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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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TECHNICAL
CONDITION

OPERATION
LIKE
CLOCKWORK

LABOUR MANAGEMENT
ART
OF LEADERSHIP

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DEAR COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS!

Please accept my sincere and heartfelt congratulations on the upcoming year 2024!

The Caspian Pipeline Consortium celebrated the passing year with its eight-thousandth tanker since the start of operation and the total volume of oil shipped exceeded 850 million tons from 2001 to 2023. The company is successfully completing the Debottlenecking Program. The main facilities of the DBNP have been put into operation, the throughput of the pipeline has increased by almost 25% – to 83 million tons per year. The pumping speed will increase by 40%, and single-point moorings will be able to reach the maximum loading mode for tankers twice as quickly – these are also the results of the implementation of the DBNP.

The multiplier effect of the implementation of the DBNP consists of both the creation of new jobs and the construction of large social facilities. Currently, a new school in Atyrau is under active construction, the construction of a Cultural and Aesthetic Center for children and youth has begun in the Astrakhan Oblast, mini-polyclinics and other social infrastructure facilities, which are in demand in the regions where CPC operates, have been commissioned and are being put into operation.

The increase in the number of participants in the annual CPC Safety Day is a good indicator of the involvement of contractors in the development of the corporate Safe Work Culture. A conscious attitude to occupational safety issues, minimizing occupational injuries, initiatives at all levels and leadership practices – all these issues are interconnected and require constant attention, elaboration and exchange of experience within international forums and conferences. CPC hosted the 4 JV Forum in 2023, and this important work will continue.

The festival-competition “CPC for Talented Children” celebrated its 25th anniversary this year. 19 thousand people applied to participate – this is more than ever. Children of participants of the very first festivals are already performing in the 2023 competition, and such continuity of generations speaks of the popularity of the project and its integration into the cultural code of the regions.

The New Year holiday is always associated with hopes, dreams and setting new goals for the future. I would like to wish you the fulfillment of all your wishes and realization of all your plans in the New Year. May it be favorable in all respects. Health, good luck, and happiness, good holiday mood to you and your family!

N.N. GORBAN

General Director

Caspian Pipeline Consortium



AUTHOR
DMITRY KONSTANTINOV

TECHNICAL CONDITION

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEBOTTLENECKING PROGRAM IN THE CPC PIPELINE SYSTEM FACILITIES HAS REACHED THE FINISH LINE. IN THE EASTERN AND CENTRAL REGIONS OF THE COMPANY, KEY DBNP FACILITIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN COMMISSIONED AND ARE IN OPERATION. HOW THESE OBJECTS HAVE “TAKEN ROOT” IN THE PIPELINE SYSTEM IS ASSESSED BY THE ER OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE MANAGER VIKTOR MIROSHNICHENKO AND CR OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE MANAGER VLADIMIR GROSHEV

Viktor Viktorovich, in the CPC Eastern region, covering part of the Atyrau region of the Republic of Kazakhstan from the Tengiz field to the border with Russia, DBNP

facilities were built and put into operation at the main Tengiz and Atyrau PS. What is the difference between these two sites in terms of construction and installation work and subsequent operation?

V.V. Miroshnichenko: At the Tengiz PS, in accordance with the project schedule, by the end of 2022, work on the installation of equipment that affects the increase in throughput was completed. In 2023,

the second stage of work was carried out here.

The oil receiving and metering unit from the Tengiz field (LACT-21-RK-A004) was modernized as part of the DBNP by installing additional measuring lines, adding safety valves and replacing drainage tanks. A new pressure control unit (PCU) was installed at the LACT outlet. Three main and four booster pump units were replaced with more powerful ones, the latter were equipped with VFDs, and the tank farm was expanded with two new SVFRT-20000. Also, some of the process pipelines between the new DBNP facilities were updated.

Today at the Tengiz PS (in November, when the publication was being prepared — editor's note), the construction of new external power supply facilities (EPS) continues, and preparations are also underway for the dismantling of decommissioned equipment (old pump units, process pipelines).

Construction and installation work within the framework of the DBNP at the Atyrau PS included the installation of a new pressure control unit (PCU) between the oil metering unit and the booster pump station. The installation of a new, fifth mainline pump with a gas turbine drive (GT) required the release of the construction site from some of the auxiliary equipment. These works were fully completed by the end of 2022.

VIKTOR
MIROSHNICHENKO

What is the current operational mode of the DBNP facilities at both PSs?

V.V. Miroshnichenko: As the DBNP facilities were commissioned, they were put into operation and began to be actively used within the framework of the current oil pumping regimes. In some cases, the equipment was “lapping” and “childhood illnesses” popped up, but all of them were successfully eliminated by CPC personnel and contractors.

Currently, the DBNP facilities of the Eastern region are in operation, except for the mainline pumps of the Tengiz PS. During comprehensive testing of new mainline pumps, the ability of the pumps to provide the required pumping mode for DBNP was confirmed. At the same time, some features of pump operation were identified

on the part of contractors. As the EPS are completed, additional electrical and duty personnel will be required at the substation; work is currently underway to justify additional personnel and inclusion in the staff.

What changes did the tie-in of DBNP facilities bring to the maintenance of the PS?

V.V. Miroshnichenko: There were no special changes; diligence and perseverance were required for normal work within the framework of maintenance, namely the inclusion of new equipment in schedules of preventive maintenance (PM), filling out forms for new equipment, editing work plans in work orders of the MAXIMO system. This is a lot of work, but usually invisible from the outside. Additional training was required for operational, technical

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEBOTTLENECKING PROGRAM IN THE CPC OIL PIPELINE SYSTEM FACILITIES HAS REACHED THE FINISH LINE

that were associated with higher (compared to old MPs) vibration levels. Together with the pump manufacturer, Flowserve, work is underway to identify the causes and reduce the level of vibration of the new units.

Did the commissioning of new DBNP facilities require changes in the operating mode of the stations and in the number of operating personnel and contractors?

V.V. Miroshnichenko: There were no changes in the operating mode of the stations. At the moment, there is a slight increase in the workload on operational personnel, but the work is being carried out without increasing staff either on the part of CPC or

and engineering personnel on the safe and correct operation of such new equipment as VFDs and more powerful mainline pumps.

Were there any difficulties with commissioning of DBNP facilities at stations? How were these issues resolved?

V.V. Miroshnichenko: There were no particular difficulties. It could not have been any other way, since as part of the introduction of new facilities, the PSIF process (pre-launch safety inspection of the facility) was always carried out. This process is a very effective tool. When it is carried out carefully, with the involvement of competent specialists, difficulties and deviations are identified at the PSIF stage. There were issues related to the “lapping”



of equipment: in some places it was necessary to additionally tighten bolted joints, in others add process fluids, in some cases it was necessary to analyze and change the design protection settings to operational ones. All this work is done in working order, through the interaction of operational personnel and PS engineers with engineers and management in the ER office.

Was it necessary to change the HSE requirements at the stations, the facility regime, briefings and other related procedures?

V.V. Miroshnichenko: It was necessary to refine and update existing HSE documents, and in cases with new equipment (VFDs, new MPs, pressure regulators) to re-issue such documents. Additionally, technological maps were developed for maintenance of new equipment.

Have the PSs returned to their normal “pre-DBNP” mode of operation?

V.V. Miroshnichenko: At the Tengiz PS the DBNP is still in progress. Priority tasks have been completed, throughput has been increased, but work continues to improve reliability (EPS facilities) and equipment dismantling. There are still many contractors and subcontractors, architectural and technical supervision specialists at the station. It is premature to say that the operating mode of the Tengiz PS has returned to its “pre-DBNP” state.

At the Atyrau PS, the DBNP projects are already behind us. But the station itself, being the main pump station of the initial construction, is constantly in the mode of reconstruction, renovation, and the implementation of other programs to replace outdated equipment. At the Atyrau PS, seven to ten different change management (CM) projects are simultaneously implemented by the Construction Projects Preparation and Execution Department. In this regard, in addition to the operational personnel (one and a half dozen people) and

two dozen personnel of the main maintenance contractors (KazTransOil JSC and Zaman-Kvantor LLP), more than a hundred construction contractors are actually constantly working here. All this gives no reason to relax; constant concentration of efforts is required to ensure safe work and uninterrupted oil pumping.

NEWS FROM THE CENTER

Vladimir Nikolaevich, in the Central region of the CPC (Astrakhan Oblast and the Republic of Kalmykia), work within the framework of the DBNP covered all pump stations, but in different volumes. What is the current state of these objects?

V.N. Groshev: To date, in the CPC Central region, the Debottlenecking Program has been completed at A-PS-4A, A-PS-5A, PS-2, Komsomolskaya PS, and partially at Astrakhanskaya PS. The fifth mainline pump «E» with gas turbine unit (GTU) and installation of auxiliary systems was completed at A-PS-4A. At A-PS-5A, installation of a VFD for rotor speed control of mainline

buildings and a complete transformer substation has been completed.

Work within the framework of the DBNP continues at the Astrakhanskaya PS and PS-3. At the Astrakhanskaya PS, dismantling of the decommissioned pump station, the mud strainers site, the site of the pressure control hall, the foam generator unit, switchgear building, underground tanks and process pipelines is being dismantled. Installation of a VFD for rotor speed control of mainline pumps and installation of an additional (fifth) SRS tank is underway at the PS-3.

The operation of the PS is carried out as usual, in accordance with the technological maps for pumping oil through the CPC pipeline system.

Did the commissioning of new DBNP facilities require changes in the operating mode of the stations and in the number of operating personnel and contractors?

V.N. Groshev: For the period of the DBNP project implementation, in order to carry out constant control over the contractors' employees,

IN THE EASTERN AND CENTRAL REGIONS OF THE COMPANY, KEY DBNP FACILITIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN COMMISSIONED AND ARE IN OPERATION

pumps was completed. At PS-2, a VFD was installed to regulate the rotation speed of the rotors of the mainline pumps, as well as an additional (fifth) tank of the Surge Relief System (SRS) was installed. At the Komsomolskaya PS, the installation of the fifth MP “E” with a gas turbine unit and installation of auxiliary systems, as well as the installation of an additional (fifth) SRS tank, has been completed. At the Astrakhanskaya PS, the construction of a mainline pump, a mud strainers site, a foam generator block, indoor switchgear

the services of the Operation Department were additionally staffed with specialists in the following areas, whose tasks included constant quality control of installation and control over the implementation of design solutions.

There was no need to increase the number of operational personnel due to the commissioning of new facilities and equipment.

Were there any difficulties with commissioning of DBNP facilities at stations? How were these issues resolved?

V.N. Groshev: The complexity and uniqueness of the implementation of the DBNP at the Astrakhanskaya PS was the placement of new buildings and structures (essentially, a new pump station) at the existing facility, as well as the ability of the new and existing main pump stations to operate independently with a unified approach: to the PS control system, to aggregate and plant-wide protection, to the fire and gas detection and fire extinguishing system, both for newly built and existing facilities of the Astrakhanskaya PS.

How does the new equipment work? Are there any comments?

V.N. Groshev: The operation of the PS is carried out in normal mode according to the technological maps for pumping oil through the CPC system.

The VFD device, in contrast to the shockless engine starting device (SESD), allows, when regulating frequency and voltage, to control the speed and torque of the electric motor according to specified parameters, without heavy transient processes in technology and electrical networks, as well as to avoid protracted heavy starts of the MPs and ensure the

VLADIMIR GROSHEV



magnitude of the starting current at rated values.

Was it necessary to change the HSE requirements at the stations, the facility regime, briefings and other related procedures?

V.N. Groshev: Before the start of the implementation of the DBNP, the HSE service of the Moscow office of CPC-R, together with specialists in the regions, carried out a lot of preparatory work in terms of finalizing the procedure for high-risk work with reference to construction sites. A training resource was prepared and put into effect for employees of contracting organizations (all working personnel and engineers performing the duties of those responsible for the preparation and execution of work) in the form of training and testing in the Olimpos system.

Computers with access to the Olimpos system were installed in all training classrooms of all PSs. This accelerated the processes of training, testing knowledge, conducting briefings and admitting contractor employees to directly perform high-risk work.

When training personnel, printing products were additionally

used, which simplified the learning process, information materials were developed to simplify the organization of work (checklists for checking workplaces, safety leaflets, brochures on identifying hazardous factors in the workplace, step-by-step methods for conducting targeted briefings, etc.).

During the construction period, additional units were hired into the staff of the Operation Department — senior HSE engineers. The main task of the engineers was to monitor the safe working conditions at production sites, including the admission of contractor personnel to hazardous production facilities, conduct briefings, training and testing according to the internal programs of CPC-R, as well as provide advisory assistance to contractor employees during implementation of the DBNP.

Have the PSs returned to their normal “pre-DBNP” mode of operation?

V.N. Groshev: Currently, A-PS-4A, A-PS-5A, Komsomolskaya PS, PS-2 are operating as usual. As already mentioned, dismantling work is underway at the Astrakhanskaya PS, and contractor mobilization is underway at PS-3. ●

AUTHOR
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FOR RELIABILITY AND SAFETY

IN ORDER TO ENSURE UNINTERRUPTED AND SAFE OPERATION OF THE CPC PIPELINE SYSTEM AND TO IMPROVE IT, THE COMPANY IS CONSTANTLY WORKING ON TECHNICAL RE-EQUIPMENT, MODERNIZATION OF EQUIPMENT, RECONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR OF EXISTING FACILITIES

An oil transportation company that takes into account the economic interests and technical capabilities of its partners, CPC launches new and modernized equipment within a strictly scheduled time, in accordance with the approved plan for shutting down and/or reducing the productivity of pump stations.

Completion of a set of works, and especially the launch of modernized, reconstructed equipment, is impossible without a risk assessment and hazard analysis before the start of launch operations. The main requirement upon completion of the construction, installation and commissioning phase is to carry out a set of activities (checks and inspections) carried out before launch, in order to confirm safe commissioning and subsequent operation, in accordance with the pre-launch facility safety inspection procedure (PSIF).

During the PSIF, all aspects of work safety are analyzed within the framework of the project and confirmation of readiness to carry out work safely in strict accordance with the applicable technical Regulations and CPC Safety Standards.

During the planned shutdown of the CPC pipeline in October 2023, a close-knit team of operational personnel and contractors completed the task within the strictly allotted time – 72 hours.

During this period, as part of the technical re-equipment – modernization of the existing power system at PS-3 and PS-4, existing electricity distribution panels were completed and installed. At PS-2, PS-3, A-PS-5A, as well as in the Tank Farm and Shore Facilities of the Marine Terminal, high-voltage equipment in switchgears (SG-10 kV) was replaced. At PS-4, a set of works was also carried out to piping the additional emergency tank of the Surge Relief System (SRS).



THE COMPLETED WORK WILL REDUCE
THE TIME IT TAKES TO REACH
THE MAXIMUM TANKER LOADING
MODE BY HALF

At the Kropotkinskaya PS and in the Tank Farm of the Marine Terminal, new facilities were integrated into the existing Russian-made Fire and Gas Detection System (FGDS) – KTS 2000. In accordance with the design solutions, the FGDS software and hardware was updated.

At the Astrakhanskaya PS and Tengiz PS, work was carried out in the PS and SCADA control systems to update software control algorithms and PLC (programmable logic controllers) hardware to shut down process equipment and PS facilities as part of the implementation of the Debottlenecking Program. Work was also carried out at the Astrakhanskaya PS to replace two ball valves DN 1050.

