



News Bulletin

September – October 2004

Third AzETA Mini-Conference: “Sharing and Caring”

Every year AzETA members attend different events outside Azerbaijan. It has become a tradition in AzETA to hold mini-conferences where the beneficiaries of different events share their impressions and knowledge with their peers.

With this purpose AzETA held its third traditional Mini-Conference titled “Sharing and Caring” at Baku Slavic University.

Jim Solan Senior ELF of the US Embassy, Kitty Johnson of the OSI, Brian Maguire of the British Council made presentations on ELT issues, their co-operation with AzETA and perspectives of future co-operation.

Eddie McGee, newly arrived Senior ELF of the US Embassy found the Mini-Conference a good opportunity for him to meet different ELT providers, as well as AzETA members.

Gulshan Huseynova, Esmira Rahimova, Vafa Yunusova, Nargiz Aliyeva, Narmina Aliyeva and Tarana Bayramova talked about their training in Warwick, UK under the British Council Baseline Study and INSETT Project

Elizabeth Miller, ACCELS TEA Programme short term visitor gave information on the purpose of her visit.

ACCELS TEA Programme Finalists Huzura Agayeva and Shahla Quliyeva shared their impressions on their training in the US.

Afet Huseynova and Tarana Aliyeva briefed the participants on OSI Summer Camp.

Hijran Huseynova and Ragsana Mammadova talked about RENTA meeting in Istanbul, Turkey and the perspectives of regional co-operation.

George Bishop, Amalia Musayeva and Shahla Quliyeva briefed on Academic Writing Course: Summer Programme held in Kyrgyzstan

Elmira Ilizarova, Elnara Baxshaliyeva and Arzu Huseynova talked about ACCELS Summer Camp on Civic Education held in Zugulba, Baku.

Solmaz Quliyeva, Jala Mammadova and Farida Huseynova attended Summer course: Teaching Young Learners in Yalta, Ukraine. They shared their impressions on the training.

Ragsana Mammadova talked about ELT Networks changes, British Council meeting held in Paris, France and encouraged

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AzETA would be very grateful for any comments on and/or contribution to our News Bulletin. We need your support.

For more information about the events above, please contact AzETA at:

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the participants to join ELTeCS, a very useful scheme for English teachers.

Khalida Rustamova briefed on “Focused Inspector” – International Conference held in Belgrade, Serbia-Montenegro.

Nezaket Beylarova talked about “Strength in Numbers: Increasing the Impact of English Language Teacher Associations” seminar held in Bournemouth, UK. There was an opportunity for her to meet and exchange views/experiences with TA representatives from different parts of the world.

Ayna Sadiqova and Lyudmila Jafarova briefed the participants on AzETA English Programme in “Umid Yeri” Orphanage.

In the fourth Mini-Conference, which will be held on 15 January, 2005 the above beneficiaries will give presentations, workshops on the skills they gained during these events. If you are interested to participate in Mini-Conference 4, please contact Huzura Agayeva at:

huzuragayeva@yahoo.com

Elizabeth Miller, ACCELS TEA Fellow, provides workshops for AzETA members

Elizabeth Miller has arrived in Azerbaijan for a short term. Within this short term she has managed to meet different ELT providers, as well as, lots of AzETA members both in Baku and in the regions. She has also done a great job to promote AzETA in various occasions.

She has kindly agreed to provide skill development training for AzETA members which are focused on new methods of teaching English as a Foreign Language. The trainees will be awarded with the joint certificate of ACCELS and AzETA at the end of the eleven-week training. *More in our next issue.*

The trainees are expected to share the gained knowledge and skills through organising workshops in AzETA.

AzETA acknowledges Elizabeth for her unbending support to AzETA.

Tbilisi Conference Planning Committee meeting

As informed in March-April 2003 issue of our News Bulletin, the First Caucasus ELT Conference was held in Tbilisi, Georgia on 25-27 April. The participants of the Conference were members of English Teachers' Associations of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia, as well as, the representatives of the British Council offices and the US Embassies in these countries and in Ukraine.

This was a very good opportunity for the members of the TAs of the South Caucasus countries to come together, share experiences and expertise, seek ways for further co-operation. This Conference had a very positive impact after which the blossoming period started in AzETA's life. Seeing this change the stakeholders of the event decided to hold a second conference to discuss the achievements since the first Conference, as well as, further very well established co-operation. For this reason, stakeholders, namely, US Embassies and British Council offices in the three South Caucasus countries, as well as Patricia Sullivan, RELO from the US Embassy, Kyiev who is the main organiser of the event, gathered in Tbilisi on 12 October to discuss the preparation for the Conference. Azerbaijan was represented by Brian Maguire of the British Council, Afet Ibrahimova and Neil McGurty of the US Embassy, Kitty Johnson of the OSI and Ragsana Mammadova of AzETA.

