belarusian milk here. There are also plans to develop links in pharmaceuticals."<sup>46</sup>up to the creation of joint production of medicines in Belarus.

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<sup>44</sup> Kulyagin, S. Mogilev region and Chinese Jiangsu province intend to deepen economic relations (in Russian) / S. Kulyagin // [Electronic resource]. -- 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/mogilevskaja-oblast-i-kitajskaja-provintsija-tszjansu-namereny-uglubljat-ekonomicheskie-otnoshenija-200796-2016/>

<sup>45</sup> Yemelyanova, O. Mogilev and Chinese Nanjing signed the Program of Cooperation for 2015-2016 // [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/sotrudnichestvo-s-mogilevskoj-oblastju-stanet-prioritetom-vneshnej-politiki-provintsii-tszjansu-chzhan-2568-2015>

<sup>46</sup> In Chinese Xuzhou they consider Belarus a promising partner of the Silk Road economic belt [Electronic resource]. -- 2015. - URL: <http://export.by/?act=newsode=viewage=23d=61949>

As for the Chinese city of Lianyungang with a population of more than five million people, where gigantic petrochemical and steel complexes will soon rise and where three ports are now located at once, it acquires special importance today due to the inclusion in the projects of the new land and sea Silk Road, as it is considered the most convenient access to Central Asian markets for cargoes from Japan and South Korea. The capacity of Xu Wei port alone, Xu Wei, is expected to increase from the current 40 to 100 million tons of cargo over the next five years. That's why the Chinese side offers its logistics services to Belarusian partners, as "more goods from Belarus, especially dairy products, are expected to be delivered in China. 47<...> Belarusian goods may also be presented in the future exhibition complex in the new Xu Wei district" .

For example, confectionery products of Gomel's Spartak OJSC, more than 30 tons of which have already been shipped to Chinese consumers in late 2015 - early 2016. For the most part, they were dark chocolate products with low sugar content. According to the results of 2016 "Spartak" OJSC "plans to bring the trade turnover with this country to the level of at least \$2 million"<sup>48</sup>. Good export prospects are also opening up for Gomel producers in connection with the declared intention of partners from Jiangsu to purchase dairy, meat and honey products in the south-eastern region of Belarus. Real plans for promotion of SvetlogorskKhimvolokno products in the Chinese market are opened by the protocol on strategic cooperation between OAO Belneftekhim Shanghai Trading and Kangda Illumination Material Factory from Lianyungan, signed in spring 2016, according to which the first batch of Svetlogorsk hydrocarbon threads will be shipped to the Chinese port by the end of 2016. Interesting prospects for cooperation between Jiangsu Province and Gomel Province are also opening up in the field of education - after the signing of cooperation agreements with Jiangsu Pedagogical University and Xuzhou Institute of Technology in spring 2016, as

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<sup>47</sup> Grishkevich, A. China is ready to offer Belarus logistic services in the sea ports of Lianyungan / A. Grishkevich // [Electron resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/kitaj-gotov-predlozhit-belarusi-logisticheskie-uslugi-v-morskix-portax-ljanjjungana-2485-2015>

<sup>48</sup> Lysenko, Yu. Gomel "Spartak" expands deliveries to China / Yu. Lysenko // [Electron resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.gomel-region.gov.by/ru/economics-ru/view/gomelskij-spartak-rasshirjaet-postavki-v-kitaj-28612/>

well as an agreement "with Nanjing University of Science on the establishment of Confucius Institute of Chinese Studies in Gomel Regional State University"<sup>49</sup>.

In general, Jiangsu Province is also interesting in Belarus by the fact that it is on its territory that Suzhou Industrial Park is located, a joint Chinese-Singaporean project, the philosophy of which formed the basis of the industrial park "Great Stone" being created now in Smolevichi district, Minsk region. By the way, in August 2016 these industrial parks signed a cooperation agreement, the implementation of which can yield very interesting results for both parties. And in October 2016, the first Silk Road Media Cooperation Forum was held in Nanjing, a Mogilev twin, which adopted the so-called "Nanjing Consensus", which provides for the establishment of a Silk Road Media Union with the aim of "actively promoting a variety of dialogues, exchanges of information products and advanced technologies in the mass media, strengthen staff communication and conduct joint interviews between media outlets located along the "One Belt, One Road" countries<sup>50</sup>. It is expected that within the framework of this union, media summits will be held in the presence of heads of state interested in promoting the New Silk Road project on the most important and topical issues of its implementation. Obviously, the topic of interaction between the regions of the countries located on the routes of the Silk Road Economic Belt is among them. That is why in the international segment of Belarusian journalism it should already find a competent, full and adequate reflection.

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<sup>49</sup> The Gomel region and Jiangsu Province will jointly participate in the construction of the new Silk Road [Electronic Resource]. - – 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomelskaja-oblast-i-provintsija-tszjansu-budut-vmeste-uchastvovat-v-stroitelstve-novogo-shelkovogo-puti-187904-2016/>

<sup>50</sup> China has established the Silk Road Media Union [Electronic Resource]. - – 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/world/view/v-kitae-uchrezhden-sojuz-smi-shelkovogo-puti-216041-2016/>

## Connections between regions are expanding

In May 2017, at a meeting with representatives of the Chinese mass media, the Belarusian head of state drew attention to the importance of developing interregional cooperation between Belarus and China, as it is in this region that the main reserves for further interaction between the two countries are located. After all, all agreements and understandings between the presidents, governments, and agencies planned at the highest level can be fully implemented "only by pulling specific provinces and regions together"<sup>51</sup>. The experience of recent years shows that a number of Belarusian regions and Chinese provinces have already taken many concrete steps in cooperation, proving by their example that interregional cooperation is indeed a reliable instrument of Belarusian-Chinese relations. These regions include the **Brest Region** and **Hunan Province**.

**Brest region** is one of those Belarusian regions where the development of ties with the People's Republic of China sees real prospects for increasing the volume of mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation and therefore gradually increases the scale of interaction. Suffice it to say that in January-March 2017, exports of Brest region goods to the Chinese market increased by 54% and amounted to more than \$2.3 million. By exporting food, as well as mink pelts, alcoholic products, materials for vacuum furnaces "on the whole at the end of the year is planned to reach \$10 million"<sup>52</sup>.

Beef is expected to become a very popular product of Brest region enterprises on the Chinese market in 2017. At the end of July this year, representatives of three of its manufacturers - Berezovsky Meat Canning Plant, Pinsky and Brest Meat Processing Plants - signed a protocol of intent to cooperate with the Chinese trade and investment company of the meat industry "Great Silk Road", which should result in beef supplies to China by the end of the year for 20 million dollars. At the same time, the Chinese side immediately offered Berezovsky meat cannery to start deliveries. Brest Meat

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<sup>51</sup> Meeting with representatives of Chinese media [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: [http://president.gov.by/ru/news\\_ru/view/vstrecha-s-predstaviteljami-kitajskix-smi-16136/](http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/vstrecha-s-predstaviteljami-kitajskix-smi-16136/)

<sup>52</sup> Enterprises of Brest region in the first quarter opened ten new markets [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/predprijatija-brestskoj-oblasti-v-i-kvartale-otkryli-desjat-novyh-rynkov-sbyta-247512-2017/>

Processing Plant's partners from China intend to buy and process beef bones. "Chinese businessmen proposed to the Pinsk meat processing plant to increase beef production through a joint venture"<sup>53</sup>. It should be noted that in the first half of 2017, together with the Chinese company Sina-Trade Berezovsky Meat Canning Plant and Pinsk Meat Processing Plant have already shipped frozen beef to the South-East Asian market for about one million dollars.

