

Research Laboratory for the Study of Problems Affecting Man in the Far North. The laboratory is attached to "Severgazprom", which operates enterprises in five different northern Oblasts and is located in the central-supply town of Vuktyl. The task of the laboratory not only consists of determining the effect of the natural and climatic characteristics of the Far North on the human organism, but also of finding ways of helping to shorten the period of adaptation and ways of making manpower in the Far North fully cost effective and productive."

Aleksandr Suslov told us about the far-reaching programme developed by the laboratory. First of all, the plan proposes that the work timetable be changed. At the moment the so-called fifteen-day system is in force. The new approach calls for the introduction of the "shift-expeditionary" method, with "shifts" lasting two months.

There are plans for setting up special centres in the Far North for training workers, particularly specialists, who will be able to work under extreme conditions.

There are also plans for organizing a social and communal-services complex, which will consist of individual trailer-modules. Each of these modules will be given a field of specialization: one will be a mental-health office, with a winter-garden and mini-film-theatre.

Another will be a steambath. A third will house a gymnasium, with special work-out equipment.

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