



AzETA – ACCELS co-operation is growing

ACCELS visited AzETA Mingechevir & Sheki Branches

By Elizabeth Miller, ACCELS Teaching Fellow

I had very pleasant visits to Mingechevir and Sheki last week (24-27 November, ed.), accompanying Shane Austin, ACCELS Country Director and Taghi Taghiev of ACCELS. While they were doing FLEX interviews, I had the opportunity to meet with teachers and students in both communities.

Mingechevir: Durdana Qurbanova, Head of AzETA Mingechevir Branch and Cara Preuss, US Peace Corps Volunteer arranged for a 2-day conference and visits to two schools. Approximately 30 teachers and student teachers attended both days. I did two presentations on Bloom's Taxonomy and on writing strategies. Eddie McGee, Senior ELF of the US Embassy did a presentation on co-operative learning. I also left materials for multiple intelligences/skills and products and for graphic organisers.

I visited two schools - #13 and #7 - Durdana and Cara arranged for students at the Teachers Institute to escort me. The Mingechevir branch appears to have become quite active in its short time and the members are looking forward to AzETA/OSI "road show" coming up in December. (*AzETA Outreach Teacher Training, ed.*)

I was greatly impressed with the energy of the Mingechevir branch and with the turnout of many members. It was one of the best attended workshops I have given in Azerbaijan!

Sheki: Afer Mammadova, Head of AzETA Sheki Branch and Turkan Kerimova were very gracious hosts. We had a teachers' workshop at School #8 (approximately 16 teachers in attendance, including 3 Peace Corps Volunteers), followed by visits to classes in School #8, School #18 and School #10 (the latter on Saturday morning). The 8th form/Adalat Musayeva's class and the 9th form/Khatira Aliyeva's (*both are active AzETA member, ed*) class were among the best I have visited in Azerbaijan. Students in both classes had very strong listening skills and vocabulary - as well as strong evidence of logical thinking/communication skills - telling me that not only are their current teachers very capable, they have benefited from excellent teaching in all of their subjects, not just English.

The Sheki AzETA branch now has 30 members. It has a room in School #8, which has been fixed up and is ready for use once a few more repairs are done. Right now, the windows need glass and they have no bookcases, tables, chairs or teaching materials. Lots of enthusiasm, though. Their room is adjacent

Inside this issue

- **AzETA – ACCELS co-operation is growing**
 - *ACCELS visited AzETA Mingechevir and Sheki Branches*
 - *AzETA-ACCELS joint training seminars*
- **Regional visits – workshops in the regions**
- **RENTA website training**
- **AzETA Project on Branch Managers' Workshop**
- **2nd South Caucasus ELT Networking Event**
- **News from the SIGs**
 - AzETA Outreach Teacher Training started
 - AzETA Student Government Association Project
 - British Council visited Qizildash Project site
- **News from the Branches**
- **Your column**
- **You will read in our next issue**
- **Let's laugh together**

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:

Tel.: (+994 12)4415068/416985/415042 (ext: 1-51)
Mobile: (+994 50) 353 8510

Email: azer_eta@yahoo.com
AzETA-GB@GITC.AZNET.ORG (Gence)

AzETA Head Office is located at:

Room 322, 3rd Floor
 25, Suleyman Rustam Street
 Baku Slavonic University
 Baku AZ-1014
 Azerbaijan

to the Project Harmony computer room, so nice potential for using computers too. (Italics by Editor to attract the attention of the potential donors)

All in all, a good trip. My compliments to the AzETA members for their enthusiasm and dedication.

AzETA-ACCELS joint training seminars

As informed in September – October issue of our News Bulletin Elizabeth Miller organised eleven-week training for the members of AzETA. This was skill development training, which was focused on new methods of teaching English as a Foreign Language.

20 members attended the training. They will share the gained knowledge and skills through organising workshops in AzETA, as well as in the coming AzETA Mini-Conference to be held on 15 January and 2nd AzETA ELT Conference to be held on 23-24 April.

On 8 December at the last session the trainees were awarded with the joint certificate of ACCELS and AzETA. They organised a party to bid good-bye to Elizabeth and thanked her for her great job while in Azerbaijan.

AzETA extends acknowledgement to ACCELS for bringing Elizabeth Miller to Azerbaijan who did one year's work within three months' period. Wherever she went she promoted AzETA, encouraged the teachers to join AzETA speaking about membership benefits. AzETA members remember Elizabeth with fond memories and do hope that this well-established co-operation between AzETA and ACCELS will continue and Elizabeth will have an opportunity to visit Azerbaijan again to follow up her training and get feedback from the beneficiaries of her training.

