



**Mr. Goce Chakarevski**, General Manager  
of INEX DRIM JSC - STRUGA

*Republic of Macedonia is a small lake country which spreads on the South part of the Balkans Peninsula. Besides lakes, it is also abound with many mountains, rivers and other natural beauties, rarities and etc. That's why it has been called « Balkans' Pearl ». Placed in the very centre of the Balkans the country has quite favorable geographical position being a crossroad between the two corridors: North-South and East-West. It is a country where the two climates such as the moderate Continental and the Mediterranean are being prevalent.*

*Macedonia is a country with glorious historical past and rich cultural heritage where many different and attractive architectural styles can be found. Here, various festivals from the spheres of arts and culture have been held. Also, the country offers a great number of dishes from the local and national cuisine as well as different types of quality wines. In short, Republic of Macedonia is a country of tourism.*

*Accepting the challenge to travel on the South of Europe you are surely going to discover a country in which the nature, culture and people have been existed in a perfect harmony. It is a country of contrasts where the past and present have been mutually interwoven. Through the centuries on the area of contemporary Republic of Macedonia, many different nations and various people of different cultures have been passed by or have been stayed for a certain period. All of them have left some marks that are visible even today, but they have also taken and have adopted a great deal of the authentic Macedonian culture and tradition. On this small territory which is the source of the Slavic literacy you will get closer to the Antique, the Orient and to the European culture and art, too.*

*Spreading on a territory of 25.713 km, the Republic of Macedonia has about 1.700 settlements, out of which 29 towns. There live more than two million people and, capital of the country is the city of Skopje.*

*Traveling in the West part of Macedonia, one of the oldest monasteries in Europe can be seen near by the Radika River's canyon. That is the famous monastery « Sv. Jovan Bigorski » which originates since the 7th century. Numerous skiing terrains located on the mountains like Popova Shapka, Bistra, Pelister, Golak, Kozhuf and the skiing terrains in Krushevo and Ponikva are favorable for rest and recreation. All these terrains can offer ideal conditions for massive recreation and faster development of winter tourism.*

*The image for Macedonia wouldn't be complete if we don't mention the original folklore and our customs. The folklore man's dance so-called « TESHKOTO », old folklore songs and traditional folklore garments have been witnessed for the long-lasting existence of Macedonian nation during the past centuries.*

*Village of Vevchani is very attractive and favorite place for many domestic and foreign visitors. It's recognizable by its well-known Springs and the Vevchani's Carnival. The night illuminations on the Springs of Vevchani provide pleasant and enjoyable sight of this natural rarity to tourists.*

*We must also mention the town of poetry - Struga. This town, which is the home of our greatest leaders of the national revival, brothers Dimitar and Konstantin Miladinov, is placed near by the Ohrid Lake and the Drim River that divides the town in two parts. Every tourist has been fascinated by the beauties of the wonderful town of Ohrid and its coast which is the most visited one in our country. Because of their unique natural, historical and cultural values, the town of Ohrid and the Ohrid Lake are being put under the protection of UNESCO. Once upon a time in Ohrid, during the time of Tsar Samuil in 976, there were 365 existing churches. And even today the value of the churches like « Sv. Sofija », « Sv. Kliment », « Sv. Kaneo », « Sv. Pantelejmon » and « Sv. Naum » can't be estimated.*

*At the end of this introduction I would like to point out the fact that, in order to get Republic of Macedonia closer to Europe, we started preparing the national strategy for faster development of tourism, implementing the most up-to-date EU standards and criteria.*

**Goce Chakarevski**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Goce Chakarevski', written in a cursive style.