At the Shore Facilities of the Marine Terminal (SF MT), work was carried out to update the tanker loading control algorithms, taking into account the commissioning of the new Lease Automatic Custody Transfer (LACT). The operation of automation, control systems and technological equipment of SF MT

was also checked. The work performed will minimize the company's risks in operating the CPC pipeline system, and will also reduce the time it takes to reach the maximum tanker loading mode by half.

At the MT Tank Farm, a set of works was carried out to replace defective sections of the inlet manifold and disconnect the existing process pipelines of the Pressure Regulating System (PRS). This will allow for further technical re-equipment of the operation scheme of the hydraulic control unit and the hydraulic washout line with an emergency oil discharge device.

Preparation for work during a planned shutdown or pumping restriction begins in advance and is ensured through the well-coordinated work of all company employees and involved contractors. It is their joint actions – a responsible approach, professional skills and a competent attitude to planning the work performed – that make it possible to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the CPC pipeline system.

AUTHOR
PAVEL KRETOV

LIKE CLOCKWORK

TURNING OFF THE ASTRAKHAN-ATYRAU INTERNATIONAL HIGHWAY, CPC PANORAMA REPORTERS DO NOT REALLY NOTICE THE DIFFERENCE. AS THEY ROLLED, SO THEY ROLL ON A SMOOTH ASPHALTED ROAD, EIGHT KILOMETERS OF WHICH WERE LAID BY THE PIPELINE WORKERS THEMSELVES

Among the “lunar landscape” of salt marshes and steppes, the Isatay PS looks like a neat green oasis. And it hasn’t been that long — only six years since its commissioning.

“We can’t say that we are completely surrounded by greenery here”, notes Askar Tuktibaev, Isatay PS Manager. “But we plant trees regularly, mainly elms. I myself personally brought 10 fruit

tree seedlings from my native Shymkent”.

Askar is an Honored Worker of the oil and gas industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan, an experienced oil pipeline operator and

a veteran of the Consortium, who was involved in servicing future CPC facilities back in the late 1990s. He worked at the Tengiz PS, which pumped oil to the Atyrau PS of the KazTransOil company — now it is the Taras Kasymov PS. In 2001, when CPC built its Atyrau PS next door to this station, Askar Tuktibaev transferred to it as a shift supervisor and rose to the position of deputy head of the PS. In 2016, at the final stage of construction of the Isatay PS, he became deputy head of this pump station. Took part in commissioning work and in the process of filling process pipelines with oil.

ASKAR TUKTIBAEV



ISATAY PS IS EQUIPPED WITH THE MOST ADVANCED EQUIPMENT, WHICH IS ALWAYS MAINTAINED IN PERFECT CONDITION

“The construction of the station was carried out in difficult conditions due to very loose soil”, recalls the Manager of the Isatay PS. “Periods of forced downtime sometimes reached several days: after rains, all the equipment skidded in a rut, literally laying on its bottom. It happened that even three or four kilos of mud stuck to boots”.

One of the most difficult construction and installation operations was the joining of flanges of manifolds and main pumps. On loose soil, the pipelines sagged, their parallelism and alignment were disrupted. Therefore, sometimes it was necessary to cut out pipes several times and add soil and crushed stone.

At the same time, a certain help for the builders was the fact that the neighboring Kurmangazy PS of the same type under the CPC Pipeline Capacity Expansion Project was put into operation a year earlier, which made it





possible to fully use the rich previous experience.

The ceremonial commissioning of the current Isatay PS took place in October 2017. The station with a high level of automation was equipped with modern equipment from the best manufacturers. Four units driven by electric motors were installed in the main pump station. Mud strainers, a pressure control unit, drag reducing agent injection system, and life support systems for the pump station were installed. In addition to the station site

SHYNGYS YUSUPOV



itself, its operational personnel also control the section of the main oil pipeline from the 242nd to the 344th kilometers.

“In the first years, due to the relatively small transportation volumes, the main pumps of the Isatay PS and the Kurmangazy PS worked alternately”, says Shyngys Yusupov, Isatay PS Shift Manager. “Back then the units pumped up to 4 thousand m³ of oil per hour. Now they are already producing more than 5 thousand m³, and after the completion of the De-bottlenecking Program, the volumes will exceed 7 thousand m³.”

External power supply to the Isatay and Kurmangazy pump stations is provided using two specially built overhead power lines with a voltage of 220 kV, each 224.5 km long, and two substations 220/10 kV. The practice of operating facilities has shown that when pumping modes were reduced, the equipment of the Kurmangazy PS received increased capacities that negatively affected the equipment. Therefore, with the participation of the design

institute, a technical solution was developed to compensate power at both substations: in 2022, two transformer-type shunt reactors were successfully put into operation.

In the indoor switchgear of the station, CPC veteran with 20 years of experience, Electrician for Electrical Installations Maintenance Erbulat Shamshenov, instructs contractors preparing to begin scheduled maintenance of high-voltage cells. Checks the correctness of all documents, the composition of the team, its equipment.

“The station is equipped with the most advanced equipment, which we always maintain in perfect condition”, says Erbulat. “Everything works reliably, like clockwork”.

Before performing maintenance tasks, all risks are taken into account, including weather related ones. Here there are frosts down to – 30° C, and winds of 15–20 m/s.

During periods of summer heat, work should be done early in the morning or closer to evening, moved to the shade, and more often organized breaks with rest in air-conditioned rooms. Another risk that also has to be kept in mind is the months of scorpion activity.

The preparedness of personnel for emergency situations is honed during regular fire-tactical and training-tactical exercises. Our conversation about this with the Head of fire station No. 8 of the Fire Safety company, Izbasar Sakipkaliev, in the middle of a well-equipped training room with visual aids and materials, which resembles a small museum.

“The fire station has two KAMAZ-based vehicles”, says Izbasar. “The duty is carried out by a team of six people plus operational personnel of the voluntary fire brigade. We recently conducted joint exercises with the regional emergency response unit,

ERBULAT SHAMSHENOV



successfully worked out interaction and exchange of information”.

After passing the “freshest” structure of the station — a block box for storing chemical reagents — we approach the site of the pressure mitigating system (PMS). Thanks to the presence of four discharge tanks of 100 m³ each, the station equipment is reliably protected, even if the stations next to the oil flow suddenly stop. In our presence, KazTransOil contractors calibrated the PMS valves — checked their settings for operation.

The western part of Kazakhstan is the land of oil workers. Many residents of Atyrau, Aktope and other regions work on a rotational basis at the Isatay PS.

Many specialists have experience in production, transportation, and oil refining. The continuity of generations has not been forgotten. Young people are actively involved, whose first shifts are spent under the care of experienced mentors.

IZBASAR SAKIPKALIEV

“The team’s attitude to work is responsible and highly professional”, notes Askar Tuktibaev, Manager of the Isatay PS. “This is always especially evident in critical situations: the notorious pandemic, the sandstorm of 2021. In the latter case, CPC operational staff, together with KazTransOil contractors, organized round-the-clock duty, cleaning the filters of the air cooling systems of the electric motors of the main pumps. Despite the rampant nature, the station continued to pump oil uninterruptedly”.

To accommodate service personnel, a residential camp designed for 80 people is provided at the station. In comfortable rooms with all amenities you can relax after your shift and watch satellite TV. The food in the local canteen is very tasty and with national flavor. There is a sauna, a gym, an outdoor area with horizontal bars, a court for playing volleyball, basketball and mini-football. Shift work at a remote production facility requires good physical shape, it’s hard to disagree with this fact.

AUTHOR
PAVEL KRETOV

AT A FAR AWAY STATION

SOME HUNDRED METERS FROM THE KURMANGAZY PS, THE SAND DUNES PART AND WE SEE THE BLUE AND WHITE BUILDINGS OF THE LAST CPC STATION ON THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

This station is distinguished from the neighboring Isatay PS only by the platform for the receivers for cleaning and diagnostic equipment — a structure made of pipes going into the ground with ladders and heavy end hatches. Cleaning shells and diagnostic equipment stored here pass through a pipeline across

the state border and are retrieved in Russia.

At the production facility we are met by the Manager of the Kurmangazy PS, Serzhan Kabyldin. Before heading this westernmost Kazakhstani PS, he worked in different regions of the republic. He was engaged in the production and refinery of hydrocarbons. Serzhan

Maksutovich's experience in the oil pipeline transport system began on May 27, 1991.

"Where does such accuracy come from after 32 years? It's also the birthday of my wife Svetlana", smiles Serzhan Kabyldin. "And the date of my admission to the Pavlodar district department of the Production Association "Main Oil

Pipelines of Kazakhstan and Central Asia" for the position of head of the section for repair of technological equipment".

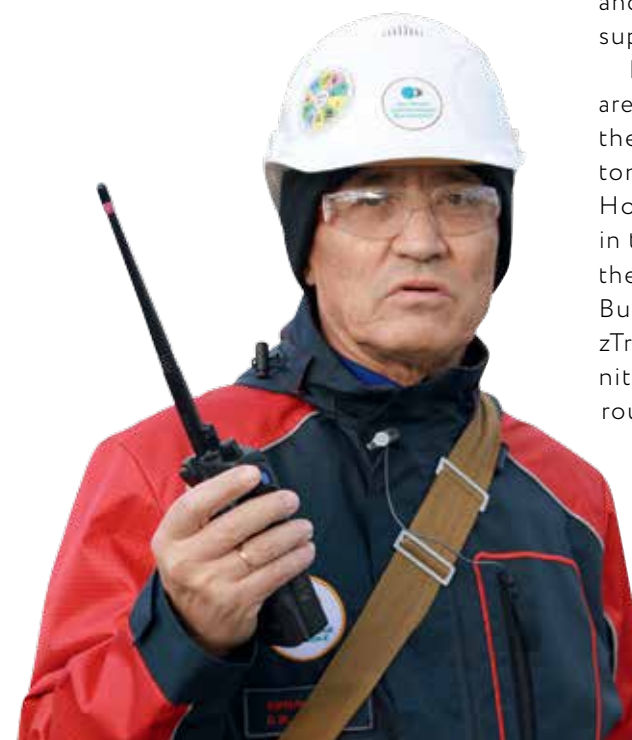
At the end of the 90s, this enterprise was reorganized into KazTransOil JSC. Here Serzhan Maksutovich worked as the chief engineer of both the Eastern branch, with a center in Pavlodar, and the Western branch, with an office in Atyrau. With his participation, such well-known oil pipelines not only in Kazakhstan as Kenkiyak — Atyrau and Atasu — Alashankou were built.

Serzhan Kabyldin came to CPC during the implementation of the Expansion Project. As the head of the newly built Isatay PS in August 2017, he participated in the filling of process pipelines with oil and in the commissioning of equipment.

"Oil was pumped through pumps installed on the site of a pressure mitigating system", recalls Serzhan Maksutovich. "This was an important final stage of construction. I told my colleagues: "Remember this day!"

In October 2017, during the official launch ceremony of the Isatay PS, CPC General Director Nikolay Gorbunov presented Serzhan Kabyldin with a symbolic key to the station.

SERZHAN KABYLDIN



EVERYTHING IS BEING DONE AT THE STATION TO ENSURE THAT THE NEXT GENERATIONS OF OIL PIPELINE WORKERS WORK HERE COMFORTABLY

Now this memorable relic is kept in the office of the current Manager of the Isatay PS Askar Tukhtibaev.

In the summer of 2023, Serzhan Kabyldin was appointed head of the Kurmangazy PS. Together with the team, he prepared the station for winter: checked the insulation, the operation of the boiler room and diesel power plant, and all life support systems.

No matter how bad the elements are, no matter how much snow falls, the facility is able to survive autonomously for at least two days. However, in Kabyldin's memory, in the Atyrau region, only once did the air temperature drop to -31° C. But in the Eastern branch of KazTransOil JSC, he had the opportunity to work even at -46° C — surrounded by trees thickly covered with frost, and with alarming ringing of electric wires.

There are no trifles in the management of a station. Every day, Serzhan Kabyldin, as part of a group

of operational personnel and contractors, makes rounds of workplaces. In line with the development of a Safe Work Culture, he checks the conscious desire of personnel to complete all assigned tasks without injuries or incidents, and helps to effectively identify all risk factors.

"I know about 70% of the Kurmangazy personnel from my long joint work at the Isatay PS", explains Serzhan Maksutovich. "And when, it would seem, you have too much experience, you know your area from A to Z, — that's when that risk of complacency, fraught with incidents, arises. One of my tasks is to not let my subordinates and contractors relax".

Over the seven years of operation of the station, no incidents or cases of injury associated with loss of ability to work have been recorded, but the team does not relax, actively participating in the further improvement of the production facility. Based on the results





PS, was taught not just to do his job, but also to constantly learn something new, from his old-school colleagues at the Atyrau Thermal Power Plant.

“At the Tengiz PS, where I got a job as an electrician in 2006, there was a completely different level of equipment, which required hard study”, Leonid smiles. “I kept a notebook and during the first years of work at the station I carefully took notes on everything. Then, five years later, this notebook caught my eye again: I re-read it and was surprised at what kind of things that were taken for granted today were the subject of writing!”

Our tour of the station continues and the next attention-grabbing aspect is the landscaping. In the photo of the construction and opening of the Isatay PS there was nothing around except sand, but today the leaves of the grown trees rustle in the wind. A new stage in the development of landscaping will be the project of an external irrigation water supply system. It will make it possible

of the observation cards, the cable racks were retrofitted with canopies not originally provided for by the project. For ease of equipment maintenance, additional paths have been added throughout the area. To prevent the employee from slipping on the tiled steps on the street, rubber pads were installed on top. Previously, workers had to climb to a height of up to 32 meters to control nesting birds on the masts of lightning protection and lighting systems. Now the birds have been driven away from the station by special sound devices.

Two days ago, CPC Panorama reporters saw a photograph of Kurmangazy PS operator Amanat Nurkasimov at the stand of the leaders of the Safe Work Culture of the entire Eastern CPC region in the administrative building of the neighboring Isatay PS. And at Kurmangazy we were lucky enough to meet him personally. First place among the staff's initiatives was won by his proposal to install a mechanical interlock on the bypass line of the inlet manifold of the main

pumping station. Amanat's caring attitude to work brought him not only honor and well-deserved respect from his colleagues, but was also awarded a cash prize.

“Our employees take every dangerous factor seriously and scrupulously”, says HSE engineer Olga Volvich. “Any work is prepared collectively, everyone participates in discussions, and the opinions of colleagues are always taken into account. When developing work plans, we closely interact with representatives of the Atyrau CPC office”.

Leonid Karatumanov, an Electrical Engineer at the Kurmangazy

AMANAT NURKASIMOV



OLGA VOLVICH



to encircle the PS with seedlings along the outer perimeter.

Underfoot are concrete slabs, replaced during recent work. Something is constantly being renovated

at the station: some things are being repainted, some things are being replaced.

“We accepted the new station from the builders, and we

will do our best to ensure that the next generations of oil pipeline workers work here comfortably”, promises Serzhan Kabylidin.

LEONID KARATUMANOV



CPC PRESS SERVICE

IN FOCUS

ABOUT THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS
OF THE FALL OF 2023 THAT TOOK PLACE
WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF CPC

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE DEDICATED TO THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE START OF MARITIME OPERATIONS IN THE NORTHERN CASPIAN SEA. SEPTEMBER 1, ATYRAU

Guests and participants of the conference were the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Alikhan Smailov, representatives of the Administration of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Office of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, heads of akimats of Atyrau and Mangistau regions, veterans of the North Caspian project, management of North Caspian Operating Company N.V.,

of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium in the development of fields in the Caspian Sea and Kashagan in particular. The head of the company spoke about the main milestones in the formation and development of CPC, emphasizing the synchronicity in the development of the CPC project and the production project at the Kashagan field.

