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Ray Orrock
Marking the end of
October — Valley 3

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Russian delegates get building tips



■ Pleasanton's Carpenter Union Training Center hosts workshop

By Paul Burgarino
STAFF WRITER

PLEASANTON — A group of Russian construction professionals toured the Carpenters Union Training Center on Tuesday to pick up tips of the trade.

"It is a fact-finding mission," said John Bullock, executive director of the Carpenters Training Committee of Northern California. "It is a chance to show these leaders of industries in Russia what we do and how we do it."

Tuesday's visit is part of a 24-day workshop for the Russian delegation to Oakland and the Bay Area sponsored by the Construction Employers' Association, where general contractors and business contractors view concepts of American construction in hopes of increasing their own productivity.

"Every place we visit, the hope is that there is something learned that can be put to use in (Russian) construction," said Zina Generalova, a director of the visitors' productivity enhancement program.

Generalova said that the delegates had recently visited the Oakland International Airport to see construction on the site.

At the Training Center in Pleasanton, the Russian delegates inspected the facility and saw how the indoor classrooms and workshops are broken up to teach specific skills such as wall-framing, welding, sheet-rocking and carpentry.

"Everybody knows what is his responsibility, what his mission is, and their is a specific order in the work," said Sergey Gurenko "Now I know the secret of (America's) success."

The tour was set up so that the delegates also could observe

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MARY LIESER, assistant district coordinator for the Carpenters Training Committee for Northern California, points out a detail about the training center's Pleasanton facility during a tour Tuesday. Russian construction leaders toured the center in an effort to improve the construction trade in Russia by learning from their counterparts in the United States. At right, Yevgeniy Belousov of Novokuznetsk, Russia, takes a picture of the workshop.

JAY SOLMONSON — Staff photos



Russian delegates get tips on building

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demonstrations on how teachers instructed their students in practical application.

"A lot of Russian industry is young, since they have not been a democracy for very long, which means they don't have a lot of experience," Bullock said. "By showing them concepts like how to bid, safety planning, and our training methods, they can be competitive."

Through interpreter Irina Dyatlovskaya, the group said that Russian construction schools focus primarily on theory.

"There is very little hands-on training," Dyatlovskaya said.

However, the delegates were very interactive while being led on a walking tour by Mary Lieser, assistant district coordinator of the CTCNC, taking many digital pictures, touching equipment and asking questions about how things work.

"I would like to send my students here," said Nikolay Glusnschenko.

"We can do this type of stuff," said Anton Plekhanov while observing the set-up of a welding classroom.

Plekhanov is the director/

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John Bullock

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CARPENTERS TRAINING
COMMITTEE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

founder of Trust Nizhegorodsky Stroitel, a company of 85 employees in Nizhny, Novgorod, Russia. The Russian delegates said that the biggest problem they have in hands-on training is that their residents have to serve an obligatory term in the

military, and then their workers have to be retrained.

"While a lot of the industry is the same, we did pick up some good information on practical application," said Lyudmila Chirkova through the interpreter.