

- visiting cities (for example: Moscow,



### Bulletin 3

At the moment we do not have an official response to the questions we asked last month. We do know, however, that the Organisation Committee is dealing with our issues raised (see Bulletin 2) and that the listed participants should receive an invitation within the next 2 weeks. We can also provide information on what to do when the invitation arrives and give you some more information about Russia and Yakutia.

Finally, a number of members have asked about Leo Tadagawa and whether he has been affected by the earthquake and its aftermath, so we were very pleased to get a note from him and publish it in full.

### VISA SUPPORT

(info from Elena Pavlova)

For Austria, Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary and France, Elena Pavlova from the Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) will send Invitation letters to the Consulate of the Russian Federation in your country for visa issuance and to you personally.

For the other countries (United States of America, Canada, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom, India), send the same information (see below) also to Elena Pavlova. The only difference is that visa support will be done through the Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Russian Federation (not by Yakutia).

### Following information is needed for visa issuance:

- copy of passport
- place of employment, position, address; for students: University/College name
- citizenship/state of residence
- place of visa issue (country, city with Consulate/Embassy of the Russian Federation)

- children under 16 years with the invited person and written in his (her) passport (name and year of birth)

Send this information and copy of passport to [elm.pavlova@gmail.com](mailto:elm.pavlova@gmail.com)

Elena Pavlova  
Department of International Cooperation  
Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia)  
Tel: +7 4112 34 39 34

### Important:

All applicants need to provide an insurance policy for the whole period of stay in Russia while applying for a visa.

### Deadlines:

(info by [franz.kumpl@aon.at](mailto:franz.kumpl@aon.at))

1. You receive the Invitation letter from the Vice-President of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia). Fine, if you have it within April.
2. Transmit above mentioned information as soon as possible to Elena Pavlova from the Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia). Attention: define the period of your stay, depending if you want to stay for some days before and/or after Yakutia in Moscow or somewhere else in Russia, or if you want to take part in the 7<sup>th</sup> IJHF only, which would be the period 19-28 June (to be on the safe side with possible flight delays and airport-changes).
3. You receive from the Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Sakha Republic (or from the Russian Federation) a copy of the official invitation for obtaining the visa. Fine, if you have it until beginning of May.
4. Get a medical insurance for the whole period you intend to stay in Russia. Keep the confirmation of payment for medical insurance,

because you need to give it to the officer at the Russian Consulate when applying for the visa! Therefore it is advisable to pay in cash and not via Internet, so that you will have a paper receipt.

5. Get the cheapest flight available from your hometown to Moscow and back, depending on the period you want to stay in Russia. With a little risk in case you will not get the invitation, you may obtain a cheap ticket already right now.
6. Apply for the visa until 16 May (to be on the safe side). It takes the Russian Consulate usually about two weeks. They do it also faster, but it will cost you much more money. You can go with all necessary documents (valid passport, filled in visa application form, passport photo, medical insurance, official invitation letter) to your Russian Consulate and hand over the documents personally, or you have the bureaucratic procedure done by a touristic agency (they take some money for this service, but you save on your nerves and time).

Keep in mind: Russia still is a bit unpredictable and quite often especially the bureaucratic procedures tend to last until the very last days and sometimes even hours. Don't lose your nerves – in most cases it works in the last moment 😊

### **Recommended do's and don'ts in Russia and Yakutia**

Advice from Franz.

#### **Formalities and security:**

- Get yourself registered within the first three days of stay in a city. The hotel does it automatically when they take your passport for registration at the hotel check-in desk. If you are travelling in the country and staying at private places, you may not be able to get registered. In case you are asked by police or any official, tell them that you never stayed more than three days in one place. Keep moving!
- Make one or better two copies of your passport and visa when still at home. Carry only the copies with you and leave your passport somewhere at a safe place.
- Don't carry big amounts of money with you. Russia is pretty safe, but some places are not, e.g. beware of pickpockets in the subway in Moscow and of dark courtyards and streets at night in the suburbs of a city.

### **Open letter from Leo Tadagawa**

Dear friends,

Thank you for worrying. Though I might be one of those who were near the earthquake and tsunami among the IJHS members, I am still rather far (some 300 km) from the center of the disasters. So my family and I are OK. But there in the north-eastern

part of Honshu (main island of Japan), 10 thousands have died, and about 17 thousands are still missing. So many people lost their house, family and everything, and they are still living in shelters (like schools and other public buildings) under coldness and darkness.

I think you all know most dreadful part of this disaster watching TV – so I just try to write what happened to me.

When it started, I was at a professor-linguist's office in Tokyo where I work. (At least for my case, the Jew's harp doesn't give me enough money for everyday life, I have many jobs.) It was about quarter to three afternoon. What a shock!!! In spite of extraordinary tremor, damage was not that big – just some books, tapes and boxes falling on the floor from the shelves and desks. I tried to call my home up, but the telephone service had stopped. Mobile phone also didn't work, only public phones, but nowadays it is difficult to find one because people are normally using mobile phones. Needless to say, people make a long line for them when they find them. The Mobile SMS service recovered only late at night. (But you should know the charged battery doesn't last long. These days we are carrying power cable along with the mobile phones.) Fortunately, in Tokyo, electricity didn't stop – which meant I could use internet. So, the first people who contacted me were Jew's harp friends from abroad.