“This clearly demonstrates that it was the CPC project that gave a significant impetus to the



The first shipment of oil from Kashagan to the Tengiz-Novorossiysk pipeline system arrived on October 13, 2016. To date, CPC has already transported almost 90 million tons. In the current year 2023 and next year—2024—the Consortium expects to pump 18 million tons each from the Kashagan field.

“As the founders of the international consortium aspired, the Tengiz-Novorossiysk pipeline has been and remains the safest, logistically verified and economically profitable route for delivering Caspian oil to world markets”, emphasized Nikolay Gorban.

development of oil production in the Caspian Sea, created a surplus of capacity to receive additional volumes of oil and provided the most favorable economic conditions for transportation”, noted Nikolay Gorban.

IN THE CURRENT YEAR 2023
AND NEXT YEAR—2024—
THE CONSORTIUM EXPECTS
TO PUMP

18 MILLION

TONS EACH FROM
THE KASHAGAN FIELD

CPC, NC KazMunayGas JSC, NC QazaqGaz JSC and other Kazakh and foreign companies.

CPC General Director Nikolay Gorban presented a report on the role and significance of the created transport infrastructure

KAZAKHSTAN ENERGY WEEK 2023 / XV EURASIAN FORUM KAZENERGY, OCTOBER 3–6, ASTANA

According to statistics, the Energy Week in the capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan annually brings together over 2,500 participants from more than 300 companies from 50 countries. This year's forum was no exception.

On October 4, as part of the congress program, CPC-K organized a round table “Hydrocarbon Transportation in a Changing World”. Deputy General Director of CPC-K Kaigeldy Kabyldin, spoke about the consistent and systematic work of the international consortium's team to develop and improve the reliability of the Tengiz-Novorossiysk oil transportation route.

In 2023, CPC for the first time achieved a mechanical pumping capacity of up to 83 MTA. According

to forecasts, oil transshipment volumes this year could reach 63.7 MTA, which will exceed the record of 2019, when 63.3 MTA were exported.

In July 2023, for the first time, the Consortium paid dividends separately to the shareholders of CPC-K in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Taking into account the already approved amounts for payment at the end of 2022, the forecast value of the final dividend payments for CPC-K and CPC-R in 2023 will be USD 1.34 billion.

Answering questions of the round table participants, Kaigeldy Kabyldin summarized that the Consortium has come a long way and today is an important component of global energy security. Using the safest,



logistically verified and economically profitable route, the company supplies about 80% of Kazakhstan's export volumes of oil to world markets.

RUSSIAN LABOR SAFETY WEEK. SEPTEMBER 26–29, SOCHI

CPC traditionally acts as a partner of RLSW, a global discussion platform designed to present current trends, share experiences and discuss prospects for the development of companies' activities in the field of ensuring safe working conditions and preserving the health of employees at work.

This year, the events of the Russian Labor Safety Week were dedicated to leadership, educational products, time management, and the legal responsibility of labor protection specialist. Tournaments and master classes held at enterprises became a separate topic.

The business program was divided into thematic blocks: “Digital transformation in the social and labor sphere”, “State management of labor protection, control and supervisory activities”, “Occupational risks in the field of labor protection”, “Employment Day” and “International events”.



The CPC delegation at RLSW included managers and specialists in labor protection and industrial safety, civil defense and emergency situations, equipment operation and maintenance managers, etc. Participation in RLSW business program gave them the opportunity to receive up-to-date information about changes in legislation, exchange experiences, learn

about new trends in the development of a Safe Work Culture. CPC representatives visited an exhibition and seminars dedicated to digitalization in the field of labor protection and industrial safety, got acquainted with new trends in personal protective equipment for workers, as well as modern developments in the field of online personnel training.

SCHEDULED CPC DRILLS IN 2023

- Legend
- Participants
- Actions

April 27. MT Tank Farm

Icon: Document
Destruction of SVRFT-100 000 No. 6 with subsequent spill. Five injured during spill response.

Icon: Group of people
EMERCOM, MT VFB, STARSTROY ERC, Kuban Fire Protection LLC, Ambulance Station, Medis LLC, Nachin Private security company, Mercury Safety Agency, KubanECO-project, Novorossiysk educational and research marine biological center.

Icon: Shield
An emergency regime was introduced on the territory of the TF, the forces and means of the EMERCOM were notified at the facility, municipal and regional levels, reconnaissance at the emergency site, search, rescue and transportation of victims to medical institutions were carried out. Collection, pumping and transportation of collected oil, oil-containing soil, washing out the contaminated area. Sampling of soil in the cleared area, sampling of air at the border of the SPZ.

May 24. MT Tank Farm

Icon: Document
Explosion followed by burning of SVRFT No. 3 over the entire area of 7148 m².

Icon: Group of people
MT VFB (CPC-R), Kuban Fire Protection LLC, FRS No 2 of the EMERCOM

Icon: Shield
Pumping has been suspended and unused personnel have been evacuated. Fire extinguishing with the Fischcon system. Cooling of the adjacent tank with stationary trunks LS-S100U. The fire has been extinguished and the consequences eliminated.

March 14. Underwater crossing of the Chelbas River (1216 km)

Icon: Document
Pipeline rupture as a result of a hydraulic shock with oil (9913.45 t) flowing into the river. Spill area — 11 801.73 m².

Icon: Group of people
STARSTROY ERC, Nachin Private security company, Kuban Fire Protection, Medis LLC, Krasnodar Center for Agrochemical Service, KubanECOproject, Mercury Safety Agency, Biopotential LLC.

Icon: Shield
The OCC dispatcher stopped the pipeline, the emergency section of the LP was disconnected by block valves. Notification of contractors, organizations, ministries and departments. Oil spill localization and response using three lines of booms, temporary tanks, and earthen pits.

May 25. PS-7

Icon: Document
Damage to the pipeline at the mud filters site with the release of oil and subsequent fire. Oil spill area 744 m².

Icon: Group of people
PS VFB (CPC-R), Kuban Fire Protection LLC, FRS of the EMERCOM, Krasnodar Krai Department for Fire Safety, Emergency and Civil Defense.

Icon: Shield
Technological pumping operations have been suspended, uninvolved personnel have been evacuated. Fire extinguishing with Purga-30 and GPS-600 barrels. Localization and elimination of conditional oil fires.

April 27. PS-5

Icon: Document
Depressurization of the flange connection of block valves at the SRS site with oil leakage and fire. Spill area 750 m².

Icon: Group of people
PS VFB (CPC-R), Spetsmontazhavtomatika LLC, FRS of the EMERCOM, FERS of Stavropol Krai

Icon: Shield
Technological pumping operations have been suspended, uninvolved personnel have been evacuated. Fire extinguishing with Purga-30 and GPS 600 barrels. Localization and elimination of fire and spill.

PS-5



PS-4



PS-3



June 21. A-PS-5A

Icon: Document
Depressurization of unit "B" in the main pump building, explosion of the steam-air mixture followed by fire.

Icon: Group of people
Security LLC, PS VFB (CPC-R)

Icon: Shield
Notification of personnel, contractors, ministries and departments. Work at the site has been stopped. Evacuation of PS personnel and contractors. Extinguishing a fire in the engine room with SE-GAE-400 foam generators. Cooling of building structures and neighboring structures with Compactor 2000 barrels. Localization and elimination of fire.

June 09. Kurmangazy PS

Icon: Document
Oil spill at the SRS site followed by fire.

Icon: Group of people
PS VFB (CPC-K), FD No. 9 of FIRE SAFETY LLP, FD No. 7 of the Atyrau Regional Emergency Situations Dept.

Icon: Shield
Technological pumping operations have been suspended, uninvolved personnel have been evacuated. Fire extinguishing with Purga-5 barrels, cooling of the enclosing structures of neighboring residential blocks with «B» barrels. The fire has been extinguished and the consequences eliminated.

May 19. Isatay PS

Icon: Document
Oil spill at the SRS site followed by fire.

Icon: Group of people
PS VFB (CPC-K), FD No. 8 of FIRE SAFETY LLP, FD No. 6 of the Atyrau Regional Emergency Situations Dept.

Icon: Shield
Technological pumping operations have been suspended, uninvolved personnel have been evacuated. Fire extinguishing with Purga-5 barrels, cooling of the enclosing structures of neighboring residential blocks with «B» barrels. The fire has been extinguished and the consequences eliminated.

PS Astrakhan



A-PS-4A



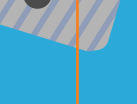
PS Kurmangazy



PS Isatay



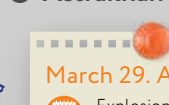
PS Atyrau



PS Tengiz



Astrakhan



March 29. A-PS-4A

Icon: Document
Explosion of a steam-air mixture as a result of a discharge of static electricity followed by a fire in a tank with diesel fuel with a volume of 1000 m³.

Icon: Group of people
Security LLC, PS VFB (CPC-R).

Icon: Shield
Notification of personnel, contractors, ministries and departments. Work at the site has been stopped. Evacuation of PS personnel and contractors. Fire extinguishing with a GPS-600 barrel, cooling with a Compactor 2000 barrel. Localization and elimination of a conditional fire.

July 27. Atyrau PS

Icon: Document
Oil escaped through pipeline flange joints at the SRS site with subsequent spill and fire.

Icon: Group of people
FD No. 6 of FIRE SAFETY LLP, SFD-1, SFD-13, FD No. 3 of the Atyrau Regional Emergency Situations Dept.

Icon: Shield
Technological pumping operations have been suspended, uninvolved personnel have been evacuated. Extinguishing a fire with Purga-5 barrels. Cooling of structures of neighboring buildings with "A" and "B" barrels. The fire has been extinguished and the consequences have been eliminated. Localization and elimination of a simulated spill.

September 27. Tengiz PS

Icon: Document
In the SVRFT TK-V002A tank farm pit, oil escaped through flange connections and spilled over an area of 50 m², followed by ignition.

Icon: Group of people
PS VFB (CPC-K), FD No. 7 of FIRE SAFETY LLP, Tengizchevroil ERC.

Icon: Shield
Technological pumping operations have been suspended, uninvolved personnel have been evacuated. Fire extinguishing with Compactor 2000, LS-30, LS-50 barrels, cooling with PLS-20, "A" and "B" barrels. The fire has been extinguished and the consequences eliminated.

June 15. Underwater crossing of the Emba River (83 km)

Icon: Document
Oil seeped out on the left bank 17 m from the riverbed edge and entered the water. Spill area — 204 m².

Icon: Group of people
Tengiz ERC of KazTransOil, MM Security LLP.

Icon: Shield
The oil pipeline was stopped by the OCC dispatcher, the section was cut off with ball valves, and guard posts were set up. Contained localization and liquidation of a conditional spill, and repair of a pipeline section.

September 28. Tengizchevroil oil loading rack-2

Icon: Document
Depressurization of the pipeline flange connection on the shut-off valve UV-2159 and an oil spill over a large area.

Icon: Group of people
Tengiz ERC of KazTransOil, ERS and Emergency teams of Tengizchevroil.

Icon: Shield
The shift manager of the Tengiz PS and KazTransOil Western Directorate dispatcher were informed. Localization and elimination of a simulated spill, repair of the pipeline section.

March 14. Kropotkinskaya PS

Icon: Document
Oil output from SVFRT-50000 "A", overlap through the pit wall, spill on the PS site (17 662.5 m²) without falling into water bodies.

Icon: Group of people
STARSTROY ERC, Nachin Private security company, Kuban Fire Protection LLC, Medis LLC, Krasnodar Center for Agrochemical Service, KubanECOproject, Mercury Safety Agency, Biopotential LLC

Icon: Shield
The OCC dispatcher stopped the pipeline, the Tank Farm and the pumping station as a whole were disconnected from the linear part by block valves. Evacuation of personnel and contractors. Localization of a simulated oil spill with the installation of retaining walls and pumping of oil from the pit. Collection and removal of oil-contaminated soil.

June 29. Kropotkinskaya PS

Icon: Document
Oil fire in SVFRT-50000 "B" over the entire surface area of the tank (2892 m²). Failure of automatic irrigation systems SVFRT-50000 "B" and SVFRT-50000 "A".

Icon: Group of people
PS VFB (CPC-R), Kuban Fire Protection LLC, FRS of the EMERCOM, STARSTROY ERC, Nachin Private security company, Medis LLC.

Icon: Shield
Notification of the OCC dispatcher and CPC management. Emergency shut-off of the block valves of the pipeline section to SVFRT-50000. Notification and evacuation of personnel. Fire extinguishing with MINOTOR 4000-R barrels, cooling of tanks with LS-P40U and LS-P20U barrels. Localization and elimination of fire.

October 26. PS-8

Icon: Document
Damage to the pipeline at the mud filters site with the release of oil and subsequent fire. Spill area 744 m².

Icon: Group of people
PS VFB (CPC-R), Kuban Fire Protection LLC.

Icon: Shield
Technological operations have been suspended, uninvolved personnel have been evacuated. Extinguishing fire with Purga-30 and Compactor 2000 barrels. Localization and elimination of fire.

SPM
BLACK
SEA

Marine Terminal
Novorossiysk

OBLAST

RUSSIA

REPUBLIC
OF KALMYKIA

KAZAKHSTAN

CASPIAN SEA



AUTHOR
PAVEL KRETOV

MEETING POINT — ASTRAKHAN

THIS YEAR, THE TRADITIONAL CPC SAFETY DAY TOOK PLACE ON THE BANKS OF THE VOLGA RIVER AND WAS DISTINGUISHED BY THE SCALE OF SCENARIO

At least two millennia separate modernity from the heyday of the Sarmatian tribes. The restless neighbors of Ancient Rome (and, according to some sources, the Knights of the Round Table) roamed vast areas from China to Egypt and left a remarkable legacy in world culture. Many will

be surprised to learn that when pronouncing the names of such large rivers as the Dnieper, Dniester and Don, they imperceptibly switch to Sarmatian.



"Since 2019, when organizing Safety Day, we must take into account the cultural traditions of the region where it is held", says CPC Technical Director Igor Lisin. "What Astrakhan is usually associated with — watermelons, fish. We set ourselves the task of giving the participants of our holiday a more complete understanding of the region. Through history, through subjects of folklore and classical art associated with the peoples who inhabited these lands. This is how the theme of Safety Day 2023 was born: "The Sarmatian Gold".

For three months, a group of organizers of 60 people met with scientists, chose a location, studying various open and closed areas in the city. Sarai-Batu, the capital of the Golden Horde, reconstructed several years ago for filming, was considered one of the most interesting options. But, when it became clear that Safety Day would break another record for the number of participants — 720 people — we had to give up a three-hour trip across the steppes of the Astrakhan Oblast and return to the consideration of one of the city objects. Fortunately, regional authorities allowed the use of one of the largest theaters in Europe — the Astrakhan Opera and Ballet Theater.

In accordance with the theme of the holiday, the entrance to the theater was decorated with statues

of rearing Sarmatian royal horses, dressed in traditional masks with horns to intimidate enemies. Guests and participants were greeted by photo zones: the throne of the Sarmatian king and a golden wall with an ornament based on the royal ar-

the stage director, choreographer, light and sound masters, we changed the actors' exit points and timing. Stage decorations were used from six different works".

