

Panorama CPC



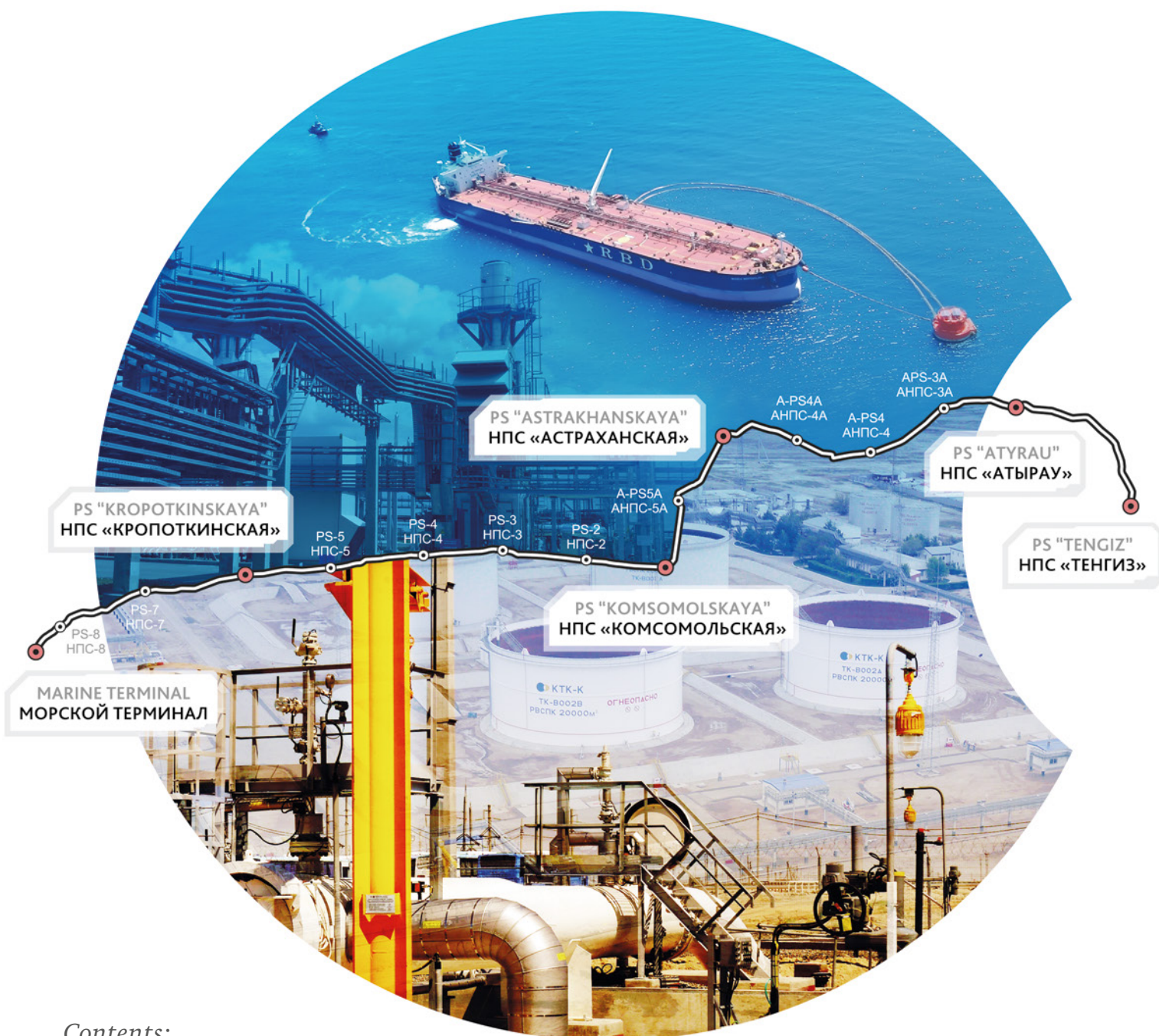
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Caspian Pipeline Consortium Corporate Edition

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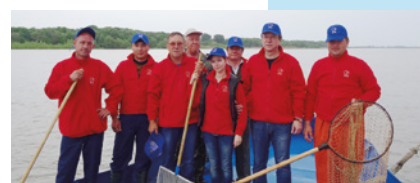
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CPC elects a new General Director

SHAREHOLDERS OF THE CASPIAN PIPELINE CONSORTIUM HAVE UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED NIKOLAY GORBAN AS THE CONSORTIUM'S GENERAL DIRECTOR. GORBAN WAS NOMINATED BY JSC AK TRANSNEFT – THE SHAREHOLDER REPRESENTING THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT IN THE CONSORTIUM.

THE ADDRESS OF NIKOLAY GORBAN, GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE CASPIAN PIPELINE CONSORTIUM

Dear Colleagues,

The consortium's shareholders have elected me as General Director of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium and I assumed the office on June 27, 2016.

Changes of leadership are natural at times of milestones on a company's path forward. Former goals have been achieved and new ones are set. I am sure that my experience in the construction and operation of hydrocarbon production and transportation facilities as well as in the management of the many-thousand-strong team of AK Transnefteprodukt will be fully utilised at CPC.

Also, I hope for the support from the consortium's specialists

whose high professionalism I have witnessed in person during my first inspection trip around the pipeline system's facilities. I want to stress that professionalism, knowledge and integrity will definitely be appreciated.

This year we are facing a very important and challenging task – the completion of the Expansion Project, which will require maximum effort from all team members. We will be working, at the same time, to improve all aspects of the consortium's main business of oil transportation. I am certain that, working as a close-knit team, we will achieve excellent results and reach all our goals.



Nikolay Gorban,
General Director
of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium



Nikolay Gorban

Nikolay Gorban was born on June 23, 1970 in the town of Lukhovitsy, Moscow region.

In 1997, he graduated from the Donbass State Academy of Construction and Architecture with a major in "Industrial and Civil Construction," and in 2001 he graduated from the Tyumen State Oil and Gas University with a major in "Design, Construction and Operation of Gas and Oil Pipelines and Gas and Oil Storage Facilities". Nikolay Gorban holds a PhD in Technical Sciences.

From 1988–1990, he served in the USSR Armed Forces.

He started his career in 1990 as a foreman in the Construction Division of the Nizhnevartovskdorstroi group.

From 1992–1995, he worked as foreman, taskmaster and process supervisor at the Varyeganzhilstroi leasing enterprise.

From 1995–1997, he was chief engineer at Kreit LLC.

From 1997–2006, he worked as deputy head of production, engineer, head of the operations division, deputy head of the operations directorate, and acting head of the Sibnefteprovod Tyumen Directorate of main oil pipelines.

From 2006–2010, he held the post of deputy general director in charge of operations at OJSC Chernomortransneft. From 2010–2012, he worked as chief engineer at OJSC Mostransnefteprodukt.

From April 2012 to March 2014, he held the post of first vice president of OJSC AK Transnefteprodukt. On March 7, 2014, he was appointed president of OJSC Transnefteprodukt.

Nikolay Gorban holds Certificates of Merit from the Krasnodar Territory Fuel & Energy Department, OJSC Chernomortransneft, and the Russian Ministry of Energy.

He is married with two sons and a daughter.

First inspection trip

FROM HIS VERY FIRST DAYS AS THE CASPIAN PIPELINE CONSORTIUM'S GENERAL DIRECTOR NIKOLAY GORBAN MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WAS NOT GOING TO SUPERVISE CPC OPERATIONS AND THE EXPANSION PROJECT'S FINISHING EFFORTS SITTING IN HIS MOSCOW OFFICE.



In early July, only a few days after the appointment, the new general director flew to Kazakhstan. Beginning from the starting point, PS "Tengiz", he visited all Consortium's facilities, those operating and those under construction, as he completed a helicopter trip over the pipeline's entire length of 1,511 km. The inspection tour took 10 days to make it the end point – the Marine Terminal near Novorossiysk.

"In my opinion, the best approach is to get a complete view of the CPC pipeline system, all at once, not by making several inspection trips to different regions," Nikolay Gorban told Panorama after the tour. "I saw that the system is organised in a fairly rational way. Almost all stations, in terms of the scope of the facilities and the technology, follow a common standard (except for some nuances, for example, organisation of the power supplies). This is a right approach as it facilitates effective management of the whole system."

IN THE PRAIRIES OF KAZAKHSTAN

In Kazakhstan, Nikolay Gorban visited the pipeline's "headwaters" – PS "Tengiz" and PS "Atyrau", where upgrades had been completed in 2015 and the dismantling of the decommissioned equipment is nearing completion. He also inspected A-PS-3A and A-PS-4, which are under construction.

A-PS-3A is in intermediate pump station being constructed as part of the Expansion Project's Phase III. At the time of Mr. Gorban's arrival, contractor representatives were busy performing hydraulic tests of process piping, installing cables and cable terminations. Comprehensive testing of A-PS-3A is scheduled for December 2016 so that the station can be put into operation no later than in March 2017.

Construction of A-PS-4 is part of Expansion Project's Phase II. Individual tests and equipment checks have been completed at the station and land improvement is currently under way. The station is scheduled to be put into operation after the system tests in November 2016.



With CPC First Deputy General Director Dennis Fahy



At A-PS-3A in Kazakhstan



A bird's-eye view of PS "Tengiz"



Inspecting PS "Atyrau"

TRANSBOUNDARY PIPE

Now the prairies and deserts of Kazakhstan give way to the Volga deltaic areas where the pipeline crosses the Russia-Kazakhstan border and enters RF responsibility zone of CPC-R. Here Nikolay Gorban changes from a Mi-8 to a EC-135 helicopter. The EC-135 is a Eurocopter model used for regular patrol flights over CPC-R section of the pipeline. Nikolay Gorban devoted serious attention to inspecting the pipeline.

“The pipeline is in good condition with service driveways present almost everywhere,” he remarked. “And I’m generally satisfied with the condition of line block valves and



A-PS-4A – a pump station at the Russia-Kazakhstan border



...and PS “Komsomolskaya”



At the helipad beside PS “Komsomolskaya”



An inspection with specialists

“Conditions are fine. The quality of the food deserves special mention. There is a lot of delicious food on offer,” Gorban noted.

At PS “Astrakhanskaya” the issue of transferring the station to a rotating shift schedule was brought up for discussion. This would require building an accommodation camp and relevant infrastructure and increasing the capacity of water treatment plants.

“In your opinion, does PS “Astrakhanskaya” really need a rotating shift schedule?” Nikolay Gorban asked PS manager Sergey Nosov.

“It is a necessity!” he replied. “The people have to work late sometimes, and the way home is quite long.” »

pig launchers. All regulatory requirements and CPC corporate regulations are complied with. I pointed out some drawbacks. In the near future, an additional inspection of the pipeline will be carried out and appropriate corrective action will be taken.”

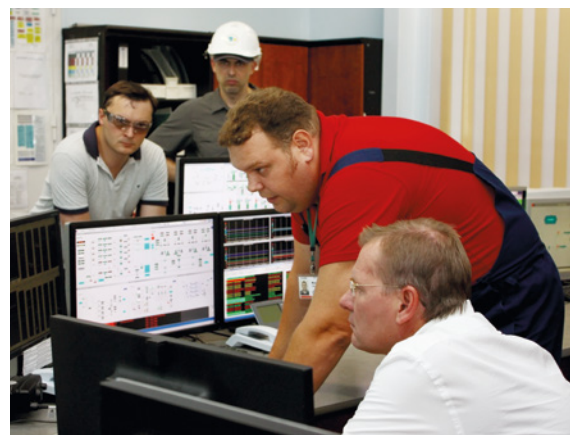
Mr. Gorban positively appraised pipeline security arrangements.

“The line is properly watched, including walking and helicopter patrols. All pipeline facilities are equipped with CCTV systems,” he stressed.

TAKING CARE OF THE PEOPLE

The new general director inspected the main and auxiliary equipment at the oil pump stations. He devoted special attention to PS “Komsomolskaya”, which is scheduled to start receiving oil from the Filanovsky field in this autumn, and other Expansion Project facilities scheduled to be put into operation by the end of 2016.

Nikolay Gorban inspected office areas, accommodation camps and canteens.



In the PS “Astrakhanskaya” control room



The task of inspection trips – to understand all of the details

EVERYTHING IS UNDER CONTROL

Since the inspection trip's schedule was tight – 2 or, more often, 3 stations a day – individual inspections continued even in the rain. A good thing about that was the possibility to check the water resistance of the facilities. After all, they are operated round-the-year and should be “all-weather.” In the discussions held during the inspection trip attention

was paid to certain errors in the design and construction of new stations. Storm water drainage now needs to be addressed separately.

At the construction sites of the Expansion Project's stations, the new general director discussed work progress with representatives of the Chernomortransneft Directorate for CPC Expansion Project Management and with representatives of construction contractors – Transneftstroy, Velsstroy, Stroinovatsiya, etc.

IN STEP WITH THE TIMES

While visiting the Marine Terminal, Nikolay Gorban noted the Consortium team's aspiration to be in step with the times introducing innovative technologies.

“SPM-3 is a big step forward compared to previously built SPM-1 and SPM-2,” he said.

The new general director appreciated the organisation of the work



CPC Marine Terminal's Tank Farm is one of the largest of its kind in Russia

at the shore facilities, noting that it was logical and understandable and free from anything unnecessary. All the equipment functions well, which is largely the result of the work of the operational services.

The Tank Farm impressed the new general director very much. By the end of this year, the Tank Farm will add three 100,000 m³ tanks to reach 1 million ton capacity and will make it among the largest of its kind in Russia.



At the shore facilities of the Marine Terminal



In the Marine Terminal's Operations Control Center



In PS-3 mainline pump house



PS-3 was put into operation in November 2015



PS-2 – an Expansion Project facility in Kalmykia

THE TEAM

In the Consortium's regional offices in Atyrau, Astrakhan, Krasnodar and at the Marine Terminal Nikolay Gorban met CPC regional managers and specialists. He stressed that with the completion of construction work, the task of integrating new facilities into existing pipeline system is becoming more pressing.

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE

Nikolay Gorban's inspection tour included an extensive program of meetings with the administration heads of the regions of CPC. During the trip he met with Atyrau regional administration head Nurlan Nogayev, Astrakhan Region Governor Alexander Zhilkin, Kalmykia Republic administration head Alexey Orlov, Krasnodar Krai Governor Veniamin Kondratyev, First Deputy Chairman of Stavropol Krai Ivan Kovalev and Novorossiysk Mayor Vladimir Sinyagovsky.

The meetings focused on cooperation between CPC and local authorities after the pipeline reaches its full projected capacity. The heads of the regions noted the social responsibility of the Consortium, which, in addition to bringing major tax revenues to the regional budget, creates more jobs and consistently implements major social programs in such fields as public healthcare, education, culture, sports. ■

by Pavel Kretov



Meeting Novorossiysk Mayor Vladimir Sinyagovsky



In the office of the Astrakhan Region Governor Alexander Zhilkin



With Kalmykia head Alexey Orlov

What impressed the new general director most during the inspection trip was the high professionalism of working teams throughout the whole length of the pipeline – from Tengiz to Novorossiysk.

"Everybody, engineers and workers, demonstrate diligence and attention toward equipment and their duties. With such a team we can perform most complicated tasks," Gorban said.



Meeting Atyrau Regional Administration Head Nurlan Nogayev



In the office of Krasnodar Krai Administration

Radik Kharisov:

CPC is noted for its social responsibility

IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR A COMPANY DOING BUSINESS IN DIFFERENT REGIONS AND WITH SERIOUS AND FAR-REACHING PLANS FOR THE FUTURE TO MAINTAIN A PERMANENT, CONSTRUCTIVE AND RESPECTFUL DIALOGUE WITH THE AUTHORITIES. HOW DOES THE CONSORTIUM DEVELOP RELATIONS WITH THE ASTRAKHAN REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION? PANORAMA CPC ADDRESSED THIS AND OTHER QUESTIONS TO DEPUTY HEAD OF THE ASTRAKHAN REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION IN CHARGE OF INDUSTRY, TRANSPORT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, RADIK KHARISOV.



“Radik, there are several fuel and energy companies currently operating in the Astrakhan Region. How would you rate the Caspian Pipeline Consortium among these companies?”

“There are a number of fuel and energy companies operating in the Astrakhan Region specialising in the subsurface production, processing and transportation of hydrocarbons within the region’s continental part and areas adjacent to the Caspian Sea, and also the generation and supply of heat and electricity to local consumers. First among these

are the subsidiaries of our giants, Gazprom and Lukoil – LLC Gazprom Dobycha Astrakhan, which has been developing Astrakhan gas and condensate field since 1986, and LLC LUKOIL-Nizhnevolzhskneft, which started oil production from the Caspian Sea in 2010 (Yuri Korchagin field). Several smaller companies are also present in the region (JSC Astrakhan Oil and Gas Company, CJSC AFB Oil and Gas Company, etc.) performing explorations in search for hydrocarbon fields (a total of 17 companies).

CPC occupies a special place due to its field of activity. Only two companies are in the business of large-scale transportation of hydrocarbons in the Astrakhan Region: CPC-R (oil transportation) and Gazprom (natural gas transportation through the Makat-North Caucasus main gas pipeline). In my opinion, CPC, despite its specialisation, is comparable with the major oil and gas corporations in terms of importance, including on the international level.”

“How CPC is important for the region as a taxpayer and employer?”