All the metros and electric trains stopped operations that night, so I spent a night at the office. On the radio, there was news about the people going back home by walking. My home is about 30 km, just 6-7 hours on foot, which is "possible", but I preferred to stay as it was recommended. In some parts on the road, there were blackouts, and some walls of the buildings and fences could possibly have been brought down by aftershocks. I decided to go out to eat, and fortunately I could. I noticed that in the shops and convenience stores all the sandwiches, breads, rice balls had disappeared.

Next noon, I went back home by train, which was 300 percent full (200 is just normal, but 300 is something else). My wife told me that they had no electricity until midnight at home. (You should know where your electric torch is!) I watched TV, and saw the water and fire – finally I became aware that something horrible had happened. Then the radiation problem started to be known.

The earthquake and tsunami are natural disasters. We cannot avoid them. Though we have strong

aftershocks every day, it is possible to say that it is passing – the worst part has finished. BUT, as for the problems of the nuclear stations, it is the man-made calamity. We could simply avoid them. We shouldn't have something that we couldn't control properly. We must stop using nuclear stations, and we must stop making them anymore if we want to survive and to make our children live normally.

Now in some parts of Tokyo, it is prohibited to give tap water to baby, because of radioactive contamination. Milk, vegetables from the district is prohibited to be distributed in the market. But how could we escape from this earth?

Speaking about escaping, we had a lack of gas (petrol). Deliveries didn't come to our gas stations for a long time. When it came, there was a long queue of cars. The stations opened in the morning and closed before noon. Yesterday, after two weeks waiting, we were able to get gas (which has become very expensive).

Also we have "planned" blackouts nearly every day, usually on weekdays. About three hours a day, the electricity is stopping. It is ok if it's in daytime, but when it is in the evening, the coldness (we are having a very cold spring this year) and darkness make us all uneasy. Anyway, our everyday life is recovering, with some difficulties.

It is said that an earthquake as strong as this time happens only once a millennium. It might be possible to say that we are safe for next thousand years, but note that, in other words, it will happen again.

I hope to see you everybody in Yakutsk very soon.

### Other News

#### Journal of the International Jew's harp Society 5

We are still hoping to have Journal 5 ready for June. The Guest Editor, John Wright, has been sent the work Fred Crane has been doing on his catalogue and is helping him to make the next section ready for publication. We would like to thank Lois Crane for the support she has given in providing the material from which John can compile this part of the catalogue.

### PROGRAM

#### For implementation of main events

#### VII International Congress-Festival

#### "Khomus (trump) in the cultural dimensions of the world"

#### (further VII. IJHF)

23-26 June 2011 Yakutsk

#### 22.06. Wednesday

##### Day of arrival and accommodation

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 15:00 | Opening of exhibition "Jew's Harps of the Peoples of the World" |
| 16:00 | Departure for Namskiy, Khangalasskiy Ulus                       |

#### 23.06. Thursday

##### 1<sup>st</sup> day of VII. IJHF

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 09:00-09:45 | Festive opening of VII. IJHF with participation of President and Government members of Republic of Sakha-Yakutia |
| 10:00-12:45 | Plenum session of Congress   |
| 14:00-17:45 | Congress: working groups.<br>Master classes of Jew's Harp-players and pedagogues                                 |
| 16:00-17:45 | Competition of International Jew's Harp Smiths<br>Auction of jew's harps from renown masters                     |
| 19:00       | Grande Concert "Resounds Khomus of Oeloenkho".<br>Competition of International Jew's Harp Virtuosos              |

#### 24.06. Friday

##### 2<sup>nd</sup> day of VII. IJHF

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 09:00-12:45 | Continuation of Congress-workshops  |
| 14:00-17:45 | Final meeting of the Congress with resume   |
| 19:00       | Festive closure of VII. IJHF<br>Honoring the winners in competitions<br>Gala-concert "Khomus gathers friends" |

#### 25.06. Saturday

##### 3<sup>rd</sup> finalizing day of VII. IJHF, in Yakutsk

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|-------------|---|
| 09:00-17:45 | Participation in the national solstice festival "Ysyekh"        |
| 12:00-13:15 | Opening Ceremony with participation of delegates from VII. IJHF |
| 14:00-16:00 | Competition "Khomus Kuo" (young female players)                 |
|             | Departure of participants for Vilyuisk                          |

#### 26.06. Sunday

##### 4<sup>th</sup> day, Vilyuiskiy Ulus

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 09:00-11:15 | Opening of Ulus "House of Masters".<br>Opening of studio Kylaan Uus.<br>Opening of the exhibition "Fates, linked by Komus" |
| 11:30       | Ysyekh-festival of the Khomus (trump) of the peoples of the world  |
| 15:00       | Gala-concert of the Jew's Harp Players of the world.   |
| 18:00       | departure for Yakutsk<br>Departure of the participants   |