Michelle Garren from ACCELS Head Quarters:

Elizabeth shared some of the successes of AzETA and I commend you on the growth of your organization. I know that many of our TEA alumni are involved and am looking forward to developing ideas for continued co-operation between ACCELS and AzETA.

Workshops in the regions

As informed in September – October issue of our News Bulletin AzETA worked out a regional visit programme for the school year of 2004-2005. The aim of these visits is to promote AzETA in the regions where AzETA has not been before.

On 20 November 4 AzETA members went to Ismayilli. First they met the Head of Education Department of Ismayilli, informed him about AzETA, its mission and activities. Then they continued the talk with the English teachers emphasising the membership benefits of AzETA. Huzura Agayeva and Nezaket Beylarova gave presentations on communicative methods of teaching English as a foreign language.

On 27 November three AzETA members went to Qusar. It was AzETA's second visit to Qusar. It was a follow up visit. There were 20 participants. First the participants were informed on the forthcoming events including January Mini-Conference, 2nd South Caucasus ELT Conference, as well as 2nd AzETA ELT Conference. Then Hijran Huseynova and Khalida Rustamova of AzETA gave workshops on active and interactive methods of teaching English.

The visits will continue until June 2005. AzETA acknowledges all its members to organise these visits with their personal initiatives and funding.

RENTA website training

RENTA – Regional Network of Teachers' Association is composed of TAs of South Caucasus, Central Asia and the Russian Federation (8 Teachers' Associations), including AzETA.

As informed in July – August issue of our News Bulletin, RENTA held its second seminar in Istanbul, Turkey on 9-11 May 2004 with the financial support of the British Council managed Hornby Education Trust.

At the seminar all the representatives of the TAs expressed the need for a professional website of each individual TA represented in RENTA. Thus, the idea of implementing a project on training TA representatives for website designing was welcomed by all the representatives. With the financial support of the British Council in London and the British Council managed Hornby Educational Trust a Project titled "Developing Teachers' Associations websites" was implemented on 26-28 November in Moscow with the below objectives:

1. To build the capacity of TAs to design and update the TA websites
2. To foster the exchange of information, experiences and documentation among the TAs of South Caucasus, Central Asia and the Russian Federation through TA websites.

Ragsana Mammadova and Efsane Huseynova of AzETA were among the trainees. The trainer, Tony Ryan of the British Council, Italy organised the course with the below plan:

Day 1

- my first web page (straight in at the deep end)
- "jargon-busting"
- essential html
- good and bad websites - what makes them good or bad

Day 2

- working with images
- adding images and links within a page
- linking pages together
- writing for the web
- planning your website

Day 3

- making your site live
- which software to use
- scheduling tasks
- what happens next?

It was agreed that the trainer will have an online session with the trainees to follow up the Moscow training.

The first online session was on 21 December. Some of the participants could join the online session. The aim of the online session was mainly just to meet up, explore the TappedIn "environment" and follow up Moscow training. As this was the first online session it took some time before the participants joined the session as all the participants were new to the Tappedin. It was decided that next time an agenda would be sent via email for everybody to discuss and to join the online session with a clear idea on the topics to be discussed.

The next online session was agreed to be at the end of January 2005. *More in the next issue of the News Bulletin.*

**AzETA Project on
Workshop for the Branch Managers
of South Caucasus Teachers'
Associations:
Empowerment through Teachers'
Associations**

With the financial support of the British Council managed ELTeCS, AzETA held a workshop for the Branch Managers of the South Caucasus Teachers' Associations in Tbilisi, Georgia on 9-11 December.

The aim of the workshop was to bring together some branch managers of the three TAs (AzETA, ETAG – Georgia and AELTA – Armenia) in a two-day workshop to share experiences on organisational, branch management issues, learn from one another's branch

management experiences, seek the ways of involving all English teachers to be members of the branch. Apart from that the aim of the workshop was also to establish co-operation among the branches of the three TAs so that they could implement joint projects in future at the branch level.

10 branch managers and heads of AzETA, ETAG and AELTA attended the workshop. AzETA was represented by Afer Mammadova, Head of Sheki Branch, Sevda Bagirova, Head of Khachmaz Branch, Khalida Aliyeva, Head of Ganja Branch and Durdana Qurbanova, Head of Mingechevir Branch.