It was agreed that the Second South Caucasus ELT Conference would be held on 13-14 May 2005 in Tbilisi. The format and pattern of the Conference will be as in the First Conference. Each side was assigned to establish their own planning and selection committees. The theme of the Conference was also agreed to be the same: "Sharing Across Borders". 150 participants including presenters (10 slots will be given to each country for presentation 8 slots for TA members, 2 slots for "others", i.e. native speakers) will join the Conference. It was also agreed that each country will send 40 TA members and native speakers representing different ELT providing programmes of the respective countries.

If you are interested in participating in the Conference, please contact one of AzETA offices (Baku, Mingechevir, Khachmaz, Sheki and Ganja).

Patricia Sullivan, Regional English Language Officer visits Azerbaijan

Patricia Sullivan, Regional English Language Officer of the US Embassy in Kyev, Ukraine regularly visits Azerbaijan to be updated on ELT. Her recent visit was on 17-24 October. Her visit was very productive. She attended Children's Conference on 18 October. She was positively surprised how children could express their thoughts on the very important topic like human rights and more than that in English. (*More details about the Conference in the below article.*)

On the same day in the afternoon she gave a workshop in AzETA on TOEFL tests. She discussed significant changes in the TOEFL tests beginning in September 2005 in which the TOEFL will become more interactive requiring test takers to integrate language skills.

Although it was a national holiday there were 17 participants and she was very pleased to see the dedication of the teachers to their profession and to attend the workshop in spite of the holiday.

She also mentioned about the professional growth of AzETA in the past two years. She briefed the teachers on the Second South Caucasus ELT Conference to be held in Tbilisi on 13-14 May 2005. (*More details in the above article*).

On 22 October she visited Ganja to attend AzETA Ganja Branch Conference. Before attending the Conference she met ELT providers in Ganja to discuss the co-operation perspectives. In the Conference she once more highlighted the importance of Teachers' Associations and their impact on the education system of any country. (*More details about the Ganja Conference in the below article*).

She left Azerbaijan with fond memories again with the hope to see many AzETA members in the Second South Caucasus ELT Conference, as well as in the Second AzETA ELT Conference in spring.

NEWS FROM BRANCHES

AzETA-Ganja Branch ELT Conference October 23 Ganja, Azerbaijan

by Eddie McGee, M.Ed., English Language Senior Fellow-Ganja

On October 23, 2004 an English Language Teaching Conference was held in Ganja at Hotel Ganja with over 70 English teachers from throughout Azerbaijan attending.

The participants were from the following schools and organizations:

ACCELS
 Association of Young Leaders of Azerbaijan (AYLA)
 AzETA branches: Baku, Ganja, Khachmaz, Mingechevir, Sheki
 British Council
 English Language Fellows Baku, Ganja, Lankaran
 Ganja area Peace Corps Volunteers
 Ganja area secondary schools
 Ganja Education Information Centre
 Ganja Regional Organization of the Educational Society of Azerbaijan (BILIK)
 Ganja State University
 Open Society Institute
 Peace Corps

U.S. Department of State, Office of English Language Programs
 US Embassy

Highlights of the Conference included a keynote address and TOEFL session given by Dr. Patricia Sullivan, Regional English Language Officer-Kyiv, Ukraine. Dr. Patricia Sullivan in her keynote addressed the merits of language teacher associations, namely the importance of networking, opportunities for professional advancement, and identifying areas of need and priority issues. She also repeated her TOEFL session given for AzETA Baku members on 18 October seeing the increasing need for TOEFL

Other highlights included a panel discussion on AzETA's Organizational Development, six sessions presented by AzETA-Ganja members, and sessions on Cooperative Learning, Internet

Access and Training Program (IATP), Short Story Writing, Task-based Learning, and Textbook Evaluation.

Official opening ceremony of AzETA Mingechevir Branch

AzETA held the official opening ceremony of its fourth branch in Mingechevir. The Branch office is located at Azerbaijan Teachers' Institute Mingechevir Affiliation.

Paul Hilder, Deputy Director of the British Council, Jim Solan and Eddie McGee, Senior English Language Fellows of the US Embassy, Elizabeth Miller, ACCELS Teaching Fellow, Kitty Johnson, OSI-AF Teacher Trainer, Joseph Smith, Simon Best and Anne, British Council Teacher Trainers, Cara Preuss, Peace Corps Volunteer in Mingechevir joined the opening ceremony and wished the best of luck to the Branch and its members.

Mingechevir Affiliation of Azerbaijan Teachers' Institute has kindly provided AzETA Mingechevir Branch office with a free office location. Contract was signed between the Mingechevir Affiliation of the Institute and AzETA.