In general, the intensification of relations of Brest region with Chinese partners is carried out today in several other directions. First of all, it is attracting investment from China into the economy. Back in late 2015, the Belarusian side began working out the issues of financing several projects in Brest voblast at the expense of Chinese investors. Among them - "construction of "Volat" battery plant in Beloozersk, a plant for production of methyl esters in FEZ, reconstruction of interdistrict cancer dispensary in Pinsk"<sup>54</sup>. Recent examples in this regard include the commissioning in February 2017 in the area of Zarechitsa park of Brest-Severnoy station under an intergovernmental agreement between Belarus and China of an inspection complex designed to control goods transported by rail. "The total investment in financing the project was 39 million yuan, or about \$5.5"<sup>55</sup>. This complex is equipped with the technology of quick control, with the help of which the moving cars are "enlightened". The speed of the train shall be between 8 and 30 kilometres per hour. We can also remember the registration in Baranovichi of the enterprise "CRC-CUEC ZheldorTehniknia", in which Chinese investors have invested one million dollars. In 2018, the free economic zone "Brest" is to be put into operation an enterprise for the production of LEDs, which also attracted investment from China. In total, Brest has

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<sup>53</sup> Belarus will supply \$20 million worth of beef to China [Electron resource] in a year. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-za-god-postavit-v-kitaj-govjadiny-na-20-mln-259164-2017/>

<sup>54</sup> Vechorko, S. Export expansion is determined by the main factor of Brest region economy growth in 2016 (in Russian) / S. Vechorko // [Electron resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/rasshirenie-eksporta-opredeleno-glavnym-faktorom-rosta-ekonomiki-brestskoj-oblasti-v-2016-godu-175763-2015/>

<sup>55</sup> Vechorko, S. Inspection and inspection complex for cargo trains scanning is introduced in Brest / S. Vechorko // [Electron resource]. - 2017 - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/inspeksionno-dosmotrovnyj-kompleks-dlja-skanirovanija-gruzovyh-poezdov-vveden-v-breste-233118-2017/>

already handed over 37 investment projects to Chinese partners for joint implementation in the medium term.

The second strategic direction of cooperation between Brest region and the Chinese side is the comprehensive strengthening of interregional contacts. Hubei, Anhui and Henan provinces are among the main partners of the Belarusian region in this regard. In particular, cooperation with **Hubei** Province has more than 20 years of history. "During this time, Brest and Xiaogan, Baranovichi and Chibi have also become twin cities located in these regions<sup>56</sup>. It is the interaction of twin cities that has the necessary potential to become the most important instrument of Belarusian-Chinese interregional cooperation. Thus, the same Xiaogan can become a springboard for Brest exporters, on the basis of which one can develop the Chinese market. For this reason, partners from the sister city have already suggested that "Brest processing companies should establish cooperation in the supply of dairy and meat products to China"<sup>57</sup>. A new pair of partner cities from Brest Region and Hubei Province - Pinsk and Xiang Yang, which signed a Cooperation Agreement in April 2017, may also have a very promising cooperation. This document provides for the development of mutually beneficial trade and economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation. And there are a lot of opportunities here. After all, Xiang Yang, which is located in central China, "is home to 6 million people. The city is about 2.8 thousand years old. There are many sights preserved there, connected with the ancient period of Chinese history. In Xiang Yang agriculture, mechanical engineering, electronics are well developed"<sup>58</sup>.

**As for Anhui** province, a protocol of intent was signed with its representatives in December 2016 to establish partnerships in the fields of economy, industry, agriculture, education and tourism. It is expected that "on the basis of this document a

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<sup>56</sup> Zalesky, B. International Relations and Media. Features of multi-vector international cooperation in the period of global challenges / B. Zalesky. - Palmarium Academic Publishing : Saarbrücken, Deutschland / Germany, 2016. -- C. 219.

<sup>57</sup> Chernovolova, A. Chinese companies are interested in cooperation with processing enterprises of Brest / A. Chernovolova // [Electronic resource]. -- 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/kitajskie-kompanii-zainteresovany-v-sotrudnichestve-s-pererabatyvajuschimi-predpriyatijami-bresta-167088-2015/>

<sup>58</sup> Pinsk and Chinese Xiang Yang signed an agreement on cooperation [Electronic Resource]. -- 2017. - Access mode: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/pinsk-i-kitajskij-sjan-jan-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-243097-2017/>.

cooperation agreement between the Brest region and Anhui Province will be concluded"<sup>59</sup>. And at the same time, the parties discussed the first concrete projects of this interregional cooperation. In particular, JAC Motors, which produces minibuses, has expressed its interest in establishing a joint venture with Brestmash to produce small cars and vans with good export potential.

Another joint project was recently discussed during the visit of representatives of the foreign economic construction company of Anhui Province to Belarus, who were studying mining opportunities in our country. In the Brest region, they were offered to build a mining and processing plant at the Gorodnoye deposit in the Stolin district, where quartz sands are found, which can be used to produce construction materials, as well as in the glass industry. Opportunities Ankhoi Foreign Economic Construction Corporation in the Brest region is already well known, because it won the tender for the construction of residential buildings here by general contract with the involvement of technical and economic assistance from China. And now four 10-storey houses are being erected in this Belarusian region according to the standard project, each of which will accommodate social apartments. Two of them are under construction in new districts of Brest - South-East № 4 and South-West № 3. Two more panel multistorey houses will appear in the Zagorsky district of Pinsk. In this case, "the construction of four multi-storey buildings is the first stage of the joint project. Its second stage envisages the construction of three more social apartment buildings: one each in Baranovichi, Pinsk and Zhabinka"<sup>60</sup>. As for the third stage of cooperation in the construction of social housing, "two houses are planned to be built in the region: 90 apartments in Stolin and 80 apartments in Baranovichi"<sup>61</sup>.

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<sup>59</sup> Chernovolova, A. Chinese company is interested in joint production with "Brestsmash" / A. Chernovolova // [Electron resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/kitajskaja-kompanija-zainteresovana-sozdat-sovmestnoe-proizvodstvo-s-brestmashem-222370-2016/>

<sup>60</sup> Chernovolova, A. Built with attraction of the Chinese capital houses in Brest region will be delivered in the beginning of 2017 (in Russian) / A. Chernovolova // [Electron resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/postroennye-s-privlecheniem-kitajskogo-kapitala-doma-v-brestskoj-oblasti-sdadut-v-nachale-2017-goda-220261-2016/>

<sup>61</sup> Houses built with Chinese technical assistance will appear in Baranovichi, Pinsk and Zhabinka [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/postroennye-s-tehpomoschju-kitaja-doma-pojavjatsja-v-baranovichah-pinske-i-zhabinke-246189-2017/>

Another Chinese region with which the Brest region intends to sign a cooperation agreement is **Henan** Province. At least the Brest Regional Executive Committee hopes that "the agreements with Henan Province will be signed, possibly in 2017"<sup>62</sup>. Meanwhile, among the participants of the second forum of business contacts "Brest-2017", held in late April 2017, among the businessmen from 14 countries were four companies from Henan Province, the sphere of professional interests of which includes issues of investment and export of Belarusian goods to China. These are Zhong Bai Shiye, Navigation built antisepsis installation engineering, The Yellow River explosion-proof crane, Yuan Henry jewelry. It should be assumed that the established contacts of representatives of the business community of the parties will pave the way for full-scale interaction of the Brest region and Henan Province across the whole range of interregional partnerships in the very near future.

Interested in the implementation of joint projects with Brest region and the large agricultural province of China - **Gansu**. In June 2017, a visit to Brest by a delegation from Baiyinh City from that province gave new impetus to this promising collaboration. For over a year now Brest and Bayin have been working on an agreement of intent to develop trade and economic relations. And the parties are seriously committed to intensifying this engagement, as the figures show: "There has been a significant increase in supplies to China. In January-April of this year, exports [*from Brest*] amounted to about \$700 thousand in 2016 for this period was \$50 thousand"<sup>63</sup>. Apparently, this is just the beginning of Brest region exporters' development of the Gansu Province market.