The event started with a joint reception for the participants of the 2nd ELT Networking Event and South Caucasus TAs Branch managers at the Vere Palace Hotel on 9 December.

As there was another event for the English teachers simultaneously running in Tbilisi, the participants of the workshop had an opportunity to attend the opening ceremony and plenary talk of the 2nd ELT Networking Event held in Vere Palace Hotel. *More about the Event in the below article.*

Presenters and facilitators of the workshop were: Andy Keedwell from British Council Armenia, Barrie Watson, ETAG Advisor, Diana Miller from the US Embassy, Tbilisi, Eddie McGee from the US Embassy Azerbaijan, Ragsana Mammadova, from AzETA, Rusiko Tkemaladze from ETAG. All the presentations were based on the experiences and examples of the respective TA that the presenter co-operates with.

In a two-day workshop the participants discussed the issues, like setting a branch, TA menu of services, Communication between branches and head office Co-operation/communication between branches, writing a project proposal, organizational development for Teachers' Associations, etc.

On the first day of the workshop the participants had an opportunity to visit ETAG Tbilisi and Rustavi Branches where they discussed challenges of running a branch, exchanged experiences and opinions. The visit to the branch offices was very effective as it was a real TA environment where there was an opportunity to meet some ETAG members, too.

The workshop ended up with a panel discussion where the title of the workshop "empowerment" discussed. The participants expressed their impressions emphasising that the workshop met its aims and they would return empowered and with lots of new ideas.

At the end of the workshop the participants exchanged contact details to further co-operation.

2nd South Caucasus ELT Networking Event

On 9-11 December 44 secondary school teachers and university instructors from Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia along with presenters from the UK and the US, got together to network, share and learn at the 2nd Networking Event for EFL Teachers sponsored by Project Harmony and British Council with the support from the British Council managed ELTeCS and Hornby Trust. The event was held under the slogan “*Changing Classrooms, Changing Interactions*”.

10 participants and 6 presenters joined the Event from Azerbaijan. The majority of them were AzETA members from Ganja, Sheki, Mingechevir and Baki. Kerry Cosby, Country Director of Project Harmony – Azerbaijan and Ragsana Mammadova, Executive Director of AzETA were among the guests of the Event.

The event officially started on December 9th with a reception at Vere Palace Hotel for all the participants of the conference and guests from another ELT event simultaneously running in Tbilisi, the meeting of the TA national and regional representatives from the three countries. About 60 people were present at the reception.

The next day, December 10 the three country directors of Project Harmony offices in Baku, Tbilisi and Yerevan opened the conference welcoming the participants and wishing all productive time and co-operation.

During the two-day Event the teachers had a chance to attend 22 sessions focusing on teaching methods and teacher development, such as types of interaction in the classroom, interaction among colleagues, interactive techniques and methods of teaching a foreign language, online resources for teaching English as a foreign language, task-based learning and teacher professional growth.

The conference continued till the afternoon of 11 December.

The success of the conference was determined by the efficient collaboration among several key organizations: Project Harmony offices in Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia, EFL Teachers' Associations in Azerbaijan and Georgia, AzETA and ETAG respectively, and the British Council office in Armenia. The collaborative effort among the organizers made it possible to ensure a fair selection of participants, diversity of content and successful administration of the event. Several other organizations in each country supported the event, such as Peace Corps in Azerbaijan and Armenia, British Council in Georgia.

All the participants stressed the significance of networking EFL teachers in the Caucasus.

NEWS FROM THE SIGs

AzETA Outreach Teacher Training Project

With the financial support of the Open Society Institute – Assistant Foundation AzETA launched its Outreach Teacher Training Project.

The aim of the Project is to provide regions with well trained groups of teachers who are expected to become teacher trainers and leaders in future and play a big part in training teachers and dissemination of modern methodology in their respective regions and in neighbouring towns as well as initiate fundraising activities to support AzETA branches in the regions.

There are 4 groups consisting of 3 trainers in each group. The trainers are AzETA members awarded with the British Council and OSI trainer training certificates.