“CPC is important for the region as a taxpayer and as an employer. Even though the Expansion Project facilities have not yet been launched or registered with fiscal authorities, CPC brings over RUB 200 million to

the regional budget, which corresponds to the average level of tax payments by the oil and gas industry enterprises operating in the region. Given that investments in the Expansion Project’s facilities in the Astrakhan Region exceeded RUB 20 billion, CPC property tax payments are expected to increase drastically in 2017. The personal income tax base is expected to increase too since the number of CPC employees working at the new facilities will exceed 400 people per pump station (including support staff).”

“There are several cooperation agreements in place between CPC and the regional administration. How is cooperation developing today?”

“Next year we will mark the 20th anniversary of cooperation between the Astrakhan regional administration and CPC-R. I believe our cooperation will continue as long as CPC is here in the Astrakhan Region. CPC is a reliable company, consistently implementing its plans and currently increasing oil transportation volume.

Importantly, CPC is noted for its social responsibility in the regions through which the pipeline runs. More than 20 agreements on supporting some of our most important social projects have been signed between CPC-R and the Astrakhan regional administration since 1998.



Radik Kharisov is not an office administrator. He prefers being in the thick of things and having his finger on the pulse of regional events and business

These projects include the sponsorship of health care, recreation and sports institutions and facilities, kindergartens and schools, charity aid to pensioners, veterans WWII, labour veterans and invalids. Two modification agreements to the main agreement on the CPC-R social program under the Expansion Project are currently being implemented: Agreement of July 28, 2011 and Agreement of August 27, 2015 calling for social allocations of RUB 150 million and RUB 145 million, respectively.

Four social undertakings are currently being funded under the Expansion Project: the construction of kindergartens in Baibek, Starokucherganovka and Kharabali, and providing medical equipment worth RUB 20 million to Silishcheva Regional Children's Hospital.

In addition, CPC allocates tens of millions of rubles every year from its operational budget to fund various charity programs."

"How are your relations developing with the CPC-R Central Region management and the Regulatory Affairs Group? What issues are most often discussed?"

"Relations are very efficient and constructive. The regional administration serves as a link between local divisions of federal power structures and CPC. We render tangible assistance in organising the registration

of land and facilities, getting external power supply permits from the Ros-tekhnadzor Volga Area Division etc.

In December 2015, the regional administration set up a Working Group for monitoring the schedule of putting CPC facilities into operation. The Working Group meets regularly. Five meetings have been held this year, the latest was quite recently, on May 17. The Working Group discussed various issues related to the Expansion Project, such as progress of the construction and installation work at the facilities, an extension for the A-PS-5A external power supply permit, the transfer of the title of the pontoon bridge across River Kigach to the Krasny Yar district municipality, cadastral registration of the A-PS-5A external power supply with the Astrakhan Cadastral District, and the progress of the social program implemented under the CPC Expansion Project in the Astrakhan Region."

"CPC is close to completing its huge Expansion Project. How have local companies been involved in the project?"

"The Astrakhan Directorate for Main Gas Pipelines of LLC Gazprom

Transgaz Stavropol, which provided commissioning and maintenance services for A-PS-4A gas distribution station in the Krasny Yar district has been directly involved in the project.

This year, following the launch of the Filanovsky offshore field, LUKOIL-Nizhnevolskneft requested from CPC tie-in permission to the CPC pipeline near PS "Komso-molskaya" to transport its oil to export destinations through the Novorossiysk terminal."

"Under the Expansion Project the number of pump stations in the Astrakhan Region will be tripled. How will that influence further cooperation between CPC and the regional authorities?"

"As I said earlier, the new construction and capacity expansion will result in more cash flowing into the regional budget, including profit tax, property tax and personal income tax.

The regional administration can only welcome the presence of a developing and socially responsible company like CPC, and our cooperation can only strengthen." ■



During a visit to A-PS-5A

In the normal course of business

THE CPC SOCIAL PROGRAM FOR THE REPUBLIC OF KALMYKIA ALLOCATES TENS OF MILLIONS OF RUBLES ANNUALLY FOR THE REPUBLIC'S SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE – THE SUPPORT OF CHILDREN, INCAPACITATED AND THE ELDERLY. RELATIONS BETWEEN BUSINESS AND AUTHORITIES WAS THE TOPIC OF OUR CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY HEAD OF THE KALMYKIA REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION GENNADY BADINOV.



“During the last three years alone the residents of the Republic of Kalmykia have been presented with a number of excellent social facilities, including Children’s Creativity Centre in Komsomolsky settlement, a kindergarten in Achinery, a school in Iki-Burul”, said Gennady Badinov. “With the help of CPC we’ve managed to push forward a very important project – the reconstruction of the Elista Sports Centre, which was about to hit the skids due to the lack of funding. The successful completion of that project allowed us to attract investment for the development of the Republican Sports Centre.

A remarkable example of CPC social assistance is the funding of equipment for a children’s hospital, including ophthalmological equipment and X-ray machines.

CPC’s presence in the republic has helped us to invigorate road construction. Access roads to PS “Komsomolskaya” and PS-2 have been built. Local residents benefitted from the upgrade of the electric power substation, which was carried out to power PS-3. CPC’s presence is very strongly felt in the region.”

“How is the liaison between republican authorities and CPC organised? How are targets selected for CPC social assistance?”

“Usually, we file a request with the CPC-R representative in

the Republic of Kalmykia, he reviews it and consults with his management about the new charity program. This serves as a framework for our further co-operation to implement specific projects. CPC is a reliable partner and always fulfils its obligations in respect of the adopted program.”

“CPC, for its part, must also be interested in receiving support from the republic’s authorities in resolving their issues. After all, a major construction effort is under way, which is a big deal.”

“We resolve all issues in a normal course of business – through a telephone conversation or a meeting. For example, CPC had difficulties registering PS-3. Initially, the whole complex, including the pump station, its accommodation camp and the access road, was under the authority of Stroikonkontrol, but it turned out that PS-3 had to be registered separately with Rostekhnadzor as a hazardous facility. The registration procedure can take as long as 6 months, which could have disrupted the schedule of putting the station into operation. The intervention of the Kalmykian republican administration helped resolve the problem.

Being aware of the CPC project’s importance for Kalmykia, we manage to resolve all issues promptly and with a minimum of red tape.

This includes issues arising in connection with the implementation of the CPC social programs. CPC’s 2016 sponsorship program for the republic is supporting public health care and education as well as culture and sports. This year, CPC is buying two Ford Transit minibuses for the Department of Culture, and a Mercedes minibus for the Department of Sports and the Academy of Wrestling to transport athletes taking part in preparatory competitions under the Southern Federal District program.”

“Has CPC sponsorship increased over recent several years?”

“Over the last five years CPC assistance has increased drastically. The republican leadership looks forward to continued cooperation with CPC in the social sphere.”

“What’s the role of human factor in relations between CPC and republican administration?”

“For me, CPC is personified by its representative in the city of Elista, Ulyumdzhi Chidzhiyev – a well-known and respected person in Kalmykia. He sincerely cares for the republic’s people and his firm stance in asserting CPC interests. This position is a reliable basis for fruitful business contacts.” ■

by Ekaterina Suvorova,
Nadezhda Cherednikova

Raisa Bulkina:

“Only the things that are being monitored are carried out in full”

THE CONSORTIUM WORKS WITH CONTRACTORS BOTH IN CONSTRUCTION AND IN ITS MAIN FIELD OF ACTIVITIES. THE PROCESS OF BUILDING CONTRACTUAL LINKS WHICH INVOLVES VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND SERVICES OF THE COMPANY IS BEING CLOSELY MONITORED BY THE INTERNAL AUDIT AND CONTROL GROUP (IACG) HEADED BY RAISA BULKINA.



“Raisa, being the Internal Audit and Control Manager, you are familiar to everyone in the Company. But it’s no secret that some employees have a very vague idea of what it is that your department does...”

“When sending a contract for our approval, some may surely think that internal audit does nothing but contract reviews, so once the precious auditor approval is received, it’s commonly believed the hardest part is over. Audit control provides the security that all the company procedures are fully observed when making this or that contract. But contract review is just a part of our

group’s many functions. We also conduct internal audits, control inspections and investigations, we control the risk assessment process, and much more than that.”

“Is it possible to avoid all risks?”

“The activity of the company is connected with risks, and we understand that those risks have always been there and they are here to stay. What we have to do is minimise the potential impact in case those risks are realised. So, monitoring the effectiveness of key risk assessment process is a very important part of our work.”

“Who is responsible for the internal control system and the potential consequences of the risks?”

“The company management. But any internal control system (which also includes the risk assessment system) is not just the responsibility of the company management, it is the responsibility of each specialist in his area of work – that cannot be shifted onto someone else.

At the same time, the system of internal control should not be overloaded. Widespread control is expensive for the company, therefore, it should be cost-effective. We should help the company to constantly improve its internal processes and not create obstacles with excessive monitoring. We have to conduct inspections of high-risk

areas, and we do it by using effective risk assessment which is one of our main tools.”

“How does the Company assess the operability and effectiveness of the internal control system?”

“In 2001 the Company management created the Internal Audit and Control Committee (IACC). It holds meetings approximately three times a year and reviews issues connected with the effectiveness of the system of internal control: inspection results, monitoring of auditor recommendation observance, risk assessment and management. IACC agrees upon the audit plan, based on the company’s key risks. We follow the audit inspection plan in our work, and report the results any problems to the management at the IACC meetings, and offer ways of solving them. Troubleshooting and learning our lessons allows us to constantly perfect the CPC internal control system.”

“Please, tell about the inspections in a little more detail.”

“First, it’s the auditing of contracting organisations. Being a pipeline company, CPC uses the contractor services for technical pipeline maintenance. In reality, the Operations Department handles the contract work: they use tenders to find contractors qualified enough to perform the works of high quality on time, make contracts, conduct their »



You don't often see the whole of the Internal Audit and Control Group in the office. Today is no exception: only a few members of the group attend the meeting conducted by Raisa Bulkina – there is Vladimir Avrutov, Daria Tuponogova, Dmitry Kirilyuk and Anastasia Galkina. All the other group members are conducting audits in the regions

administration and make sure every clause is observed.

In practice it doesn't always go smoothly, that is why auditing contractors is one of our main functions. During such audits we check how the contractor is following the agreement conditions, how CPC is managing the contractor, and detect problems. It could be anything: sometimes it's contractor management – the human factor or a simple lack of resources; sometimes the procedures go wrong, or they are not being fully observed. That is the set of issues we monitor. We check whether the tender was conducted and the agreement was made properly, if all procedures were observed, check the administration of the agreement and the contractor's work.

As a result we find issues that need to be taken into account and improved for future tenders. Therefore, inspections promote the improvement of the CPC procurement activities, internal processes are improved, and the knowledge

and experience gained stay with the company. We help both the management and the team to see familiar things from a new angle, since every person can get tunnel vision in the working process.

Second, is the internal auditing. Mostly it's the assessment of operating efficiency of the company's major processes. Since the business processes of the company need to be smooth and effective, the key aspect here is monitoring internal CPC procedures and legal observation. According to audit results,

Group. The way the investigation is conducted depends on the nature of the request.

Plus there are other special tasks, checking that audit recommendations being followed (the shareholders audit, for example), monitoring the risk-management process, the description and improvement of the company's business processes, control over the financial obligations and financial system, and so on. There are many functions, and the way they are exercised is quite a wide-ranging topic."

We should help the company to constantly improve its internal processes and not create obstacles with excessive monitoring

departments in charge are given recommendations towards the improvement of business processes.

Third, IACG conducts investigations at the request of the Management

"What are the principles an auditor should follow in his work?"

"CPC is an international company, so we follow internal regulations based on international internal audit

standards. The regulations are set by the basic principles of auditing practices, and the auditor's code of ethics is very important for us. Internal auditors should be impartial and objective in their work, and they should avoid conflicts of interests."

"Speaking of the Company audits again, who else conducts them?"

"Our shareholders. Besides the primary areas of business, annual audits are held at the Expansion Project. Since we have a Quality Bank, the shippers have the right to check it once in every 6 months,

recommendations on applying various procedures and how to make things better. We assist in our field of competence, we consult and give advice in complicated situations. Sometimes there's no need to invent anything, our company already has the best option, and we share this useful experience with those seeking a solution to their problem. Of course, we don't make decisions, we only give our expert opinion. Our mission is to help and provide a fresh perspective on the situation, detect problems and figure out the possible solutions. That implies mutual cooperation.

Sometimes there's no need to invent anything, our company already has the best option

according to the transportation agreement. Our group coordinates all such audits, being the point of entry and the point of exit.

One of the IACG functions is checking that the recommendations are being followed for internal and external audits. We have a whole system for doing that, in automated mode the employees receive notices on deadlines, display the current status, mark their progress and what is yet to be done.

We also prepare reports for the management on following the audit recommendations. There's a special procedure of notice liquidation controlled by the management. Due to such close attention to issues brought up by the auditors, the company's systems of control work efficiency are being constantly improved."

"Is there any interaction between the experts of the Internal Audit and Control Group and the Consortium team outside the scope of audit inspections?"

"There is, and a very active one!" Being the internal control specialists, we have certain knowledge, so the CPC experts turn to us for

not monitored, and business may suffer. We are here to prevent that."

"Raisa, your job is so meticulous, so demanding. What about leisure? Do you have time for rest and relaxation?"

"There are not enough hours in a day, what relaxation are you talking about? But I do try to find time for concerts, theatres and exhibitions. Life is not full with no spiritual element to it.

There is a wonderful place right next to our CPC Moscow office – the Convent of Martha and Mary. Sometimes my colleagues and I take a walk around the Convent's neat territory during our lunch break, one can see various plants in full blossom from early spring till late fall there. Behind the Convent's high fence you forget that you're in the centre of a big city, you breathe in the scents of flowers and feel the beauty and harmony of the world. And then, strength regained, back to the office! ■

by Ekaterina Suvorova

"How would you comment the proverbial wisdom of 'Trust and verify'?"

"Control is of vital importance. Practice shows that only the things that are being monitored are carried out in full. Our procedures may be perfect, but they get forgotten when



The Convent of Martha and Mary in Bolshaya Ordynka, one of Moscow's famous pieces of architecture, is located right next to the CPC Moscow office

No room for error

THE ACCURATE AND UNINTERRUPTED OPERATION OF THE MARINE TERMINAL IS THE RESULT OF COORDINATED WORK BY SPECIALISTS FROM ALL DIVISIONS AND GROUPS, INCLUDING PRODUCTION AND SUPPORT TEAMS.

The Marine Operations Department includes a group of 5 specialists in charge of coordinating tanker loading and shipping document processing at the CPC-R Marine Terminal. The group is headed by shipping document coordinator Konstantin Buinov. He has worked in his present capacity since 2003, but his relations with CPC began much earlier as he took part in the construction of Marine Terminal facilities. Konstantin was on board the *Minerva Alexandra* – the very first tanker loaded at the terminal.

in Novorossiysk such companies sprouted like mushrooms after rain. During the Soviet era, all oil exports were centralized and regulated by the “Naphtha” company.

“My first teachers in the profession were people who could prepare a whole package of oil offloading documentation manually using only a typewriter,” Konstantin Buinov recalls.

“There are technical specialists who are in charge of monitoring the pipeline system condition, while our part of the work is documentation,” Konstantin went on to say. “We process marine transportation documents, including the most important one, the bill of lading – the principal document for freight transportation by sea, which confirms the completion of an oil sale and purchase deed.”

Document processing is performed not only during daytime as tankers are loaded round-the-clock.



Konstantin Buinov, shipping document coordinator at the Marine Terminal's Operations Control Centre

“A second, but no less important part of our work, is the inspection of tankers to confirm that they can be admitted for loading at the Marine Terminal,” Konstantin continued.

“We process marine transportation documents, including the most important one, bill of lading – the principal document for freight transportation by sea, which confirms the completion of an oil sale and purchase deed.”

Like most of the department's specialists, Konstantin graduated from the Novorossiysk State Maritime Academy. After graduating, he worked with a surveying company and then with a freight forwarding company. Back then, in the 1990s, the business of oil offloading though various forwarding companies gained momentum, and

Therefore, Konstantin or one of his colleagues can be found at the Marine Terminal around the clock.

“We must make sure that vessels meet all the safety standards adopted by the industry. We don't need any



unpleasant surprises. Some tankers are regulars at the CPC Marine Terminal, while others come here for the first time. Each arriving vessel needs to receive a written confirmation of admission for loading on an agreed date. Our database and the common tanker archive are very helpful for us.”

We communicate with our partners on special matters, such as the vetting inspections of tankers. The vetting inspections confirm that a tanker and its crew conform to all applicable international requirements for the safety and quality of oil transportation.

Before loading, a tanker is inspected by a mooring master. Sometimes the mooring master finds an issue. If the issue is serious, the tanker will never again be admitted to the terminal. However, such problems are rare since oil is classified as a dangerous cargo and its shipment by sea is regulated by numerous safety standards.

1–2 tankers are loaded at the CPC Marine Terminal per day. Obviously, the number of tankers depends on weather. Loading operations are suspended during high swells, and when the weather improves there is a row of tankers waiting to be loaded.

A package of documents prepared for each loading operation may consist of a single bill of lading, but may include over 30 of them, which amounts to 600–700 printed pages.

“What if a mistake creeps into the documents?” Panorama asked Konstantin.