But the stage is a stage, and the competitive component, as al-

"ASTRAKHAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SYMBOLIC MEETING PLACE FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF DIFFERENT CIVILIZATIONS, TRADITIONS AND CULTURES"

mor of the "golden man" — a famous archaeological find of that time.

The neural network created portraits in the image of Sarmatian warriors for everyone. And, of course, the stage gave the audience the brightest and most memorable moments.

"The theatrical theme was no less important for us than the historical one", continues Igor Lisin. "That's why we decorated the opening and closing ceremonies with a selection of the most famous and beautiful opera and ballet performances. Each such diversification was a kind of premiere: in favor of our storyline, in collaboration with

ways, was the main one for the CPC Safety Day. 24 teams representing various subdivisions of the Consortium, contractors and partners from both countries where the Tengiz-Novorossiysk pipeline runs through, took part in the competition for knowledge and practical application of occupational safety rules in various areas of production activities. In addition to the obligatory "Sarmatian king" in the story, the CPC General Director Nikolay Gorban and Igor Babushkin, Governor of the Astrakhan Region, also gave them a speech of encouragement for their exploits in search of "gold".

"Astrakhan has always been a symbolic meeting place for representatives of different civilizations, traditions and cultures", noted CPC General Director Nikolay Gorban at the opening ceremony. "We have also arrived here today with an important mission, and as bearers of our culture — the Safe Work Culture.





Specialist Maxim Desyatnik. “If, when organizing Safety Day in the steppes of Kalmykia, we focused on the sports component of the holiday, then the Melpomene Temple is clearly not a platform for outdoor games. Accordingly, we had intelligence competitions in the building, and we held sports competitions in the open space.

Intellectual competitions included a game for knowledge of Life Saving Rules, quests from the field of history and art, developed, among other things, with the active participation of consultants from the Astrakhan Museum-Reserve.

For example, goal No. 4 of the CPC HSE Strategic Plan — “Improving the management system of contractor organizations in the field of HSE” — was devoted to the sub-competitions “The Path to the Top”, “Silence in the Library” and “Hunting the Rules”.

“The teams competing in a version of Japanese billiards, adapted to the competition legend, had to remember all the stages of passing the “pre-mobilization audit” before starting work and go from the foot of the mountain to its top”, explains Lead Engineer for Labor and Industrial Safety Konstantin Zakharov. “And then, having closed all the pockets (audit stages), obtain permission to perform work”.

Most teams managed to complete all stages of this part of the competition. Some teams were able to complete the task both at a basic level and partially overcome the playing field at a more complex level — with increasing table slope. Three teams even managed to enter the third round. Looking ahead, we note that according to the scoreboard, the strongest of the teams won not only at this stage, but also in the team competition.

The competition was no less intense at the sites around the theater. Thus, in the competition dedicated to goal No. 7, “Increasing the level of emergency preparedness and response in the event of an emergency”,



THIS YEAR ANOTHER
RECORD WAS SET
IN ASTRAKHAN —

720
PARTICIPANTS

The program included a record 87 contests. A strict jury assessed the contestants’ general theoretical knowledge of occupational safety, their ability to investigate industrial incidents and identify their root causes, correctly draw up work permits, identify potential risks before starting work, and develop compensatory

measures to eliminate identified risks. Other topics of the competition program included transport safety and traffic rules, emergency response — CPC Life Saving Rules, the basics of environmental safety.

“The theater is the form that determined the content for us”, says Lead Planning and Reporting

it was necessary to extract water “from the river” by correctly turning on the pipe system, and build a wooden bridge without nails and ropes according to the recreated design of Leonardo da Vinci. Did you manage? Now, using two buckets with a capacity of five and three liters, measure out exactly four liters.

The competition participants were required to guess to leave two liters in the large bucket, draining three liters into the small bucket. Then, having emptied the three-liter

container, fill it again, first with two liters remaining in the large bucket, and then from the previously refilled five-liter bucket, add a liter into the small one, obtaining the desired result in the large bucket.

“In practice, it turned out that the calculations in the actions had to be accompanied by accuracy and composure”, Anton Oboenkov, Lead Engineer, Start-up and Commissioning, shares his opinion. “Even if you understand the whole sequence, you will not get the desired result if you overflow or splash it. And one team did not pour anything anywhere, but measured out the required four liters by eye. Due to their amazing accuracy, the jury gave them credit for this result”.

The jury appreciated the professionalism and ingenuity of all teams participating in the event, especially noting their true commitment to achieving high goals in the field of labor protection, industrial safety and environmental protection.

It is also important that the Safety Day participants who return to their work teams will share new, vivid, memorable experiences with their colleagues. Valuable gifts and prizes were a pleasant addition to the acquired knowledge. The main “Sarmatian gold” in the competition among divisions of the international pipeline consortium was won by the team from the CPC Western Region. They managed to get ahead of the CPC DBNP team.

The top three winners were completed by the CPC Eastern Region team. The Master-Service team won the competition among contractors and partner companies. In a bitter struggle, they managed to get ahead of the SMU-6 team. The jury awarded three teams with third place. The “Sarmatian Bronze” went to the teams of PROMEKSPERT, VELESSTROY and STARSTROY.

At the closing ceremony, it was announced that in 2024 Almaty will become the site of CPC Safety Day. The organizers have already promised not only not to lower the bar, but also to raise the level of the event even higher.



AUTHOR
PAVEL KRETOV

ART OF LEADERSHIP

THE REASONS AND PREREQUISITES FOR THE EMERGENCE OF LEADERS IN THE HUMAN COMMUNITY AND THEIR LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE TEAM HAVE ALWAYS BEEN OF INTEREST TO PHILOSOPHERS, POLITICAL ECONOMISTS, SOCIOLOGISTS AND PSYCHOLOGISTS



Tomasz Szymanski/Shutterstock/PHOTODISK

During the times of Ancient Greece and Rome, the opinion was established that only those with specific personality traits who have psychological or physical superiority over others can be leaders. Veni, vidi, vici — it is extremely difficult to find an ancient aphorism on this topic in addition to a line from a letter from Gaius Julius Caesar to the horseman Macius Calvena, who was also a friend of Cicero.

Unlike the European laconicists, the philosophers of the Celestial Empire were somewhat more verbose and observant. An actual contemporary of the hero of the Battle of Thermopylae, the Spartan king Leonidas I, the first professional teacher and founder of the first university in China, Confucius believed: “When you behave correctly, they will follow you even without an order; when you behave incorrectly, they will not listen, even if you order”.

“A leader leads not by force, but by example”, noted Sun Tzu, a compatriot of Confucius and author of the treatise The Art of War. 17 centuries later, in the quote from the All-Russian Emperor Peter I, there are already notes of reflection (which, however, do not negate the role of the individual in the team): “Can I order someone to go forward if I myself am not ahead of everyone?” Karl Marx speaks quite specifically about leadership: “If you want to influence people, then you must be a person who truly stimulates and moves others forward”.

Researchers of the 20th century moved away from the position of “natural leadership”, proving that these qualities can be cultivated in oneself. However, you can’t do without intelligence, communication skills and flexibility. “I believe that leadership at one time meant muscles, but today it means the ability to get

SALAMAT SARSENGALIEV,
TENGIZ PS MANAGER:

«It is not necessary for a leader to hold a high position. It is more important to be an example, to be able to talk and show a caring, informal approach to work.



along with people”, said the Indian political and public figure, one of the leaders and ideologists of the Indian independence move-

prescribed to both the leader and subordinates.

Each of these styles has its own strengths and weaknesses. It is

EACH OF THE TWO LEADERSHIP STYLES HAS STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

ment, Mahatma Gandhi. Author and speechwriter for President Eisenhower, James Humes, put it even more succinctly: “The art of communication is the language of leadership”.

Experts divide leaders by style. An autocratic leader makes decisions individually, strictly regulating the activities of subordinates, not allowing them to take the initiative. A democratic leader welcomes discussion, involving team members in every possible way in the direct decision-making process. Previously, researchers identified a free leader who avoided making decisions, but then he was excluded from the classification — this style is rather characterized by a complete absence of leadership. But democratic and autocratic leadership were divided into subcategories. To the latter, in particular, “bureaucratic leadership” was added, based on strict procedures

ARINA NIKOLAEVA,
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
MANAGER:

«A leader should be an example that inspires employees to achieve strategic goals. The leader always demonstrates a focus on results. There are no leaders without powers of persuasion and charisma.



NIKOLAY PANKOV,
DEPUTY REGIONAL MANAGER, SHORE
FACILITIES AND TANK FARM:

« A distinctive quality of a leader is his activity. It is also important to learn a lot and share the acquired knowledge with colleagues.



of psychological comfort for this kind of exchange; it is important to be able to ask the right questions. Disney animation studio president and creative director Ed Catmull recalled how he had an “open door” rule, meaning that anyone could come to him at any time. It turned out that this rule did not stimulate employees in any way until he took the initiative into his own hands: he himself began to ask how to make meetings more effective, how

ONCE YOU BECOME A LEADER, SUCCESS IS ABOUT DEVELOPING OTHER PEOPLE

obvious that an autocratic leader implements decisions faster, and in the life of organizations there are indeed many situations when efficiency is the most important factor. However, members of such a leader's team will experience dissatisfaction over a long period of time because their creative potential is not being used sufficiently.

At the same time, in reality, for quality leadership, a democratic leader requires much more competencies. Of course: he must constantly, based on the experience and knowledge of group members, coordinate the activities of subordinates and optimize all communications. As one of the world's leading leadership experts, John Maxwell, noted: “Leaders must be close enough to connect with others, but far enough ahead to motivate them”.

It is with issues of communication that any research on the topic of leadership should begin. These issues, or rather their solutions, increase management efficiency and make it possible to combat shortcomings long before they become truly serious problems. As the 65th US Secretary of State Colin Luther Powell said: “Leadership is about solving problems. You stop being a leader the moment the soldiers stop turning to you for help. This means they have completely lost faith in your ability to help”.

The more freely team members can express their thoughts and ideas, the greater the achievements of working together will be. This freedom should be expressed in the fact that subordinates will not be able to fear the negative consequences of communicating with the leader for their self-esteem or career. Reciprocity creates a strong foundation for sharing feedback with your team. In other words, a true democratic leader is one who regularly asks not only what the team can do for him, but also what he himself can do for his team.

At the same time, it is not enough to create an atmosphere

receptive colleagues are to your suggestions, what time of day is the most productive to work, and so on.

Of course, no amount of trust and questioning skills will help if there is no follow-through: you communicate, you get information, and there is no follow-up, no consideration of peers' opinions. American human rights activist Jesse Jackson once said: “Leadership cannot simply meet halfway to be together. Leadership must meet the moral challenge of the day”.

Managers often ask themselves this question: why a team member whose capabilities are

ALEXANDRA RABINOVICH,
TEAM LEADER, PERSONNEL TRAINING AND
DEVELOPMENT (TRAINING MANAGER):

« A leader must be proactive, leading the team, inspiring its members to achieve results and to become leaders themselves in turn.



Krikia/Shutterstock/FOTODOM

clearly higher does not reach his or her full potential. The answer is sometimes that people cannot adequately assess their abilities themselves. Either the employee did not have enough time to prepare for a responsible task, or he is overworked and experiencing burnout, or he has troubles at home. And then the leader must become a kind of coach,

like in sports: his task is to praise, encourage, support, and be sure to figure out what exactly is preventing the employee from expressing himself. It is worth listening to the former head of General Electric, Jack Welch: “Before you become a leader, success is about self-development. Once you become a leader, success is about developing other people”.

ASYLBK BERDIKZHIN,
PS ATYRAU DEPUTY
MANAGER:

« The leader's task is to increase staff engagement in the area in which he is a leader. A leader needs such qualities as honesty and openness.



ZINUR KENZHIBAEV,
TRANSPORT AND ROAD SAFETY
COORDINATOR, CENTRAL
REGION:

« A leader must first of all be competent in the area in which he has become a leader. Then he will be a true example for the whole team and will be able to confidently guide them forward.



Scientists believe that more than 30% of an employee's performance depends on how well they are managed, inspired to achieve results, and empowered. At the same time, there are no universal approaches — all people are different, have their own set of strengths and weaknesses, but with the appropriate attitude they will be able to show their full potential, bringing maximum benefit to the team.

It can be added that you can be a leader not only in an organization or in a department, but also in a certain direction, for example, something as important in an industrial enterprise as the development of a Safe Work Culture. And here it is appropriate to recall the American management consultant Stephen Covey: “Management is efficiency in climbing the ladder of success. Leadership determines whether the ladder is leaning against the right wall”.

AUTHOR
DMITRY KONSTANTINOV

FIELD TEST FOR LEADERS

ON JULY 31, SERGEI VALERIEVICH AKSENOV, SHORE FACILITIES AND TANK FARM MANAGER, CELEBRATED HIS 50TH ANNIVERSARY. AND A WEEK EARLIER, HE, AMONG THE CPC MANAGEMENT, GAVE AN INTERVIEW TO THE RUSSIA-1 TV CHANNEL – AS PART OF THE COMPLETION OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW LACT AT THE MARINE TERMINAL



current instructions and requirements of regulatory and technical documentation. Targeted briefings, work permissions, moderation of observation cards and much more.

"I receive observation cards from all MT departments", says Sergei Aksenov. "Some of them I return for revision, others I send to the curators of this area for the development of corrective measures on the identified issues. Or, if I see that the violation is of a nature that does not affect the accident rate, I close such a card. I wait for feedback from those to whom I sent a card for development and come to the person myself if for some reason I did not receive a response. None of the observation cards goes unanswered".

His area of responsibility includes Shore Facilities and the Tank Farm, a complex unique in its location and parameters.



Sergei Aksenov was born in Shemeiny village, Usolsky district, Perm Krai. After graduating from the 8th grade, he entered technical training college #44 in Nizhnevartovsk, Tyumen region, Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug. Here he received the specialty of a well work-over driller. After serving in the Armed Forces, he began working at Nizhnevartovskneft OJSC. He joined the Caspian Pipeline Consortium in 2002. In 2009 he graduated from Kuban State Technological University with a degree in Chemical Technology of Natural Energy Resources and Carbon Materials.

"CPC employs professionals in their field, talented and motivated", says Sergei Valerievich. "Comfortable conditions for self-realization and development have been created here. Unlike other companies, CPC prioritizes the safe

operation of the pipeline system, environmental protection and employee health".

The main task that Sergei Aksenov solves at his workplace is to ensure reliable and safe operation of the equipment and technical devices of the Marine Terminal, to constantly monitor and manage the operation of equipment at the facility, to organize and control the work of operating personnel in accordance with

"The construction of the Tank Farm was carried out in two stages", recalls Sergei Valerievich. "At the second stage, within the framework of the Expansion project, the accumulated experience was widely used. Instead of a system for hydraulic erosion of bottom sediments, mixers were installed on the new SVFRT. The embankment of the new "hundred thousands" is equipped with gabions, which prevents the growth of vegetation for fire safety purposes.

The choice of operating mode of the SVFRT is the responsibility of the dispatcher of the main control center for loading.

"The MT tank farm is divided into two groups – upper and lower", Sergei Aksenov told Natalya Avilova, correspondent of RUSSIA 1. Kuban on July 25. "The lower group is located at 252 m above sea level and includes seven SVFRT -100,000. The upper group is located at 260 m above sea level and consists of three "hundred thousands" reservoirs. If the temperature of the oil in the pipeline at the entrance to the Tank Farm is higher than required for quality control and accounting for the quantity of oil, we contribute to the cooling of the raw material by flowing it into the upper group of tanks, and from it into the lower group and further to the Shore facilities, to metering units".