As informed in the previous issue, Durdana Qurbanova, teacher of Azerbaijan Teachers' Institute is the Branch Manager. For more information on the branch and its activities you may contact her at: durdane_azeta@hotmail.com

AzETA acknowledges Cara Preuss, Peace Corps Volunteer in Mingechevir once more for her great and unbending support in establishing the Branch, as well as for her continuing support and assistance to the

Branch indirectly training the members on management issues.

AzETA also acknowledges Azerbaijan Teachers' Institute Mingechevir Affiliation for their generosity to grant AzETA with a free office location.

Last but not least, AzETA acknowledges all the people who joined the opening ceremony and made it special with their kind, supportive speaking notes which encouraged AzETA Mingechevir Branch members for better work.

NEWS FROM SIGs

AzETA Qizildash Orphanage English Project

Qizildash is a district in Gobustan region of Baku. There is a Vocational Educational College # 8 where 50 orphans study. These are the children at the age of 15-17. They get basic vocational training. They live in the College dormitory.

Community Shield-Azerbaijan (CSA), an NGO led by Mrs Quinta Woodward is the Trustee of the dormitory. CSA provided them with some equipment and organised computer courses for them. With the help of CSA AzETA had a study visit to the Lyceum to learn the needs of the children and decided to teach these children English either to enter the Universities or to find jobs. The Lyceum will be unable to provide them with the accommodation after they finish the college. There is a danger that these children might get spoilt if they do not have an access to the job or further education.

So, the aim of this Project is to teach the orphans living in the Lyceum Dormitory some English to apply for a job or admission to the Universities.

The course will start on 1 November which is expected to last 8 month, until July 2005. There will be 4 groups, 12-13 students in each group. Each group will have two classes a week: Mondays and Saturdays from 12:00-13:00. As their English is very limited, AzETA members involved in this Project as the teachers decided to teach from the local textbook for the 5th grade with supplementary materials from the English books published in the UK and US.

AzETA acknowledges the British Council to financially support this Project to enable AzETA members to visit the College to have the English course with the children.

For more information on the Project, please contact *Nezaket Beylarova at: (050) 353 8510.*

Enjoy English Club held its first Conference

By Dilara Bunyatova:

Enjoy English Club (EEC) was established on 8 September 2001. The EEC is composed of a group of talented children selected by Independent Teachers' Union, a non-government social organisation of teachers of Azerbaijan.

The aim of the Club is to improve the children's knowledge on the history, geography, literature, as well as the natural values of Azerbaijan, simultaneously to provide them with the knowledge of English, world history, geography, civic education, etc.

Club activities include: discussions, lectures, round table talks, seminars, debates, participating in different events with a concert programme, etc.

For the first time in its history EEC held its First Conference titled "We are the Children of the 21st Century" on 18 October. The Conference was co-sponsored by ACCELS, AzETA and US Embassy (namely, Jim Solan). The aim of the Conference was to give the Club members an opportunity to discuss their opinions on the textbooks they use, their knowledge on their own rights and how to protect their rights, parent-student-teacher relationship.

Children from the secondary schools of Nasimi, Yasamal, Suraxani districts of Baku gave presentations on 3 topics: "Textbooks with the eyes of the children", "Relationship among parents, teachers and students", "Children's Rights". There were the children non-members from Sumqayit who also actively participated in discussions.

The game "Teletime" made the Conference very lively and exciting.

At the end of the Conference the Club members showed an interesting concert programme where they performed dances, songs, poems, short performances in English and Azerbaijani.

The special guest of the Conference was Patricia Sullivan, Regional English Language Officer from the US Embassy, Kyiv, Ukraine.

Shane Austin, ACCELS new Country Director congratulated the children with their successful Conference.

AzETA Regional Visit Project

In its September meeting AzETA Standing Committee adopted the Regional Visit programme for the 2004-2005 school year and distributed among the stakeholders if they wanted to join upon their availability. These are the regions which AzETA has not visited so far. The aim of the visits is to promote AzETA in these regions. Ayna Sadiqova and Lyudmila Jafarova share their impressions on the visit to Shamaxi on 30 October:

Early in the morning we started off to Shamaxi together with Simon Best, British Council Teacher Trainer. We reached Shamaxi at 10:30. We were warmly welcomed by the Head of the Education Department of Shamaxi. After a short talk with the Head of the Education Department we were taken to Secondary School # 1 where English teachers were waiting for us. There were 12 teachers from different schools of Shamaxi.

Before demonstrating any activities, we introduced ourselves, talked about AzETA, its mission, past, present and future activities. We also talked the aim of our visit, our regional co-operation, branches

Simon Best was the first to demonstrate some activities on Vocabulary Recycling. The teachers who were shy at the beginning for their limited English, got very encouraged as they were actively involved in the activities.