On the Chinese side, the **Hunan** Province, which signed an agreement on establishing friendly relations with **Mogilev Oblast** in April 2017, has recently demonstrated interesting approaches to organizing interaction with Belarusian partners. This fact is another eloquent illustration of the course of comprehensive

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<sup>62</sup> Chernovolova, A. Brest region plans to sign a cooperation agreement with Anhui and Henan provinces // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/brestskaja-oblast-planiruet-podpisat-dogovory-o-sotrudnichestve-s-provintsijami-anhoj-i-henan-212791-2016/>

<sup>63</sup> Chinese province Gansu is interested in joint projects with Brest region [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/kitajskaja-provintsija-gansu-zainteresovana-v-sovmestnyh-proektah-s-brestskoj-oblastju-254439-2017/>

strategic partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation followed today by the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China, where "interregional cooperation should become an engine in relations between the two countries"<sup>64</sup>. After all, Hunan Province is not only an agrarian, but also a significant industrial region, which is successfully developing and is at the forefront of China. Suffice it to say that "about 70 million people live here, the province ranks 9th in the country by GDP. Besides, Hunan is the birthplace of Mao Zedong, who created the new China"<sup>65</sup>.

The signed agreement was a logical continuation of the already established partnership between the parties, which in the summer of 2016 adopted a Memorandum of Cooperation, which actually supported the establishment of a joint venture "Zumlion - MAZ", established by the Chinese company Zoomlion and JSC "Minsk Automobile Plant", and the production base of which became the enterprises of the Mogilev region - "Mogilevtransmash" and "Strommashina". In their areas, the parties "organize the production of special equipment for construction and public utilities, including truck cranes, concrete mixers, concrete pumps, trucks, harvesters and fire engines"<sup>66</sup>. In May 2017, OOO Zumlion-MAZ assembled the first truck crane with the lifting capacity of 25 tons, which can be used to move almost any object - from containers to oversized construction cargoes, on vacant areas of the plant "Mogilevtransmash". This means that the local enterprise is entering the active stage of Belarusian-Chinese machinery production. "At the same time, the company "Zkmillion-MAZ" continues to work on new models that will appear in the coming months"<sup>67</sup>. The start of serial production of new equipment is scheduled for 2018.

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<sup>64</sup> Meeting with Du Jiahao, Secretary of the Committee of the Communist Party of China in Hunan Province [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: [http://president.gov.by/ru/news\\_ru/view/vstrecha-s-sekretarem-komiteta-kommunisticheskoy-partii-kitajya-provintsii-xunan-du-tszjaxao-16018/](http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/vstrecha-s-sekretarem-komiteta-kommunisticheskoy-partii-kitajya-provintsii-xunan-du-tszjaxao-16018/)

<sup>65</sup> Grishkevich, A. Cooperation between Belarus and Hunan should become a model for other Chinese provinces - Du Jiahao / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/sotrudnichestvo-belarusi-i-hunanja-dolzno-stat-obraztsom-dlja-drugih-kitajskih-provintsij-du-tszjahao-242496-2017/>

<sup>66</sup> Emelianova, O. The agreement on establishment of friendly relations was signed by Hunan province and Mogilev region / O. Emelianova // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/soglashenie-ob-ustanovlenii-druzhestvennyh-otnoshenij-podpisali-provintsija-hunan-i-mogilevskaja-oblast-242796-2017/>

<sup>67</sup> Kulyagin, S. First Belarusian-Chinese autocrane assembled in Mogilev / S. Kulyagin // [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/pervyj-belorusko-kitajskij-avtokran-sobran-v-mogileve-247805-2017/>

The new agreement between Hunan Province and the Mogilev Region, based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit, will increase exchange and cooperation in economics, trade, tourism, culture, education and training. In addition, Belarus hopes that the Chinese company "Zumlion," which registered a joint venture for the production of construction and municipal special equipment in February 2017 in the free economic zone "Mogilev," will be able to turn even more widely in the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park "Great Stone," where with its participation in April 2017 was laid the foundation stone for the plant to create equipment for the Belarusian-Chinese special vehicles. The very fact that this construction has begun says a lot. After all, the Belarusian side is creating a powerful infrastructure in this park and provides serious preferences to those investors who will produce results "in the form of high technologies, export-oriented production with a guaranteed market"<sup>68</sup>.

So, in two years, the new plant "will produce road-building, construction and municipal equipment. Initial capital investments will be about \$50 million, and in the near future this company should produce up to \$300 million worth of products per year"<sup>69</sup>. The scheme of work will be as follows: the Chinese attachments will be created in Smolevichi district, Minsk voblast; from there they will take it to Mahiliou; "Mahilioutransmash" will be installed on the Belarusian chassis there to get ready-made special vehicles. It is expected that the number of employees at this enterprise in the industrial park will be about five hundred people.

Initially, the products of the future plant are planned to be supplied to the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, Commonwealth of Independent States and, possibly, Europe, as this equipment is "absolutely competitive in terms of technical parameters, price and quality. The level of technology is global, and the price is much

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<sup>68</sup> Meeting with Zhang Dejiang [Electronic Resource], Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. - - 2017. - URL: [http://president.gov.by/ru/news\\_ru/view/vstrecha-s-predsedatelem-postojannogo-komiteta-vsekitajskogo-sobranija-narodnyx-predstavitelej-chzhan-16055/](http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/vstrecha-s-predsedatelem-postojannogo-komiteta-vsekitajskogo-sobranija-narodnyx-predstavitelej-chzhan-16055/)

<sup>69</sup> Ogneva, Yu. The plant on creation of equipment for special machinery is planned to be opened in "Great stone" in two years (in Russian) / Yu. Ogneva // [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/zavod-po-sozdaniju-oborudovanija-dlja-spetstehniki-planiruetsja-otkryt-v-velikom-kamne-cherez-dva-goda-242899-2017>

lower<sup>70</sup>. This is explained by the fact that Minsk Automobile Plant and Zoomlion company already have experience in creating and certifying several types of equipment - truck cranes with lifting capacity of 40 and 60 tons, utility vehicles. In addition, even before December 2017, "specialists will have to study the market and develop 8 new models, and next year they will start mass production"<sup>71</sup>.

As for other promising areas of cooperation with Hunan Province, the same Mogilev Region plans to organize deliveries of food and, first of all, dairy products - yogurts, ice cream, milk - to Chinese partners, demand for which is now noticeably growing in China. In particular, the holding "Babushkina Krynka" plans, in addition to the export of sterilized, whole milk powder and skimmed milk, whey powder, cheese and butter "to establish the supply of whole milk products. Negotiations on this issue are underway with Hunan zhongnan antimony and tungsten co., Ltd. from Hunan Province"<sup>72</sup>. And Mogilev and Bobruisk meat processing plants have an opportunity to export beef there in the amount of about one thousand tons per month.

The attraction of investors from this province to the free economic zone "Mogilev," as well as to seven districts of Pridneprovsky Krai bordering the Russian Federation and falling under the Presidential Decree "On the socio-economic development of the south-eastern region of Mogilev Oblast. This document, as we know, provides significant preferences to investors who come here to implement their projects.

Among the priority areas that Chinese partners offer for investment in the Mogilev region are agricultural processing, alternative energy, and high-tech industries related to the extraction and processing of local minerals. In particular, we are talking about local peat mining enterprises, which could organize interaction with the Chinese

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<sup>70</sup> Ogneva, Yu. Zoomlion plant in "Velikiy Kamen" park has big export potential - Semashko / Yu. Ogneva // [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/zavod-zoomlion-v-parke-velikij-kamen-obladaet-bolshim-eksportnym-potentsialom-semashko-242901-2017/>

<sup>71</sup> Zoomlion will build a factory in the "Great Stone" to create equipment for special vehicles [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/newscompany/view/zoomlion-postroit-v-velikom-kamnezavod-po-sozdaniyu-oborudovaniya-dlja-spetstehniki-242736-2017/>

<sup>72</sup> Kulyagin, S. Mogilev region in the first quarter increased export to China more than three times / S. Kulyagin // [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/mogilevskaja-oblast-v-i-kvartale-uvlichila-eksport-v-kitaj-bolee-chem-v-tri-raza-245839-2017/>

side on peat mining and production of mineral complex fertilizers on its basis with the purpose of their realization not only in China but also in the markets of other countries. After all, "China today is interested in restoring its soils, taking into account state support, and this requires fertile quality fertilizers based on leguminous and peat. This is a real investment project, which can be cost-effective for the western regions of the Mogilev region, where there are large deposits of horse peat"<sup>73</sup>.