Duration of the Project is one academic year. **Project regions** are Mingechevir, Lankaran, Khachmaz and Nefchala. **Training period** will be: 2 day training during autumn, winter and spring School Vacations. The first training was conducted on 18-19 December. *More in the next issue of the News Bulletin.*

AzETA acknowledges Afet Huseynova, its very dedicated member for her efforts in getting this grant and for co-ordinating this crucial Project. AzETA also acknowledges Kitty Johnson and George Bishop of OSI, Brian Maguire of the British Council, Jim Solan of the US Embassy for their support to the trainers of the Project through joining pre-training discussions and during the training. Special acknowledgement goes to Cara Preuss, PCV in Mingechevir, Eddie McGee, Senior ELF in Ganja and Janet Adams, ELF in Lenkaran who helped the trainers during the training. Last but not least, AzETA acknowledges all the trainers for their volunteer involvement in the Project to help AzETA develop nationwide. *More information can be obtained from Afet Huseynova at: AHuseynova@OSI-AZ.ORG*

AzETA Student Government Association Project

AzETA was awarded with the grant of the Democracy Commission Small Grants Programme of the US Embassy for the Project titled “Student Government Association”.

The objectives of the Project are to:

- Introduce students to the democratic process through campaigns, elections, and representative decision making;
- Encourage leadership and civic responsibility among students;

- Foster cooperation between students and school administration;
- Teach students to see themselves as functional, important members of their schools and communities;
- Motivate students to organize both school- and community-improvement activities;
- Support volunteerism among students, teachers, and parents; and
- Support fundraising projects to provide for self-supporting sustainability of SGAs.

Project Period is November 2004 – July 2005.

Project Schools are: School No. 177 and 200, Narimanov District, Baku, School No. 164, Nasimi District, Baku and School No. 8 in Sheki.

AzETA will closely co-operate with History Teachers Union, a local NGO. A member of the Union is involved in the Project as a Co-ordinator. IFES has agreed to provide necessary training for the Project needs.

AzETA acknowledges George Bishop and Afet Huseynova of OSI for their close involvement in Project proposal development, as well as for their commitment in supporting the Project teams in the Project period. *More information on the Project can be obtained from Afet Huseynova at: AHuseynova@OSI-AZ.ORG*

British Council visited AzETA Qizildash Project site

As informed in the previous issue of the News Bulletin AzETA is implementing an English Language Project in Vocational Educational College # 8 in Qizildash where 50 orphans study who live in the College dormitory.

The Project is kindly funded by the British Council Baku office. It is an eight months Project started in November 2004 aimed to accomplish in June 2005. (If further funding is available, the Project will continue).

On 29 November Brian Maguire, ELT Projects Director and Gulshan Huseynova, ELT Projects Co-ordinator of the British Council visited Qizildash to meet the children, to monitor the Project, as well as to take textbooks (5th grade) and stationary for the children. They met the Director of the College, discussed the possibility of further co-operation and help to the College.

The children were very inspired by the visit of the donors. They were very happy to get the textbooks.

Resulting from the visit by the British Council the Project teachers had a placement test after one month's teaching. As a result of the test the children were grouped in three – groups of two beginners and one elementary. *For more information on the Project contact Nezaket Beylarova at: bnezaket@yahoo.co.uk*

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Ganja:

Since the Conference the number of the members has increased. Many young enthusiastic pre-service teachers were involved in management of the Branch. They intend to organise workshops/seminars in the neighbouring regions to promote the Branch, as well as AzETA, as a whole.

William and Tara Lyons, Peace Corps Volunteers and Eddie McGee, US Embassy English Language Fellow closely co-operate with the Branch providing regular weekly workshops, as well as providing their support in management issues.

Khachmaz:

Elizabeth Miller visited Khachmaz Branch to give a workshop together with her visiting colleagues from the US.

They were also taken to secondary schools to observe English classes, as well as to demonstrate teaching. Each of such a visit encourages the members in Khachmaz where the membership rate is lower than the other Branches although it is the oldest AzETA Branch.

Khachmaz is also included in AzETA Outreach Teacher Training target regions.

Mingechevir:

The Branch is growing very rapidly. The number of the members increase, lots of pre-service teachers join the Branch and render all possible assistance in the work of the Branch.

Cara Preuss, Peace Corps Volunteer is a great asset for the Branch. She organises regular workshops in the Branch office.

Durdana Qurbanova, Head of the Branch often visits schools to promote the Branch and speak about the benefits of the membership.

Sheki:

Sheki Branch members have had the office repaired. However, due to lack of resources, the office is not equipped to serve its members. Nevertheless, the active members organise regular meetings in the school where the Branch office is located and keep the members posted on the forthcoming events.

As mentioned above, Elizabeth Miller visited Sheki branch and gave a workshop there. Eddie McGee also joined her in the visit.

YOUR COLUMN

Do you know?

