**The XVII interregional universal wholesale and retail fair**

**“Kursk Korennaya fair – 2017”**

The place and the time of Kursk Korennaya fair were not chosen by accident: they are closely connected to the traditional annual mass religious procession of Orthodox believers in honor of the wonderworking icon “The Virgin of the Sign” Kurskaya Korennaya.

The history of Kursk Korennaya fair originated from ancient days. The first officially attested reference related to 1708. In governmental acts of the Russian empire in 1824 Kursk Korennaya fair was mentioned among three main fairs in Russia along with Nizhny Novgorod and Irbitsk fairs where foreigners were allowed to send their goods. A great amount of merchants and craftspeople, the abundance and variety of goods, multimillion turnovers made the fair famous not only on the territory of Russian Empire, but outside. It was Korennaya fair that made Kursk famous as Southern trade gates of Russia in those distant times.

For the long history of the region Kursk Korennaya fair demonstrated a harmonious union of spiritual and economic development of a Russian man. The fair owes its existence to numerous pilgrims, coming to Korennaya Pustyn for the widely known religious procession with the icon “The Virgin of the Sign” Kurskaya Korennaya.

But Kursk Korennaya fair has known not only the glory. The twentieth century, filled with violent events, broke a habitual pass of time and the fair, previously famous was expunged from history for several decades. However, the end of the century revived many things, that were common in the country at the beginning of the century. There appeared the idea of the fair revival. The Metropolitan of Kursk and Rylsk Youvenaliy, who was managing the diocese, stood at the origins of this initiative.

The prominent son of Kursk region, a famous sculptor, a national artist of Russia, the academician V.M. Klikov – the president of the International Fund of Slavic writing and culture has dreamt for years of Kursk Korennaya fair revival. It was his performance at all-Russian scientific conference “Chernosem is the gold of Russia” in summer 2000 that gave the impulse to the practical revival of the fair.

In autumn 2001 Kursk Korennaya fair began its new life. The initiative of its revival was supported by the Governer of Kursk region A.N. Mikhailov. The exceptionally important role in the revival of the fair played the Plenipotentiary of the President of Russian Federation in the Central Federal District G.S. Poltavchenko. Accessing the significance of the project, proposed by the people of Kursk region and the opening brilliant perspectives, G.S.Poltavchenko decided to include the Korennaya fair into the calendar plan of the events of the Central Federal District.

For how long the Korennoi monastery was waiting for that day! And it has come - the fair, glorified for all Russia by a poet A.Fet and a journalist, prose writer and poet V. Gilyarovskiy, went up under the walls of the monastery.

The day of 23 of September 2001 has entered the history of Kursk land. Bounding century the present with the past Kursk Korennaya fair was opened in the place Svoboda of Zolotuhinskiy district.

 Kurskaya Pustyn hasn’t known such events for 120 years. The Metropolitan of Kursk and Rylsk Youvenaliy, reviving the tradition, held the service at the walls of the ancient monastery. The bells, ringing around, announced that in the third millennium our glorious Kursk Korennaya fair has revived and is alive again.

XVII Kursk Korennaya wholesale and retail fair will take place this year.

For the late years the geography and the quantity of Kursk Korennaya fair participants has greatly increased.

The fair becomes an official platform for multilateral business meetings and negotiations, presentations, signing of protocols, agreements and business contracts in different fields of activity, the ground for the exchange of ideas, technique information, innovation technologies, progress in sphere of science and technique. Beside the economical and historical constituents, the fair is a deeply international event, a place for spiritual interaction.

The religious procession, the bells ringing, the religious songs, a vast cultural program, including numerous creative teams native and from abroad, the craftspeople, make favorable conditions for the development of people’s talents, the atmosphere of festive and benevolence.

The Fair and the Mid-Russian Economic Forum are organized with the support of the leadership of the Central Federal district and the sector-specific federal ministries and departments of the Russian Federation.

The representatives of the diplomatic corps from the former Soviet republics and foreign countries, some international organizations and also delegations from more than 20 foreign countries and 30 regions of the Russian Federation annually take part in these events.

An extensive business program will take place in the framework of the Fair and Forum. It will include round tables on different topics, presentations of the most relevant and promising investment projects of regions of the Central Federal district, business negotiations, conclusion of agreements and cooperation agreements, business contracts in various sectors of the economy.

Enterprises and organizations will display expositions and goods in the exhibition halls, on the open exhibition and trade platforms. The main sections of the expositions of Kursk Korennaya Fair are: a variety of industries, such as mining, electro-technical, chemical and petrochemical industries, engineering, light industry, food and processing industry; transport and communications; construction and building industry; agriculture; banking and insurance; education and science; folk art and Handicrafts.

For the last five years, the Mid-Russian Economic Forum is held during the Kursk Korennaya Fair.

From year to year the Forum program includes a number of activities that raise the interest of the participants, such as an exhibition of innovative projects of young scientists, followed by the competitive selection of the most interesting and promising projects; a round table on development of small and medium scale business, held with the support of the Ministry of economic development of the Russian Federation.

This year the theme of the Mid-Russian Economic Forum is going to be "The contemporary economics in the digital space".

On the matters of participation in the Fair you can apply to the Committee of foreign economic relations development of Kursk region Administration, contacts: tell. (4712) 70-11-73, tell./fax (4712) 70-11-60, e-mail: 305002@mail.ru. On the matters of participation in the Forum you can apply to the Committee of Kursk region economy and development, contacts: tell./fax (4712) 70-25-07, e-mail: infr.econom@rkursk.ru.