

December
2006

News from the Embassy of Iceland in London

United Kingdom - Greece - Ireland - Lebanon - Netherlands - Malta - Nigeria

Lord Mayor's Luncheon

The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor of London, Alderman John Stuttard, recently invited the major Icelandic investors in the United Kingdom and Ambassador Gunnlaugsson to a luncheon at Mansion House. This invitation was in recognition of the considerable investments Icelandic investors have brought to the United Kingdom in the past five years.

British Icelandic Chamber of Commerce

The Annual General Meeting of the British Icelandic Chamber of Commerce (BICC) has been held at the Embassy of Iceland. A report on its activities throughout the year was given followed by a presentation by Mr Svanbjörn Thoroddsen from Straumur-Burðarás, as to the investment bank's activities. The members of the Executive Committee were re-elected, Mr Stephen Brown for the South Chapter, Mr Mark Warburton for the North Chapter, Mr Brynjólfur Helgason for the Icelandic Chapter and Mr John Quitter as Chairman of the BICC.

Nýsir Group to build schools in Aberdeen

Icelandic company Nýsir has recently won a contract with the city of Aberdeen in Scotland to build 9 new schools and to renovate a sports hall and another school. All buildings will be designed by Icelandic architects and Landsbanki Íslands is the main financier of the project. Nýsir Group specializes in originating, structuring, arranging and managing private finance initiative (PFI) and public-private partnership (PPP) projects, as well as providing facilities management and support services.

Transparency International

According to the yearly survey conducted by Transparency International; Iceland, Finland and New Zealand have the least corrupt government administrations among the 163 countries that are on the institute's list.

Democracy Index

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) ranks Iceland second on its democracy index. Sweden comes top with 9.88 points out of 10, followed by Iceland with 9.71. The democracy index uses various indicators to establish each country's rank. Iceland is awarded 10 points on free elections, political culture, and civil liberties.

Iceland's Candidature to the Security Council

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs has now launched a website containing information and the latest news regarding the candidature of Iceland to the Security Council for the term 2009-2010. The website is: www.iceland.org/securitycouncil

Seed Forum International

Two Icelandic companies; Gavia, a developer of novel underwater technologies and CargoQuota, a designer of a web based software for freight quoting, participated in this autumn's Seed Forum International in London. A representative of the Embassy attended the forum.

Garðar Thor Cortes on tour in the U.K.

Garðar Thor Cortes is currently touring the United Kingdom with British soprano Katherine Jenkins. For further information regarding dates and locations please visit: www.katherinejenkins.com. Garðar Thor will take part in all her scheduled concerts on this tour.

Peer Gynt at the Barbican Centre

The Icelandic National Theatre's production of Ibsen's Peer Gynt has been invited to stage ten performances at the Barbican from 28th February – 10th March 2007. The play is directed by Baltasar Kormákur, and features actors from the recent Vesturport productions of Romeo & Juliet and Woyzeck in the United Kingdom. Tickets can be purchased at www.barbican.org.uk

Christmas Church Service

On Boxing Day, 26th December a Christmas church service will be held in the German Church, starting at 3pm. The Icelandic Festive Choir will sing and Rev. Sigurður Arnarson will conduct the service.

The novel Skugga-Baldur in Dutch

Skugga-Baldur, a novel by Sjón, has now been translated into Dutch and published by De Greus publishing House under the name "Blauwvos". The translation was done by Marcel Otten. In 2006 Sjón was awarded the Nordic Literature Prize for this work.

The Embassy and staff wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!