Another interesting project was accepted for implementation in 2015, when the company 74"Mogilevliftmash" started to create a joint production of escalators with Chinese partners. "The creation of a new production facility is due to market demand. <...> New products are now in demand on both the domestic and foreign markets, including in connection with the active construction of large shopping and entertainment centers, construction and development of subways . In addition, the citizens of Mogilev plan to equip the elevators with Chinese control stations and sell them to the Third World countries.

It should also be noted that another direction in the development of interregional partnership, which is planned in Hunan Province and Mogilev Region, will be built on strengthening relations between the cities of the two regions. And "the possibility of signing a cooperation agreement between Changsha City and Mogilev, the administrative center of Hunan Province, is already under consideration"<sup>75</sup>.

At the aforementioned meeting of the Belarusian President with Chinese journalists it was noted that the year 2017 in both Minsk and Beijing is assessed as a turning point in bilateral relations. And much in the implementation of the plans will depend on the regions of the two countries, which should demonstrate even greater

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<sup>73</sup> Kulyagin, S. Investment projects for \$200 million are prepared in Mogilev region for development of Chinese credits / S. Kulyagin // [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/investproekty-na-200-mln-podgotovleny-v-mogilevskoj-oblasti-dlja-osvoenija-kitajskih-kreditov-174377-2015/>

<sup>74</sup> "Mogilevliftmash started to establish a JV with Chinese partners for the production of escalators [Electronic Resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://mogilev-region.gov.by/news/mogilevliftmash-pristupil-k-sozdaniyu-sp-s-kitajskimi-partnerami-po-vypusku-eskalatorov>

<sup>75</sup> Emelianova, O. The agreement on establishment of friendly relations was signed by Hunan province and Mogilev region / O. Emelianova // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/soglashenie-ob-ustanovlenii-druzhestvennyh-otnoshenij-podpisali-provintsija-hunan-i-mogilevskaja-oblast-242796-2017/>

efficiency of joint actions in the near future, adequate to the current level of trust-based all-round strategic partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China.

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## Decisions of the cooperation committee as a current media topic

In November 2018, the third meeting of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation was held in Beijing, where the parties agreed: first, to expand mutual trade; second, to increase mutual investments; third, to strengthen interregional ties; fourth, they signed an action plan for the Year of Belarus' Education in China in 2019. Let us say at once that the parties undoubtedly have the necessary prerequisites for successful implementation of the tasks set out in each of these vectors of development, which makes them the object of close attention of representatives of the international segment of Belarusian and Chinese journalism, whose professional duty is to adequately cover the implementation of the entire set of plans aimed at achieving the level of comprehensive strategic partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation in Belarusian-Chinese relations.

As for the **expansion of mutual trade**, the goal set by the Belarusian side is as follows: "The volume of Belarusian exports to China should reach \$5 billion in the medium term<sup>76</sup>. It is expected to be achieved in several directions at once, one of which is to increase the supply of Belarusian agricultural products to Chinese consumers. Suffice it to say that Belarus has sent \$52 million worth of food to China for three quarters of 2018. And by the end of the fourth quarter, this figure should actually double. At the same time, "the leading position in Belarusian exports is occupied by dairy products, whose supplies have increased by 9 times compared to the same level in 2017<sup>77</sup>. The fact that in November 2018 the third train with Belarusian dairy products, consisting of 41 containers with the total weight exceeding one thousand tons, arrived in Chongqing, China, also contributed to such rapid dynamics. It is also encouraging in this regard that "the parties agreed to reach a weekly schedule of trains

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<sup>76</sup> Grishkevich, A. The volume of Belarusian export to China in the medium term should reach \$5 billion - Snopkov / A. Grishkevich // [Electron resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://news.21.by/economics/2018/11/06/1648136.html>

<sup>77</sup> Ministry of Agriculture: exports of Belarusian agricultural products to China at the end of the year will reach \$100 million [Electron resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minselhozprod-eksport-belorusskoj-selhozproduktisii-v-kitaj-po-itogam-goda-dostignet-100-mln-324799-2018/>

to Chongqing with Belarusian agricultural products in the near future<sup>78</sup>. In addition, the Belarusian JSC "Meat and Dairy Company" and a joint venture Sinoby Agriculture signed a contract for the supply of dairy products in 2019 for \$30 million.

The expansion of the product line in Hebei Province in 2019 through the joint venture "Zunshen Gomel Agricultural Machinery Enterprise" LLC, based on the joint capital of Gomselmash OJSC and Zunshen Industrial Corporation, will make a significant contribution to the **mutual investment**. Recall that the framework agreement on the establishment of this enterprise was signed in 2014, and a year later there was a strategic agreement, the implementation of which led in 2016 to the start of production of joint products - forage harvesting and cob harvesting machines. In three years, about five hundred harvesters have been collected from Gomselmash's machine sets. By April 2019, it is planned to add 290 and 450 horsepower forage harvesters to the range of manufactured machinery. For this purpose, a new production building has already been built in Hebei Province's Wei Xiang County, which will enable to increase the production of agricultural machinery to one and a half thousand a year. "Chinese partners are planning to build another building, which will expand production capacity to 3 thousand combines<sup>79</sup>.

In terms of **strengthening interregional ties**, the cooperation between the Mogilev region and Hunan Province can be very effective and promising, where the parties intend to focus on such strategic areas as the economy, investment and tourism. At the same time, in the first stage the efforts of the region and the province will be focused on the accelerated development of tourism. The fact is that the parties are sure: "There is a connection between the trends of tourism development and the general state of the economy, so this direction is chosen as one of the strategic for strengthening and development of joint cooperation<sup>80</sup>. That is why, in terms of infrastructure projects,

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<sup>78</sup> The train with Belarusian dairy products arrived in Chongqing [Electron resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/poezd-s-belorusskoj-molochnoj-produktsiej-pribyl-v-chuntsin-324784-2018/>

<sup>79</sup> The Junshen Gomel agricultural machine building company intends to expand its product line [Electronic Resource] in 2019. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/predpriyatje-selhozmaszinstroenijszunshen-gomel-namereno-v-2019-godu-rasshirit-linejku-produktsii-325877-2018/>

<sup>80</sup> Kulyagin, S. Mogilev region and Chinese province Hunan intend to accelerate development of mutual tourism (in Russian) / S. Kulyagin // [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL:

business people from Hunan Province have already been offered to build hotels, cultural and entertainment complexes, even a restaurant of Chinese cuisine in the Mogilev region, where tourists from China could feel comfortable. And the next step in developing this interregional investment cooperation could be projects to process local raw materials and produce food products, with the prospect of exporting them to China and other countries. For this purpose, about two hundred sites are already being offered to Chinese investors.

In November 2018, Minsk and Shanghai signed an agreement of intent to establish friendly relations. According to the parties, this document is very important for developing closer trade contacts and implementing specific projects: "It will be a platform for the development of our relations in all spheres."<sup>81</sup> Representatives of the Chinese city are interested in Minsk experience in industry, metalworking, machine-building. And the Belarusian capital is interested in partnership with investors from Shanghai "in terms of urban infrastructure management, "Smart City" system, transport system, improvement, management of solid municipal waste"<sup>82</sup>. Earlier Minsk had already signed agreements on the establishment of twinned relations with such cities of China as Changchun, Beijing, Shenzhen, as well as on the establishment of cooperation - with Shenyang.