“We have a heavy responsibility, and we mustn’t allow even minor errors,” he replied. “After a tanker is gone, it is very difficult to correct

anything. Making a correction requires a painstaking exchange of correspondence and negotiations between consignors, buyers and shipping agents. Signed originals need to be destroyed and powers of attorney issued for signing corrected documents... This is a lengthy procedure. Therefore, we always have to triple-

“A package of documents prepared for each loading operation may consist of a single one bill of lading, but may include over 30 of them, which amounts to 600–700 printed pages.”

check everything. A special program was created several years ago by our Department of Technologies. This is a great help to us.”

“Has anything changed in your work since you started?”

“Much of what used to be done manually is now automated. In the beginning, there were difficulties caused by the presence of water in the CPC pipeline system which remaining after hydrotreating. Some water wound up in tankers after loading, and this had to be dealt with. But back then we loaded fewer tankers – 3–4 per month – now the monthly number is around 40.”

“How are people selected to work in your team?”

“There are many specialists in Novorossiysk working in related sectors with good knowledge and understanding of the specifics of our work. Of course, a person has to be sufficiently experienced and

self-confident so that he does not wake up half the Marine Terminal staff to make a decision about something encountered during the night shift. Also, one has to possess a good knowledge of English in the field of maritime loading operations.

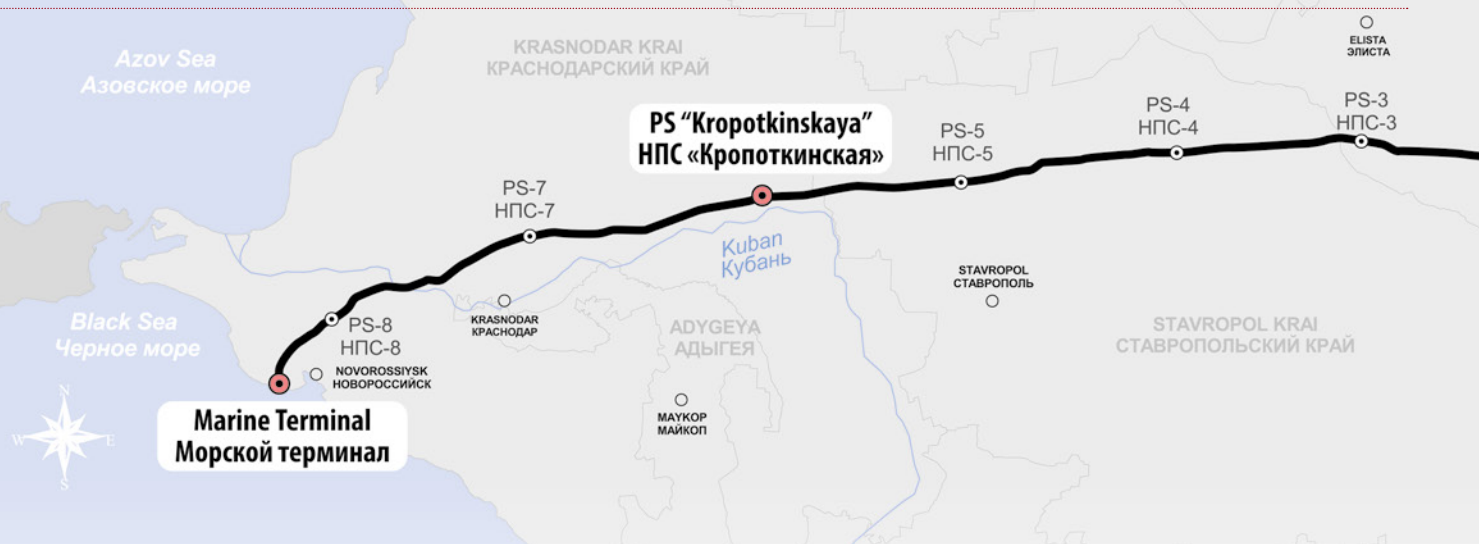
We increased our numbers gradually with the expansion of the Marine Terminal operations, and now we have an excellent and well-tuned team of true professionals. We are ready to continue doing our best every day to ensure reliable loading and not allowing any failures to occur,” Konstantin assured us. ■

by Irina Brichkalevich



From the Caspian Sea to the Black Sea

CPC PRESS SERVICE SPECIALISTS TRAVEL ALONG THE TENGIZ-NOVOROSSIYSK PIPELINE ROUTE.



THE ORIGIN

Hundreds of millions of years ago, the territory, which is now Western Kazakhstan, was covered by a huge ancient sea. Now there are deserts and salty soils, which Kazakhstan inherited from primordial times. And, of course, there is oil – the product ultimately formed from the remains of ancient sea life.

“The first well at Tengiz was drilled back in 1979 and a first oil gusher spouted in 1985. The proven recoverable oil reserves were appraised at that time to be over 750 million tonnes. Today, reserve estimates run

into the billions of tonnes, the result of the innovative drilling technologies, which allow us to penetrate more and more pay zones,” CPC Eastern Region Manager Sarsembay Murinov told Panorama.

Sarsembay gave us a guided tour around PS “Tengiz” – the CPC pipeline’s starting point in both space and time. Tengiz is where the Tengiz-Novorossiysk pipeline begins. PS “Tengiz” was built in 1989 – the project’s first pump station. Since then it has been through several upgrades and has acquired more powerful and reliable equipment. The capacity of

the pumps has been nearly doubled and innovative control management and systems have been introduced.

Attention is also given to industrial aesthetics. Surprising as it may seem, located amid the limitless, scorched steppes and sands, CPC stations look like oases. Work in this direction never stops.

“Here, at the site of the old pump station, which is now being demolished, we will create a park with flowerbeds. It will be beautiful, just wait and see!” PS “Tengiz” deputy head Ondasyn Shakan assured us.



Sarsembay Murinov





THREE COLOURS

Next on the pipeline's route is PS "Atyrau", where the flow of Tengiz oil is joined by oil from other fields of Western Kazakhstan. After Kashagan field's oil starts flowing into the pipe, which is expected to occur this autumn, there will be eight oil varieties in the system.

"They differ in colour, body and even in odour," head of the test lab Yelena Mukhayeveva said as she showed us vials filled with oil samples. "Tengiz oil is light with a beautiful yellowish tinge. Karachaganak oil is brown and green, and Kenkiyak oil is classical black and it is more viscous. Look how it sticks to the walls of the flask."

PS "Atyrau" has a capacious tank farm comprising four Vertical Floating-Roof Tanks (VFRT) and eight metering stations. Since the pipeline's new operating mode requires

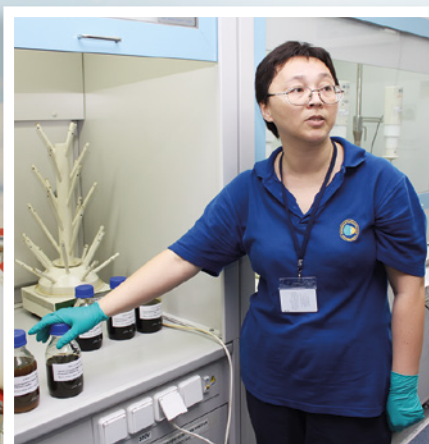
50 % higher pressure, PS "Atyrau" was recently equipped with a surge relief system.

PS "Tengiz" and PS "Atyrau" can be called CPC veterans. We board a helicopter to continue our trip westward along the pipeline's route, toward new pump stations A-PS-3A and A-PS-4, which are being constructed under the Expansion Project and are nearing completion. Looking down we were truly amazed by the scale of work performed as we saw new power stations and substations, power lines and an 88-kilometer long section of pipeline which had been replaced.

"Initially, CPC pipeline throughput capacity was 28 million tonnes per year, of which 23 million came from Kazakhstan. Of course, that was not enough," Regional Manager Sarsembay Murinov explained as we arrived at the A-PS-4 construction

site. "Which is why the Consortium decided to implement the Expansion Project. Around one billion dollars was invested in the project in Kazakhstan alone. As things stand today, the project's stage I is complete and stage II and stage III are nearing completion. After A-PS-4 is put into operation, the pipeline's Kazakhstani section will transport 45 million tonnes of oil per year, and with the launch of A-PS-3A, the pipeline's throughput capacity will be further increased to 55 million tonnes per year (66 million tonnes per year with anti-friction additives).

The construction of A-PS-3A is particularly difficult because the clay soil causes the heavy construction machinery to skid. In order to keep to the schedule and complete the construction by the end of this year, we've mobilized around 500 workers – the maximum number the site can accommodate at a time. »



Elena Mukhayeveva

OIL GOES THROUGH CUSTOMS

In order to cross the Russia-Kazakhstan border everyone has to pass a border control checkpoint. There is special border control point for the oil transported across the border through the CPC pipeline. It is located at Russian PS "Astrakhanskaya" (CPC Central Region) which we arrived at the following day.

"Here we have six metering lines with ultrasonic flowmeters, including five operational lines and one reference line," PS "Astrakhanskaya" head Sergey Nosov told Panorama. "After the completion of the Expansion Project, the maximum throughput capacity of the station's metering lines will reach 11,000 m³ per hour."

PS "Astrakhanskaya" is also one of the CPC most verdant pump stations. We were lucky to see it in spring – all in blossom! Ninety trees, including 60 fruit trees, have been planted within the station's grounds during this year alone. And its oldest poplars are now 20 years old.

Now we hear the sound of a chopper coming from the above. It is getting louder. Having made a circle over the station, it comes in for landing. We meet the crew beside the specially equipped helipad. This is the CPC surveillance chopper.

"We fly along the pipeline's route several times a week. While the area patrolled by a walking inspector is basically limited to the pipeline's safeguard zone (25 m in both directions from the pipe's axis), a helicopter crew can observe much wider area and notice potentially dangerous activities which they immediately report to relevant CPC units," observer-pilot Oleg Yemelin told Panorama.

BEFORE AND AFTER

After an approximately six hour car ride through the Astrakhan Region and the Republic of Kalmykia, we finally arrived at PS-4 in the Stavropol krai. PS-4 is a new station, which was launched in December 2015. Before the Expansion Project, there were no pump stations and no pipeline specialists in the Stavropol krai. At this moment, PS-4 employs nearly 120 people, nearly 80 % of whom are locals. Therefore, we must conclude that CPC has virtually created a new industrial sector in the region.

"Initially, CPC-R had only three pump stations in operation – PS "Astrakhanskaya", PS "Komsomolskaya" and PS "Kropotkinskaya". Over the 500 km run from PS "Komsomolskaya" to PS "Kropotkinskaya" the pipeline pressure dropped from 45 atm at the exit of PS "Komsomolskaya" to 8 atm at the entrance of PS "Kropotkinskaya".

In order to maintain pipeline pressure at an adequate level and to increase the pipeline's throughput capacity, more pump stations were built, such as our PS-4," head of PS-4 Oleg Gavrilov explained.

INDUSTRIAL AESTHETICS

Now, having travelled 1,250 km along the pipeline from the starting point, we've reached CPC-R's largest pump station, PS "Kropotkinskaya", located in Krasnodar krai. PS "Kropotkinskaya" is a very beautiful facility with its snow-white tanks, tall lightning rods, meandering auxiliary pipelines shining in the sun, and the tidy blue roofs of the administrative and industrial buildings. Beginning from PS "Kropotkinskaya" the pipeline transports the largest volume of oil because it receives oil produced from different Russian fields. Plans call for receiving more Russian oil at PS "Komsomolskaya" in Kalmykia too.

"We have six mainline pumps in operation. No other CPC pump station has that many pumps in operation. Three pumps were launched between 2001 and 2003, and the other three were installed and put into operation in 2014 under the Expansion Project," PS "Kropotkinskaya" head Oleg Semikov said.

The phased upgrading of mainline pumps continues at PS "Kropotkinskaya",



Sergey Nosov



Oleg Semikov

including replacing the rotors, cooling systems and pipes.

The pipeline's throughput capacity has increased thanks to the increased capacity of the pumps and by using an anti-friction additive. All CPC pump stations are equipped with special systems for feeding anti-friction additive into the pipeline, and PS "Kropotkinskaya" is no exception. The additive changes the flow in the pipeline from turbulent to laminary thus reducing friction losses along the pipe walls.

PAINSTAKING WORK

Having travelled 1,511 km through the pipeline, the Kazakhstani and Russian oil finally reaches CPC's largest facility – the Marine Terminal. This year, following the launch of three more VFRT, the capacity of the CPC Tank Farm near Novorossiysk will reach 1 million tonnes. That capacious tank farm is need for commercial scale batches of oil for loading into tankers and for storing oil in case of stormy weather when tankers cannot be loaded.

"It was difficult to build a facility that large here in the mountains," Deputy Regional Manager for On-shore Facilities Yuri Belov said. "And the work had to be done near tanks that were operating. Construction workers had to be very cautious

when working close to the earlier laid utility and auxiliary pipelines.

More than 400 oil tankers used the Marine Terminal in 2015, and this record is expected to be broken this year. In order for the whole terminal to function as a well-oiled machine, its team of professionals has to work hard every day. Inspections are performed every week and before each tanker mooring. Every summer, the terminal's single point moorings (SPMs) located within five kilometers of the shoreline are washed with seawater from a tanker chartered specially for that purpose. The service life of the underwater and floating hoses is 2–6 years, and must be replaced after than. Hose replacement is a very labour-intensive operation as each section weighs around five tons.

A fleet of 15 vessels is based in the neighbourhood of the terminal to service the CPC offshore facilities. The largest of them is the Lamnalco Chaika vessel specially constructed for the CPC project. Lamnalco Chaika is furnished with diving equipment allowing diving operations down to a depth of 100 m. SPM maintenance superintendent Chris Deacon showed us around the control cabin for diving operations, which is equipped with monitors, communication systems and air supply systems.



Chris Deacon in the control cabin for supervising diving operations

He stressed that all diving operations at CPC are performed to meet the relevant international and Russian standards and requirements.

In 2014, after SPM-3 was put into operation, CPC marine facilities had acquired a configuration, which makes it possible to offload over 70 million tonnes of oil per year. Currently CPC is capable of loading two oil tankers at a time at speeds of up to 24,000 tonnes per hour. ■

by Pavel Kretov



Yuri Belov





Oil testing

PS "KROPOTKINSKAYA" LABORATORY WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2004 AS A DIVISION OF THE CPC-R OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT'S WESTERN REGION CARGO HANDLING AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICE. THE LABORATORY IS IN CHARGE OF QUALITY CONTROL FOR OIL COMING INTO THE CPC PIPELINE FROM RUSSIAN SHIPPERS.

Our laboratory has national accreditation. In line with this accreditation, the laboratory shall:

- control the quality of oil to the required level of accuracy as established in the accreditation certificate;
- ensure on-going compliance with the accreditation criteria.

For the laboratory to meet these requirements we have a quality management system in place. The laboratory regularly undergoes inspections to confirm that it meets the required standards. Once a year, the laboratory takes part in Interlaboratory Comparative Tests, which are held in Russia. These tests usually involve over 100 laboratories from all over Russia, and I am proud that the PS "Kropotkinskaya" lab has been among the leaders for several consecutive years now.

In addition to that, we hold competitions among CPC laboratories to judge the quality of the tests performed by our laboratories.

In these competitions between CPC labs held in 2012 and 2014 our lab ranked second, which is a praiseworthy result."

"Tatyana, as we've understood now your laboratory is among the leaders. Could you tell us about your team, the people whose efforts are the basis of these achievements?"

"Today, there are 7 people on payroll, including a lab supervisor a quality engineer and 5 operators. Their qualifications and experience meet the criteria established for accredited laboratories. Our employees regularly hone their professional skills at advanced study courses.

Tatyana Gluschenko, head of the laboratory, gave an interview to CPC Panorama.

"The transportation of Russian oil along the route from Kropotkin to the Marine Terminal through PS "Kropotkinskaya" quality control and metering system started in November 2004. Our laboratory – The Western Region Test Laboratory – was established to ensure compliance with the quality standards established in the Oil Transportation Agreement.



Oil tanks at PS "Kropotkinskaya"

Our operators are 100 % interchangeable since all of them are skilled in all the tests performed by the lab.

If you asked me what our lab's most valuable asset was, I would reply without hesitation: the staff. In addition to their professionalism, they are diligent, focused on self-improvement, supportive and helpful, and are good team players. I'm absolutely certain that my girls will never let me down."

"Could you tell us which tests are performed to verify the quality of oil?"

"Our laboratory tests oil for compliance with GOST R 51858 "Oil. General Technical Requirements" in accordance with the Oil Transportation Agreement and the Agreement on Systems Connection. The laboratory's

scope of accreditation covers all measurable oil quality indicators.

We perform two kinds of tests – acceptance tests and periodic tests. Acceptance tests are performed for each batch and include measurements of density, the mass fraction of water, the mass concentration of chlorides and the mass concentration of sulphur.

is set at 10 % subject to the condition that it will not exceed 6.6 % at the pipeline's end point.

Density and viscosity are analyzed routinely with the help of inline analyzers mounted inside the quality control test modules. Test modules also include inflow moisture meters ensuring the constant monitoring of the water content in the oil.

The CPC "bank of quality" is based on such quality characteristics as the API gravity and sulphur content as they are most important for oil refineries

CPC "quality bank" is based on such quality characteristics as API gravity and sulphur content. As they are most important for oil refineries, oil density and sulphur content are critical to measure.

