U.S. - Slovenia Business Bridge

On April 7, US-Slovenia Business Bridge, a three day conference on opportunities for U.S. investors, opened in Ljubljana.

Opening the two-day business conference, Minister of Development and European Affairs, Mitja Gaspari, said Slovenia needed to be more operative and ready for change—not only talking what should be done, but actually taking action.

Slovenia lies at the heart of Europe, but should use its position better and should give more attention to training businessmen, stressed Matej Potokar, the head of Microsoft Slovenia and Microsoft Business Solutions Central and Eastern Europe.

The Head of the American Chamber of Commerce in Slovenia (AmCham), Tomaž Lovše -- one of the organizers, along with the U.S. Embassy and the Public Agency for Entrepreneurship and Foreign Investments (JAPTI) -- expects Slovenia to become one of ten most developed countries in Europe.

Conference will focus on opportunities for U.S. investors who will have a chance to interact with high-level Slovenian Government Officials; including Slovenian Prime Minister; and network with Slovenian firms of interest.

You can obtain detailed program of the conference at: http://www.amcham.si/BusinessBridge/agenda.htm
Where Creativity and Great Science Meet

In July of 2012 Dublin will host the EuroScience Open Forum 2012. The EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) is an interdisciplinary event held every two years in a major European city.

The event will bring together over 5,000 scientists, business leaders, government officials, policy-makers and international scientific media representatives to discuss the best of European science and to address all of the current major global scientific challenges, including energy, climate change, food and health. Renowned for its friendliness and the richness of its social and cultural life, Dublin will deliver an intellectually, culturally and socially invigorating program for delegates.

The call for scientific session proposals is now open. To submit a proposal please follow the link to www.dublinscience2012.ie/calls, where you will find the call document with instructions on how to make a submission. The deadline is June 30, 2011.

Should you require any additional information please visit: www.dublinscience2012.ie

Taste of Slovenia: A Real Food Tour

Taste of Slovenia: A Real Food Tour, hosted by Sylvia P. Onušič, PhD, and Miha Rott, of Unique Slovenia. June 5-12, 8 days, 7 nights. Including the Adriatic Coast, Goriška Brda, Karst, Vipava valley, Julian Alps, Lakes Bled and Bohinj, Velika Planina, Kamnik, Cerknica, Kočevje, Ljubljana, Piran, Štanjel, Lipica, The castle of Bled, Predjama, and Snežnik.

Participants will visit Istrian vineyards, alpine dairy farms, mountain pastures, cheese makers farmers markets, olive groves, biodynamic and alpine apiaries, sea-salt pans, sea-bass farm, and smoked-meet producers; learn about traditional methods of production; and participate in tastings of traditional products.

For detailed information see: http://www.unique-slovenia.si/si/strani/432/taste-of-slovenia-tour-2011/ or: http://foodtourslovenia.wordpress.com

Velika Planina.
Dear readers: in previous Newsletters, we invited you to send us short (not more than 350 words) reminiscences about how you experienced, wherever you were, the Slovenian declaration of independence and the process of gaining Slovenian statehood.

We still encourage you to send us your contributions to: vwa@gov.si, with the subject title My experience of Slovenian independence.

In this Embassy Newsletter Edition you are invited to read personal story of experience of Slovenian Independence by Dimitri Bevc.

I came from Slovenia to California as a one year old, but was raised speaking the language and learning the stories of the homeland. I guess Slovenian blood runs deep and strong, because in California, I gravitated towards traditional Slovenian sports of mountain climbing and skiing, so during my youth, climbing in places like Yosemite and Peru, I met Slovenian climbers, who were always surprised to meet an American that could break into their native language.