An important detail: the signing of the November agreement was preceded by the trade and economic forum "Sails of Shanghai" held in September 2018 in Minsk, where representatives of this Chinese city said that "given the current good Belarusian-Chinese relations, the implementation of new joint projects, including with Shanghai businessmen, has great prospects"<sup>83</sup>. This trade and economic forum has brought

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<https://www.belta.by/regions/view/mogilevskaia-oblast-i-kitajskaja-provintsija-hunan-namereny-uskorit-razvitiie-vzaimnogo-turizma-325776-2018/>

<sup>81</sup> The agreement on cooperation between Minsk and Shanghai will take the partnership to a new level - Jiang Ping [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/soglashenie-osotrudnichestve-minska-i-shanhaja-vyvedet-partnerstvo-na-novyj-uroven-tszjan-pin-321797-2018/>

<sup>82</sup> Minsk counts on Shanghai's assistance in the modernization of urban infrastructure [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minsk-rasschityvaet-na-pomosch-shanhaja-v-modernizatsii-gorodskoj-infrastruktury-321799-2018/>

<sup>83</sup> Grishkevich, A. Forum "Sails of Shanghai" in Minsk will contribute to realization of the joint projects (in Russian) / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/forum-parus-shanhaja-v-minske-posposobstvuet-realizatsii-sovmestnyh-proektov-lin-sjan-317232-2018/>

together in the Belarusian capital more than 130 domestic and Chinese companies interested in cooperation in mechanical engineering, construction, information technologies, chemical industry, environmental protection, light industry, food, jewelry production. Chinese manufacturers of electronics and household appliances, clothing and fabrics, packaging for medical equipment, cosmetics, toys, jewelry, as well as importers of cars, electrical and welding equipment, computer equipment, interested in finding business partners in Belarus, came to Minsk to participate in the forum.

It is also symbolic that the signing of this agreement took place during the first China International Import Expo, held in Shanghai, where a solid list of Minsk enterprises and organizations was presented. Among them are Minsk Tractor Plant, Minskkhlebprom, Kommunarika, Minsk Automobile Plant, Integral, Minsk Dairy Plant №1. The voluminous portfolio of its developments in the field of instrumentation, automation of production, medicine, agriculture - more than thirty - demonstrated in Shanghai and the Belarusian State University, located, as it is known, in Minsk. In particular, the exhibition of imported goods and services showed his medical unit of general hyperthermia "Bird-M", designed for the complex treatment of various forms of cancer in specialized clinics. Among the innovations of BSU were also presented in Shanghai "phytosols for correction of the increased threshold of taste sensitivity to table salt, edible packaging films, a series of veterinary biopreparations for the treatment and prevention of diseases of agricultural and domestic animals, antitumoral drugs, hardware and software complex" Calibration "84.

An interesting continuation of cooperation between Minsk and Shanghai can be obtained at the level of partnership of individual districts of these cities. In this case, we are talking about the Soviet district of the Belarusian capital and Channin Shanghai, which signed a framework agreement on cooperation in September 2018. Interestingly, "cooperation between the two districts began in 1994 when the first cooperation

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<sup>84</sup> More than 30 scientific and technical developments will be presented by BSU at the exhibition of imports in China [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bolee-30-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-razrabotok-predstavit-bgu-na-vystavke-importa-v-kitae-324163-2018/>

agreement was signed. During this time, trade turnover has increased several times<sup>85</sup>. This time, the parties expressed interest in implementing a number of joint projects. In particular, Magic of Light LLC offered Chinese businessmen a partnership in the production of protective holograms. Considers to find partners in Shanghai and Minsk OJSC "Promsvyaz" to participate in the project to bring the production of the enterprise to the Chinese-Belarusian industrial park "Great Stone". An investment proposal for the establishment of a multifunctional medical and scientific-practical center was made by the company Medical Initiative.

Apparently, another district of Minsk - Frunzenski, which signed an agreement on twinning with the Chinese city of Jilin, located in the province of Girin, in September 2018, will significantly intensify its international contacts in the near future. The document adopted by the parties envisages the development of trade and economic relations and cultural exchange. And "among the promising areas are joint projects in the construction industry, education, tourism, food supplies<sup>86</sup>.

Cooperation between the Chinese province of Zhejiang and the Belarusian Minsk Oblast, which signed an agreement on establishing friendly relations back in May 2015, promises to be very effective. Then, assessing the prospects for the development of these bilateral interregional ties, the Chinese side stated that "Zhejiang Province intends to make significant investments in the economy of Minsk region.<sup>87</sup>In this regard, he will encourage his businessmen in every possible way, as well as invited partners from the capital region "to jointly develop tourism<sup>88</sup>. A year later, the Borisov plant of medical products, located in Minsk voblast, began negotiations with the company "Menovo" from Zhejiang province on the implementation of a joint project

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<sup>85</sup> Sovetsky district of Minsk and Channin Shanghai district signed an agreement on cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/sovetskij-rajon-minska-i-rajon-channin-shanhaja-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-317462-2018/>

<sup>86</sup> Frunzenski district of Minsk and Chinese Jilin signed an agreement on twinned connections [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/frunzenskij-rajon-minska-i-kitajskij-tszilin-podpisali-soglashenie-o-pobratimskih-svjazjah-318157-2018/>

<sup>87</sup> Zhejiang Province intends to make significant investments in the economy of Minsk Oblast [Electronic Resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://investinbelarus.by/press/news/provinciya-chjeczyan-namerena-napravit-v-ekonomiku-minskoy-oblasti-znachitelnye-investicii/>

<sup>88</sup> Zhejiang Province offers Minsk region to cooperate in tourism [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/provintsija-chzhetszjan-predlagaet-minskoj-oblasti-sotrudnicat-v-sfere-turizma-2646-2015/>

for the production of medicines. And today this project is already starting to take shape more and more clearly.

In January 2018, another result of cooperation between the Minsk Region and Zhejiang was the opening of a center for traditional Chinese medicine at the Minsk Regional Clinical Hospital in the village of Lesnoy, Minsk District, where Chinese colleagues have already begun to transfer years of experience in traditional medicine and their skills, which allows Belarusian specialists to improve and expand the list of medical services. More specifically, in four treatment rooms and the office of reflexotherapists "patients are offered to undergo the procedure of classical acupuncture (acupuncture), laser puncture, electropuncture, vacuum reflexotherapy, hirudotherapy, auriculoreflexotherapy"<sup>89</sup>. In addition, "the Center of Traditional Chinese Medicine is also planned to open on the basis of the Minsk Regional Center of Medical Rehabilitation "Zagorie"<sup>90</sup>.

In November 2018, the Belarusian capital region, taking into account the interest of Chinese partners in supplying dairy and meat products - ice cream, beef and poultry - from Belarus, declared its readiness to load with its agro-industrial products container trains returning from Europe to China. As for the prospects of this cooperation, the partner regions "plan to implement joint projects in tourism, trade, industrial production, agriculture, medicine, culture and transport logistics"<sup>91</sup>.

Another important point is that cities and districts located on their territory are beginning to provide considerable support to the interaction between the Belarusian region and the Chinese province. In particular, in the same 2015 the Memorandum on establishing friendly relations was signed by Smolevichi district and the city of Iu. Curiously, just twenty years ago, this Chinese city in Zhejiang Province was "a little-known agricultural settlement, and nowadays it is a rapidly developing center of

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<sup>89</sup> The Center of Chinese Medicine was established on the basis of Minsk Regional Hospital [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://www.zviazda.by/ru/news/20180112/1515764769-centr-kitayskoy-mediciny-sozdan-na-baze-minskoy-oblastnoy-bolnicy>

<sup>90</sup> The Centre of Traditional Chinese Medicine [Electronic Resource] was opened in Minsk. - - 2018. - URL: <https://politring.com/region/12002-v-minske-otkrylsya-centr-tradicionnoy-kitayskoy-mediciny.html>

<sup>91</sup> Minsk region expects to implement a project with Chinese Ningbo on production of medical drugs [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/minskaja-oblast-rasschityvaet-realizovat-s-kitajskim-ninbo-proekt-po-vypusku-medpreparatov-326994-2018/>

international middle and small wholesale trade<sup>92</sup>. Here, in the southeast of China, is the world's largest indoor wholesale market "Yiu International Trade City", the uniqueness of which lies in the fact that, without leaving the walls of the shopping center, the buyer can choose the right product from a huge range of products, make a wholesale deal and organize the shipment of products to any destination. At the same time, "a huge range of products is presented in the ultra-modern complex Futian on an area of 2.6 million square meters. About 58 thousand trading stands are located on 5 floors. The length of the building itself is about 4 km"<sup>93</sup>. Now it is clear why today the Belarusian side is already discussing the issues of "increasing the supply of dairy and other food products of Minsk region to the Chinese market through the site of the pavilion of Belarusian goods of the company "Kingston" in the international market of goods of the city of Iu"<sup>94</sup>.