In addition to these measurements each batch is measured for pour point, the mass fraction of paraffins and viscosity. The measurement of the mass fraction of paraffins as per GOST R 51858 belongs to the program of periodic tests. Paraffin control is particularly strict since the paraffin content limit for admittance to the CPC pipeline system

The periodic tests, are performed in line with a schedule established under the Oil Transportation Agreement and Agreement on Systems Connection and include measurements of the mass fraction of mechanical impurities, the saturated vapour pressure, the mass fraction of hydrogen sulphide and methyl-ethyl mercaptans and the fractional yields up to 200 °C and 300 °C."

"How do you take oil samples for tests?"

"Oil sampling for analysis is a very important process, critical for »

*Oil samples taken for laboratory tests.
In the photograph – laboratory operator Olesya Dmitriyenko*



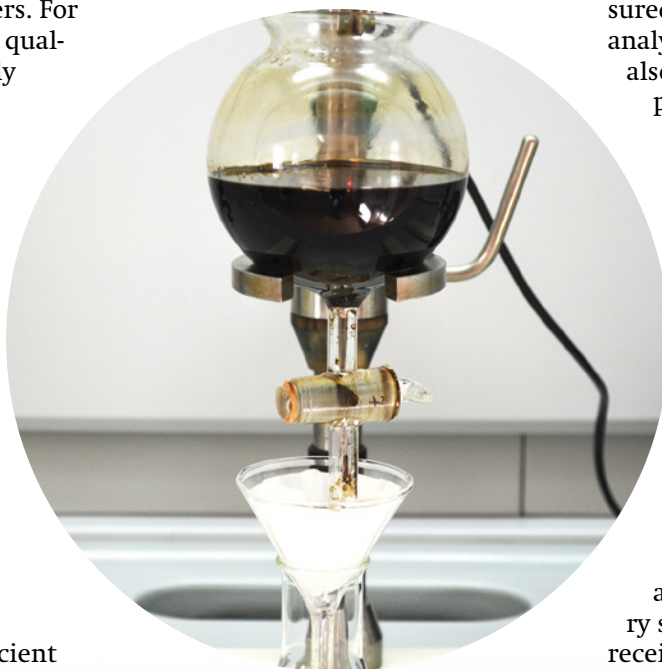
the quality of testing. In order to properly appraise the quality of the oil accepted into the CPC pipeline system and to verify the metrological characteristics of the inline analyzers, a representative sample has to be formed.

Oil sampling for testing is performed with the help of automatic or manually operated samplers. For manually taken samples, the quality of oil is appraised precisely in these samples ("point samples"). When sampling is done in automated mode, oil from the metering station flows into the quality control unit, where automatic samplers and inline analyzers are installed.

Proceeding from the volume of the oil batch declared for transfer from the system of ZAO Naftatrans to the system of AO CPC-R and the volume of oil necessary for the performance of tests (4–5 litres), a sampling coefficient is determined, which indicates sampling intervals, i.e. the volume of oil to be pumped through the quality control and metering system for a sample (approx. 1.5 cm³) to be automatically taken. The multitude of such samples put together makes up an integrated sample, which is gradually formed in the automatic

"What can you say about the equipment in your lab?"

"From the very start the management of the cargo handling and transportation service devoted a lot of attention to providing the laboratory with all necessary



equipment, reagents, reference samples, etc. In my opinion, all the necessary conditions have been created for our lab to fulfil its tasks. The laboratory is accommodated in a separate building with rooms for

suddenly breaks down, all tests will be carried out properly and on time.

We use a lot of automated methods to appraise the quality of oil. For example, the mass fraction of sulphur is measured with the help of automatic sulphur analyzer and fractional yields are measured with the help of an automatic analyzer. Automatic analyzers are also used for measuring the pour point and saturated vapour pressure.

The most sophisticated and expensive equipment is used for measuring the hydrogen sulphide and mercaptan content in oil – chromatographs, hydrogen and nitrogen generators and air compressors. Therefore, our lab is furnished with the best modern equipment and we can guarantee that oil will be analyzed properly and on time. Since the laboratory started operating we have not received a single complaint from the Shipper. ■

by Irina Brichkalevich

Since the laboratory started operating we have not received a single complaint from the Shipper

sampler's vessel during the acceptance of a batch of oil. This integrated sample reflects the quality of entire batch. Oil quality may vary within a batch, therefore, sample representativeness is one of the main conditions for obtaining reliable results."

testing, for storing equipment and utility rooms. For each test there is a separate workplace equipped with a ventilation system, and back-up equipment. Back-up equipment, like the main equipment, is checked, verified and always ready to operate. Therefore, if an instrument



Laboratory operator Irina Charygina

The CPC team supporting forest regeneration

THE ANNUAL "NATIONAL PLANT A TREE DAY" CAMPAIGN RAN IN KAZAKHSTAN FROM APRIL 16 THROUGH MAY 16. ANYONE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ISSUE COULD TAKE PART, AND OUR CPC-K COLLEAGUES DID.

On the starting Saturday for the campaign CPC Eastern Region employees gathered near Atyrau airport. They spent several hours there, carefully planting 230 young trees. The planting material and equipment was supplied by the city akimat, and the employees themselves also brought some more trees with them.

First, the territory that the akimat had provided for planting was thoroughly cleaned by the CPC team, with dry branches and garbage removed.

Each young tree received not only its own piece of land but also a vitally important quantity of water, brought to the planting area in a water tank truck.

"All the Company employees were very positive and enthusiastic," comments CPC Environmental Protection Engineer Saltanat Saparova who took part in the campaign. "We did a great job, and nobody was left out. It was another opportunity for us to display our love for our hometown!" ■

by Ekaterina Krapivko

BY THE WAY

The "National Plant a Tree Day" takes place in Kazakhstan twice a year, in spring and autumn, at the initiative of the "Sustainable Development" Earth Fund and with the support of the Republic's Government. The campaign aims at attracting greater public attention to the problem of deforestation, to the need to create more "green" city areas, and to issues of forest protection and restoration. The first eco-campaign took place in 2014 under the motto "Plant your own forest!" Over 100,000 Kazakh people took place in it and planted over 600,000 young trees.



Taking care of generations to come

"I THOUGHT THEY WERE GOING TO BE TINY – BUT THEY'RE HUGE!" THAT WAS A CHILD'S IMMEDIATE REACTION TO THE BABY STURGEON SHE HAD A CHANCE TO HOLD. THE GIRL WAS ENTRUSTED TO SET THE STURGEON FREE TOGETHER WITH OVER 2000 OTHERS.



Leonid Bokhanovskiy opens the official fish releasing ceremony

"GRADUATION PARTY" AT IKRYANOV

The village of Ikryanoy, in the territory of SES "BIOS" of the Federal State Budgetary Scientific Institution Caspian Fisheries Research Institute

(CaspNIRKh), has been very busy since morning. In the scorching sun, children keep glancing at two big "bathtubs" with little sturgeons splashing, eager to start their big journey. Photographers are looking for the best spots to shoot. Everybody is waiting for the VIP guests.

Finally, Deputy General Director of the RF Government Relations Department Leonid Bokhanovskiy, Deputy Head of the Astrakhan Regional Government, the Minister for Industry, Transport and Natural Resources Radik Kharisov, and others arrive. After the speeches, the guests put on special gloves and take part in releasing the sturgeon juveniles.

Then comes the turn of the youngest ceremony participants: first with caution, but then with more confidence the children's hands start taking tiny sturgeons from the nets and putting them into a special tube which takes the fish to the further transportation

vessel. Some get brave enough to pick the fish with bare hands – they may be small, but they already have sharp plates on their backs. Journalists approach the most emotional participants:

"I hope the tiny fish I released today will get to the Caspian Sea, grow and produce lots of caviar in order to give life to hundreds of other young fish," says one of the participants with enthusiasm.

When there is not a single fish left in the tubs, everybody moves to the concert hall to attend the ceremony of awarding the winners of a creativity competition held within the CPC "Preserving the nature of your Homeland" project.

PRESERVING NATURE

The first CPC educational ecology project called "Preserving the nature of your Homeland"



The young nature lovers expressed their agitated feelings in pictures



Aleksandr Ignatyev with a laureate of the "Preserving the Nature of your Homeland" competition

was implemented in 2014 in Kalmykia to bring public attention to saiga antelope extinction.

This year the project under the same title took place in the Astrakhan Region and was dedicated to preserving the breeding population of sturgeons. CPC was assisted by CaspNIRKh, which bred young fish at its experimental base.

Besides the main ecological function, the program has an important educational mission to teach the next generation to take care of nature and cultivate an eco-culture. For this purpose schools of the Astrakhan Region have been holding open lessons for three months, featuring young scientists and CaspNIRKh specialists and dedicated to the following topic: "Sturgeons are relict fish from the dinosaur era. Let us keep them for the generations to come". After getting to know this rare species better, school children from grades 3–11 expressed their attitude towards its extinction in a creative competition titled "Sturgeons are a unique natural wonder. Let's study, protect and help them multiply!" There were over 450 applications for the competition. The young nature lovers expressed their feelings in pictures, stories, poems and videos. The best works were

presented on May 18 at the final event at the village of Ikryanoy, and the authors were awarded diplomas and gifts by CPC. At present a collection of the winning works is being prepared.

Besides, a special event video was streamed for a month in Astrakhan and on the VGTRK channel in the Astrakhan Region.

"The "Preserving the nature of your Homeland" CPC program is a link in a comprehensive program dedicated to ecological preservation both in the Astrakhan Region and all territories along the route of Consortium activities. It's good to know it more and more participants are engaged," says Deputy General Director of the RF Government Relations Department Leonid Bokhanovskiy. "I am grateful to the management and the team of CaspNIRKh for helping us attract the attention of children to this problem. They are the ones holding the key to preservation of natural resources and keeping of the ecological balance. I think together we managed to do a great job. Even the weather agrees with us!

"The whole week before the event the Astrakhan Region was flooded with heavy rains. Moreover, a storm



Young citizens of Astrakhan took part in the sturgeon released

with thunder, hail and strong wind was forecasted by the Federal Rescue Service for "graduation" day. But despite that the weather suddenly improved, the rain stopped and the festive day turned clear and sunny in the best Astrakhan traditions.

HELLO, SEA!

The next day a vessel called "Daphnia" took the representatives of the Consortium RF Government Relations Department, CaspNIRKh and Volgo-Caspian Territorial Unit of the Russian Federal Fisheries Agency along the Volga river to the delta area in the Caspian Sea. The passengers had to perform the main mission of carefully taking the young sturgeons from the live fish carrier and releasing them into deep waters. Everybody understood the importance of the mission and enthusiastically worked their nets. A total of 2250 Russian sturgeon, great white sturgeon and sterlet were released. ■

by Ekaterina Krapivko



The "Daphnia" crew completed the mission: total of 2250 Russian sturgeon, great white sturgeon and sterlet were released

A team of universalists

30TH SEPTEMBER IS TRANSLATORS' DAY. THESE PEOPLE PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE MULTINATIONAL CPC TEAM.

At the peak of the Expansion Project, CPC employed 26 translators. Currently, there are 15 translators on payroll: 8 in Moscow, 4 in Kazakhstan and 3 in Novorossiysk. With the help of this team of language professionals, CPC is soon

"I joined CPC in 2005, and by 2009 I had 4 years experience translating in all work-related subjects, accompanying specialists on business trips, translating contractual and tender documentation. The main criterion for selecting translators for the Expansion



Oleg Fedotov: "It is most important for a translator to provide high quality, to convey the meaning adequately and to work expeditiously."

Translating is a very old profession. The word "interpre" meaning translator/interpreter was used by Cicero, who translated Plato and Demosthenes, and by Horace in his work "The Science of Poetry." As in 17th century Russia, translator and interpreter are two different professions. The former specialises in written texts and the latter in spoken. Translation techniques drastically improved during Peter the Great's rule as a lot of scientific and technical documents in foreign languages were brought into the country.

"It is largely thanks to this universality that our translators have managed to become a well-knit team, both in Russia and Kazakhstan. Each one is proficient in both translation and interpreting, provides linguistic support during teleconferences and can translate any subject matter.

to complete the huge construction project. The story begins in 2009, when the CPC translation group was formed.

Project was universalism, the readiness to translate any subjects," head of the Expansion Project's translation group Oleg Fedotov recalls.

At crucial moments, when numerous contracts were executed to procure the main process equipment, it



With the translators of CPC-K Expansion Project



Commemorative picture: The translation group of the Moscow office

became necessary to assign certain translators to certain vendors and to train them accordingly. Nevertheless, if necessary, each team member is always ready to help the others at a conference or if a long document is needed to be translated urgently.”

“We rely fully on our colleagues in the regions as they provide linguistic support for most events in their teams and to visiting specialists arriving from Moscow. Their work is organised to allow more efficient time management and avoid unnecessary business trips,” Oleg Fedotov went on to say.

“It is widely believed that in addition to the command of foreign languages a modern translator also needs to master an engineering discipline. Do you agree?” The Panorama correspondent asked Oleg Fedotov.

“Our experience indicates that this is not true. About a half the applicants to CPC translator positions indicated in their resumes that they were competent in certain disciplines, such as labour safety, quality assurance or electric engineering. However, the most important factor for us is linguistic proficiency, i.e. ability to provide high quality work, to convey the meaning adequately and to work expeditiously.”

“Finally, how, in your opinion, is the experience accumulated working as a translator at CPC useful for one’s further professional development?”

“It is a very useful experience for a translator. First of all, from the viewpoint of universality – the ability to translate in many disciplines. Those who came to work with us were experienced translators, but their proficiency was limited to a certain field. Therefore, experience with CPC was helpful for them regardless of whether they decide to continue working here or find another job.” ■

by Pavel Kretov

Team spirit

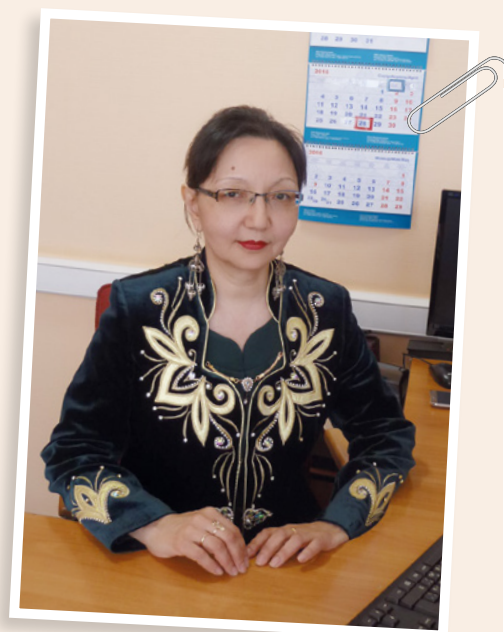
MY FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH CPC-R OCCURRED BACK WHEN I WORKED AT MY PREVIOUS JOB AT A UNIVERSITY. THE RECTOR ASKED ME TO DELIVER A LETTER TO CPC LEADERSHIP.

I was impressed by the square in front of the CPC-K office building, the high flagpoles with flags of Russia and Kazakhstan fluttering above. But I could not imagine that I would have the honour of being employed there one day.

THE COMPANY AS IT IS

A little later the Khalel Dosmukhamedov Atyrau State received a wonderful gift from CPC-K – a collection of magnificent ethnic costumes. Moreover, CPC-K contributed to help our students pay their education fees. Like all employees of the University I was enormously grateful to CPC-K, and when I started working for the Expansion Project and acquired more information about the scale of CPC-K community activism I was proud of being part of these efforts. It is impossible to talk about the Expansion Project’s social program in a few words. It would take a separate long interview. Here I would limit myself to highlighting several aspects of CPC in general which I consider to be particularly important.

First of all, I would like to note the organisation and discipline within CPC. Each specialist is kept informed of the scope and sequence of work to be done, their tasks, their rights and obligations and how to respond to different situations. This is possible thanks to the organisation of the work, CPC’s well-defined procedures and policies, regular reporting requirements and prompt responses to problems. This environment helps even not-very-well-organised people take steps toward self-improvement and self-organisation, sometimes even without them being aware of it themselves.



Zharkyn Kenzhebayeva

A QUEST FOR WORDS

We’ve developed into a single consolidated team and our democratic relations contribute to our work efficiency. Everyone of us is always accessible regardless of their official position. There is always someone who you can ask for help when stuck in a difficult translation or when you fail to find adequate equivalents in Kazakh or when dictionary gives you too many options. Sometimes, I found as many as five options for translating a single word. I remember how at the very beginning of my translation career colleagues patiently explained me such terms as friction-reducing agents, single point moorings, and cable terminations. They drew diagrams and explained in any way they needed.

The corporate mobile communication plan is also very helpful. Using your mobile you are never alone! ►

TRAINING

Advanced training is given a lot of attention in the Expansion Project. Of course, a translator's work is a constant learning process, especially as far as the knowledge of special terminology is concerned. Now, my colleague, Marzhan Diarova, and I smile as we recall my agony during my first months with CPC. "Just imagine," I would complain, "I translated a 30-page agreement in two days and then it took me another two days to translate a 6-page specification."

Therefore, I'm grateful to the company for the opportunity it gave me to improve my translation skills at the special courses for official language translators in the oil & gas sector. The training I received from leading specialists enriched my knowledge, especially given the current development of the terminology base in Kazakh. Now I'm able to share it with my colleagues from other regions of Kazakhstan.

FAVOURITE CUSTOMERS

With time, I developed my personal preferences – favourite kinds of documents and favourite customers. It is very useful if a customer, before sending us a document check to find if a similar one has been translated before and highlights identical fragments, or sends such a similar document together with the new one with identical sections highlighted. Such simple preparatory work saves a lot of time for translators.

