Slovenia Hosted Fifth Strategic Forum Bled

Bled, Slovenia, once again hosted Strategic Forum Bled (SFB), organized by Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Centre for European Perspective.

Participants discussed challenges of the world in a next decade and participated in debates dealing with efficient world leadership in the future, the role of the European Union in a multipolar world, energy policy issues, and the role of innovation in times of crisis, to name just few topics.

On August 29 and 30, 2010, the fifth SFB hosted about 400 guests from 40 countries around the world, among them many topnotch international policy-makers, private sector managers and other experts, including former U.S. Secretary of State, Collin Powell; Belgian Prime Minister, Yves Leterme; Canadian Minister of National Defense, Peter Gordon; Arab League Secretary General, Amr Moussa; European Commissioner for the Environment, Janez Potočnik, and others.

Powell, in his speech, highlighted the role of the EU, United States, and China in a multi-polar international society, while stressing the role of values such as protection of human rights, democracy, and economic development, as the basis for achieving the driving force of the future - creation of wealth for all mankind, while ensuring creation of jobs needed to achieve human dignity.
Bled Among the Most Beautiful Lakes

One of the most popular international TV channels, CNN, recently published a list of ten most beautiful lakes worldwide.

Each of these lakes exhibits a superlative characteristic – the highest, the deepest, the clearest - and all showcase nature at its most spectacular. CNN’s list ranks as the most beautiful lakes in the world the sapphire-blue Crater Lake, the deepest lake in the United States; the brilliant turquoise Peyto Lake in Canada; the volcanic Lake Atitlán in Guatemala; Scotland’s Loch Lomond with its medieval castle; the largest lake in Italy, Lake Garda; the alpine Lake Annecy in France; the blue-green Plitvice Lakes in Croatia; Lake Nakuru in Kenya, famous for its flamingos; Lake Matheson in New Zealand, also known as Mirror Lake; and Lake Bled in Slovenia.

Lake Bled (Blejsko jezero) is a glacial lake in the Julian Alps, located in the northwestern part of Slovenia, known as the Gorenjska region, only 35 miles distant from the Slovenian capital city, Ljubljana.

What is more, CNN also published a short item about this beautiful Slovenian lake: “Why not get to the good stuff right away? To take in this Slovenian lake’s most breathtaking vista, head immediately to Bled Castle, at the edge of a sheer, 460-foot-high cliff. You’ll see mountains in every direction -- the Julian Alps and the Karavanke range -- and below, the Alpine lake and its main attraction, Bled Island, a tiny forested circle that’s home to the 17th-century Church of the Assumption and its prominent baroque clock tower. Down on the lake’s shore, board a pletna boat (similar to a gondola) to the island. Be sure to ring the church bell and make a wish before returning to the mainland. Mountains shield the water from icy northern winds, so Lake Bled is warm, relatively speaking (79 degrees Fahrenheit). If that’s still too chilly, head to the lake’s northern section, where three hotels have built pools around natural thermal springs.”

Despite its small size, Slovenia has one of the most beautiful lakes in the world!

School Started

Fall is knocking on the door and Slovenian students are returning to school.

On September 1, in Slovenia, approximately 160,000 pupils and 86,000 high school students started the new school year.

All over the country, police officers have been placed on main roads near schools to secure especially the youngest part of the population from traffic risks, and to maintain traffic order.

To increase the visibility of the youngest ones, an insurance company has provided obligatory yellow kerchiefs for first and second graders.
The coming school year has also brought some fresh air into our embassy.

As our citizens in the United States and lovers of Slovenian culture have been used to in the past, in the year 2010/11 we are planning to hold various cultural events, among them is the Embassy of Slovenia currently hosting an exhibition of paintings by Joseph Vodlan, which will remain open through November 1. Later on, we will open an exhibition about the 10th Mountain Division of the Slovenian Armed Forces.

As usually, on our Cultural Day, honoring our greatest poet, France Prešeren we will celebrate Slovenian poetry with Embassy’s Book readings and a new photography exhibition.

It wouldn’t be fun to disclose everything at once, so we are keeping some details to ourselves; but just to let you know, the Embassy of Slovenia wishes everybody a successful school year, and we would enjoy having you participate in our events also in the upcoming year.

Basketball World: Slovenia Earned Four Wins

On Thursday, September 2, Slovenia wrapped up the group phase at the World Basketball Championship in Istanbul by cruising past Iran 65-60 (19-6, 28-23, 52-34). This was Slovenia’s fourth win in five games, the only loss coming at the hands of the United States. Slovenian team also won against Tunisia, Croatia, and Brazil.

Having secured the second spot in Group B, the team will play against Australia in the knock-out phase on Sunday, September 5, 2010 at 11:00 am (ET).

Broadcasting rights for America have been obtained by ESPN Sports Channel.

Slovenia: Australia will be on:
Sunday, September 5, 2010 at 11:00 am (ET) on ESPN 2
It’s Summer, let’s go to Rogaška Slatina!

Slovenia is a never ending story…

Just 71 miles from the capital city of Ljubljana, in the beautiful eastern part of the country, is located Rogaška Slatina, a town famous for its curative mineral water, crystal glassware, and wine.

Rogaška Slatina, surrounded by a wonderful picturesque landscape, intertwined with “wine roads,” is a synonym for health-resort tourism in Slovenia.

As legend would have it, the strike of the winged horse Pegasus’s hooves made mineral water with healing powers spring from the heart of the earth.

For centuries, the curative mineral water, rich in magnesium (branded as Donat Mg), has attracted visitors to the area.

Rogaška Donat Mg is a healing water with an excellent reputation and a unique magnesium content of more than 1 g per litre. This magnesium is readily absorbed by the body because it is present in the water in a dissolved form. This healing water from the city of Rogaška Slatina (Slovenia) has a unique taste due to its high mineral contents.

Inscriptions from as early as Roman times, referring to the spa waters, have been found in Rogaška Slatina. In the early 19th century, the popularity of the spa rose.

The spa rapidly developed into the most important resort of the southern part of the Habsburg Empire, and water from “Rogaška” has become the third most popular mineral water in the world.

What is more, from the 17th century onward, Rogaška Slatina’s furnaces have been creating true masterpieces made of glass.

The year 1665 is when Rogaška was first documented as having an organized and active glass manufacturing industry.

Today, Rogaška apart being famous because of the Glassware and Donat Mg, a lot of tourists come there to visit Rogaška Spa Resort.

In case you are planning to go there, we wish you a pleasant stay!
Our To Do/ To see list:

1. Jože Vodlan’s Exhibition at the Embassy of Slovenia

Jože Vodlan, born in Klenovo, Slovenia, in 1938, is one of Slovenia’s most prolific modern day artists. Vodlan’s work expresses strong dynamics in composition and color where his artistic development “from impressionism and expressionism, through cubism, surrealism, and abstract art confirms the truth that the aim of art is the search of the unknown.”

**Vodlan’s show will be on view at the Embassy through October 28, 2010**

2. Isola Cinema Film Festival

Between September 8 - 12, 2010 the coastal town Izola will breathe with the “Kino Otok - Isola Cinema” film festival. Several workshops and a concert will be held in Izola as part of the festival along with children’s programe.

More about program you can read on: www.isolacinema.org/en/


On September 24th 2010 the Consulate of Slovenia in New York in partnership with the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce and the Slovenian Chamber of Industry and Commerce will hold a strategic business forum titled Investing in Green. The forum will take place in New York, at the 3 West Club.

For more information, please visit www.investing-green.org or contact: info@investing-green.org or call at: 212-370-3006 (Clara Drew).