

position, she will have to work twice as hard as men to stay on top. The existence of glass ceiling is harmful for the national economy because it prevents qualified people from fully realizing their potential.

The key reason for glass ceiling to exist is a biased belief that men can handle top positions better than women. Consequently, women are often employed for jobs with short career ladders with few if any possibilities for advancement.

Some other factors can be cited to explain the phenomenon of glass ceiling. For one thing, women tend to choose less stressful jobs that will allow them to spend more time with their family. Secondly, women are not so pushy as men in pursuing their goals. They are less likely to directly ask their superiors for promotion or a raise in pay. And last but not least, women have other priorities. Positive interaction with colleagues and job satisfaction are as important for them as a high salary.

The problems of glass ceiling exist in almost every country of the world. Empirical evidence shows that women are consistently under-represented and undervalued at the highest levels of large corporations as well as in smaller companies. According to statistical data, even though women constitute more than half of the national workforce, they occupy mainly low-paid clerical jobs. For instance, 97 percent of the senior managers of the Fortune 500 corporations are male, while the ratio between women and men in low-paid positions is almost the same.

Certain professions remain 'unavailable' for women. In the USA the majority of television staff are men, while women and minorities represent just a small percentage of TV workers. Not a single Academy award has ever been given to a woman director.

Although gender or race discrimination is prohibited by law, glass ceiling continues to exist in a variety of companies and breaking it requires a tremendous effort. To get promoted, a woman has to prove that she deserves a top-level position. Therefore, she should work better than her male competitors and should be able to demonstrate it. Some of the steps to be undertaken include networking (e.g., inviting a boss to a cup of coffee), developing leadership skills, speaking in public, acting in a pushy and persistent way. It is crucial to win support and recognition throughout the company. However, if a woman feels that the existing glass ceiling barriers cannot be overcome, she needs to move to another company providing equal opportunities for everyone.

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ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESOURCES **АЛЬТЕРНАТИВНЫЕ ИСТОЧНИКИ ЭНЕРГИИ**

В работе анализируются существующие виды нетрадиционных источников энергии, раскрываются их положительные и отрицательные

стороны; дается прогноз развития альтернативной энергетики в Республике Беларусь.

It is needless to say that we are leaving in the situation, that can be simply called — energy crisis. Today it is clear, that traditional energy resources, such as oil, gas, coal and peat, are coming to an end, and that we should try to discover new, alternative sources of energy.

These alternative resources are very often referred to as '**green energy resources**'. 'Green energy' is a term used by some environmentalists to describe what they deem to be environmentally friendly sources of power and energy. Green energy must be renewable and non-polluting. Green energy includes natural energetic processes which can be harnessed with little pollution. **Geothermal power, wind power, hydropower, solar power** fall under this category, which sometimes also includes **power derived from the incineration of waste**.

Somewhat controversial is **nuclear energy**, which is considered to belong to green energy. It is possibly sustainable, arguably renewable and produces virtually no atmospheric pollution during the energy production stage. However nuclear waste is a pollutant, as well as carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

The focus is further made on such kinds of energy as wind and solar energy, hydropower and energy from waste.

Wind energy is energy derived from wind power. Wind rotates the turbine, then the energy of the rotation is turned into the electric energy. Wind electric systems are simple, non-polluting, they are among the most financially efficient renewable energy systems available nowadays. This kind of energy is widely spread in Western Europe, especially in Denmark (the leader of wind energy production), Germany and Netherlands. Great sums of money were invested in the development of wind energy stations in our republic, but unfortunately with no result. The main problem was in the fact that average wind power in our country is not strong enough.

Solar energy is viewed as the clean and renewable source of energy for the future. Solar energy can be derived directly from the Sun as in the following example: sunlight hits the dark surface of a solar thermal collector and the surface warms. Heat energy is carried away by a fluid circuit. This kind of energy is widely used in the countries of equatorial and subtropical zones. Unfortunately our country doesn't have the right climate conditions to build solar power station.

Hydropower is energy obtained from flowing water. Hydroelectric power now supplies about 19% of world electricity. Today there are 70 working hydropower stations in Belarus, mostly on the rivers Neman and Western Dvina.

Waste disposal is a global environmental problem. **Energy recovery from waste** provides a double environmental benefit — firstly, the diversion of waste from landfills and, secondly, the recovery of energy, displacing fossil fuel alternatives and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Especially effective in Belarus is deriving energy from waste of the timber industry, one of the leading branches of Belarusian industry. The first power station of this kind is going to be built in 2008.

In conclusion it is worth emphasizing that of the variety of green energy resources, only two are available in Belarus, i.e. hydropower and energy derived from waste. Today the leaders of the country suppose that within next 5 years 25 % of all energy in the energetic balance of our country should be derived from the green energy resources which might lead the country to more economic independence.

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THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN CZECH REPUBLIC AND REPUBLIC OF BELARUS ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОЕ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВО МЕЖДУ ЧЕШСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКОЙ И РЕСПУБЛИКОЙ БЕЛАРУСЬ

Чехия является одной из наиболее динамично развивающихся стран региона Центрально-Восточной Европы (ЦВЕ). В состав этого региона входит также Республика Беларусь, которая является важным стратегическим партнером Чехии. Товарооборот между странами за 2006 г. составил 150 млн USD. Основными направлениями сотрудничества между странами являются: использование современных технологических процессов, инвестиционное финансирование и внедрение инновационных разработок на предприятиях.

The Czech Republic is located approximately in the centre of Europe. The population of the country is about 10 mln. It's one of the most developing countries in the region of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). Thanks to increased exports, the interest of foreign investors and the drive of domestic businesspeople, Czech economy continues to experience dynamic growth.

The Czech Republic's economic growth performance has improved and now it can successfully compete with other countries in the region. Low inflation and interest rates have been a strong point of the economy for some time and policy is well prepared to meet the monetary challenges of the euro entry which is aimed for in 2010. Business conditions are being improved by new bankruptcy legislation and on-going efforts to reduce corruption.

Between 2002 and 2006, annual growth in GDP per capita has risen from a little under 2 % to 6 %, and shifted above the average for other Central and Eastern European countries. Past reforms and accession to the European Union are contributing to further expansion of export-driven manufacturing, backed by foreign-direct investment. Indeed, the trade balance has become positive.