Regrettably, it happens that a person, for whom you translated several dozens of letters, sends you the next one for translation where you have to translate his name and job title once again. Like everyone, we translators are always glad to hear a word of thanks. Of course, it is our job, but it is pleasant to receive a couple of lines of thanks in reply, as, for example, Svetlana Borisenko and Maya Aibusynova always do. Or even just a smiley from our Moscow colleagues. It never fails to raise the spirits.

TOGETHERNESS

CPC devotes a lot of attention to fostering unity and corporate spirit. I was lucky to take part in a team building event held in Moscow. CPC-K has a new employee induction program in which new employees are given the opportunity to visit Moscow and the Expansion Project's Moscow office. It is so wonderful to meet in person those whom you have only communicated with by telephone, received translation requests by email.

CPC-K arranges outdoor feasts for its employees every year on the Oilworker's Day with competitions, contests, entertainment for children, games, dancing, fishing and prizes, and corporate parties for New Year. These are presents from the CPC-K leadership.

But this spirit doesn't only come from the bosses. In the summer of 2011, the then-coordinator Akhmet Sarsenbai proposed that the Expansion Project arrange an outdoor party with walks down the river, volleyball, barbecues and other tasty dishes which were masterfully cooked by Marat Yesengeldin. We still recall one unforgettable Women's Day celebration in our former office on Valikhannova street where our gentlemen colleagues posted a wall display with our photos and best wishes to each of us in verse. Another memorable Women's Day featured a culinary contest starring Volodomir Dorosh and Salamat Yesmurziyev, a dance show featuring Aizharyk Kenzhalyeva and Asker Karimov, and a guitar

duet of Timur Rakhmetullin and Marat Yesengeldin.

Every year we celebrate the spring holiday of rebirth, called "Nauryz", by participating in the city's spring cleaning campaigns, 1st of May parades, Victory Day and marches to the Eternal Flame, singing Kazakhstan's national anthem, collecting money to help the sick, or planting flowers at the square in front of the office building.

For many of us the time of our work for the Expansion Project was marked by many festive occasions, and personal milestones. For example, Alimzhan Mukanov, Dina Aitzhan and Tugelbai Dauletaliyev married off their daughters, Samat Bekmurziyev and Aizharyk Kenzhalyeva married off their sons, Elmira Ilyasova, Zhanna Zhanalyeva, Nurgul Biktasheva, Ulmeken Gabidenova, Nurlan Salikhadenov, Timir Mukanov, Bekniyaz Ibrashev and Kanat Tazhmagambetov themselves got married. A special mention goes to Temirbulat Kaspayev and Aigerim Yelemesova who married after finding each other at the Expansion Project. We together celebrate the birth of children and grandchildren and birthdays and anniversaries, and we grieve together with our colleagues when they lose loved ones.

The small team of translators has its own traditions established during the project. We know each other's problems and cares and we don't only work together, but spend our leisure time together too. The Expansion



Project's translation team is composed of bright and talented people who are able to support communication between people speaking different languages and belonging to different cultures. It is not for nothing that Pushkin called us the "postal horses of the progress." After all, the ambitious goals set by the Expansion Project could not have been achieved without adequate linguistic support.

Apart from myself, the Atyrau translation group comprises Bakhtytzhan Zhokebayev, Yekaterina Kolodochko and Ainur Nurtazina. Tatiana Alekseyeva and Raushan Yerkin worked in the group before. On this occasion, I would like to express my thanks to our supervisor Oleg Fedotov for creating such an excellent psychological microclimate, and for his constant support and attention.

OUR CONTRIBUTION

Emotionless lines of press-releases covering the ceremonial launch of construction in July 2011, the many-thousand-strong safety summit in late October 2012, the ceremonial launch of upgraded PS "Atyrau" and PS "Tengiz" bring to mind vivid images of our painstaking daily work. Later we all will proudly talk about this important milestone in our biography – the Expansion Project.

We, translators, made a notable contribution to the project, which is now nearing completion. The upcoming farewell is a bit saddening. Some of my colleagues took positions with the CPC main business, others are considering new job offers. At a recent party at our current office, already third since the start of the project (we moved to our second office with then-coordinator Almaz Dzhaurov), our present coordinator Talgat Ukasov said: "Regrettably, this is the last party we are having here together." But I'm certain, we will meet in the future, and our recollections of the Expansion Project will always stay with us. ■

*Zharkyn Kenzhebayeva,
Senior translator,
Expansion Project, CPC-K*

One man, no man

I JOINED THE EXPANSION PROJECT IN SEPTEMBER 2011 AS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE PROJECT'S CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR, KOKSOKHIMMONTAZH. MY VERY FIRST WORKING DAY COINCIDED WITH A PRE-MOBILIZATION AUDIT. THAT WAS A BIG TEST FOR ME.

It was not easy, but I managed to convince my future supervisors that I was sufficiently competent, and I joined the team. To say the least I was inspired! Given that I had spent two months looking for a job after graduating from the university, I was really happy! It was only a bit later that I learned I joined a big project, which might become an excellent start to my career.

I've been working at CPC for more than a year now. This is my first project, and it helped me acquire practical skills and develop a professional approach to translation work. Translations I did for Koksokhimmontazh were mostly related to construction and the scope of work at certain sites, but the tasks I received from the customer covered the entire project – from Tengiz to Novorossiysk. My place of employment is the construction site of the Marine



Yakov Burnatsky

Terminal's Tank Farm, but I receive tasks from the whole Expansion Project. I did a lot of interpreting at various meetings, inspections and »



"Team work is the key to success," CS&C Senior translator Alina Ivashchenko and Translator Yekaterina Sklyar (Novorossiysk) are convinced

presentations and I translated huge volumes of documentation. It was difficult, but enormously exciting!

I travelled to the Moscow office and PS-8. My trip to Moscow was full of new experiences. It was my first flight and my first visit to the capital of Russia. At PS-8, I was impressed by Serbian cuisine and Velesstroi's hospitality. And, of course, the trips gave me useful professional experience.

Of regular events, a most memorable one was, perhaps, the visit of CPC shareholders and leadership on Safety Day observed in Novorossiysk in 2015. The visit was followed by a ceremony for the completion of comprehensive tests of the tanks constructed as part of the Expansion Project's Phase I. The ceremony was an important event on the city level and was attended by the mayor of Novorossiysk.

There is a good popular saying: "Safety in numbers". If it were not for my colleagues and supervisors, who have always been ready to support me, give useful advice, share their experience, and help me on difficult assignments or with difficult terms, my work would have been just a tedious routine.

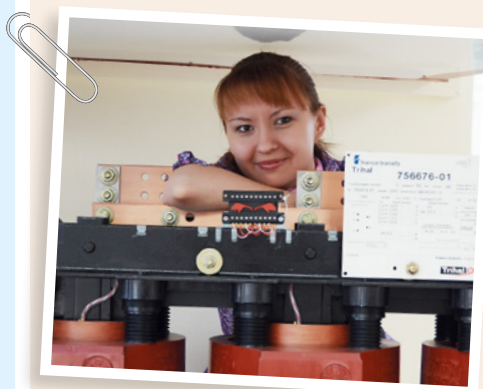
There are many factors, which make someone a good translator. For example, I would not have received such a good linguistic education if it were not for my excellent teachers at the Novorossiysk branch of Pyatigorsk State Linguistic University. Of course, I could not have become myself without my beloved wife, without the valuable support from my brother and without the enormous efforts put in by my parents. To them many, many thanks from the bottom of my heart!

I love my job, I enjoy improving my skills and I'm looking into the future with optimism. ■

*Yakov Burnatsky,
Translator, Marine Terminal Group*

Learning every day

TATIANA CHAGIREVA IS SENIOR TRANSLATOR OF THE EXPANSION PROJECT'S ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP. TATIANA DECIDED TO BE A TRANSLATOR BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL. QUITE UNEXPECTEDLY FOR EVERYBODY SHE SUDDENLY ABANDONED PHYSICS AND MATHEMATICS IN FAVOUR OF LANGUAGES.



Tatiana Chagireva

"I was told that the university, where translators are trained, was among the most difficult to study in, and that I would never be able to pass the entry exams. However, I managed to enroll on the first attempt," Tatiana recalls. "Many thanks to my genius teacher at school! I graduated from the Kemerovo State University's Department of Greek-Roman Phylology with a diploma in conference interpreting. The university's sub-department of translation was established by the Council of Europe, therefore, the education I received there was in line with relevant European standards. We were taught to be able to work in the UN, UN Security Council or the Council of Europe. The program was very intensive. Out of our group of 10, only I was fully carried away and enchanted with the art of simultaneous interpreting. Simultaneous interpreting is an art which is difficult to master by learning. One has to have a flair for it. It is important to be able to divide your attention, to listen and to speak at a time."

FIRST EXPERIENCE

After graduating, Tatiana took a job in her home town of Kemerovo as

an assistant manager in a company, which did business with the famous French company, Luminarc (French was her second foreign language studied in the university).

"I did not stay there for long as I wanted to do technical translation," Tatiana told Panorama. "I sent my CV to the Sakhalin-2 project and received an invitation from them."

Two weeks later, Tatiana, after a 7-hour long flight, stepped onto Sakhalin island. Working with an international project turned out to be very exciting.

"It was all new and interesting for me. The site, the equipment and the huge global-scale project," Tatiana recalled. "At Sakhalin-2 project we constructed infrastructure for transportation of crude produced at Sakhalin shelf. I worked there for two years, first as a translator and then as supervisor of the group in charge of the development and delivery of as-built documentation. The work was far from easy as I had to spend day and night learning by heart all relevant standards (GOSTs and SNIPs) and regulations. That was, however, an excellent school for me, and when asked about where I had learned all that information, I reply: at the Sakhalin project."

AN INTEREST IN MACHINERY

After Sakhalin, Tatiana moved to Moscow and worked at a company where her simultaneous interpreting skills turned out to be in high demand. It was an energy sector investment project involving TNK-BP, where Tatiana acquired the experience of providing linguistic support

at high level negotiations between TNK-BP top management and the Ministry of Energy.

"By the end of my first year with the project I understood that the industry was not really my thing," she admitted. "I wanted badly to return in the raw-material transportation, not upstream, not downstream. Looking for a new position I found a job opening with the CPC Expansion Project. I came to CPC at the right moment: 2009 was the very beginning of the project. At that time there were 35–40 people working in the Expansion Project. We worked all through weekends, quite often from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. as we prepared the FID (Final Investment Decision). And when FID and the budget allocation for the Expansion Project were approved at the CPC Shareholders' Meeting everybody in our open space felt like it was a personal victory.

"Next was the design phase," Tatiana continued her story. "Since I was particularly interested in hardware, such as pumps and turbines, I was ready to go to any plant or facility, regardless of the location. I've visited nearly all the project's equipment vendors (except SPM). It was the time of hard work, and it was great. There were incessant business trips, negotiations from morning till night, experts' conversations, general arrangement discussions, layout, mechanical and electrical engineering, I&Cs and hydraulics. To be able to cope with all

that a translator has to understand how it all works, to have a technical frame of mind."

Tatiana visited old and new pump stations. "It is one thing to translate a written text and it's quite a different thing to see it all in motion being constructed and installed on site.

Being a translator means learning every day. You have to continuously train your brain while absorbing and processing new information."

According to Tatiana, specialization areas split among CPC translators is hardly rigid. For example, you may translate contractual documents in the morning, then legal, regulatory or social stuff and then there's time for equipment and machinery.

The workload is very high. There is a lot of translation work to do, while the number of translators has reduced drastically. Our group supervisor, Oleg Fedotov, takes his fair share of translation workload. He translates in all subjects. We are a great team and although we all very different and sometimes difficult people we manage to maintain excellent working environment. I've never met an easy-going professional translator! Nevertheless, together we make up a well-knit team, something not very often achieved among translators," Tatiana says.

HOBBY

"What, apart from work, do you have for your soul? How do you spend your spare time?"

"I like travelling very much, meeting other people, getting to know their traditions and cuisine and to practice foreign languages. When in Spain I try to refresh my poor Spanish, and on other trips I rack my brain for what I happen to know in other languages, sometimes a sentence or two. In Germany I'm absolutely speechless as I don't know a single word of German. I understand how difficult it is for those people who can only communicate via an interpreter. You have to trust the interpreter without



"I just love getting into technical details!"

understanding what he or she is saying.

Another hobby of mine is drawing. Once I realized that when doing my translation work I'm using primarily the left hemisphere of my brain, which is dominant in logic. A harmonious person must have both hemispheres equally developed. Therefore, I needed to pay special attention to my right hemisphere, the one dominant in creativity. It was not very long ago that I picked up drawing, but I hope this hobby will stay with me for a long time to come. It's very good for psychological relaxation," Tatiana said.

She calls her fluffy black exotic breed cat, Niki by name, her home talisman.

"Niki is very sociable and needs attention. When I was absent from home for a long time due to business trips, he got very angry with me. Niki is my helper, he takes part in all household chores."

Now, while we talk with Tatiana at her home, the cat is watching the brush in Tatiana's hand and how the picture appears on the canvas. Today is a creative day-off for Tatiana, to gather strength and inspiration for the working week to come. ■

by Nadezhda Cherednikova



A creative day-off

Jacks of all trades

I'VE BEEN WITH CPC SINCE 2012. ALTHOUGH I HAD BEEN IN TECHNICAL TRANSLATIONS FOR A LONG TIME WHEN I JOINED CPC, IT WAS FAR FROM EASY.



Ludmila Tsaryova translating for Dennis Fahy speaking at the New Year corporate party 2016

Apart from technical matters, translations to be done for CPC cover a lot of subjects, such as social projects, environmental protection, financial and legal documents and so on. With the great numbers of people involved in the project, there are occasional medical issues, so we have to be familiar with medical terminology.

Documents for CPC social projects contain descriptions of various medical equipment, football field cover, etc. Therefore, we have to be Jacks of all trades.

Unexpected subjects emerge most often during informal discussions. Once on a business trip I found myself in a real trouble. There were two guys who turned out to be devoted hunters. Predictably, their conversation slid into their favourite subject and got filled with terms

related to various kinds of hunting weapons, while I have nothing to do with hunting or weapons. Somehow I managed to wriggle out, but it was a translator's nightmare.

MARKED "URGENT"

Several meetings are held within the framework of the Expansion Project every day and their duration depends, to a certain extent, on the speed at which we are able to translate speakers. Therefore, we have to strain our brains to the limit at meetings to ensure adequate tempo and quality.

The most intense day for translators is Friday. Especially Friday afternoon. The closer to the day's end, the higher the tension. Why Friday? Well, during the week our specialists prepare documents, think them over and discuss. Finally, when ready, they send the documents marked "urgent" to translators and expect translation done and

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

I happened to translate three times at corporate events and once at a social facility opening ceremony. Psychologically, it is most difficult to translate at a corporate party, with your colleagues listening to you. For some reason, in such situations I recall figure skaters, who study all elements many times long before championship, but when they step onto the ice before the eyes of thousands of people, they encounter the most difficult problem – to control their nerves. Of course, our work is no championship, but... when you appear on the stage, illuminated by floodlights, with hundreds of people, many of whom are fluent in English, attentively listening, it is hard to stay calm. For example, when noticing a manager in the first row, who looks all ears and makes barely noticeable nods.

To overcome nervousness, I study materials beforehand and then I try

We have to strain our brains to the limit to provide necessary tempo of translation

documents issued before the close of business. Therefore, most documents coming our way on Fridays are marked "for urgent translation." Meetings happen on Fridays too, taking turns with urgent documents.

We always try to support each other and we all receive great support from our manager Oleg Fedotov. He sensibly and fairly divides workload and he always finds a good word or a joke to say that relieves tension and raises our spirits.

not to think about the upcoming event, avoid discussing it with my colleagues, and even ask them not to wish me luck. In this connection I recall one of our New Year corporate parties. On the day of the party where I was assigned to translate, there was agitation among the ladies of our office: last minute preparations, hairdos and clothes. In the hall I bumped into a colleague who said to me: "Look, all girls are so excited and you are so calm..." I had no choice but to explain him

the cause of my calmness, and we laughed together.

MOMENTS WORTH WORKING FOR

In October 2015, I translated at the opening ceremony for the children's sports center in the village of Starokucherganovka in Astrakhan Region. The kids put on a show for CPC representatives. I was very impressed by joy and sincere gratitude I saw in the eyes of the children, their teachers and regional administration representatives. CPC leaders attending the event were also absolutely sincere in their benevolent feelings. One of them told me that it was one of his best moments and such moments were worth working for.

A DUET

Sometimes translators are asked to do something not directly related to their profession. More often than not we have to decline such requests. Once on a business trip I was approached with a most unexpected request. One of the trip organisers wanted to sing the popular Russian song, "Podmoskovnye Vechera," (Moscow Nights) to his foreign colleague. He insistently wanted the song to be sung in two parts and asked me to sing along.

I warned him of my mediocre vocal skills, but I could see in his eyes that this request could not be declined. "Well, OK, but you have been warned," I thought. So I want to apologise to those who found my singing displeasing!

On the occasion I would like to ask everybody to be more tactful toward translators and not to make irrelevant requests. After all, we are under a lot of strain, especially when interpreting. ■

*Ludmila Tsaryova,
Translator,
Administrative department,
Expansion Project*

A unique experience

IT WAS HONOUR FOR ME TO WORK IN A LARGE INTERNATIONAL COMPANY AND TO BE A PART OF SUCH AN IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING PROJECT.