In November 2018, Belarusian Borisov and Chinese Ningbo signed an agreement on establishing friendly relations. "The Parties agreed to develop multilateral ties and cooperation in trade, economy, education, culture, tourism, sports, health care, urban development, environmental protection, as well as to promote mutual prosperity"<sup>95</sup>. Apparently, the parties have the potential to implement such a scenario. After all, Ningbo is a major Chinese port city in Zhejiang Province. Four sea port complexes are located here at once. One of the largest is the Beilun, where the car factories of the company "Gili" are located, which are well known in Belarus. And the city's gross domestic product in 2017 reached almost 145 billion dollars - a figure that speaks for itself. In short, this city also has a lot to learn from. And not just Borisov.

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<sup>92</sup> Belarus plans to sell goods in the Chinese center of medium and small wholesale trade Iu [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-realizovyvat-tovary-v-kitajskom-tsentre-srednej-i-melkooptovoj-torgovli-iu-242556-2017/>

<sup>93</sup> Grishkevich, A. International trading town of Chinese goods may appear in Bolbasovo / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mezhdunarodnyj-torgovyj-gorodok-kitajskih-tovarov-mozhet-pojavitsja-v-bolbasovo-262012-2017/>

<sup>94</sup> About inter-regional cooperation of Minsk region with Zhejiang province [Electron resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://minsk-region.gov.by/ru/glavnyj-novosti/item/36377-nikolay-rogaschuk-chtoby-nazad-konteynery-ne-shli-pustymi>

<sup>95</sup> Borisov and Chinese city of Ningbo have established friendly relations [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/borisov-i-kitajskij-gorod-ninbo-ustanovili-druzhestvennye-svjazi-326980-2018/>

ГОВОРЯ О ПЛАНЕ МЕРОПРИЯТИЙ ПО ПРОВЕДЕНИЮ ГОДА ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ БЕЛАРУСИ И КИТАЯ В 2019 ГОДУ, ПОДПИСАННОМ В ХОДЕ ТРЕТЬЕГО ЗАСЕДАНИЯ БЕЛОРУССКО-КИТАЙСКОГО МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННОГО КОМИТЕТА ПО СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВУ, ЗАМЕТИМ, ЧТО САМО ОТКРЫТИЕ ГОДА ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ ПЛАНИРУЕТСЯ ПРОВЕСТИ В ЯНВАРЕ 2019 ГОДА НА БАЗЕ ДАЛЯНСКОГО ПОЛИТЕХНИЧЕСКОГО УНИВЕРСИТЕТА, ЧТО ДОЛЖНО ПРОДОЛЖИТЬ РЕАЛИЗАЦИЮ ЦЕЛОГО КОМПЛЕКСА МЕРОПРИЯТИЙ ПО НАЛАЖИВАНИЮ ПРЯМЫХ СВЯЗЕЙ ВУЗОВ БЕЛАРУСИ С УЧРЕЖДЕНИЯМИ ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ КИТАЯ И В ИТОГЕ ПОДНЯТЬ НА КАЧЕСТВЕННО НОВЫЙ УРОВЕНЬ ВЕСЬ СПЕКТР БЕЛОРУССКО-КИТА

Speaking about the development of partnerships in this field, it should be noted that "the Chinese education system is unique in its kind. Unlike in Western Europe, it cultivates not so much individuality as discipline and devotion to collective interests. This model has proven its worth: the overall level of education development in China is above the world average"<sup>96</sup>. In this regard, the interest of the Belarusian side in the planned activities is obvious not only to get acquainted closer with the Chinese experience, but also to compare it with its own. To this end, it is planned to significantly intensify in 2019 the work on expanding the presence of Belarusian educational institutions in the Chinese educational market through such formats of cooperation as opening representative offices of universities, joint faculties, centers of study of Belarus. In addition, the Belarusian national exhibition "may take a central place at the largest international exhibition" China Education Expo ", which is traditionally held in October in four major cities in China: Beijing, Chengdu, Shanghai and Guangzhou"<sup>97</sup>.

As for new forms of cooperation between higher education institutions of the two countries and new participants, a number of promising projects were implemented by the parties as early as 2018. These include, for example, the agreement signed by F.

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<sup>96</sup> China [Electronic resource]. - – 2018. - URL: <https://export.by/china>

<sup>97</sup> Features of organization of ideological and educational work in higher education institutions in 2018/2019 academic year. - RIVSH, 2018, P. 7.

Skorina State University of Gomel and Nanjing University of Science and Technology in December 2018 on joint training of researchers of higher qualification (Ph.D.) and on double international guidance for writing and defending Ph.D. theses, according to which "the parties will organize joint training of researchers of higher qualification in the most promising areas: physics, chemistry, physics and chemistry"<sup>98</sup>. The basic element of this training will be postgraduate studies at these universities, and the topics of PhD dissertations will be determined by the partner universities. The result of this interaction will be an opportunity to obtain a PhD degree from both Gomel and Nanjing universities. And the results of research will become the property of two universities and will be published in international scientific collections.

In October 2018, the cooperation agreement was signed by Baranovich State University and Nanchan Technological Institute, which "intend to develop cooperation in technical field - in information systems and technologies, automation of technological processes"<sup>99</sup>. In addition, the Chinese side expressed interest in studying the Belarusian methodology of ion-plasma nitriding, environment, mechanisms of socio-economic stability. As a result, the partners agreed to form a joint team of scientists in each of the selected areas.

In September 2018, the Centre for the Study of Belarus was opened at Ankhov University with the assistance of the Consulate General of the Republic of Belarus in Shanghai and the Pushkin Brest State University. It is expected to become "a broad platform for the development of inter-university research, educational, cultural cooperation, as well as the strengthening and expansion of regional ties between the Brest region and Anhui Province of China"<sup>100</sup>. In turn, it is planned to open a center for the study of China at the Pushkin Brest State University. In this way, Brest residents

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<sup>98</sup> Gomel and Nanjing Universities will start a joint PhD training [Electronic Resource]. -- 2018. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/gomelskij-i-nankinskij-universitety-nachnut-sovmestnuju-podgotovku-kandidatov-nauk-328395-2018/>

<sup>99</sup> Baranovich State University will cooperate with Nanchansk Technological Institute [Electronic Resource]. - -- 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/baranovichskij-gosuniversitet-budet-sotrudnichat-s-nanchanskim-tehnologicheskim-institutom-320995-2018/>

<sup>100</sup> Grishkevich, A. The Centre for Belarus studies was opened in Anhui University in China / A. Grishkevich // [Electron resource]. -- 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/tsentr-izuchenija-belarusi-otkrylsja-v-anhojskom-universitete-v-kitae-318426-2018/>

are putting into practice the provisions of the cooperation agreement signed in September 2017 with Anhoy University. According to the parties, the opening of such centers will contribute to a deeper understanding of the cultural traditions of the Belarusian and Chinese peoples, strengthen relations between the region and the province in the humanitarian sphere, and will open "new opportunities for academic exchange of students, cooperation of teachers in the scientific sphere"<sup>101</sup>. It should be added that the first center for the study of Belarus in China was opened back in 2012 at the East China Pedagogical University in Shanghai, which in November 2018 "signed a program of cooperation of Belarusian universities <...> for the development of the Center for Study of Belarus.