During the years, I hosted many on their way to Yosemite at my pad in Berkeley, and, in 1991, my now long-time buddy Dani, from Slovenska Bistrica, was returning from the Himalayas, and spent several months with me and my girlfriend Mary (now my wife) at our condominium in the Bay Area. Dani and I had been climbing in Joshua Tree, Tahoe, and Yosemite, and Dani, Mary and I had many political discussions about the changes in Yugoslavia, and how there was going to be a referendum and changes, and how the U.S.A. and the international community might react. Then one morning, I remember seeing the news on CNN that Slovenia had declared independence. We were all stunned, and I remember sitting in our living room with Dani, as we watched footage of tanks rolling down the streets that Dani knew so well. Dani called home, and his mom told him that his brother-in-law Marjan (another long-time climbing buddy from Slovenska Bistrica, whom I met in Yosemite in 1983) had been called up for duty in the national guard. Because of the disruption, Dani ended up staying longer than planned with us in California. He had left Yugoslavia to climb in the Himalayas, and ended up returning to Slovenia. While he was here, Dani marched with the Slovenian flag in Union Square in San Francisco and witnessed as my dad, during the first days of the existence of the Slovenian Republic, long before Slovenia was recognized as an independent state by the USA, arranged for the mayor of San Francisco to fly the Slovenian flag over City Hall.

Dimitri Bevc
EU Open House 2011 – Volunteers Needed

On May 7, 2011, embassies of Member States of the EU and the EU Delegation in the United States in Washington, D.C. will celebrate Europe Day by organizing the fifth annual EU Open House day.

Embassies of 27 countries and the EU Delegation will open their doors, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. showcasing their art, culture, and food, and introducing the European Union to the public.

Last year, more than 1500 people visited the Slovenian Embassy, and this year even more people are expected.

We would like to offer you the opportunity to join our team for a day.

Below you can see some photos from last year’s EU Open House.

This year we are planning to prepare special activities suited for you and your children. We will have kids corner, offer Slovenian wine and food tastings, introduce Slovenian tourist programs, and ask our Ambassador to greet guests.

If you would like to volunteer at the Slovenian Embassy, please send an e-mail to: neja.brglez@gov.si

Deadline: April 15, 2011.
The National Assembly of Slovenia has called a legislative referendum on Mini Jobs Act that will take place on April 10, 2011, from 9 am till 5 pm.

Slovenian Citizens with registered permanent residence in the U.S. can vote in person at the representations of Slovenia in Washington, D.C., Cleveland, and New York or by mail, but only if they have registered at the National Voting Commission by March 26, 2011.

More information can be found at the National Voting Commission web page www.dvk.gov.si.

The European Commission and the U.S. Government agreed within the framework of the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC), on a set of ten fundamental principles for trade in information and communication technology (ICT) services, such as transparency, openness and nondiscrimination.

These principles, which both the EU and the United States will seek to incorporate in their trade agreements with other countries, will help to ensure that trade rules are used as an effective tool to open up ICT markets worldwide to the benefit of all businesses and consumers.

The U.S. and the EU are the biggest and most developed economies in the world, and the trade in goods and services, and investments in comparable to none. The transatlantic economy generates close to $5 trillion and employs up to 15 million workers it represents more than half of the world GDP, and the TEC is the central political platform for EU-US cooperation on regulatory and economic strategy issues. Its main objectives are to further transatlantic regulatory convergence, thus helping to prevent barriers to trade and investment, in particular in key emerging sectors. It is also meant to facilitate coordinated approaches to other markets.

More info: http://eurunion.org/emailcampaigns/lt.php
LIST OF EVENTS

List To Do

1. Maja Osojnik and her band
With styles ranging from classical and early folk to chanson, punk, noise, jazz, and experimental music, Maja Osojnik and her Band have given European audiences dynamic and dramaturgically elaborate live performances. Now New York audiences will be given a chance to experience her definition-defying original music when Maja Osojnik and her Band for the final installment of the World Music Concert Series at the Austrian Cultural Forum.
When: April 14, 2011, 7:30 pm
Where: Austrian Cultural Forum NY, 11 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022

2. Slovenia in US
Photographer and film producer Alenka Slavinec’s exhibition SLOVENIA IN US is a story of love, peace and courage, the main characters of which are world the renowned Lipizzaner horses, who are deeply interlinked with Slovenian identity and cultural heritage. Each of the 20 exhibited photos represents one year of Slovenian existence as an independent country, from its declaration of independence in 1991 to the present.
When: Ongoing - June 10, 2011
Where: Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California St., NW, Washington, DC 20008
More info: (202) 386-6601

3. Welcome Home 2011
For the 20th Anniversary of Slovenia’s Independence, various events will take place both in Slovenia and around the world. One of the biggest events will be the WELCOME HOME event, a Slovenian get-together, which will be held in Ljubljana.
When: July 1, 2011
Where: Ljubljana, Slovenia
More info: www.slovenia.info/homecoming.