I've been with the Expansion Project since 2011. Before that I worked in a small translation company and communicated with other translators only remotely. CPC gave me the opportunity to see everything "from the inside," to communicate with colleagues in person and to help them.

Our team is composed of people with both talent and inspiration. It always surprised me to see girls from our translation group passionately discussing various technical details, such as pipe specifications.

Being "in the same boat" with other translators you understand how versatile and complicated our profession is. In addition to excellent command of the native and foreign languages a translator has to be an expert in all subjects, including very technical ones. Furthermore, a translator has to be a good psychologist, a good speaker and a very stress-resistant person.

Working in the CPC translation group was a unique experience for me to develop communication and professional skills.

I'm currently on maternity leave, but I try to keep up with what's



Vera Sidorova with her son, Yuri

happening at work. They are going through a hard time at the moment. I would like to wish my colleagues a successful completion of the Expansion Project and that they make excellent further careers on the basis of the unique experience acquired with CPC. ■

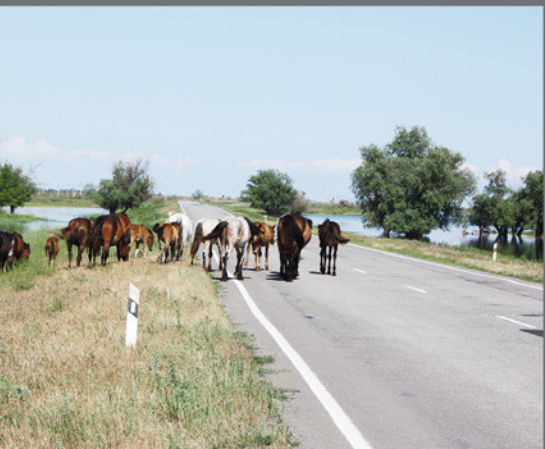
*Vera Sidorova,
Translation Group Assistant*

ALL-TIME CPC EXPANSION PROJECT TRANSLATION TEAM:

Marina Amirova, Boris Khanukayev, Igor Dubenko, Adelina Akhmetzyanova, Olesya Astakhova, Lyubov Lepina, Vladimir Tonkonogov, Dmitry Bogdanov, Olga Soldatova, Irina Iorina, Tatiana Ontsa, Tatiana Alexeyeva, Raushan Yerkina, Yekaterina Plotnikova, Vera Sidorova, Nikolay Anikin, Yakov Burnatsky, Bakytzhan Zhokeybayev, Konstantin Ivanov, Alina Ivashchenko, Zharkyn Kenzhebayeva, Tatiana Kiverina, Yekaterina Kolodochko, Ainur Nurtazina, Olga Makarova, Yekaterina Sklyar, Kseniya Filippova, Lyudmila Tsareva and Tatiana Chagireva.

For future generations

AFTER THE COMPLETION OF EXPANSION PROJECT, CASPIAN PIPELINE CONSORTIUM WILL REACH ITS DESIGNED THROUGHPUT CAPACITY. THIS MEANS MORE REVENUES FOR THE CONSORTIUM AND, CONSEQUENTLY, MORE MONEY REACHING THE BUDGETS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN.



The time had come to remind both the country and the world about the consortium's history and its importance for Russia and Kazakhstan. So the decision was taken to make a film about CPC. The task was taken on by the State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company (VG-TRK), which became interested in making such a film for broadcast on the "Russia 24" Federal TV Channel.



ON THE BOUNDLESS EXPANSES

Together with the film crew, we travelled all the way along the CPC trunk pipeline. As we made our way from one CPC facility to another, we feasted our eyes on the fantastically beautiful landscapes of our country and of the friendly Republic of Kazakhstan.

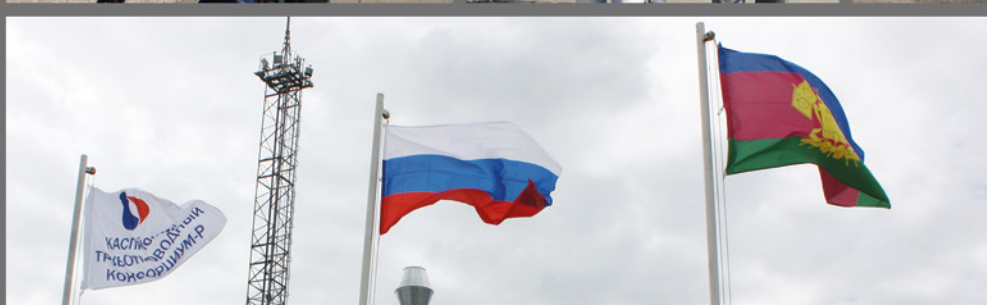
We saw the splendid turquoise seas with playful dolphins breaking the waves, and the mountain ranges in the mist near the pipeline's destination point – the Marine Terminal on the Black Sea. We saw the boundless expanses of Stavropol Krai, the golden sand dunes of the Astrakhan Region like frozen waves on the ocean, the ancient Astrakhan Kremlin on the bank of the great Volga River, the poppy fields in Kalmykia and Kazakhstan, and the sky blue mosques in the city of Atyrau. Viewed from a helicopter, countless herds of serenely grazing horses and camels appeared like toy figures.



FROM KILOMETRE ZERO...

How very hard a filmmaker works! Interviewing a huge number of people of various professions, trying to go into the very technical depths of the oil transportation process, the countless takes and presenter shots, the never-ending quest for meaningful and spectacular scenes through the camera viewfinder and, on top of all that, carrying all the equipment.

Travelling with the filmmakers, we visited pump stations that are in operation, including those recently launched, and those still under construction. In addition to PS "Kropotkinskaya" in Krasnodar Krai, PS-4 in Stavropol Krai and PS "Astrakhanskaya", we visited the Kazakh stations A-PS-4, A-PS-3A, PS "Atyrau" and PS "Tengiz", the site of the pipeline's "kilometre zero". We learned a lot about the types and properties of oil and quality control procedures used at the two laboratories located at PS "Kropotkinskaya" and PS "Atyrau". »



...TO THE DESTINATION POINT

A huge amount of unique footage was shot at the pipeline's end point – the Marine Terminal near Novorossiysk. We saw construction work nearing completion at the Marine Terminal's gigantic Tank Farm, a tanker being loaded at a single point mooring (SPM), divers at work inspecting the undersea equipment, and, finally, the “happy end” of the oil story – the departure of a fully loaded tanker, marking the moment when CPC oil is sent off into the world market to become fuel for motor vehicles, airplanes, ships and be used in the production of consumer goods. Oil produced from several different fields and collected together into a single pipeline will be used by people all over the world. And all thanks to Caspian Pipeline Consortium.



THE FILMMAKERS SPEAK

Yury Ruchkin, film director:

“This isn’t the first time I’ve worked at production facilities in the oil and gas sector. What particularly surprised me here was how extremely well organization of our travels and accommodation has been. Another pleasant surprise was the excellent organization of work at all sites we visited. The attention paid to the observation of safety rules is also impressive. That’s very important!

“What I appreciate the most is the assistance we’ve received, thanks to which we’ve managed to turn all our initial filming ideas, some of which were almost fantastical in their ambitions, into reality. Many thanks for that!

All our plans, like “going there, shooting from here, placing camera at such and such a place,” were fulfilled!

“From Tengiz in Kazakhstan, CPC oil takes off on a long voyage. The “birth” of the oil and its journey to “life” – that is what our film is all about. I can promise that it will be interesting!

Robert Frantsev, narrator and author:

“We all know about oil being feed-stock for fuels, polyethylene and many other things, but most people don’t know the details of the intermediary phase – the delivery of crude oil to consumers. Just think, it’s a really challenging task to deliver oil, produced from various fields, to oil processing facilities and to the consumers.

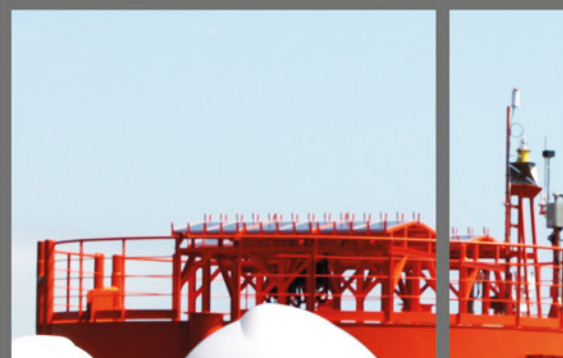


RICH MATERIAL

As we've managed to appreciate, one shared feature of all the CPC facilities is their impeccable order and tidiness, and the strictest observance of safety rules by all employees. Also, competence. Everybody who we interviewed patiently answered the questions asked by the presenter of the film, and, what's also important, tried hard to explain in the most understandable way all the subtleties of the technological processes. After all, the target audience of our film goes far beyond just specialists in the field.

Judging by the rich material assembled by the crew, the film will be vivid and engrossing. Contributing to that were true professionals from both sides – the VGTRK film crew and CPC's specialists. The film is scheduled to be broadcast to mark the Oil and Gas Industry Workers Day. We can't wait to see it! ■

by Irina Brichkalevich



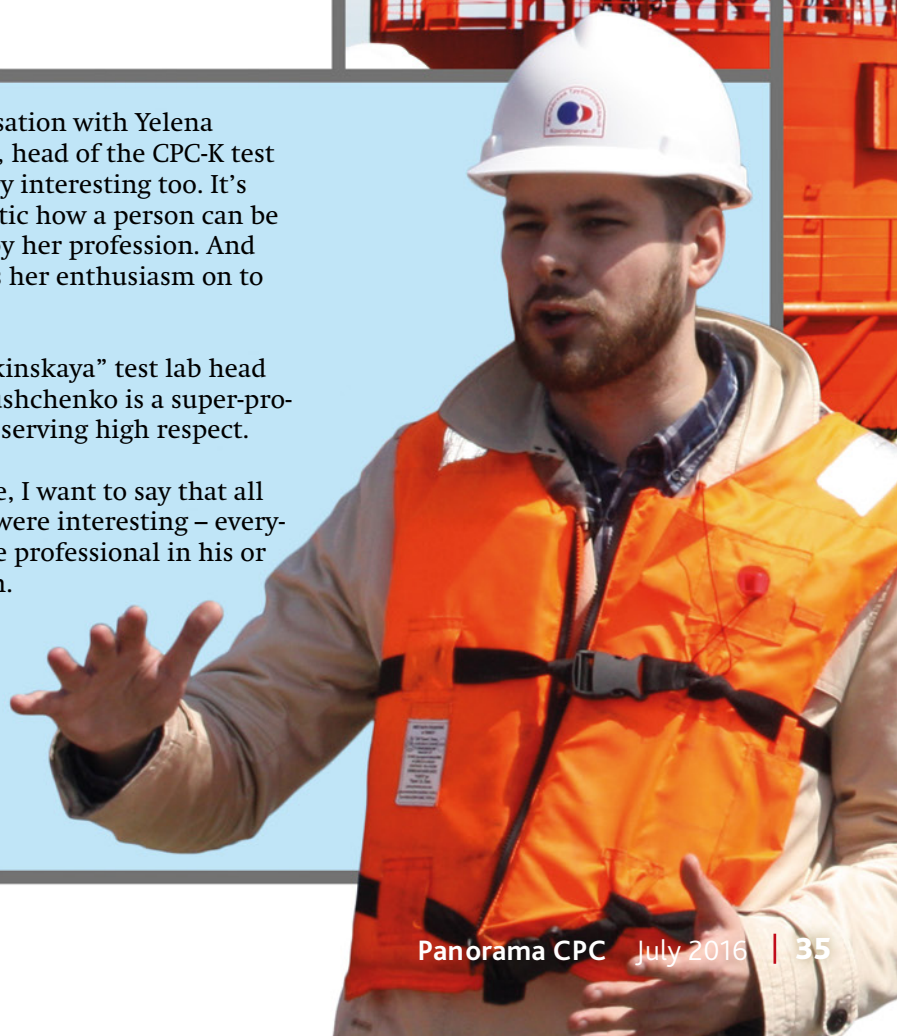
It appears simple at a first glance: there's a pipe and oil flows through it. However, in reality this is an extremely labor-intensive and complicated process requiring a lot of sophisticated technologies. It's truly impressive to learn how it all is organized, that there is a huge number of pump stations, which maintain pressure... Another thing that came to me as a great surprise to was the fact that pipelines were invented by Mendeleev.

I enjoyed the visit to the Marine Terminal very much, and I want to say thanks to our guide – Alexey Sitnik, manager in charge of marine facilities maintenance. Also, I'm very grateful to Viktor Volgin from the Western Region and Viktor Tokarev from the Central Region.

Our conversation with Yelena Mukhayeva, head of the CPC-K test lab, was very interesting too. It's truly fantastic how a person can be so excited by her profession. And she conveys her enthusiasm on to others.

PS "Kropotkinskaya" test lab head Tatyana Glushchenko is a super-professional deserving high respect.

By and large, I want to say that all interviews were interesting – everyone is a true professional in his or her position.



Tengiz. The beginning of the oil era

MANY YEARS SEPARATE US FROM THE EVENTS OF THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE OIL INDUSTRY, AND THE ACCOUNTS OF VETERAN WORKERS ARE VERY IMPORTANT. NEFTYANOYE KHOZIAYSTVO PUBLISHING CONTRIBUTES GREATLY TO PRESERVING THIS LEGACY.



Valentina Zvereva

“Publishing books on the history of the Russian oil industry is closely related to this industry’s oldest publication, Neftyanoye Khoziaystvo. Last year it celebrated its 95th anniversary,” says the publisher’s editor-in-chief and general director, Valentina Zvereva. “The magazine has sections “From the history of the oil industry” and “Remembering great oil workers.” Through these we can introduce the modern generation of workers to nationally important historical developments.

“We tried our hand at history for the first time when we published a compendium book, “The Veterans: The History of the Oil and Gas Industry,” ordered by the Rosneft Council of Retired War and Labour Veterans. It was a great success. We started thinking about publishing books dedicated to exceptional workers and the industry’s history.

By now an entire series is out. The desire for a solid and factual

presentation of historical materials led us to hire an editor for historical literature. This post is now occupied by Yuri Evdoshenko, Candidate of Historical Sciences. He spends a lot of time working with archives,” divulges Zvereva.

This year the publisher printed something remarkable – the memoirs of the last Minister of the Oil Industry of the USSR Lev Churilov, who was, incidentally, Neftyanoye Khoziaystvo’s editor-in-chief for over 10 years. Churilov’s daughter provided the materials for the book, which also relies on archive excerpts and recollections of Churilov’s friends and colleagues.

Reading this book, one plunges into the past of what was then the Soviet oil industry, discovers numerous curious details known only to the narrow circle of former decision-makers and learns about dramatic events that accompanied the industry’s

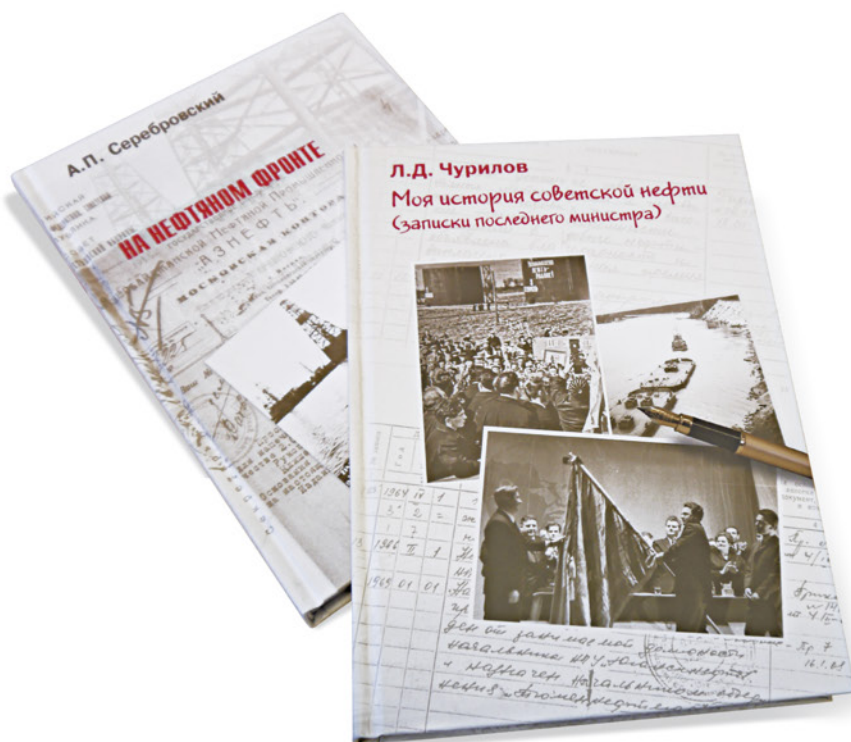
growth. Among other things, Churilov talks about the early stages of developing the Tengiz oil field – one of the last large-scale projects of the USSR era.

P.S. Many interesting facts about the history of the Tengiz oil-and-gas-condensate field were discovered while working on the book. For now these documents lie in the archive of Neftyanoye Khoziaystvo Publishing unused.

“We have no customer for a book where we could publish these interesting materials,” explains Zvereva. She gave us unique photographs to illustrate this article, pictures never published before.

We publish excerpts from the chapter on Tengiz with permission of the publisher. ■

by Ekaterina Suvorova



"It was a very useful experience."