The new oil quantity and quality measuring system, one of the most important facilities of the Debottlenecking Program, makes it possible, if necessary, to load tankers with oil from three SPMs simultaneously. As the head of Shore Facilities and TF, Sergei Aksenov makes an important addition: with the start of operation of the new LACT, equipment maintenance will reach a new level.

"Two metering units, which have been in operation since 2001, allowed us to carry out maintenance while "fitting" into the inter-loading intervals", explains Sergei

Valerievich. "The issue of planning maintenance with the commissioning of a new LACT has been simplified, since one metering unit is constantly in reserve while the other two are operating".

Safe Work Culture Committee at the Marine Terminal is probably the most proactive of all similar CPC facility-based communities. We have already written about the "Passing Banner" project, which originated here in 2022 (CPC Panorama No. 1 (40) February 2023). Today the Committee is developing a new initiative.

"We hold Committee meetings monthly", says Sergei Aksenov. "Here we discuss issues related to safe work practices, review



SERGEI VALERIEVICH CONSIDERS LEADERSHIP TO BE A KIND OF "CALL OF THE SOUL"

individual observation cards, and analyze the progress of implementing the decisions of previous meetings. Thus, in accordance with the decision of the Safe Work Culture Committee dated June 30, 2023, on July 1, a project-competition for the title of "Best Shift of MT" began, as part of the implementation of the HSE Strategic Plan and the Enterprise Standard "Leadership in development of a Safe Work Culture".

Leaders of the development of CPC Safe Work Culture in 2023 met in full force twice – at a seminar in Elista and Safety Day in Astrakhan. A participant in both events, Sergei Valerievich considers leadership to be a kind of "call of the soul" for him".

"The most important leadership practice is a timely correct reaction in the field", believes the head of the SF and TF. "One Saturday I was on site duty. The construction of a multi-purpose tank 42-TK-1002 was underway and one

of the contractor's employees attracted attention with uncharacteristic work: he began to punch a hole in the reinforced concrete cable tray in which existing communications pass.

I called a representative of responsible for the work, made sure that the work permit did not correspond to the type of work, and exercised the right of every CPC employee to suspend work. As a result, the contractor was removed from the work site".

As a resident of Novorossiysk, Sergei Aksenov notes obvious signs of the city's development in recent years, and among the attractions he appreciates the sea embankment more than any other. He enjoys fishing and, more recently, motocross. He appreciates communication with colleagues, including outside the work agenda.

"We have a friendly team of high-level specialists with rich experience in the oil industry", sums up Sergei Aksenov. ●

AUTHOR
DMITRY KONSTANTINOV

CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT

ON SEPTEMBER 1, IGOR BARKALOV, A-PS-5A MANAGER, CELEBRATED HIS 60TH ANNIVERSARY. IGOR VLADIMIROVICH BUILT AND LAUNCHED THIS STATION ON THE BORDER OF THE ASTRAKHAN OBLAST WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KALMYKIA, WENT THROUGH EVERYTHING WITH HIS TEAM – THE EXPANSION PROJECT, THE DIFFICULT PERIOD OF THE PANDEMIC, THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE DBNP, AND MUCH MORE

In less than two years of work as an engineer for the operation of oil and gas pipelines, Igor Barkalov showed outstanding abilities in all areas of his activity, and the management of the Central region decided to transfer him in 2015 to the position of A-PS-5A Deputy Manager. During this period, the construction of a new intermediate pump station at the 674th kilometer of the Tengiz-Novorossiysk pipeline was nearing completion.

With his usual enthusiasm, Igor Barkalov joined the work to complete the construction of A-PS-5A and successfully commission the plant. A year later, he was promoted to the position of head of the pumping station, took an active part in commissioning work at the facility, and made a great personal contribution to the successful launch of A-PS-5A in May 2017. In 2018, Igor Vladimirovich, among other colleagues, was awarded the Badge of Honor "For personal contribution to the implementation of the CPC Expansion Project".

Over the years of managing the pump station, Igor Barkalov managed to gather here a close-knit team of professionals who perform all assigned tasks efficiently and responsibly. Much attention is paid to the introduction of new technologies, labor protection, industrial safety and environmental protection.

In accordance with industry requirements and in the direction of enterprise management, Igor Vladimirovich, without interruption from production, improved his qualifications at the Samara State Technical University (specialty "Development and Operation of Oil and Gas Fields" in 2002-2004) and at the Russian State University of Oil and Gas named after I.M. Gubkin (specialty "Industrial safety and labor protection" in 2007-2009). During his work at Astrakhangazprom, he was repeatedly awarded with certificates of honor and diplomas.

"In July 2012, in order to improve my professional level, I decided to move to CPC-R", says Igor Vladimirovich. "At that time, the Consortium was starting to implement a full-scale Expansion Project and there was a lot of work ahead".



"The station is actually located on the route of seasonal bird migrations", explains Igor Vladimirovich. "Not far from here is the Black Lands nature reserve, where numerous birds flock to Lake Manych-Gudilo for the winter: ducks, cranes, eagles, partridges and other geese and swans. To prevent them from being electrocuted, our power lines are equipped with special bird protection devices".

Over the years of global resistance to the threat of Covid-19, the A-PS-5A team has become an example of perseverance, discipline and unanimity: 100% vaccinated. All tasks were completed,

the facility's work schedule was followed impeccably.

The next stage of modernization of A-PS-5A took place in 2022 during the implementation of the Debottlenecking Program. Four main pumping units were equipped with variable frequency drives (VFDs). Currently, this work has been successfully completed, the station is among those reconstructed as part of the DBNP.

"In the context of the DBNP, I provided safe admission to contractors' employees, took part in testing the automation and relay protection units of new equipment, participated in the comprehensive testing and commissioning of high-voltage variable frequency drives", says Igor Barkalov.

The entire team of A-PS-5A and the contractors working here are involved in the work of the facility Safe Work Culture Committee. The quality of this work, the volume of initiatives and improvement proposals put forward at the meetings are evidenced by certificates of honor, letters of gratitude and other awards with which the Station Committee was repeatedly awarded in the Consortium in the area of HSE.

"The team has become more organized in terms of the production of work, admission of contractors, and acceptance of completed work

in accordance with planned work orders", Igor Barkalov describes the activities of the Committee he heads. "Before starting work, the staff skillfully analyzes possible risks and willingly shares proposals for improving work within the framework of a Safe Work Culture".

A good athlete (alpine skiing and Russian billiards), Igor Barkalov enjoys well-deserved authority in the team and has a special talent for "strategically eliminating the preconditions for disagreements". He deciphers the complex formulation of personnel characteristics simply: the experience of a manager who has studied in practice the entire line of industry production processes allows him to see the situation "two moves ahead". In 2022, the long-term work of A-PS-5A Manager at CPC was honored with a memorable Golden Badge. Previously, he was awarded a diploma of the Astrakhan City Duma.

"I am eternally grateful to CPC for the company's contribution to the development of the infrastructure of the Astrakhan Oblast, for helping hospitals and schools in remote areas", says Igor Vladimirovich. "This is the area we work in, my family lives here, and we know firsthand how much the residents value the care and support of the Consortium".



AUTHOR
PAVEL KRETOV

NATURE LANES

A YEAR AGO, AS PART OF THE “PROTECT NATURE OF OUR NATIVE LAND” PROJECT, CPC DONATED 10 CAMERA TRAPS TO THE UTRISH NATURE RESERVE. DURING OUR NEXT VISIT TO NOVOROSSISK, WE ASKED THE RESERVE’S SPECIALISTS HOW USEFUL THE DEVICES WERE TO THEM. IT TURNS OUT THAT THEY WERE NOT ONLY USEFUL, BUT ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES



In the reserve, CPC Panorama correspondents are hospitably greeted by the head of the environmental education department, Alla Pismennaya. In her opinion, the CPC gift was a truly important help in the work.

“The area of responsibility of each state inspector is the territory in which he places camera traps – to track the movements of both animals and people”, says Alla Evgenievna. “Because we protect the reserve for people, but also, unfortunately, from people”.

All the information from camera traps flows to the scientific department of the reserve. With their help, scientists study those species of animals that carefully avoid human presence. First of all, we are talking about deer:

experts received unique footage of animals shedding their antlers, vying for a female, and scratching their sides on trees. Martens, raccoons, and foxes also become frequent heroes in photographs. The reserve attracts the country’s leading universities to scientific research, including Lomonosov Moscow State University.

The Utrish Nature Reserve has existed for 13 years. Its main task is to preserve the territory and diversity of flora and fauna for future generations. In total, there are more than 2 thousand representatives of the animal world.

“Our reserve is represented by several types of territories. On one and a half thousand hectares of sea waters you can find almost all the animals living in the Black Sea, including three species of dolphins”, notes Alla Evgenievna.



“The land area is represented by a forest area, divided into Anapa and Abrau forestries”.

The largest animal in the reserve is the already mentioned Caucasian red deer. Previously, its population in this area was declining: people disturbed the animals, held noisy picnics and trophy raids on SUVs. Now, scientists, counting the population every year, are pleased to note an unchanged growth rate.

The only land turtle in Russia, the Nikolsky Mediterranean tortoise, feels great in the reserve. About 6 thousand individuals already live in the protected area. A large number of birds nest or use them as a resting place during migration. The fastest bird here is the peregrine falcon.

As for flora, the most important goal of the reserve is the preservation of juniper and pistachio woodlands. In the Utrish Nature Reserve there are three species of junipers listed in the Red Book. These plants appeared on our planet 60 million years ago and have a long life cycle of up to a thousand years. The oldest juniper in the reserve is more than 700 years old. Fire is the main enemy of the forest. Due to the large amount of essential oils, coniferous plants flare up like a match and are almost impossible to extinguish.



“The first 25 years for a juniper are like a child’s infancy”, adds Alla Pismennaya. “The tree grows slowly. Age can be determined by knowing the diameter of the tree trunk and the annual increase in thickness. Our junipers have an average growth rate of only 0.7 mm.

In 2022, as part of the “Protect Nature of Our Native Land” project, which started in Kuban, open lessons, competitions and events were held on the theme of the protected area. The Consortium financed the publication of printed products, including the book “The Preserved ABC”, which has already won the Eduard Uspensky Big Fairy Tale Award.

Almost 600 works, published mainly by capital publishing houses, competed for the prestigious literary prize. Therefore, the victory of the aspiring author Anna Pukish and the team of the Utrish Nature Reserve became a sensation.

The beautifully illustrated book, adapted for children, is dedicated to the amazing plants and animals of the Utrish Nature Reserve. The narration comes from the perspective of animals listed in the Red Book — marten and a turtle cub. Young readers make many discoveries while walking along protected trails with their inhabitants.

BY CAMERA TRAPS, SCIENTISTS STUDY THOSE SPECIES OF ANIMALS THAT CAREFULLY AVOID HUMAN PRESENCE



AUTHOR
PAVEL KRETOV

BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

THE ROUTE OF THE CPC PIPELINE PARTIALLY COINCIDES WITH ONE OF THE BRANCHES OF THE GREAT SILK ROAD. THE TRANSCONTINENTAL SYSTEM WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR WORLD CIVILIZATION

The first extensive trade routes between the East and West of Eurasia appeared in the 3rd millennium B.C. Such routes were used to transport semi-precious stones, primarily lapis lazuli and jade from the foothills of the Pamirs. Gradually, silk also became an important commodity of exchange, and the route itself expanded to Ancient China. The Great Silk Road was finally formed at the end

of the 2nd century B.C. The primary "mainline" 7000-kilometer route reached the possessions of Rome. Centuries passed, empires arose and collapsed, and caravans continued to stretch one after another along the narrow paths of the steppes and mountains, skirting deserts and seas.

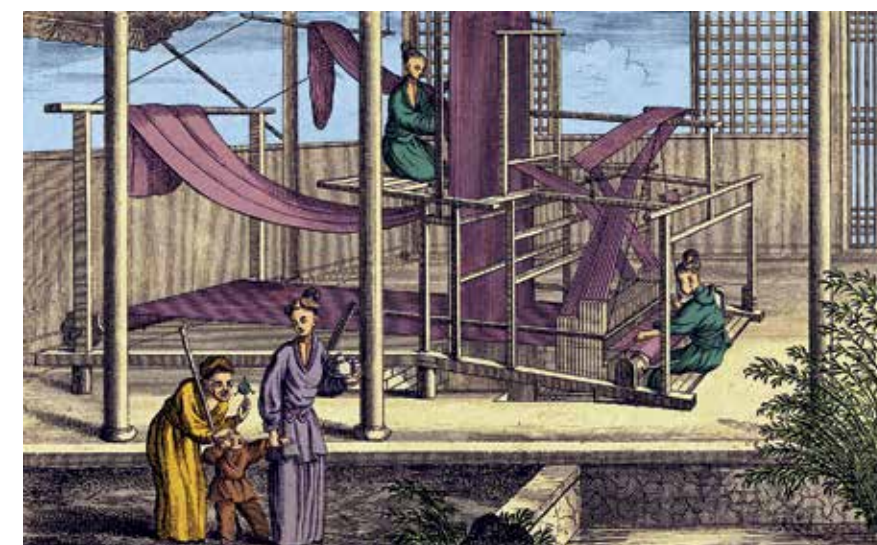
Silk was extremely convenient for transportation over long distances and was very expensive. There

is a story from the end of the 3rd century A.D., when the Emperor of Rome Aurelian himself refused to buy it for his wife with the words: "Let it not be that threads are valued at the weight of gold". The ruler did not know that another quarter of a century would pass and silk would triple in price. But the most famous fashionista, Queen Cleopatra of Egypt, did not deny herself the pleasure of wearing silk clothes.

SECRETS OF THE CHINESE COURTYARD

It is not surprising that at such a cost, many foreigners tried to find out the secret of the fabric and obtain the materials necessary for its production. The most romantic legend of "industrial espionage" is associated with the matchmaking of the ruler of one of the oases of East Turkestan with a Chinese princess. A purposeful cunning man convinced her to take out silkworm eggs in a hat, and the customs officers did not dare to inspect such a noble person. One way or another, the Celestial Empire lost its monopoly on silk, which was also produced in Central Asia, India, and Iran.