Lyudmila Jafarova presented different activities on English is Everywhere, highlighting the importance of learning English and the place of English in our everyday life. All the activities required interaction and the teachers were very active.

Ayna Sadiqova demonstrated activities for young learners.

All in all, the teachers found the presentations very interesting and requested to visit them regularly to organise such workshops. They even requested to open an AzETA branch in Shamaxi.

Solmaz Hasanova, Solmaz Kazimova and Nezaket Beylarova visited Jalilabad on the same day and with the same purpose. Their impressions on the teachers and their enthusiasm were also very good.

Generous donation of textbooks by World Vision with kind support of Mrs Leslie Harnish

Since coming to Azerbaijan Mrs Leslie Harnish made great contributions to the education of Azerbaijan. She attended First AzETA ELT Conference and met AzETA members there. Seeing the enthusiasm of the AzETA members she decided to support the organisation in whatever way she could. One of such a support is made through **World Vision Azerbaijan “Gift In Kind” Project**. About 200 books were donated to AzETA under the Project. 30 of these books were taken to AzETA Ganja Branch.

AzETA is planning to take some of these books to its other branches in Xacmaz, Seki and Mingecvir.

AzETA acknowledges World Vision, in particular Mrs Leslie Harnish for enriching AzETA library with new books.

AzETA bids farewell to a dear friend and welcomes a new friend

With regret AzETA bid farewell to its dear friend Jacky Sherwood. Since coming to Azerbaijan Jacky got interested in AzETA and volunteered to lead conversation groups which is the most favourite activity among AzETA members. As a native speaker she helped AzETA members improve their spoken English through different activities. Although by profession she is not a teacher, she would lead the groups with high professionalism building her sessions on the needs of the members.

All AzETA members have fond memories about Jacky, wish best of luck to her and hope to host her in Azerbaijan again.

Even before leaving Azerbaijan, she cared about AzETA and invited Heather Russell to continue AzETA conversation groups. Heather Russell is British and, by profession, is a teacher too – she has worked for about 3 years all over South America as a tour guide. So, she has extensive knowledge on the US and will share it in the conversation groups with AzETA members.

We hope that Heather will enjoy conversation groups and happily continue well-established tradition.

YOUR COLUMN

Dear Readers,

You might be interested in this article about how English dialects are changing rapidly, from below web address:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/3585231.stm> .

Migration 'creating' new dialects

Traditional English dialects such as Geordie and Yorkshire, are being transformed by a diverse influx of migrants.

A conference organised by universities in north-east England, suggests the world's dialects are multiplying faster than ever before. Previous research showed old dialects were declining because of greater social mobility. But linguists say Caribbean and Asian languages are now having a big impact.

More than 400 of the world's leading linguists are due at a conference in Newcastle, organised by a team from the Universities of Newcastle, Northumbria, Sunderland and Durham.

Native tongue

The new findings quash fears that globalisation is leading to a standardising of language.

Researchers say immigrants to areas such as Europe, the are creating completely new dialects when they learn the language of their host country by mixing it with aspects of tongue.

Black English terms include babymother, meaning the more of a person's children; irie - nice, good, or pleasing; something up, which is slang for recommend or praise someone.

Other West Indian terms in the Oxford Dictionary of English are: feisty - meaning rude, arrogant, or excessively bold, and bad-minded, which is short for malicious, unsympathetic, or cynical.

Asian English terms include gora, which is a term for a woman and chuddies - slang for underpants.

Social mobility

The number of dialects is expected to increase even more rapidly over the next few years as asylum seekers from countries from Bosnia to Iraq continue to seek refuge in other nations.

Newcastle University linguist Dr Karen Corrigan, one of the conference organisers, said: "Language has always developed over time but at the moment it is changing much faster than it ever has done as a result of increased opportunities for social and geographical mobility.

"Research still suggests that your dialect or accent remains an important indicator of your social status. "It's just that the expanding number of varieties means that people have a greater choice of where to place themselves in society."

She said it was difficult to say how new migrants would affect the languages of their host communities in the long term.

You will read in our next issue

- RENTA website training in Moscow
- AzETA ELTeCS Project on Branch Managers' Workshop in Tbilisi
- Second ELT Networking Conference in Tbilisi
- AzETA-ACCELS training seminars provided by Elizabeth Miller, ACCELS Teaching Fellow
- Regional visits – workshops in the regions
- News from SIGs:
 - AzETA members attended Community Shield opening ceremony of the electrical works in Qizildash
 - New Year party in the orphanages
- News from the Branches

...and last but not least wear your
charming smile



FASTEST COMMUNICATION

- Television
- Telephone
- Tel-a-woman