<...>The economic policy of the government of Ryzhkov was inconsistent. While most Soviet industries were allowed to sell freely at least a portion of their produce on the home market, the government continued to retain 100 % of oil. <...>Our financial situation deteriorated in 1989, and the forecast for 1990 looked positively foreboding. Paying for imports of special equipment became more and more arduous.<...>

<...> The government continued to be of the opinion that the oil industry was rich and tight-fisted. At one conference, when we were discussing restrictions on our hard-currency income, one of Ryzhkov's deputies, Stepan Sitarian, suddenly turned to me and said in an irritated voice:

"Why do you keep bringing up the same questions everybody is tired of?"

I could not restrain myself and blurted out:

"I have to repeat what has already been said because the oil industry's survival is at stake!" <...>

How were oil workers compensated for their labour? It is true, they were entitled to retire early, drillmen were paid decently, but workers in other heavy industries had many more benefits. <...>I am confident that a rig worker's life is the hardest there is. When the temperature drops to -40° C, there is no shelter, no heating system that can completely shield one from the piercing cold. And although automatic devices are now more common, it is impossible to set up mechanised rigs on every well. A worker has to stand on the platform 40 meters above the surface, almost unprotected from the howling wind.

I have no idea why, but Ryzhkov always seemed annoyed by the troubles of the oil industry. <...> His visits to Western Siberia and the Tengiz field in Kazakhstan looked more like excursions than official high-level meetings to solve urgent problems. <...> It was in this situation that I had to take on the extremely difficult task of beginning production at the new Tengiz field.

<...>From the beginning of 1990, I focused on the Tengiz project for an entire year.

<...> The Tengiz oil reservoirs are under high pressure. When a power blowout occurred at one well, the jet caught fire and continued burning for over a year¹. This unnerving incident called the whole enterprise into question. Luckily, people who participated in the heated public debate that followed were not oil professionals. <...> There was too much emotion in the air, and absurd theories continued to be made about us. Was there anything we did not get to hear? That there had been an earthquake in Tengiz, that the waters of the Caspian sea are rising and will swallow up the field. Rumours grew into an avalanche.

Nonetheless, beginning production at Tengiz was scheduled for 1990. We needed foreign aid, and establishing a joint company was to be the first stage. In early 1990 a large group of specialists from the Ministry of the Oil Industry travelled to the US to negotiate with Chevron. We took along a few Khazakh representatives hoping to dispel their fears that Moscow would pass over the republic's interests during the talks.



First Deputy Minister of the Oil and Gas Industry of the USSR Lev Churilov and Deputy Head of Glavnefteavtomatika Nadeyin at Tengiz, 1991

We had never before negotiated with a Western company, so at first our meetings with people of Chevron did not go well.

Each day we started talking at 9 a.m. and never finished earlier than 9 p.m. So it went on for ten days. Chevron had invited a well-known legal company. <...> Again and again we had to ask for a break to discuss the developments between ourselves. We had no consultants of our own, and the legal expert we took along, as it turned out, did not know international law.

It was a very useful experience. For the first time I began to understand »

¹ The fire at Well no. 37 "Tengiz" happened on the 25th of June, 1985, after a blowout of high-pressured oil and gas from a depth of 4467 m. H₂S in the oil and high temperature prevented suppression of the fire, which was ultimately put out by a directed underground blast.



Two former Soviet Ministers at Tengiz: Dinkov (second L) and Churilov (second R), 2003



Churilov (third R) and Nadeyin (extreme R) in the company of Tengizneftegaz workers, 1990–1991

the approach of international oil companies to deals like this. In our country, by contrast, the process of making a contract was very simple. We were all struck by their grasp of the subject, how they took into account their partners' interests and paid attention to the smallest details. <...> In the draft of the Tengiz agreement the Soviet side was to keep 75 % of the profit and Chevron 25 %, but many points remained open. The matter of transporting the oil was particularly thorny. Because Tengiz had not yet

been connected to the Soviet pipeline system, Chevron would have had to trade the crude obtained in Kazakhstan for the Soviet export mix brought to the Black Sea. We realised that this exchange would be a hard proposition, because the Tengiz oil was much lighter and higher quality than the mix of crudes from all over the Soviet Union. <...> It took us about six months to find a compromise.

We were eager to build an export-dedicated pipeline from northwestern

Kazakhstan. Meanwhile several foreign consultants we consulted, including Ernst and Young, and they spent a lot of time trying to solve the oil quality problem. But even their colossal experience did not produce an acceptable solution. <...>

Oil specialists also reviewed the deal, as did the Head of the Kazakhstan Cabinet Nazarbayev and the Oblast Party Committee of Guryev (now Atyrau, Ed.), the nearest oblast capital to Tengiz. The Kazakhs were the most critical of the agreement, with most of their objections being about the potential damage to the environment.

<...> The second half of 1990 was a Tengiz time for me. I spent a great deal of time at the field sorting out technical and safety issues. Specialists from Lurgi, the German construction and engineering company, came over to help us commission equipment. In 1991 the field began trial production.

It was the discovery of Tengiz in 1979 that had breathed fresh life into that traditional oil region. <...> But Tengiz also forced us to get to know all of the place's special problems and needs. Frequent uncontrolled blowouts had fixed the public's attention on our environmental and safety policies. The press, just freed from censorship, used us for target practice. <...>

We had to launch a counter propaganda campaign. People of one small village 25 kilometres away from Tengiz petitioned us for relocation, which put us in a bad spot.

We invited them all to meet at the local club, and we also invited journalists and the Guryev administration. Some specialists from the project attended the meeting, including the head of Tengizneft, and they made reassuring speeches. They had brought pictures of similar swampy oil-and-gas fields in the West, where people live happily some 50 meters from the well.

That seems to have helped to dispel the fears. A few people admitted that they had not even read the petition. "They told me to sign it, and I signed it," was often heard.

By the end of the evening, when we were all drinking the traditional tea, one of the local elders got up and said: “Drinking tea is all well and good, comrade director, but you did not convince me! My camel grew sick right after you started drilling in Tengiz, and he is still sick.”

Everyone around was grinning, as if saying: “Look, such a simple question, and this big honcho from Moscow does not know what to say. So there really must be something going on at that field.”

“Tell me, how old is your camel?” I asked.

“Must be about 20.”

“Could it be that he got sick because of his age?”

The room burst into laughter. The old man looked embarrassed and said: “You might be right, director.”

People laughed so hard, they were falling off chairs. The elder muttered in Kazakh:

“It’s my wife’s fault. She told me to bring up that sick animal. She thought, if we complain hard enough, the big boss from Moscow will buy us a young camel.”

The locals got used to the Tengiz development soon enough. After all, they themselves stood to gain plenty. By October 1990 people were flocking to the director of the gas-processing plant, asking for their grandsons to be employed.

The plant was well-built, they said, and their children needed to learn to become oilworkers as soon as possible.

<...> In late spring of 1991 Kazakhstan passed a law that brought all natural resources in the republic under the control of Almaty. In May Gorbachev and Nazarbayev agreed that from then on only representatives of Kazakhstan would talk to Chevron. The negotiations dragged on to the middle of 1993, when the joint company finally began work. ■

Lev Churilov,
“My History of Soviet Oil
(Memoirs of the Last Minister)”



Churilov and Nadeyin at Tengiz 12 years later. For the whole twelve years a bird’s nest had remained here (upper right corner), which is considered a sign that production is environmentally safe. 2003

12 years later at Tengiz, 2003

Along the pipeline route

WE CONTINUE TO FAMILIARIZE OUR READERS WITH SOME OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES TO BE FOUND ALONG THE ROUTE OF THE KAZAKH PART OF THE CPC PIPELINE. WE HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED THE TENGIZ, ZHYLYOYSKY AND MAKATSKY DISTRICTS AND THE AREA SURROUNDING ATYRAU.

The next three districts crossed by the Tengiz-Novorossiysk pipeline are named after historical characters, national heroes: Makhambet Utemisov, Isatai Taimanov and the great Kazakh composer – kuyshi Kurmangazy Sagyrbayev. There probably is not a person in Kazakhstan who would not recognize these names.

The Kazakh naming tradition uses a person's first name, hence the districts feature the names Makhambet, Isatai, Kurmangazy. In Russian transcriptions the district names follow the rules of Russian grammar, and are called Makhambetsky, Isataisky and Kurmangazinsky. Our company's legal address pays homage to the legendary poet and warrior Makhambet – the "Atyrau" pump station is located in the Almaly county of the Makhambetsky district.

ISATAI AND MAKHAMBET

It is impossible to talk about Makhambet without mentioning Isatai, since their stories are so closely

interlinked. Isatai led the 1836–1838 uprising against the Zhangir Khan, the ruler of Bukey (Inner) Horde between the Ural and the Volga Rivers. Isatai, the leader of the Berish clan, opposed the oppression of simple Kazakhs, was an advocate for their interests, and criticized the high-handed abuse of power by the Khan-appointed rulers. At last, the poor despaired of being unable to feed their families and wanted to achieve a more just redistribution of land. They began to openly raid the livestock of the Sultan and the Khan's holdings.

These sporadic actions were supported in February of 1836 by Isatai Taimanov and the akyn (poet) Makhambet who joined him. Several clans with their leaders also joined the rebellion. At first it was hoped to resolve the land dispute by appealing to the Russian authorities. But in the end the Russian government dispatched a punitive expeditionary force consisting of several hundred Cossacks from the Urals



Isatai the warrior

and Astrakhan, together with Khan Zhangir's troops.

By spring 1837 the rebellion had spread to most of the clans of Bukey Horde. The rebels persisted in their attempts to force Zhangir to make concessions and reform the system of government. Their advance began in the summer and fall of 1837. On 24 October the rebels, 1,500–3,000 strong, moved towards the residence of the Khan. In two-three days they camped within a mile of it and began a two-week siege.

Regular troops of the Russian army and Cossacks, garrisons of the Kulaginsky and Gorsky fortresses, the Zelenovsky fort, from the Urals, Astrakhan and Orenburg, advanced to relieve the siege. Outposts were left at defensive lines on the Ozen and Zhayik Rivers to cut off the rebels' retreat. Lieutenant Colonel A. Gekke was placed in charge of suppressing the uprising. On November 15, 1837 his troops (2,000 soldiers together with retainers of the Khan) defeated the rebels at a place called Tastube. With about 100 dead, the rest scattered.

Troops loyal to Isatai fought their way through the defenses



of the Yamankhalinsky fort on the night of 13–14 December, 1837, and escaped into the steppes near the Ural River. It was there that the rebellion flared up again. Isatai and Makhambet gathered a force of fighters who terrorized Zhangir Khan and his allies. The Orenburg governor-general sent a new punitive expedition to the steppes to suppress the rebellion.

On July 12, 1838, between the River Akbulak and the River Kiyil, the numerically superior government troops, commanded by Gekke, defeated the rebels, who numbered 500. It was the final battle in the life of the brave rebel. Isatai, on horseback, charged against the rifles and cannons of the enemy, and was cut down. Even his enemies spoke with respect of this fighter who, lightly armed, challenged the cannons in the name of liberty. He was a man who could be killed, but never subdued or conquered. (Taken from the Tarikh-Kazakhstan History website)

"AND PEOPLE STILL REMEMBER ME..."

The historian A.F. Ryazanov has written: "Makhambet was the heart and soul of the uprising. He was literate in both Russian and Tatar, he wrote the proclamation sent around the Horde, and the addresses to Zhangir Khan and the Russian government from Isatai and the people. He went to villages, agitated, stirred up the people against Zhangir, and was the first to inspire Isatai to take up arms."

Makhambet's hatred for Zhangir Khan is expressed vividly in his poem:

*Are you a Khan appointed by God?
No, rather you are a hungry wolf!
Your vicious eyes are like snake bites.
All groan and cry where you bring
your sting, the scorpion Khan!*

After Isatai's death in 1838 Makhambet fled to the Khiva Khanate with a small band of followers. There, he again wanted to rouse the people

against their rulers, but with no results. He travelled in secret to Bokey Horde and agitated against the Khans and the Tsar. But he was arrested, brought to Orenburg, and released with a stern warning.

Makhambet was left all on his own, and the authorities tried to make a deal with him. Sultan Baimagambet offered him life and freedom if he would only submit. Makhambet replied with his poem "A Word to Sultan Baimagambet":

*You know, I am of falcon blood.
Beware of angering me!
You sit on high, above the people,
But not above the earth!
God alone will see my tears,
Refrain from blazing triumphant looks.*

The akyn was forced to spend his final years in hiding on the steppes. Khan Zhangir and Sultan Baimagambet were afraid of Makhambet's influence on the people and spied on him. In the end their agents murdered the poet, beheading him. Historians believe that the Sultan's men were responsible for his death. "They say, Baimagambet visited St. Petersburg after Makhambet's murder. The Tsar welcomed him and made him a General. But Baimagambet never returned home. Brave avengers drowned him in a river near to the place where Isatai and Makhambet had had their first victory." (N. Telezhinskaya. "Songs that Raise the Spirit.") Makhambet remained a champion of freedom and justice in the memory of the people.

He was a man of fierce character, energetic, mercilessly honest, an inspired orator and a flaming, pure soul. To my mind, these short, almost rough lines reflect exactly his resolution to struggle and lay down his life:

*A warrior's joy is his horse,
His cutting fury – his sword,
Death, the supreme law for all,
Takes everything away.*

There are very different translations of Makhambet's poems. Some are



The monument to Kurmangazy in Astrakhan

better, others worse in representing the headlong rush of his verse – like a galloping herd, like a rider in his last battle.

*He who has not scarred his feet with stirrups,
Who has not become one with the lance,
Who has not ridden down all the roads,
Who has not worn out the saddle,
Who has not been away so long
That his mother and father do not recognize him,
Who has not been restless day and night,
Who has not dreamed of food and water,
Who has not slept in the steppe
With only the saddle for a pillow,
With the Polar Star above –
He is not yet a man,
Not yet a warrior,
Not yet a hero.*

The central square in Atyrau is named after the two glorious heroes – Isatai and Makhambet. Modest monument steles in the shape of arrow heads are inscribed with the verses of the great rebel poet.

A MUSICAL SOUL

Every nation has certain names, the mere mention of which stirs the heart and brings joy to every »

citizen. For Kazakhs the name of the kuyshi Kurmangazy Sagyrbayev is one such.

Kurmangazy is a classic of Kazakh instrumental music, a musician of the people, a composer, a dombra player, and the author of kuys (pieces for the dombra). He has a special place in the musical history of Kazakhstan.

He was born in 1818 in Bukey Horde, in the yurt of Sagyr Bay, a poor man. His father did not approve the boy's obvious talent for music, but his mother shared his love for it and supported him. A visiting kuyshi named Uzak recognized

the history of the Kazakh people. These events later found expression in his famous work, "Adai". The warlike and rebellious spirit of the ancient Kazakh Adai clan is represented in the musical form of a furious horseback ride. The heroic tone is established from the very first notes, and the kuy as a whole is vigorous, manly and heroically life-affirming.

Rousing pieces like this stirred the masses and presented a serious obstacle for the authorities in maintaining "order". They falsely accused Kurmangazy of stealing horses, and wanted to exile the democratically-spirited musician far away from

the cell after the composer's mother had visited him and inspired courage and resilience in his restless soul.

After years of wandering distant lands, Kurmangazy came back to his own country. But on March 1, 1864



The five-tenge note with the picture of Kurmangazy Sagyrbayev was printed by the National Bank of Kazakhstan in 1993



The musical traditions of the legendary kuyshi live on among the Kazakh people



The Kurmangazy mausoleum in Astrakhan attracts numerous fans

the wonderful talent of the young musician and predicted a bright future for him. At 18, Kurmangazy left his village for the wandering life of the kuyshi. He competed in poetry contests alongside Uzak, developed his mastery and became a remarkable dombra player.

Kurmangazy witnessed the Kazakh rebellion of 1836–1838, led by Isatai Taimanov and Makhambet Utemisov. The rebellion was ruthlessly suppressed, but it continued to echo long afterwards in many parts of the Kazakh steppe.

Kurmangazy experienced first-hand all the hardships of the poor laborer. The piece "Kishkentai" became his angry reaction to the events of those years. It is a musical monument of sorts, a reflection of real events in

his home steppes. On September 25, 1857 the kuyshi was arrested and imprisoned next to the residence of the former Khan. Such persecution had a lasting effect on his life and work.

Since there was no evidence of any crime, the trial lasted a long time, but Kurmangazy did not wait for a verdict: one night he sawed through the prison bars and escaped. He could no longer stay in his homeland. He had to start wandering again, more farewells to his relatives, his mother... The figure of his mother, who not only passed on the musical gifts of her ancestors to her son but also brought him up proud, strong and firm, appears in the "Kairan Sheshem" ("Oh, My Mother!") kuy. According to the legend, this piece was composed in

he was again arrested and jailed – first at the Khan's residence, then from May 23, 1866, in Uralsk city jail. He was freed after a change in the trial rules, which prevented his further prosecution.

In the Uralsk jail Kurmangazy met a Russian worker, Lavochkin, and dedicated a kuy titled "Laushken" to him. In this piece Russian musical influences find an unusual rendering. The kuyshi used Russian elements in his mature work several times, such as "Perovsky March."