The second largest traffic after silk along the route was spices, which were brought from India. Asian regions with developed crafts added artistic objects made of gold, silver and bronze, carpets and pottery to the flow. The Scythians brought furs and slaves from the Urals and Altai Mountains. It is interesting that goods mainly went in one direction — to the



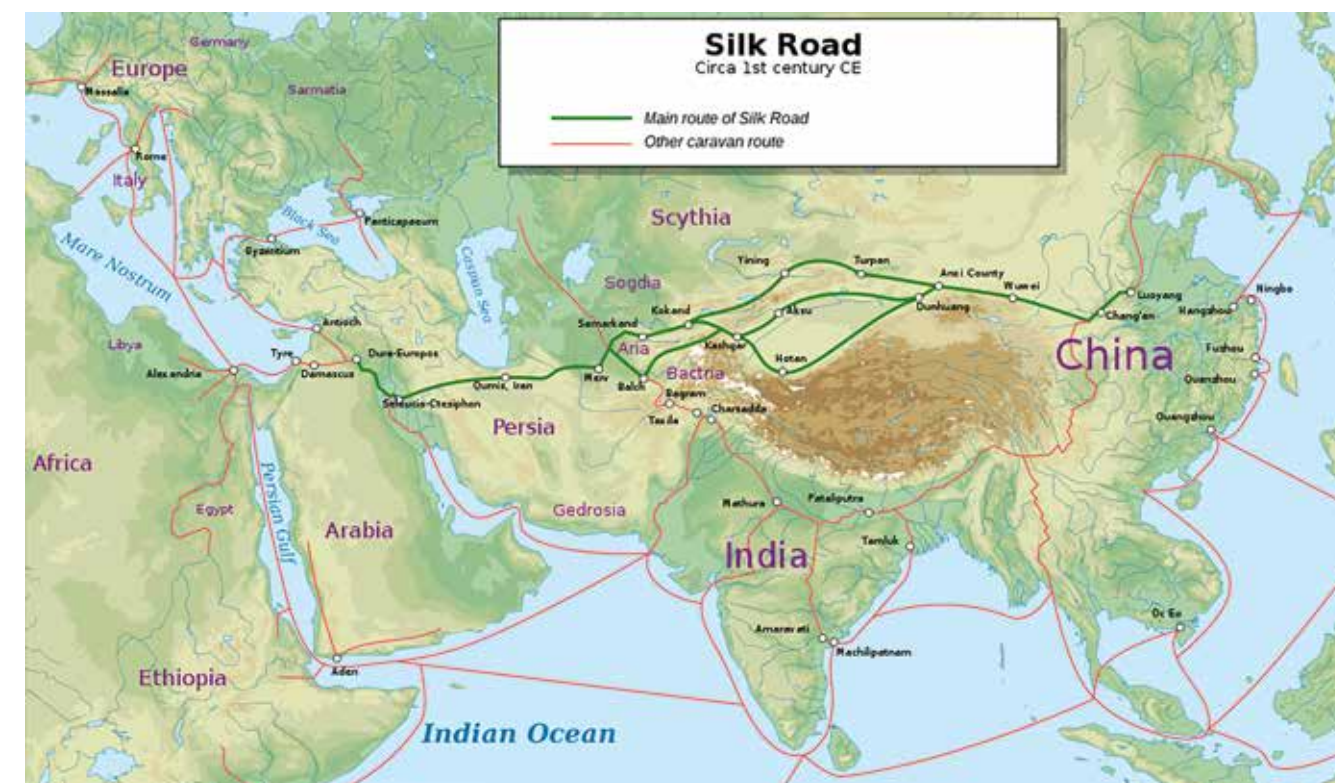
Science Source Images/East News

West, because what Europeans produced was not in demand in Asia. The trade imbalance had to be corrected by the slave trade. Slavic and Greek women were especially valued in eastern markets. Despite the status of slaves, under the later caliphs they sometimes managed to achieve a fantastic position in society and even promote their sons to the throne. In the Middle Ages, the Catholic Church tried to prevent the shameful business

of "living goods," but such prohibitions were in vain due to the extreme benefits.

GEOGRAPHY LESSONS

The Great Silk Road is a significant instrument for the exchange of not only goods, but also culture and ideas. Along the routes, world religions such as Buddhism and Islam expanded their influence. It is believed that it was along the Great Silk Road that the Chinese in the 2nd century B.C.



Wikimedia Commons/Kalder



Aleksey Gusev/Photobank Lori

conveyed to the world their most important invention — paper. In the 6th century A.D. they established its production in Samarkand, after which paper completely replaced papyrus and parchment in Europe.

Spices, used not only as food, but also as medicine, stimulated the rapid advancement of medical knowledge. For example, in the 11th century, Abu Rayhan al-Biruni wrote a treatise “Pharmacognosy”, where he described the properties of products and drugs exported from China, Tibet, Nepal, Burma, Cambodia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Afghanistan, Arabia, Mesopotamia, India, Ceylon, Malay Archipelago and Africa.

Just listing these regions shows that the Great Silk Road, in addition to the primary “mainline” route, had many secondary routes and branches, as well as sections of varying significance, divided into types: intercontinental between Europe and Asia sometimes reached up to 10 thousand km; continental ones between the territories of one continent, for example, from India to Bactria, from Bactria to China, reached several thousand kilometers. Regional ones, located within one region, had several hundred kilometers each. The historical treatises of Herodotus and other authors mentioned the “royal road” in the Achaemenid Empire or the huge route laid from the eastern shores of the Azov Sea to Central Asia, but none of them could comprehend that these were all parts of a much larger and more complex transport system.

THE BEGINNING OF TIME

In fact, the Great Silk Road began in the ancient capital of China, Chang'an, and ran along the northern Tien Shan west to Dunhuang in Gansu Province, located in the central part of the country. Here the route split into northern and southern parts.

The southern branch went to Bactria (Northern Afghanistan), where it was divided into two more directions. One of them led to India, the other — through Iran, Mesopotamia and Syria reached the Mediterranean Sea.

The northern, also called “steppe”, branch from Dunhuang was the most difficult for travelers and consisted of two roads. The first — through the Tien Shan and Fergana Valley — went to Samarkand, Bukhara and Khwarazm, and then reached the shores of the Caspian Sea. The second — from Samarkand — stretched to Termez, crossed the Amu Darya and went deeper into the Middle East and India. The Caucasian branch of the Great Silk Road also began in Samarkand. It went up along the Caspian Sea and through the steppes of the North Caucasus reached the ancient fortress and port on the Black Sea of Tskhum (present-day Sukhum in Abkhazia), where goods were loaded onto ships and transported to Constantinople and Rome. It is clear that all these routes were flexible and changed at different periods, following the political situation, transformation of state borders, due to seasonal weather conditions and other factors.

MEDIEVAL URBANISM

It makes sense to dwell in more detail on that part of the northern route of the Great Silk Road, which coincides with the modern route of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium. The Kazakhstan section of the caravan route was formed in the 6th–7th centuries, which was associated with the entry of the historical and geographical region of Zhetysay into the Turkic Khaganate. It was the largest state, occupying territories from Korea to the Black Sea. The rapid development of its cities, primarily Taraz, with solvent residents attracted merchants from different countries.

The ancient city of Saray-Juk, a major center at the crossroads of trade roads between Europe and Asia, was located 50 km from present-day Atyrau. The Arab geographer Ibn Battuta, the author of the notes “Travel to Desht-i-Qipchaq”, describing his stay in Saray-Juk in 1334, noted that in size the city was second only to Baghdad.

The city had a well-developed layout with straight, wide streets and squares. The high level of development of urban culture is evidenced by the presence of a water supply system made of ceramic pipes. Each building was connected to a centralized water supply system. In Saray-Juk there was a luxurious khan's palace, four mosques, a madrasah, baths, and many hotels — caravanserais. British traveler Anthony Jenkinson, who visited Saray-Juk in the second



EXPOSITION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS OF THE IPATOVSKY BARROW AND A RECONSTRUCTED SCULPTURAL PORTRAIT OF THE SARMATIAN “PRINCESS” IN THE STAVROPOL MUSEUM OF LOCAL LORE.



half of the 16th century, noted that about 700 caravans passed through the city within a month.

The trade route of Italian merchants passed through Dzhutarkhan (now Astrakhan), starting near Azov and ending in Beijing. The city also housed an Indian merchant colony, Persian and Armenian farmsteads.

Another important city along the route of the Great Silk Road in the modern Astrakhan Oblast was Sarai-Batu, founded in the mid-13th century by Genghis Khan's grandson Batu Khan. Sarai-Batu had an impressive 100 thousand inhabitants for the Middle Ages, but a century and a half later it was destroyed by the warlike Tamerlane. Today the village of Selitrennoye, Kharabalinsky district, is located here.

OPENING ON THE CPC ROUTE

The territory of Kalmykia is another important historical crossroads, the geographical center of the Euro-Asian continent. The Golden Horde extended here. Its capital, Sarai-Berke, had special quarters of compact residence for merchants, whose property was protected behind high walls. “We lived at one end and, having left there in the morning, reached the other end of the city only in the afternoon. It was all a continuous row of houses, without gardens or

wastelands”, the 14th-century Arab traveler Ibn Battuta was amazed at the scale.

Where the Stavropol Krai is located today, ancient caravans, after a short rest on the Stavropol plateau, chose one of two routes: along the Kalaus River or the Kuma River. A serious contribution to research, including the history of the Great

In the area of the modern Krasnodar Krai, the Great Silk Road went through the Kuban steppes from the mouth of the Don River to the already mentioned Tskhum (Sukhum), as well as to Sochi and Pitsunda. The Taman Peninsula was also a crossroads of land and sea trade routes. Its oldest settlement, where the village of Taman is now,

THE GREAT SILK ROAD IS A SIGNIFICANT INSTRUMENT FOR THE EXCHANGE OF NOT ONLY GOODS, BUT ALSO CULTURE AND IDEAS

Silk Road, was made in 1998 — during archaeological research before the construction of the CPC pipeline. According to historians, excavations of the Greater Ipatovo kurgan gave the world discoveries comparable in significance to the results of the study of the Egyptian pyramids. In the rich burial of a young woman of the 3rd century BC, which miraculously survived from looting, scientists found items from the most remote parts of the continent: gold embroidered fabrics, vessels from ancient Greek cities, a golden mane, amber jewelry, and a handbag with cosmetics.

is about 2 thousand years old. And it was through these places that the famous road “from the Varangians to the Greeks” passed.

The example of decades of successful international cooperation between the largest oil companies that have joined forces in the Caspian Pipeline Consortium will also undoubtedly go down in history. The time-tested, reliable, economically profitable route not only gave direct access to Caspian oil to world markets, but also constantly expands its transport capabilities, satisfying the growing demands of oil workers.



AUTHOR
PAVEL KRETOV

PIONEERS WITH DYNAMITE

THE ERA OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST OIL PIPELINES IN THE UNITED STATES WAS "THE TIME OF BRAVE GUYS WITH CROWBARS AND DYNAMITE"



J. J. VANDERGRIFT (1827-1899)

James Hutchison played a major role in the history of the construction of the first oil pipelines. In the fall of 1862, he built a 300-meter gravity pipeline to one of the refineries at the Densmore field. The following year, Hutchison set out to build a 4-kilometer cast-iron pipeline, but the pumps and pipes constantly leaked and it had to be taken out of service.

In 1864, a 5-kilometer wrought iron oil pipeline was built from the Plumer refinery to the Allegheny River. This and the above-

mentioned 300-meter Hutchison oil pipeline were the only successful projects of the first half of the 60s in the USA.

THE FIRST OIL PIPELINES IN THE UNITED STATES WERE MOST OFTEN BUILT FROM THE WOOD

But the necessary funds for the construction of a 10-kilometer oil pipeline with a diameter of 100 mm were found by Hyman James. The oil was to move by gravity, for which a height difference of 18 meters was envisaged. However, it immediately turned out that money was not everything. The contract was not signed due to numerous complaints from oil transporters. Horse-drawn cart drivers convinced authorities that they and their families would be left without a livelihood.

In the 1860s, wood was the most common material used to construct oil pipelines. It's not surprising: it was a common material used for decades to organize water supply for farms, when creating outlets for sewerage systems, and even when extracting salt.

The pipes were manufactured at plants in Cleon, California, and Mill Creek, Washington, from

mentioned 300-meter Hutchison oil pipeline were the only successful projects of the first half of the 60s in the USA.



LAYING A WOODEN PIPELINE NEAR
ASTORIA, OREGON, 1884

6-meter-long mahogany logs, which were ground to a diameter of 150 mm. Iron rims were installed at the ends of the pipes, the connection was made into a socket.

Gutters were used for transportation across the deposit areas. Metals — lead, tin, iron — were used less frequently. Basically, such pipelines were manufactured for use in urban areas.

American researchers explain the failures of the first attempts to build oil pipelines this way: "The long and in its own way remarkable epic of pipelines is mainly a history of practical work done by inquisitive but ignorant people who did

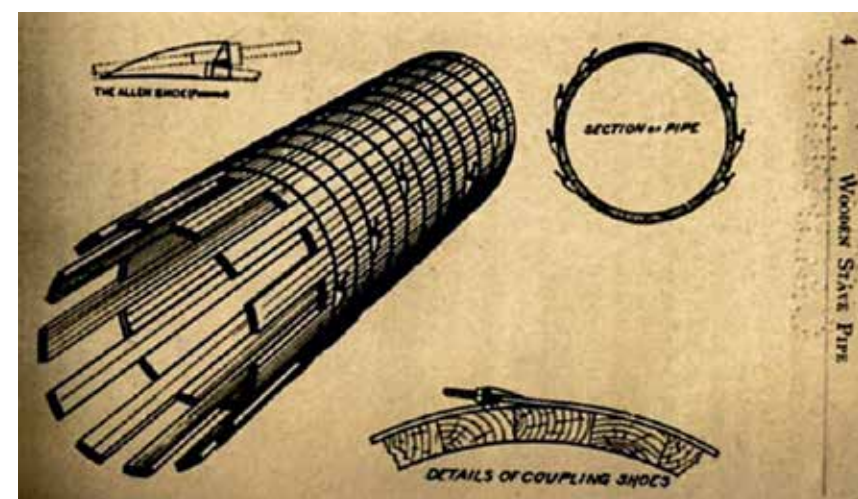


LAYING A 48-INCH WOODEN PIPELINE IN DENVER, COLORADO, 1910

not have a clear idea of what exactly they were doing and how they were doing it". The pioneer of the American oil transportation business, Jacob J. Vandergrift, called talk about a scientific approach to the construction of pipelines parlor chatter. He defended his purely practical approach: "You won't answer the big questions until you build the pipeline. And you can't build it without real guys with crowbars, wrenches, grips, dynamite and a lot of courage. That's the only thing you've got to take into account".

Nothing else was taken into account. For example, one of the

first oil pipelines in Pennsylvania was laid in a hot summer without considering the fact that cast iron tends to expand at high temperatures and contract at low temperatures. As soon as it got colder, to the surprise of the practitioners who did not expect such a turn, all the joints separated and oil spilled onto the ground. The pipeline through the Allegheny Mountains, on the other hand, was built in winter. With summer came, thick-walled iron pipes, assembled, began to writhe and wriggle like a giant snake. Links of pipes blocked the route, uprooted trees, and tore down telegraph poles. The foreman in charge of the construction, observing the tragedy, remarked: "We went too far, guys, we laid too many of these damn pipes". One of the practical conclusions in this story was correct: to reduce temperature fluctuations, pipelines began to be removed underground.



PIPELINE FROM WOODEN PLANK REDWOOD MANUFACTURERS COMPANY (1911)

Along with all photos based
on the book:

Bakhtizin R.N., Mastobaev B.N.,
Soshchenko A.E., Makarenko O.A.
"Development of the oil pipeline
transport system." — M.: Nedra
Publishing House LLC, 2018

AUTHOR
PAVEL KRETOV

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

FIVE YEARS HAVE PASSED ALMOST AT THE SPEED OF AN ARROW SINCE THE OPENING OF THE POBEDA BOWCOURT AND TENNIS CENTER. JUDGING BY THE LIST OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF NOVOROSSIYSK ATHLETES, THEY DID NOT WASTE TIME



VITALY PAKHOLKIN

a gold medal in archery in the mixed competition.

"In 2014, Margarita began training with our specialist, Honored Trainer of Russia Tatyana Butunova", continues Vitaly Alexandrovich. "Tatyana's wards have become world and European champions more than once. Margarita Sidorenko joined the national team. She had other coaches, but she remembers where she began her journey to Olympus. She came to our school and showed her medal".

The archery department opened in 2008. In recent years, three archers at Pobeda have received the title of master of sports, and another 16 athletes have become

The Pobeda sports complex, created as part of CPC's charitable activities, is located in Yuzhny, one of the most populated areas of Novorossiysk, where about 70 thousand people live. The sports school is also attended by residents of the Primorsky, Central and Eastern regions.