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what was considered important to the people. Since there were no telephones, TVs or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars who were told to "go sip some ale" and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. "You go sip here" and "You go sip there." The two words "go sip" were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term "gossip."

In the late 1700s, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board was folded down from the wall and used or dining. The "head of the household" always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Once in a while, a guest (who was almost always a man) would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. Sitting in the chair, one was called the "chair man." Today in business we use the expression or title "Chairman" or Chairman of the Board."

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are "limbs," therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, "Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg."

How important is spelling?

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttar in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh? yaeh and I awlyas thought lpelng was ipmorantt

Riddles of Alphabet

<http://iteslj.org/c/jokes.html>

Q: What letter of the alphabet is an insect?

A: B. (bee)

Q: What letter is a part of the head?

A: I. (eye)

Q: What letter is a drink?

A: T. (tea)

Q: What letter is a body of water?

A: C. (sea)

Q: What letter is a pronoun like "you"?

A: The letter " I "

Q: What letter is a vegetable?

A: P. (pea)

Q: What letter is an exclamation?

A: O. (oh!)

Q: What is the end of everything?

A: The letter "g".

Q: What letter is looking for causes ?

A: Y. (why)

Q: What four letters frighten a thief?

A: O.I.C.U. (Oh I see you!)

Q: What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment but not once in a thousand years?

A: The letter "m".

Q: Why is the letter "T" like an island ?

A: Because it is in the middle of waTer.

Q: In what way can the letter "A" help a deaf lady?

A: It can make "her" "hear.

Q: Which is the loudest vowel?

A: The letter "I". It is always in the midst of noise

Q: What way are the letter "A" and "noon" alike?

A: Both of them are in the middle of the "day".

Q: Why is "U" the happiest letter?
A: Because it is in the middle of "fun".

Q: What word of only three syllables contains 26 letters?
A: Alphabet = (26 letters)

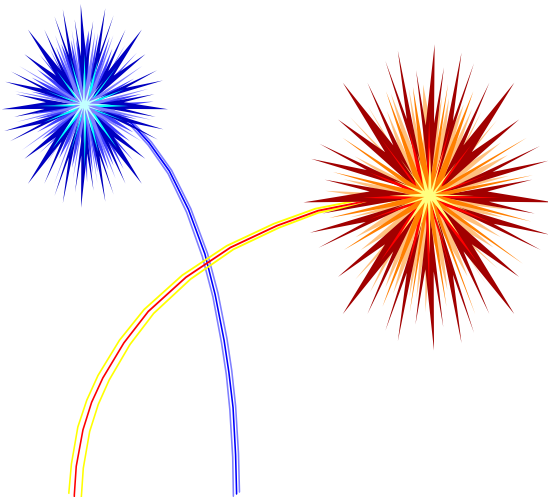
Q: What relatives are dependent on "you"?
A: Aunt, uncle, cousin. They all need "U".

You will read in our next issue

- British Council INSETT Seminar 5 Closing Ceremony
- AzETA Mini-Conference: Sharing and Caring
- Updates on preparation for 2nd AzETA ELT Conference
- Updates on Qizildash Project
- AzETA Outreach Teacher Training – Session 2
- Children's Conference – AzETA Smile Project

Dear Readers,

AzETA wishes you a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Stay with AzETA in 2005, too. You will not be sorry – we promise!



NOW IT IS TIME TO LAUGH

LET'S LAUGH TOGETHER



Q: What is white when it's dirty and black when it's clean?

A: A blackboard.

Q: What do you call a hippie's wife?

A: Mississippi.

A young man comes before the Customs agent.

A: "State your citizenship."

B: "American" (pronounced with a Spanish accent).

A: "Hold on there, buddy. Say that again."

B: "I sed American."

A: "I'm going to give you a test."

B: "No, no senor, no need for test, I tell you I'm American."

A: "Yeah, sure buddy. OK, let's see, ... I've got it. Make a sentence with the following colors: green, pink and yellow."

B: "Oh senor, I tell you I'm American. But OK, let's see... I was at my bruder-in-laws house and the phone went 'green, green, I pinked it up and sed yellow!'"

Student: "Are 'pants' singular or plural?"

Teacher: "They're singular on top and plural on the bottom."

A student, who is studying English as a foreign language, was confused when he saw the words "open here" on a box of laundry soap, so he asks the clerk, "Can't I wait until I get home to open it?"

For more jokes visit:

http://iteslj.org/c/jokes-bad_english.html