

# «Video Bridge» to Europe

**The presentation of a modern video conference room, constructed on the money the university was granted with within the framework of the European project “Tempus”, was held in MarSTU on Friday 20, 2008.**

In the presence of guests – the representatives of the republic leadership, well-known enterprises and organizations – MarSTU held the first videoconference with their colleagues from the University of Padova (Italy).

In on-line mode Italians presented the participants of the conference their university Agripolis – agricultural complex, where university scientists and students together with production workers test new agro technologies.

The opportunity to get to a different country, to communicate with foreign colleagues, “walk around” the buildings and laboratories of a famous University – is really of great value! That was acknowledged by everyone present at the videoconference, which now gives MarSTU a chance to connect any part of Europe, and the whole world.

Let me remind you that “Tempus” project is a part of European Community activity, aimed at creation of favorable conditions for development of economic, scientific, educational and cultural ties between EC countries and post USSR states.

Opening of the videoconference room has become another stage of the project “Training, Networking and Capacity Building for Sustainable Forest Management in Povolgie” supported by “Tempus”, in which MarSTU is being a coordinator, and the person in charge is professor Eldar Kurbanov.

From now on, the students and staff members of the biggest in the Republic technical University will be able to communicate with foreign colleagues via duplex image and sound channels on the Internet. The first videoconferences will be devoted to training-seminars, held within the “Tempus” project for forestry workers of Povolgie with participation of foreign consortium members – University of Helsinki (Finland), University of Padova (Italy), Woodscape consulting company (Denmark), University of Thessaloniki (Greece), Dresden University of Technology (Germany) and BOKU University (Austria).

Videoconference is a technology which helps people, living hundreds and thousands kilometers from each other, communicate naturally as if they were present at the ordinary meeting. As a result, not only time and money, spent on flights and movements, can be saved, but it can improve work efficiency by far.

Not without reason, videoconferences lay claim to leading role of means for business communication in governmental circles as well as in medicine and education.

Created in MarSTU videoconference room will give the chance to hold seminars and presentations in online mode. Besides, people present can connect to big international and all-Russian conferences, organize broadcasting on the web, and realize remote defence of a thesis. One more undoubted “plus” is the opportunity to hold meetings within the university complex of a distributed type, of which MarSTU is, as a part of its structural subdivisions is located beyond Mari El borders, in other Russian regions.

**S.G. Shalagin**