"The main reference point for us has always been the Spartakiad

of the Krasnodar Krai", says Vitaly Pakholkin, director of the Pobeda sports school. "At these competitions, our archers are invariably the first, we have not lost to anyone for 10 years. Tennis players have also stepped up: for two years in a row they also regularly get on the podium.

In 2021, at the Summer Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Pobeda student Margarita Sidorenko won



candidates for master. In total, 230 children are involved in archery and 195 children in tennis. The schedule here is very tight, from 7 am to 11 pm. The number of students has grown over the past years and now exceeds a thousand people in seven sports. Accordingly, the coaching staff has been strengthened.

"Modern children are different from previous generations", says Vitaly Pakholkin. "For today's people, sports are an additional load and work which is not comparable to "hanging out" in gadgets. Therefore, when meeting with parents of newcomers, I ask only one thing: to ensure the child's attendance for the first three months.

Nobody prevents children from finding themselves in different sports. If you play tennis and want to try your hand at air rifle shooting, welcome to the next section! The school regularly hosts "open days" when children can visit any other Pobeda departments.

THE COACH'S TASK IS TO INSTILL IN CHILDREN A LOVE OF SPORTS

The largest of them is football – 310 boys and 150 girls.

Among the school's football mentors, the most famous is Honored Coach of Russia Alexander Gigaya. Under his leadership, the Pobeda women's football team, created in 2014, has repeatedly won the championship, and cup of the Krasnodar Krai. The following fact is also indicative: in the 2019 Russian Championship, the team of the Krasnodar Krai came in first place, for which nine athletes from the Pobeda school played at once.

Women's football will receive a new impetus for development in the near future: a new charitable project of CPC provides for the construction of a stadium in the village of Vasilievka, which will become a permanent place for training and competitions not

only for boys, but also for girls. The new sports facility will have artificial grass, football field lighting, landscaped territory, spectator stands for 200 seats, locker rooms, showers, and training classes – coaches' rooms.

Golf is another sport that is on the rise in the Krasnodar Krai thanks to the staff of the Novorossiysk sports school Pobeda.

Deputy Director of the Pobeda Sports School Sergei Tikhonov is the Chairman of the Krasnodar Regional Golf Development Federation. On September 15, 2023, a specialized area of 800 m² was put into operation on the territory of the Children's Tennis Center: Novorossiysk boys and girls had the opportunity to learn the basics of golf absolutely free at the sports school.



AUTHOR
PAVEL KRETOV

KUBAN IN THE SHADOW OF DUBRAVA

IN 2023, THE KUBAN HOUSE OF CULTURE LOCATED IN THE VILLAGE OF TSEMDOLINA WON THE ALL-RUSSIAN COMPETITION TO CREATE A VIRTUAL CONCERT HALL. THANKS TO THIS ACHIEVEMENT, A NEW POINT HAS APPEARED IN THE KRASNODAR KRAI WHERE YOU CAN FOLLOW THE MOST IMPORTANT CULTURAL EVENTS OF THE COUNTRY ONLINE – THE THIRD AFTER ANAPA AND KABARDINKA



VASILY KISILEV

The charity project, implemented at the highest level, impressed not only regional but also federal leaders in the field of culture, and in the same 2018, the Consortium was awarded the title “Maecenas of the Year”. CPC General Director Nikolay Gorban received a commemorative diploma in the Marble Hall of the Russian Ethnographic Museum in St. Petersburg.

“Throughout these five years, the Consortium continues to actively participate in our lives. In 2021, CPC gave us a powerful projector, necessary for events on stage”, says Vasily Kiselev, director of the House of Culture.

surface not only on stage, but also in the hall and in the auditorium. In the hall, the old chairs were also replaced with 160 new modern ones, which can be moved during classes. A summer stage for 250 spectators was also organized.

The grant won within the framework of the national project made it possible to purchase projection and sound equipment for broadcasting concerts from leading theater and music venues in Russia. At the opening of the virtual hall, spectators saw a performance by the famous Song and Dance Ensemble of the Russian Army named after A. V. Alexandrov.

The Kuban House of Culture was reconstructed with charitable funds from CPC in 2018. The consortium not only carried out the renovation of the building, built in 1960, but also increased the area of the premises to 700 m² due to a large extension, in which new classrooms for children’s creative sections were equipped. The main building contains dressing rooms for choreographic ensembles. Children had the opportunity to comfortably practice on a special dance



TEACHER OLGA TEKUCHEVA WITH STUDENTS



EVERY YEAR,
MORE THAN



Vasily Grigorievich has been working in the cultural sector for many years. After graduating from the Altai State Institute of Culture with a degree in production director, he worked at radio stations and television channels, and for some time was deputy director for production at the Palace of Culture in Gelendzhik.

“And, although I still personally write scripts for all our events, I like to do administrative and business work, the essence of which is to create conditions for comfortable classes and rehearsals for our creative teams and guests”, continues the director of the cultural center. “The applause of a filled hall this is the highest reward for us”.

Today, about 500 children and adults study at the Kuban House of Culture. The areas are very different - from preparation for school and martial arts - to theater, choreography and vocals. “Kuban” is home to more than 30 groups - winners of numerous Grand Prix awards, laureates of regional, Russian and international competitions. The pop

CULTURAL EVENTS
ARE HELD AT THE
HOUSE OF CULTURE

dance studio “Smile” is a team of the House of Culture with the title “Exemplary”. It is planned that three more teams that have existed for five years will receive this title next year.

In the classroom of fine arts and crafts, CPC Panorama correspondents briefly distracted a group of children from the creative process.

“We work with various materials and in various techniques. We are looking for the unusual, showing the beauty of the surrounding and inner world, putting our feelings and thoughts on paper”, commented teacher Olga Tekucheva.

More than 600 cultural events are held at the House of Culture, not counting major events in the city, such as the opening of the holiday season, the celebration of the New Year and memorable military-historical dates.

«The methodological department of the cultural center is responsible for working with groups, repertoire plans, reports, planning, developing events and much more. To date, a video has been filmed and materials



have been sent for the second stage of the “CPC for Talented Children” competition.

Having made a lot of efforts to maintain and develop the House of Culture, the administration and creative teams did not forget about the improvement of the territory of the cultural center. At the end of 2022, as part of the project “Protect Nature of Our Native Land. CPC – Utrish” participants of 32 Kuban teams planted 30 apple, pear and boxwood seedlings.

Around the same time, next to the cultural center, the Dubrava eco-park was established using charitable funds from CPC: in place of a wasteland and spontaneous parking for passenger vehicles, coniferous and deciduous trees and shrubs, including oaks, pines, cypresses, junipers, etc., were planted. For a comfortable rest, comfortable benches, pedestrian paths, and small architectural forms were provided.

The park has already become a favorite of both children and adults, especially parents waiting for their children from classes at Kuban and the neighboring school. In the process is the construction of a long-awaited children’s playground, which will become an integral part of Dubrava with play elements for children and fitness equipment for teenagers.

AUTHOR
ILONA LATSUZHBA

WARMTH OF THE SOUL

TOYS CAN ALSO BE CONSIDERED WORKS OF
ART - WHEN THEY ARE CREATED BY SENIOR
ACCOUNTANT EVGENIA KRAVCHENKO



With the onset of winter, even in subtropical Novorossiysk it becomes somehow uncomfortable. There is a noticeable decline in interest in going for walks; there is an increase in stock prices for home tea parties, steam heating and everything woolly and knitted: sweaters, blankets, soft toys.

We should pay tribute to the domestic school of knitting – it is highly developed and has deep roots. In the USSR, not only the most accurate replicas of winter collections from the Quelle catalog, sofa bedspreads and TV covers, but also copies of Renaissance paintings were created using crochet and knitting. Unfortunately, not all the secrets of the craft have been preserved to this day. Online knitting courses are now

as numerous as water-color schools, but the output is rarely something truly impressive. At best, this is Henri Rousseau, but by no means Raffaello Santi.

The project “Bears” by a colleague from the Novorossiysk

office, Evgenia Kravchenko, is a pleasant exception. Already in the photo these animals are able to evoke sympathy, and in reality tactile sensations are added to this: soft and warm, almost alive. All bears are similar, but each is individual in its own way. The color scheme is chosen with due taste – both individually and as a group, knitted dolls look quite harmonious and fit perfectly into any interior.

BEARS ARE NOT THE FIRST TOYS CREATED BY EVGENIA

According to Evgenia, she has been interested in creativity and various types of needlework since childhood. She was especially interested in drawing, modeling, embroidery, macramé, mosaic and knitting. Handicrafts were a family tradition, her mother taught her a lot, and later Evgenia independently developed her knowledge from books.

A graduate of the Novorossiysk State Maritime Academy (State Maritime University named after Admiral F.F. Ushakov) with a degree in economics and management at transport enterprises, after graduation

she found a job as an accountant at CPC-R. Evgenia has been working here for 21 years.

“When I had my own family, I had considerably less free time”, admits Evgenia. “But the hobby remained. Many people may think that knitting is boring. This is wrong. Firstly, you feel inspired, it’s exciting. Secondly, it calms and develops fine motor skills. And thirdly, I wanted to create

something useful and necessary for others as part of my hobby. To knit not just for fun, but with meaning”.

Bears are not the first toys created by Evgenia. But this particular project has a special mission. Bears participate in charity auctions, where no one is left indifferent. They are actively bought there, and all proceeds from the sale go to charitable purposes – the treatment and rehabilitation of children with disabilities. This is how a hobby becomes not only art, but something more. ●



AUTHOR
DMITRY KONSTANTINOV

GROWTH PLATES

DIRECTOR OF THE THEATER AND VARIETY STUDIO “CONTRAST” ALENA OSIPENKO PARTICIPATED IN THE ORGANIZATION OF ONE OF THE FIRST CPC FOR TALENTED CHILDREN FESTIVALS IN NOVOROSIYSK. TODAY SHE TELLS WHERE THE LINE BETWEEN A COMPETITION AND A FESTIVAL IS AND LEADS HER CREATIVE TEAM TO NEW VICTORIES

Alena Igorevna, you participated in one of the first festivals CPC for Talented Children, organized in Novorossiysk.

When and how did it happen, did you manage to win?

I live in Novorossiysk and the birth of the CPC for Talented Children festival here took place before my eyes. I started working in the cultural sector in 2007, when I was 16 years old. The 2007 festival had a different format, less competitive. It was not about victories, the main thing was participation. Together with regional representatives of CPC, we gathered active creative teams and held

a big final concert at the City Theater. The management of the Consortium came to the concert, and the participants were presented with awards. I also remember other events partnered with CPC, there were many of them, for example, Road Safety in rural schools.

How did your creative career develop in the future? Can you say that the CPC for Talented Children competition had an impact on your choice of profession?

The festival did not have time to influence my choice of profession, since I was already working as a cultural organizer at the City Theater. If we

talk about the impact on my career, then two years after I started working at the Novorossiysk City Theater, I was offered to create my own team with the help, of course, of senior experienced mentors. This was in 2009, and since then my students have been constantly participating in the CPC for Talented Children competition. This is a good initiative, it's great that there are such competitions that give the participant the opportunity to receive support for their talent without investing money.

Perhaps participation in the festival does not determine a future career for everyone, but in any case

it motivates further steps along the thorny creative path. Every creative person knows that this is a path full of doubts, anxieties, and obstacles. And it is very important to have something that sometimes helps you feel important, useful, worthy. And in my opinion, the festival CPC for Talented Children best contributes to this.

Where did you study to become a teacher and can your profession be considered a continuation of family traditions?

My first education was in Pyatigorsk State Linguistic University, specialty “teacher of foreign languages and cultures”. Despite the fact that I am now a director, the knowledge gained in my first specialty turned out to be very useful in my work. I received my second education at Krasnodar University, now the Institute of Culture. It is clear that you need to study all your life — and for me this means advanced training courses, master classes and everything possible.

We have a pedagogical dynasty — my grandmother is a primary school teacher by education, she worked at school for a long time, and was the director of a kindergarten. My aunt has a pedagogical and psychological education. My mother is a teacher by first education; she also worked in a kindergarten for a long time. As a high school student, I declared that I would never

become a teacher. In the end, I didn't become a teacher, but I think that teaching is my vocation.

How do you assess the evolution of the CPC for Talented Children competition from beginning to the present day? Are there still “growth plates” open and in what direction should it develop?

The evolution of the competition can be called colossal. In my memory, at first it was quite a chamber event. Over the past 10 years, the event has acquired a competitive, actively distributed, unifying format. As far as I remember, the first competition was held simultaneously in several regions in 2016. Of course, this is a huge step, even a leap in development. The competition is becoming more complex, there are more participants, and competition is growing. There are two sides of the coin here. The competitive basis is very important. It's very cool that the festival has evolved in this direction. But, on the other hand, I believe that behind the competitive struggle we should not forget the value of the

festival, when its participants help both the city and the Consortium with their creativity and activity.

The festival undoubtedly has room to grow, since creativity, sports, education, innovative technologies — everything has recently been developing at an unimaginable pace and does not stop. Where exactly to grow? Perhaps to increase the number of participants at the expense of unreached areas. Maybe, if we take the competitive component, it will lead to fewer prizes, no matter how strange it may sound. Fewer prize places increase their value.

And if we are talking about the festival aspect, perhaps it's worth talking more about the fact that the competition is a lead-up to the festival that takes place in Moscow. While this is not entirely clear in the Regulations on the competition and its announcements. The competition is a preliminary part of the festival in Moscow. A festival is no longer a case where groups and soloists compete. The festival is when the best competitors come to Moscow to exchange experiences and look at each other.

How was the theater and variety studio «Contrast» created and how did its repertoire change? What genre is dominant today? What does it mean to be the director of such a team?

The fact that I, 18 years old, was entrusted to create a creative team from scratch at the City Theater — this sometimes happens in cultural institutions. Perhaps my pedagogical education had an effect, perhaps the management saw some special talent. In response to my objections “I don't know, I don't understand,” they promised to help.



Photo from the archives of the theater and variety studio Contrast



Photo from the archives of the theater and variety studio Contrast



Photo from the archives of the theater and variety studio Contrast



Photo from the archives of the theater and variety studio Contrast

In 2008, a modest team of three people was created who began to come to my classes. Six months later, we conducted an additional intake and there were already 10 students. We started with interactive programs. Four and a half years ago we changed our base — we moved to the Maritime Cultural Center — and at the same time we changed the name. Now we are the theater and variety studio Contrast, which, in my opinion, is more consistent with the direction, image, and creativity of the group than what was in the previous one.

The new format did not appear by chance — while developing interactive gaming programs for children, we included variety acts in them, because the show lasts up to two hours and during this time children cannot play continuously, they need to “switch.” At first we invited colleagues to such interludes, but then they decided to try it themselves. There was a girl in the team who was gifted vocally, and we began to create theatrical and choreographic sketches “for her”. Gradually we came to the idea that we could also try dancing.

Analyzing modern stage trends, it can be noted that theater today actively accepts the synthesis of genres. A typical example is the unabated popularity of the musical, a theatrical production where the actors both sing and dance. Nowadays plastic theater is actively developing, where body control and choreographic preparation are extremely important for an actor.

From my point of view as a teacher and director, the format in which “Contrast” is currently performing is the most relevant. In some places they came to this earlier than we did, in others they are just starting, but gradually vocal classes and choreography classes are being introduced in theater studios, even if not in such volumes as in ours.

