

One couldn't say that Viktor Budin accepted this engagement right away as a gift from the gods. No, he expressed little enthusiasm, but he knew how to weigh all the 'pros and cons'. A native Leningrader and the son of the nationally known hydraulic engineer Professor Aleksandr Yakovlevich Budin, Viktor had begun even as a schoolboy to master the rudiments of his father's craft. Later, without a moment's hesitation, he went to study at the same institute from which his father had graduated. His diploma defence won him an "excellent". At that time his limited experience of life included a secondary musical education, together with a keen love of chess... He was an inveterate visitor of concert halls and theatres, all of which was still lacking in Dudinka, to be sure. Nevertheless, Viktor made his decision in favour of a fresh and intense life. His wife, Lyudmila, a teacher of English, supported him. And so, in 1980, with a three-month-old son on their hands, they became residents of Dudinka.

Immediately upon arrival, the young specialist, together with the port's chief hydraulic engineer B. Savko, set to work on establishing a special laboratory to study hydraulic structures. In 1983 the laboratory began its first studies.

"The first thing we had to do was to justify our right to exist," recalls Mr. Budin, who at thirty-three is now already a chief port engineer and holds the degree of Candidate of Technical Sciences. "We undertook a major scientific experiment, but some people looked on us as spongers. Luck gave us a hand..."

In Dudinka there is only one source of drinking water - Lake Samsonkino. A pumping station had been built there, but in time it had begun to lean like the Tower of Pisa. Within ten years after the station had begun operation the inclination had reached a dangerous level.