In 1868 the "Ural Army Gazette" published an essay by the journalist N.F. Savichev, in which he wrote about his encounter with this genius of Kazakh music: "At first I was surprised, and then amazed by the way he played... Kurmangazy tuned two strings quickly, cocked his head and broke out into an improvisation. The dombra produced music of the most perfect sort. Although it was a Kazakh melody, its expression was on a par with the very best pieces of music, because Sagyrbayev's playing comes from the same source – talent and inspiration. In short, Sagyrbayev was a rare musical soul, and had he received a European education he would be a first-class star in the world of music." ■

by Marzhan Diarova

A man of passion

MANY PASSIONATE AND CREATIVE PEOPLE WORK AT CPC. THEY PUT AS MUCH ENERGY INTO THEIR FREE TIME AS THEY DO INTO THEIR PROFESSION. THAT'S ANOTHER TOPIC THAT "CPC PANORAMA" WILL NEVER EXHAUST.



Elbrus Mountain area Winter 2014

Sergey Smolyannikov, senior specialist for maintenance planning of the Expansion Project in Astrakhan, has an important role: he and his colleagues draw up maintenance plans for the new pump stations and pipelines of the Central region. The station personnel will work in strict adherence to his charts and documents. Developing this documentation is a painstaking process that requires a breadth of expertise. Sergey's hobbies are just as diverse.

He was a dedicated athlete in his childhood, attending the special boarding school run by the Soccer Academy of Rotor Volgograd. Many of his classmates are now well-known players. But Sergey did not go into professional sports. Instead he went to Moscow to study in the Gubkin Russian State University of Oil and Gas. He remains a soccer fan. He follows the Italian Serie A League, and particularly admires Juventus Turin.

Sergey also loves an active lifestyle. Whenever he can, he gets out to the Elbrus Mountain for snowboarding.

The Astrakhan steppes are a paradise for hunting and fishing. Sergey spends a few days each year pursuing his passion and earning new trophies down on the picturesque Volga estuary. Outside hunting season he keeps his marksmanship sharp by target practice.

Sergey loves to ride his motorcycle in the country. In his spare time he



goes off on his Yamaha XT660X bike to ride the rough terrain outside Astrakhan.

Sergey Smolyanninov has a dream, too: together with his friends, to save up enough for a van so all of them can take their families on a road trip.

"I think we'll get out of Astrakhan, cross the Caucasus, take the ferry across the Bosphorus, travel throughout Europe, then come back through Scandinavia, into Finland by ferry, on to St. Petersburg and back home," he says. "But that's a long trip, and it will take a lot of preparation." ■

by Pavel Kretov





Behind the wheel of her favorite car

Taking the good road

VALENTINA SMIRNOVA IS THE SENIOR ADMINISTRATION SPECIALIST OF THE ENGINEERING TEAM. SHE HAS BEEN WITH THE COMPANY SINCE 2005. SHE'S ACTIVE BY NATURE, AND HAS DISCOVERED THAT THE BEST WAY TO GET OVER WORK IS A CHANGE OF OCCUPATION. AND SHE'S GOT TALENTS AND NEW IDEAS APLENTY! VALENTINA IS PASSIONATE ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHY AND TRAVELING. EVEN BEFORE SHE GOES ON VACATION SHE PLANS OUT HER HIKING TREKS, ROAD ROUTES AND RESORT OPTIONS, WHICH RECHARGES HER EMOTIONALLY. HER ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDE HER PARTICIPATION IN THE "RECORD OF RUSSIA" COMPETITION (MORE ON THAT BELOW), AND 3RD PLACE IN THE INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE CONTEST SPONSORED BY THE SWISS CONSULATE IN RUSSIA. VALENTINA HAS PLENTY OF STORIES TO SHARE WITH HER COLLEAGUES.

THE TURNING POINT

All of us reach turning points in our lives. Everything seems to be going ahead as usual, but something begins to change around you, and though you don't understand it yet, you feel you're about to break new ground – and you do.

When your children grow up, there's a little more time to look around and do what you enjoy. For various reasons, my "time" was delayed again and again, but I knew it would come.

And I had such a turning point five years ago. When I joined the car club, I discovered a whole new world of charity, trips around the country, helping kids in orphanages and making new friends. And the most touching part of that world must be with our veterans, who endured the horrors of the War without losing their faith in our unity.

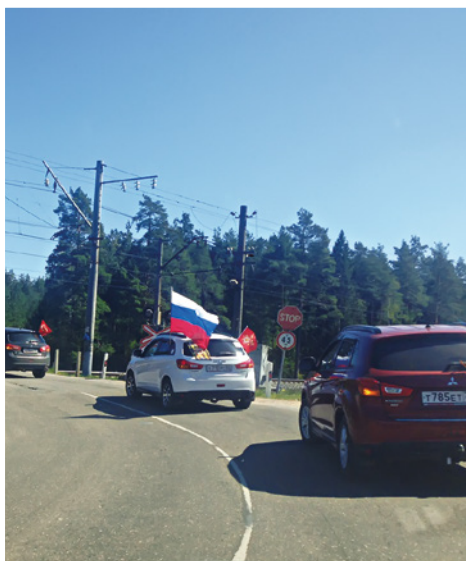
WAY TO A RECORD

One of the most significant events for me happened almost at once: as a new person in the car club, I was lucky to

receive an invitation to take part in setting a "Record of Russia". And I... I agreed, not knowing at all what to expect on this unexplored path.

Six months of preparations, and our fears and doubts about whether we could muster enough vehicles to participate flew by. Then the day came when together all of us, from 26 regions of the country, assembled in a town outside Moscow to set the "Record".

The date and the theme were specially chosen to correspond to Russia's Independence Day – 156 cars of the same model in formation to make up the word RUSSIA and the three-colored flag. The commission's requirements were strict. Independent experts measured the gaps between the cars down to every 50 mm, inspected them from all sides and recorded the results. But then we heard the sound of a helicopter approaching, and the cameras started to click.



Around our beloved Russia together with her car club friends!



Great Patriotic War veterans appreciate attention and care

Almost a thousand people, from anywhere from Tyumen to Stavropol, held their breath, looking either up at the sky, or down to the ground. The snapshot was taken!

The commission decided we'd made it: all the requirements had been met, and a new "Record of Russia" had been set!

THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS

We came away from that event even better friends, and we realized that together we can do great things. That's how we staged the first events – "OrphanageKids" in the Vladimir Region, and the most touching one, "Congratulate a Veteran While You Can".

For the sixth time in a row now we've held this event just before Victory Day, which is the most important holiday for us. There's a tradition now that on May 9 we drive out to small villages in the Vladimir Region where our courageous war-victors still live.

There are fewer of them every year. But how their eyes glow with strength, faith and goodness! We let them into our hearts to learn from them, and try to do what little



Car club members are welcomed all around the huge country

we can to thank them for ridding the world of fascism.

Every time we hear their stories about the war, how they liberated our cities and took Berlin, we can't help thinking that in a few years time our veterans will be all gone. And the only thing we ask of them when we leave is – "Please wait for us! We'll come back, just wait for us!"

We have done a lot over five years, but every time it seems like it's not quite enough. When we were planning out the route before this year's May holiday, we talked to the village administration and heard what we

had feared the most – this year their number had halved.

The lines by Natalia Pervova come to mind:

*"I'll come to you on the May holiday...
I'll sit down silently by you and whisper:
"Hello, grandfather...
Thank you for Victory. And thanks for me.
For us... that things are quiet..."*

Our car club has many more interesting adventures ahead of us on the road. May all of them lead to new discoveries! ■

by Valentina Smirnova



The "Record of Russia" – a bird's eye view. The distance between cars is measured down to the millimeter!



May 9 meeting in Gorky village, Vladimir Region

“They don’t ski any higher in Europe”

NATALIA CHEKUNOVA, A DOCUMENT CONTROL SPECIALIST OF THE CPC MOSCOW OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT, FIRST TRIED MOUNTAIN SKIING IN 2015 AND SET OFF TO CONQUER SERIOUS HEIGHTS. “WEREN’T YOU SCARED?” WE ASKED. “OF COURSE I WAS!” SHE CONFESSED. “BUT YOU LEARN REALLY QUICKLY WHEN TAKING SERIOUS RISKS.” THIS IS WHAT NATALIA HERSELF SAYS ABOUT HER NEW HOBBY.

FACING CHALLENGES

“In March 2015 I overheard a conversation between two skiers on a chairlift in the Ural Mountains near Magnitogorsk. The lift takes about 10 minutes, so people have time to talk about everything: the weather and the forecast, the snow, the maintenance (or, in case of local slopes, the lack of it) of the piste, the curse of snowboarders and say: “Remember yesterday?!” These two were discussing the difficulties of skiing at Elbrus, emphasising the injury risks. I remember thinking: “People just can’t help going where they shouldn’t!”

Indeed, the ways of skiers are inscrutable!” March 2016. Sheremetyevo airport. Registration for the Moscow-Mineralnye Vody flight. The easiest way to get to Elbrus is to fly to Mineralnye Vody and then drive 200 km to the mountains along the river Baksan.

A little information on Elbrus. Elbrus is a classic volcanic mountain. The western peak is 5642 m above the sea level, the eastern peak is 38 m lower. Both peaks are independent volcanic cones. The twin-peak Elbrus is the highest point of Europe, it dominates all

the other mountains of the Caucasus and can be seen from every peak of the chain, from Transcaucasia and even from the ships sailing along the eastern coast of the Black sea.

A SNOWY VEIL

Elbrus greeted us with foul weather. The weather on the mountain is capricious: the wind can be hurricane force, and the temperature can go as low as -50 °C even in May. Such climatic whims have led to many tragic deaths of climbers. This sleeping volcano takes several lives every year.



I now have the firsthand experience of wind and snowstorm at the height of 3500 m. For four days we skied through the whiteout as if blindfolded. In a complete whiteout you see no terrain, don't feel your speed, there are no landmarks and sometimes you hardly even know which way you're going. The wind is dead against you, snow is drumming against your mask.

And yet this is a great opportunity to perfect your skills, and more... We are so used pampering and comfort, to service and facilities! We go to Europe to find well tended pistes, heated seats and to ski "on velvet".

Vladimir Belilovsky is the senior instructor of the Terskol tourist camp. (Everybody calls him his patronymic name 'L'vovich'.) He is a legend, the symbol of Elbrus with dozens of ascends, a flamboyant old man with a biblical beard and sharp eyes who is in love with life and the Caucasus Mountains. He says: "Rome was destroyed by comfort. I'm not against service, but when someone keeps choosing the way requiring the least effort, there is no development. it's just the way to make your

life easier." You cannot put it better. People are not looking for good service at Elbrus, let alone Cheget. They are looking for victory over themselves, over their fears and laziness. Cheget is the mountain next to Elbrus, and it's called "the great and the terrible". The mountain tamers have a joke about ski resorts being divided into two types according to the difficulties and dangers of skiing there: There is Cheget and there are all the rest.

But the second day of sun made it up for all the hardships. The two peaks of Elbrus were shining against the deep blue of the sky. You can go as high as the Gara-bashi station by cable car. From there you can go up in a ratrac or a snowmobile, to the Petukhov Rocks. That is only 800m from the peak! The height is 4800m, the skiers are not allowed to go any further. You start off from that ultramarine roof of Europe

Elbrus stands in the Side Range of the Greater Caucasus, 10 km north from the Greater Caucasus Mountain Range, on the border between the Republics of Kabardino-Balkaria and Karachay-Cherkessia. The whole mountain group is of volcanic origin. Elbrus is the highest mountain peak of Europe and Russia, and is on the list of highest mountains of the planet called "The Seven Summits". The melting of Elbrus glaciers brings water to the largest rivers of the Caucasus and the Stavropol territory: Kuban, Malka and Baksan.

"THE ROOF OF EUROPE"

Two days of sun were a true gift of the gods! But on the first sunny day the piste was closed for reconstruction. You can imagine all the "kind" words addressed to the people in charge!

and go down, drinking in the thin mountain air, following the ratrac tracks from the Petukhov Rocks to the Azau Meadow. It is an experience you cannot forget, but can repeat." ■

by Natalia Chekunova



Under the wing of “Carnival”

SEVEN YEAR-OLD KSENIA HAS STUDIED AT THE STAGE AND SPORTS DANCE ENSEMBLE “CARNIVAL” FOR TWO YEARS AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO CONTINUING.

Interestingly, her mother Marina Kostomarova danced in this celebrated group as well. She is now our colleague in the Moscow office of CPC-R.

“When the doctor recommended dancing for our daughter, we chose Carnival straight away,” says Marina. “We took Ksenia to a performance, and she was ecstatic about the young artists and wanted to shine just like them.”

Dancing was very good for her. There are bar exercises which improved her posture. She has learned

not to slouch, and her movements have become more graceful. Ksenia also became happier and more sociable.”

Under the guidance of her experienced teacher, Natalia Avericheva, and the founders of Carnival and world-class dancers themselves, Irina and Sergey Afutin, Ksenia is learning Russian, Spanish, Irish and Italian national dances, and contemporary and ballroom dancing.

“I am very happy, they were my teachers as well!” Marina says.

The program is a synthesis of various kinds of dance for children and teens. Bright costumes, taking part in concerts – Ksenia loves it all. During the New Year holidays she performed at the Kremlin for the first time – at the country’s main New Year event. Getting up at six, then three performances before the end of the day is a challenging schedule even for an adult. But she did brilliantly.

“We often have to do without holidays and weekends, we dedicate that time to practice and performance,” says the young dancer’s mother. “But dancing is our family passion, my nieces are in the group too.” Family traditions are welcome at Carnival, which even has a special dance called “Brothers and sisters.”

Under the wing of Carnival, Ksenia is learning more than just how to dance. The children are also taught etiquette and good manners. And, of course, the ensemble improves acting and musical improvisation skills.



I had to ask: “Is Ksenia going to become an artist?”

“New dances, beautiful costumes, applause – these can, of course, become a lifelong passion,” Marina answers. “At any rate, my husband and I will accept any professional choice she makes. If it is dance, great! And if Ksenia suddenly loses interest in the ensemble, that’s fine too! “In my time I trained with Carnival for 13 years and then decided to study philology. But the skills and physical conditioning were very useful to me in later life.”

We can only wish our young heroine success on the stage and friends as passionate as she! ■

by Ekaterina Suvorova



Marina Kostomarova passed her love of dance on to her daughter Ksenia

Bringing up talents

FOR GAUKHAR YESIMOVA, HER FAMILY IS HER LIFE. THE THREE CHILDREN SHE AND HER HUSBAND, BAUYRZHAN, ARE BRINGING UP, ARE ALL MULTI-TALENTED INDIVIDUALS.



For three years now Gaukhar Yesimova has been working as an accountant for material records and basic assets at CPC-K Atyrau, and she loves her job. "We have a team of friendly people, and the company provides employees with a comfortable working environment," she says.

Gaukhar does it all – she works, keeps her home in perfect order and still looks like "Miss Kazakhstan". When asked to talk about her family, Gaukhar says, "I wouldn't say our family is any different from any other family in our country. There is nothing extraordinary or outstanding about it; and yet for me it's the best in the whole world."

The family members venerate their national traditions, children are taught to respect their elders and take care of those younger than them. The national Kazakh holiday Nauyryz is their favourite and the most anticipated. On festive days Gaukhar and her husband take the children to see the elder relatives and the younger relatives, in turn, come to their house – this holiday tradition to visit each other to say hello is called "Korsu".

"We love doing things together, and trips to the seaside have become another family tradition," says Gaukhar.

She and her husband put their hearts into bringing up their children, and it surely shows. Their elder daughter Ayzada is 15, she's a diligent student and dedicates a lot of time to learning English. The younger

daughter Adina is five years old. She attends a kindergarten where children are taught three languages at once – English, Kazakh and Russian. She also studies chess, dancing and singing. "She is so creative," the proud parents say. Adina loves singing – when she was younger, she kept singing tunes from cartoons, so her parents decided to take her to a vocal studio. On June, 1, Adina took part in the Children's Day concert in Atyrau. She sang in Kazakh and in Russian. At the dance studio they learn national Kazakh and modern dances, with performances every month.

13-year-old Ali is the middle child. He also learns English and does well at school, but his passion in life is football. He is a huge fan, and also plays for the local school team. Ali's dream is to be like his idol, the Portuguese player Cristiano Ronaldo.

The boy was very happy to talk about his hobby:

"I've been keen on football since I was small. I fell in love with this sport straightaway, it's a spectacular,

beautiful and powerful game. It's more than just a game – it's a real art!

My favourite club is Real Madrid. "I honestly can't remember when I became a fan. For me, Real is not just a club, it's something huge. I haven't missed a single match. My favourite players are Ronaldo, Alexis Sanchez and Bale. Ronaldo is a role model for every young football player, I've admired him since I was a little boy. I like his technique, speed and shooting instinct. I'm happy that Portugal won Euro-2016! It's just great for a country with that rich soccer history to score the highest at last".

When asked if he's afraid of getting an injury (since football can be quite a dangerous sport), Ali says:

"No, I'm not! I don't think about injuries when I'm playing, you have to be prepared for anything! I'm dreaming of becoming a professional player at one of the top clubs. But in order to achieve that, I have to train hard every day and never lose sight of my dream."

Let's hope that Ali and his sisters, Ayzada and Adina, make it. Most importantly, their parents have already laid the foundation for their future happy and healthy life by surrounding them with love and care, and by giving them the possibility to develop their personalities. ■

Gaukhar and Bauyrzhan do their best to help their wonderful children bring their talents to light

by Irina Brichkalevich

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In June CPC and the Krasnodar Krai Office of the Russian Ministry of Emergencies staged comprehensive drills and exercises, for the containment of any possible oil spill on the shore of Rirpili River. 140 specialists and 80 equipment units participated