The predominant genre for us is pop vocals, but in other areas we also try to maintain a balance in order to remain competitive.

Being the director of a group of 70 children of different ages is far from easy. You have to manage to devote time to each one, at the same time taking into account the psychology of theater and the harmonious combination of all our genres, so that they all follow the same idea.

Do you have any idols in the field of theatrical production? Would you like to live in Manhattan producing Broadway musicals? And in Hollywood, they would probably be happy with such an actress. Was there a moment in your life when you had to choose: leave or stay?

Favorite actresses: Alisa Freindlich and Meryl Streep. There are so many talented directors today that it is difficult to make a choice. Both here and throughout the world, we have someone to look up to.

There is always a choice to leave or stay. I’m still at the age where I can rebuild my career. I have heard more than once from my Moscow colleagues that it is possible, necessary and worthwhile. But, unfortunately,

or fortunately, I have rose-colored glasses and the belief that the region needs to be developed. I would very much like creative activity in the region not to be perceived as something trailing behind, but to be no worse than in the capital. And I would also like the influx of amateur creative groups to continue, which you can show at concerts, which you can be proud of, with which you can work, cultivating professional artists in their midst, like seeds. “Contrast” already has these. Many of the participants have grown up, entered theater universities, and I watch how their creative path develops. I hope that everyone finds themselves and realizes themselves. As it is said in one of our numbers based on Basta’s song “Sansara” — the teacher continues in his student. And I hope that my students will definitely surpass me. I’m not afraid of it, but I hope so.

Now we are observing an interesting trend: children of participants of the first festivals are beginning to appear among the contestants.

My son is six years old. This year, for the first time, he took part in the CPC for Talented Children competition in the “vocal” and “artistic word” categories.

This year, your “Contrast” became the Grand Prix winner and the 1st degree laureate at the regional stage with solo and collective performances. Is this the first victory or has the team also taken part in the competition in previous years?

My student, Polina Zubenko, won the 2017 competition. She is now in 11th grade and plans to enter a theater university next year. She went to Moscow; unfortunately, I couldn’t go because my son was born this year. There were other victories, there were special prizes, but this is the first time in such numbers as this year. We have a Grand Prix this year in the “pop vocal” category. The soloist, Miroslava Lavrus, was prepared by my colleague Victoria Shishkina.

She is my right and left hand at the same time, my assistant director. In turn, I am her assistant teacher — together we create such quality and quantity.

How do you assess the role of master classes in improving the level of training of competitors? Which master classes are more effective — online and live meetings?

I really like master classes; I think they are always useful and interesting. When you are an experienced director, it is difficult to find something radically new, but you can always extract something useful and interesting from some seemingly simple and familiar trainings, for example, an explanation of the same material in new words that are more understandable to children. Naturally, the most useful master classes are those conducted with live communication between all participants.

What is the Tavrida art cluster that you represent in the Krasnodar Krai? What is the mission of the project and your role in it?

The youth educational resort Tavrida.ART is a new point of attraction for young people in Crimea. The decision to create a youth educational resort on the basis of the Tavrida art cluster was made by the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin at the end of 2022.

For me, the Tavrida Art Cluster is a new stage in the development of everything personal, professional and creative. This is a large-scale creative project of Rosmolodezh, a summer educational program and festival at the Tavrida Art site, a year-round creative academy Meganom and many other interesting events. This is a huge team of people whom I sincerely love and respect, and with whom I have completed more than one training program.

By the way, this year, thanks to Tavrida, I won my first grant for the senior youth cast of Contrast to stage the play “Difficult Exam” based on the play by Astrakhan



Photo from the archives of the theater and variety studio Contrast

MY RECIPE FOR SUCCESS AND VICTORY IS TO WORK HARD, RAISE THE BAR HIGHER AND HIGHER AND NOT STOP AT WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED

author Gulnara Iskalieva. The play won the ALL-Russian competition “Knowledge. Theater». Let’s see how well it turns out.

If we continue the topic of professional growth, this year I was the director of regional gala concerts in Novorossiysk and the Krasnodar Krai. It was an interesting experience that required a lot of time and effort. I believe that together with the team of the regional representative of CPC we coped with the task.

You live and work in Novorossiysk. What is the city more for you — an industrial center, a tourist resort or an art venue?

As I’ve already said, Novorossiysk is the place where I would like to develop. For me, this is first and foremost an art platform, just look at the scenery here: mountains, sea, strong wind, beautiful and terrifying. I’ve been traveling a lot lately, but I’m always happy to return to Novorossiysk.

What advice would you give to new participants of the CPC for Talented

Children competition? Do you have your own recipe for victory?

I would advise not to be shy about participating, not to refuse the opportunities that such industrial giants as CPC provide us. There aren’t that many free competitions. And don’t be afraid that the competition is absentia. Yes, it is in absentia, but at the same time quite strict and fair.

Recording video is not that easy. Especially with soloists, when you know that there is no limit to perfection and you try to make each new take better and better. It actually takes a lot of time and effort, but you have to go for it. This is a useful experience and good practice for both children and teachers.

My recipe for success and victory is to work hard, raise the bar higher each time and not stop at what has been achieved. Look at your colleagues, learn from them, adopt the best experience. And, probably, this is the only way, only together and only with a lot of hard work can victory be achieved. And, of course, the teacher, first of all, must be eager in order to illuminate his students with this light. ●

WINTER-PROOF

IN WINTER, OUR HEALTH REQUIRES MUCH MORE ATTENTION. WE ASKED YOU TO SHARE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SPECIALISTS IN THE FIELD OF MEDICINE AND NUTRITION

The winter menu should be as varied as possible, with the obligatory inclusion of food sources of vegetable and / or animal protein, fruits, vegetables, and dairy products. A sharp increase in calories is not required, especially due to easily digestible carbohydrates. You should also avoid fast food at all costs. Frosty months are not the best time to go on a diet. It would be a mistake to give up a healthy diet in favor of fattier foods. You should drink enough fluid, at least 1.5–2 liters of water per day. Small meals 4–5 times a day are recommended.

In winter, it is better to dress in layers so that the air between the layers of clothing maintains warmth. Clothes that fit the body should be breathable, such as cotton. It is better to have a second layer of clothing made of wool or other heat-retaining material. The top layer is preferably made of windproof and waterproof material, considering the frequent wet and windy days in winter. It is good to have a collar and hood on outerwear, and it is advisable to use scarves to protect the neck. You need to wear warm gloves or mittens.

Shoes should be changed during the cold season — winter shoes for the street and summer shoes for the office. Shoes should always be dry inside. Feet in winter shoes sweat indoors, and when you leave the room will quickly freeze, which will lead to a cold. In addition, wearing winter shoes in the office can adversely affect indoor air quality and cause fungal diseases. Walking, even briefly, in summer shoes on cold ground or snow is likely to lead to a cold.

The headdress should be light and windproof. Ear and neck protection is important. If a headgear is not needed inside the car, then even a short walk from the car to the office without a hat can cause a cold. As, indeed, the lack of warm clothes.

In winter, the threat of acute respiratory viral infections (ARVI), including influenza and pneumococcal infection, worsens. CPC personnel were offered flu prevention using the most effective tetravalent vaccine in this epidemiological season, Ultrix-Quatri. It has been found that vaccination against influenza can reduce the incidence of other acute respiratory viral infections by 3–4 times, the average duration of one episode of acute respiratory viral infection by 3.5 times, and provide a fivefold reduction in the duration of absence from work due to acute respiratory disease. Free vaccination against pneumococcal infection is also available — to do this, you need to call the SOGAZ medical desk at +7 (800) 333-44-19.

In winter, blood pressure tends to increase, something hypertensive individuals should pay attention to.

Most of us are not moving enough. We sit most of the time — at work, at home and in transport. We need to walk more in both winter and summer. In very cold seasons and when there is a lot of gas pollution, you should limit your time outside, but not physical activity. When doing sports, you should pay attention to the ambient temperature. For example, if you visit a swimming pool, you should dry your hair thoroughly when leaving the pool outside. There are probably no recommendations for specific sports in winter. Aerobic exercise is better at any time of the year. You should be careful in very cold weather and when there is a lot of gas. For example, jogging on sidewalks along highways and on the sides of roads with heavy traffic is extremely harmful.

AUTHOR
ILONA LATUZHBA

I'M THE WALRUS

IF A NEURAL NETWORK SET OUT TO CONSTRUCT A TYPICAL IMAGE OF A CPC EMPLOYEE, IT WOULD PROBABLY TURN OUT TO BE A SCIENCE FICTION HERO. EXCELLENTLY EDUCATED, BRAVE AND SKILLFUL, WITH A TERMINATOR HANDSHAKE AND A PENCHANT FOR THE FINE ARTS, EXCEPT THAT HE CAN'T FLY. HOWEVER, HE CAN SWIM, INCLUDING AT SUBZERO TEMPERATURES. MEET ASTRAKHAN RESIDENT PETR SHIPILOV, CONTROL SYSTEMS ENGINEER



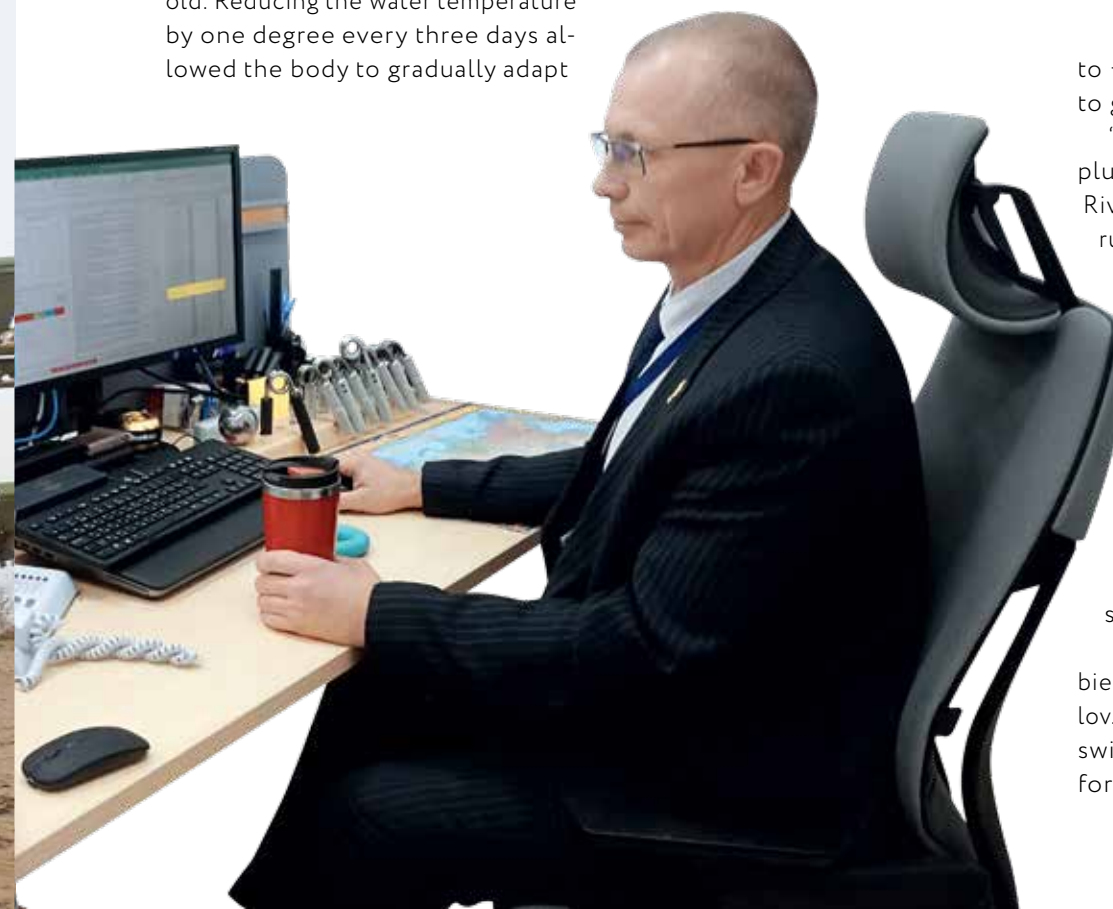
It is curious that those who practice swimming in cold and even icy water are called "walruses" only in Russia, Poland and the Netherlands. In Finland these brave people are called "seals" (hylje), in the USA they are called "polar bears". Since last year, winter swimming has been included in the register of the Russian Ministry of Sports; such training strengthens the immune system and the cardiovascular system.

"We became interested in winter swimming in 2002 together with my brother Dmitry", says Petr Shipilov. "I was studying at the university then and, oddly enough, my mother was not against it, but on the contrary, she actively supported it, giving us special literature. After studying the theoretical part, we started home training. We started with dousing with water, gradually lowering the temperature from +35°C".

Petr was born in Kazakhstan in the city of Konaev (formerly Kapchagay), Almaty region, and studied in Novosibirsk at the State Technical University with a degree in automated control systems engineer. By the time he started training, he was 26 years old. Reducing the water temperature by one degree every three days allowed the body to gradually adapt



AT THE 2012 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP IN HIGH-SPEED DESIGN OF PROCESS CONTROL SYSTEMS IN A SCADA SYSTEM, PETR SHIPILOV TOOK THIRD PLACE



to +10°C. After that it was possible to go to the winter river.

"I remember well the first time I plunged into an ice hole on the Ob River for 20 seconds", admits a "walrus" with 20 years of experience. "It had been three months since I started training, and the sensations were unforgettable".

Since then, Petr has been practicing ice-hole swimming regularly, at least twice a month. That's in winter, and in summer? In the summer, he freezes water in the refrigerator to keep the body in good shape all year round.

"There are many "artificial" hobbies, just like sports", says Petr Shipilov. "But this does not apply to winter swimming. This sport is traditional for many cultures. Take the Finns



with their avanto ritual or our Orthodox custom of swimming in an ice hole on the Epiphany holiday”.

As a person directly involved in control systems, Petr Vladimirovich well understands the importance of the interaction of related areas. In sports, by the way, as in electronics, related types can enhance the effect on the body and strengthen it. These are frostrunning or training-running according to the Kotlyakov system and spearfishing.

“If you have some training, you can run bare-chested in winter down to -30°C”, says Petr Shipilov. “Besides, the experience of winter swimming helps you dive deeper with scuba gear, like in the movie *The Last Inch*. And where Volga is deeper, the catch is more interesting. My personal record is a 12-kilogram pike, taken with a harpoon in Ilmeny.”

Petr is also involved in kettlebell lifting, practices knife and hand-to-hand combat according to the Kadochnikov system (an import-substituting version of aikido) and arm wrestling. In 2010, in Kazakhstan, at the CIS Open Arm Wrestling Championship, he took fourth place.

And two years later, he took bronze in his core activity — at the 2012 Open Championship in high-speed design of process control systems in a SCADA system. In fairly tough competition conditions among IT specialists from six countries, Petr Shipilov designed a multi-monitoring complex of an automated control system in 10 minutes 27 seconds.

Petr’s motorcycle experience is the same as his winter swimming experience — 20 years. He measures driving experience in kilometers. He spent his vacation last August driving. To Teriberka and back, two weeks, eight and a half thousand kilometers. Not everyone can do this, what’s the secret? Maybe it’s the unique perseverance of an IT specialist. Or in the hardening of the “walrus”?

“This is not a record, in 2019 I covered 15 thousand km in a month on a trip to my homeland in Kazakhstan”, admits Petr. “And yes, of course, it’s the hardening, perseverance and patience of a specialist who is always between two fires: complex equipment and its users”.



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