As we can see, the thematic spectrum of the Belarusian-Chinese interaction is growing up like a chain reaction. And this sets very difficult tasks for journalists of both countries in terms of adequate media articulation, prompt and high-quality coverage of the processes of cooperation between Belarus and China. In order to successfully cope with their decision, representatives of Belarusian and Chinese media are also trying to find new solutions to strengthen partnerships. Among them, in particular, is the agreement on cooperation signed in September 2018 between the Publishing House "Belarus Today" and the Chinese news agency Xinhua. Let it not be the first document of such a plan, because about 20 years ago an agreement on cooperation between the Belarusian Telegraph Agency ELTA and Xinhua was signed. But "this cooperation was filled with interesting projects for both sides, in BELTA there was a news line in Chinese"<sup>102</sup>. That is why the current agreement should be seen as a new level of cooperation between the Belarusian and Chinese mass media. All the more so because it speaks not only about the exchange of information, but also multimedia materials, about creation of new rubrics on cooperation between Belarus and China. In particular, the newspapers of the Publishing House "Belarus Today"

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<sup>101</sup> The Center for China Studies is planning to open in Brest State University [Electronic mode]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/tsentr-izuchenija-kitaja-planirujut-otkryt-v-brestskom-gosuniversitete-314837-2018/>

<sup>102</sup> "Belarus Today" and the Xinhua news agency will cooperate [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-segodnja-i-informagentstvo-sinhua-budut-sotrudnicat-317352-2018/>

should call such a column "Window to China. It should be assumed that this experience of creative interaction with colleagues from the Celestial Empire will be continued in publications of regional and departmental levels of Belarus.

## **Science and technology vector comprehensive strategic partnership**

One of the main directions of trust-based all-round strategic partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Belarus is the intensive development of partnerships in science, where it is obvious "the need to deepen further scientific cooperation, implementation of new forms of interaction and expansion of the list of joint projects"<sup>103</sup>. Recall that in 2018, China hosted a meeting of the Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation of the Chinese-Belarusian Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation, in which the parties noted the strengthening of cooperation in recent years, identified potentially important scientific projects and came to the unequivocal conclusion: "Joint research work has gradually become a new model of cooperation between the two countries"<sup>104</sup>.

The fifth Belarusian-Chinese Youth Innovation Forum "New Horizons", which took place in Minsk in November 2018 and brought together more than two hundred participants, demonstrated an important trend for this topic: "In cooperation between scientists from Belarus and China, emphasis is placed on youth"<sup>105</sup>. Such a detail also speaks for itself: if earlier the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus and the Ministry of Science and Technology of China traditionally announced one contest of Belarusian-Chinese projects every two years, then only in 2018 - twice. As a result, 47 applications have been submitted for the contest of joint Belarusian-

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<sup>103</sup> Belarus and China are interested in developing scientific cooperation [Electronic resource]. - -- 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-zainteresovany-v-razvitii-nauchnogo-sotrudnichestva-285359-2018/>

<sup>104</sup> Cimin, C. Friendship of Belarus and China became all-weather / C. Cimin // [Electronic resource]. - -- 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/druzhiba-belarusi-i-kitaja-stala-vsepogodnoj-tsuj-tsimin-331056-2018/>

<sup>105</sup> In cooperation of scientists of Belarus and China the stake is made on youth - Shumilin [Electronic resource]. - -- 2018. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/v-sotrudnichestve-uchenyh-belarusi-i-kitaja-stavka-delaetsja-na-molodezh-shumilin-325711-2018/>

Chinese scientific and technical projects for 2019-2020 in priority areas of bilateral cooperation: information and communication technologies, energy efficiency and energy conservation, biotechnology, chemistry and agro-industrial complex. Among them is the implementation of the project to establish the Chinese-Belarusian Centre for Cooperation in Transformation of Scientific and Technological Achievements, which will help create new high-tech industries both in Belarus and China. It should be noted that this project is included in the program of Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical cooperation until 2020, which also includes other promising strategic joint projects - "creation of an enterprise for the production of equipment for use in solar energy training test center on the basis of a joint institute of BSU and Dalian Polytechnic University, the Chinese-Belarusian Center for Incubation of Innovation Projects"<sup>106</sup>.

The Belarusian State University, which plans to establish its second joint institute with Dalian Polytechnic University in 2019, is one of the domestic higher education institutions actively developing ties with Chinese partners. Let's remind that the first one, where now on two courses of three faculties - applied physics, engineering mechanics, mathematics and applied mathematics - study 159 Chinese students, was formed in 2017 and works in Dalian. It is taught in English. The second joint university is expected to open in Belarus. It is expected that "specialists trained at the institute will be in demand in the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park "Great Stone"<sup>107</sup>.

The Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics, which in mid-March this year opened in Minsk a joint research and educational center with the East China Institute of Computer Technology, which will promote international cooperation, strengthen international cooperation of scientists to solve breakthrough problems in the field of high technologies, training of highly qualified specialists, is going to actively develop ties with Chinese partners in 2019. In addition, BSUIR has

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<sup>106</sup> For the Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical projects competition 47 applications were submitted [Electronic resource]. -- 2018. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/na-konkurs-belorussko-kitajskih-nauchno-technicheskikh-proektov-podano-47-zajavok-329805-2018/>

<sup>107</sup> BSU plans to establish a second joint institute with Dalian Polytechnic University [Electronic Resource]. - -- 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bgu-planiruet-sozdat-vtoroj-sovmestnyj-institut-s-daljanskim-politehnicheskim-universitetom-337473-2019/>

signed an agreement on cooperation in science with the University of Science and Technology of Hong Kong. And with the South China University of Science and Technology in Shenzhen, an agreement was reached "on the implementation of educational programs at the first level of higher education based on the model of two-diploma education "2+2"<sup>108</sup>. A logical and important step in terms of strengthening cooperation between higher education institutions of Belarus and China was the opening in March 2019, within the framework of the Days of the Minsk Region in Chongqing city, of the "Centre for the Study of Belarus at the Sichuan University of Foreign Languages"<sup>109</sup>.

In total, more than 350 direct cooperation agreements were signed between Belarusian and Chinese institutions of higher education as of March 2019, which are being successfully implemented in the form of bilateral scientific projects, joint educational programs, as well as provide for further "academic exchanges, creation of joint educational structures and scientific laboratories"<sup>110</sup>. These statistics also tell a lot. Today, almost a thousand Belarusian citizens are studying various programs in China. The dynamics here is such that their number increases annually by about a hundred people. And in Belarus, more than three thousand representatives of China are trained. And, to all appearances, this is far from the limit, as now "Belarus and China are preparing an intergovernmental agreement on mutual recognition of documents on education, training and academic degrees".<sup>111</sup>In this regard, we are convinced that the implementation of this programme will make Belarusian-Chinese cooperation in education even more dynamic and effective.

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<sup>108</sup> BSUIR and the East China Research Institute of Computer Technology will open a joint educational centre [Electronic Resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://belta.by/tech/view/bguir-i-vostochno-kitajskij-nii-kompjutersnyh-tehnologii-otkrojut-sovmestnyj-obrazovatelnyj-tsentr-338475-2019/>

<sup>109</sup> The Centre for the Study of Belarus was opened at the Sichuan University of Foreign Languages in China [Electronic Resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/special/society/view/tsentr-izuchenija-belarusi-otkrylsja-na-baze-sychuanskogo-universiteta-inostrannyh-jazykov-v-kitae-340916-2019/>

<sup>110</sup> Grishkevich, A. Belarusian and Chinese universities successfully realize more than 350 agreements on cooperation - Karpenko / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/beloruskie-i-kitajskie-vuzy-ushpeshno-realizujut-bolee-350-dogovorov-o-sotrudnichestve-karpenko-339787-2019/>

<sup>111</sup> Grishkevich, A. Belarus and China are preparing agreement on mutual recognition of the education documents (in Russian) / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-gotovjat-soglashenie-o-vzaimnom-priznanii-dokumentov-ob-obrazovanii-339806-2019/>

Units of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus are also active participants in bilateral scientific cooperation with Chinese partners. In particular, back in September 2018, the Institute of Physics of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Institute of Laser Research of the Academy of Sciences of the Chinese province of Shandong came to an agreement on the establishment of a joint scientific laboratory to implement a number of contracts in the field of laser physics. At the same time, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the Academy of Sciences of Shandong Province and the Municipal Government of Jinan City signed a trilateral memorandum of cooperation to identify priority areas of scientific research and a list of specific projects of mutual interest for the development of relevant technical and industrial areas, as well as the possibility of "creating new joint laboratories"<sup>112</sup>.

As for humanitarian cooperation, the Institute of Economics of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Institute of World Economy and Politics of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences are implementing a joint research project to study the prospects of functioning and development strategy of the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park "Great Stone" in accordance with the initiative "One belt and one way".

The thematic expansion of Belarusian-Chinese scientific relations is also evidenced by the fact that in March 2019 the Belarusian-Chinese Research Center for the development of modern means of protection against emergencies was opened at the University of Civil Protection of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus. This educational and experimental platform for the creation and study of public safety features innovative technical tools, software and products in the field of protection against emergencies was created thanks to the scientific capacity of the Chinese Institute of Public Safety Research of Tsinghua University and GSafety Company. The urgency of creating such a research center is explained by the fact that the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in Belarus for 2019-2020 provides for the development of a new model of urban safety management, which should use such technologies as Internet of things, Big Data, artificial intelligence, information

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<sup>112</sup> The Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Chinese Shandong Province will establish a joint laboratory [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/akademii-nauk-belarusi-i-kitajskoj-provintsii-shandun-sozhdadut-sovmestnuju-laboratoriju-319153-2018/>

models of objects. Here is a new center and will "work on the development and implementation of security systems designed to detect and eliminate fires, early warning of emergencies, public safety management, transport safety, monitoring and control safety in the operation of life support systems of the city"<sup>113</sup>.

The course of strengthening scientific and technical cooperation is also typical for the activities of the residents of the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park "Great Stone". It should be reminded that by the beginning of 2019 more than 40 companies from different countries of the world became residents of this park. The peculiarity of this peculiar free economic zone on the territory of the Republic of Belarus, where residents are provided with unprecedented tax and tariff conditions, is that it accommodates "only those industries, those technologies that aspire to the future"<sup>114</sup>. The fact that development here is going on at an active pace is also testified by the following fact: in 2018 "the first stage of construction of the infrastructure of the Veliky Kamen Industrial Park on an area of 8.5 square kilometers was completed"<sup>115</sup>. In the same year 2018, the volume of investments attracted here amounted to at least 180 million dollars. In general, the accumulated investment since the establishment of the industrial park by early 2019 has reached half a billion dollars, about half of which are residents' funds, and the other half - investment in infrastructure development. As for the prospects, "by 2020 the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park will have more than 100 residents with investments of at least \$2 billion and the amount of goods produced of \$1 billion. There will also be at least 6.5 thousand new high-performance jobs"<sup>116</sup>.

Among other things, the powerful potential of the new residents of the Great Stone should contribute to the successful solution of such difficult tasks of industrial

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<sup>113</sup> The Belarusian-Chinese Research Center was opened at the University of Civil Protection [Electronic Resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belorusско-kitajskij-issledovatel'skij-tsentr-otkryli-v-universitete-grazhdanskoj-zaschity-340523-2019/>

<sup>114</sup> Interview with V. Makei, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, Japanese TV and radio company "NHK" (December 19, 2018) [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/de367645ecb2d418.html>

<sup>115</sup> Cimin, C. Friendship between Belarus and China became all-weather / C. Cimin // [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/druzhba-belarusi-i-kitaja-stala-vsepogodnoj-tsuj-tsimin-331056-2018/>

<sup>116</sup> The volume of attracted investments in the "Great Stone" in 2018 will be at least \$180 million [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/objem-privlechnyh-investitsij-v-velikij-kamen-v-2018-godu-sostavit-ne-menee-180-mln-330428-2018/>

park development. The facts testify to what it is. Thus, in January 2019, the 42nd resident of the park was the Chinese LLC "Vaisysi International Bel", which plans to create here both production and research and technical support center. "The volume of investments will amount to more than \$2 million, in the future it can be increased up to \$5 million"<sup>117</sup>. The activity of the new resident, whose founder is Wiseasy, one of the leaders in the field of hardware services for business analysis in China, will contribute to the intensive development of mobile payments system in Belarus. The fact is that LLC "Vaisysi International Bel" specializes in the production of intelligent electronic terminals based on the Android system, which can accept payment with an encrypted card with a magnetic stripe, bank card with a chip, as well as with contactless short-range communication, widely used in smartphones.

In December 2018, "Great Stone" took in its "family" the Chinese company "Yunzhi Technology", the founder of which is a company from Shenzhen "Yunzhi Tech Co., Ltd.", known in the field of LED control systems and exporting its products to more than one hundred countries. The new resident of the industrial park specializes in the production of innovative products that meet high environmental standards - LED transparent screens and LED monoblocks, which are used in the design of scenes and exhibitions, large-scale sports competitions. "The total investment in the project is \$3.2 million"<sup>118</sup>. With an investment of about two million dollars at the end of 2018, the Chinese-Belarusian High-tech Aerospace Center for Research and Development Limited Liability Company, which will be engaged in research activities in the field of space technologies, became a member of the "Great Stone" industrial park.

In the same December 2018, the construction of the Sino-Belarusian center for cooperation in the field of transformation of scientific and technological achievements was launched at the Great Stone, which is scheduled to open in a year. In a five-storey building with a total area of about 20 thousand square meters, made in the form of a geometric figure reminiscent of the mathematical symbol of "infinity", it is planned to

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<sup>117</sup> The new resident is registered in the "Great Stone" [Electronic Resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-zaregistrirovan-v-velikom-kamne-331481-2019>

<sup>118</sup> Two new residents are registered with the Great Stone [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/dva-novyh-rezidenta-zaregistrirovany-v-velikom-kamne-330351-2018/>

place "demonstration and multifunctional halls, shopping areas, centers for cooperation in the field of commercialization, business incubator and testing, center for intermediate testing and small-scale production of scientific and technical achievements, engaged in preliminary experiments"<sup>119</sup>. There will also be laboratories, production halls for trial tests, a testing center, demonstration of samples and information on the production of products for subsequent registration of property rights. Finally, in December 2018, the Chinese company Sinotrans, one of the largest providers of logistics services in the country and engaged in the delivery of goods by sea, freight forwarding, express transport, warehousing services, opened its headquarters in the industrial park "Great Stone" in the Eurasian region. It is done with a long-range sight, as "a world-class logistics platform is being created on the Silk Road, the purpose of which will be to carry out maritime and air transport by rail"<sup>120</sup>.

In February 2019, another Chinese resident, Xinlian International Technology Company LLC, was registered at Great Stone, which plans to create a center for storing and processing large volumes of data within the next two years. The project, which will invest about two and a half million dollars, "provides for the creation of infrastructure solutions for the concept of a smart city for planning traffic routes, search for parking spaces, electronic registration of clinics"<sup>121</sup>. And in March 2019 it was announced that an investment fund to support small and medium businesses and venture projects implemented in the park and in Belarus as a whole will be created in the industrial park "Great Stone". The Fund's work will be organized on the basis of the Centre for Cooperation in the Field of Transformation of Scientific and Technical Achievements,

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<sup>119</sup> The Sino-Belarusian center of cooperation in the field of transformation of scientific and technical achievements is planned to be built in a year [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kitajsko-beloruskij-tsentr-sotrudnichestva-v-oblasti-transformatsii-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-dostizhenij-329775-2018/>

<sup>120</sup> Sinotrans opened its Eurasian headquarters in the "Great Stone" [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/sinotrans-otkryla-evrazijskuju-shtab-kvartiru-v-velikom-kamne-329874-2018/>

<sup>121</sup> Lisatovich, T. New resident will create in "Velikiy Kamen" a center of storage and processing of large volumes of data / T. Lisatovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-sozdast-v-velikom-kamne-tsentr-hranenija-i-obrabotki-bolshih-objemov-dannyh-338346-2019/>

which is under construction there. The outcome of this project should be "an integrated infrastructure to stimulate the innovative development of the park"<sup>122</sup>.

All these facts testify to the main thing: in 2016 the relations between Belarus and China reached a new level - trusting all-round strategic partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation - has become a basic component of further progressive development of Belarusian-Chinese cooperation in science, technology and education, which in 2019 should find new innovative formats for implementing joint projects to ensure quality economic growth.

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<sup>122</sup> Lisatovich, T. Small and medium business support investment fund will be created in "Great stone" / T. Lisatovich // [Electronic resource]. - -- 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/investitsionnyj-fond-podderzhki-malogo-i-srednego-biznesa-sozdatut-v-velikom-kamne-341563-2019/>

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