



News Bulletin

July – August 2005

AzETA co-operation with other ELT providers develops further

• Executive Board meeting with the British Council

On 5 July AzETA Executive Board members had a meeting at the British Council. The aim was to introduce newly elected Board members to the British Council ELT staff and to seek opportunities for furthering the partnership.

AzETA's detailed plans for the coming year were presented at the meeting. It was a very productive meeting in many ways. It once more demonstrated the importance of co-operation and partnership with an organisation like the British Council, which is world famous and has multi-dimensional experiences in ELT world-wide.

Below is what Paul Hilder, Deputy Director of the British Council mentioned at the meeting:

1. The British Council sees its relationship with AzETA as a partner, with the common aim of promoting and supporting quality English language teaching in Azerbaijan.
2. We are particularly interested in providing support which develops and builds the capacity of AzETA. This will be a higher priority for us than supporting AzETA activity/events or recurrent expenditure.
3. We would like a formal meeting with AzETA representatives once a quarter to discuss areas for collaboration.

It was decided that AzETA holds regular meetings with the British Council to update on the Action Plan and to discuss the achievements, challenges faced and forthcoming events.

The next meeting is scheduled for 13 October. *You can read about it in the next issue of the News Bulletin.*

• Peace Corps Resource Information Fair

On 3 August Peace Corps Azerbaijan held its third Resource Information Fair in Dalga Hotel, Sumgait. Dilara Buyatova, First Vice-President represented AzETA at the Fair.

The third group of United States Peace Corps Volunteers

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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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(PCVs) for Azerbaijan arrived in May 2005 to commence their language and technical training in Sumgait and in two communities (Davachi, Siyazan) located in regions to the north. After 38 PCVs complete training on 5 August, 2005 24 of them will teach English as a foreign language in secondary schools and 14 will work with non-governmental organisations on community economic development initiatives in the various regions of Azerbaijan. This will be third group of English teachers of Peace Corps and the first group of community economic development Volunteers.

As part of their preparation before moving to the regions throughout Azerbaijan, Peace Corps is organizing a Resource Information Fair that enable NGOs and other education and development organizations to share their experiences and mission philosophies in Azerbaijan with the new Volunteers. The purpose of this event is to increase mutual awareness between PCVs and the organizations that are conducting educational or other socio-economic development activities in respective communities in the regions of Azerbaijan where this second group of PCVs will be assigned.

While English education and community economic development will be the primary responsibility of these PCVs, they will also be involved in possible secondary projects in their communities. This work is usually different from their primary assignments.

AzETA has always been represented in the Peace Corps Resource Information Fairs and been successful to establish co-operation with newly arrived PCVs. This was another opportunity for AzETA to present its mission, aims and activities to the newly arrived PCVs. Dilara Bunyatova informed them about the work of AzETA, its branches and the regions it co-operates with. PCVs were very interested in AzETA and promised to help in furthering AzETA – Peace Corps co-operation in the regions they would work.

- **British Council INSETT Project Seminar 2**

On 26 September the British Council had an opening ceremony to launch its INSETT Project Seminar 2. As always, the British Council gave AzETA 20 minute-slot to present its activities and inform the participants on forthcoming events. The participants were 26 secondary English teachers, from 3 regions of Azerbaijan: Ujar, Ismayilli and Ali- Bayramli.

The aim of the seminar was to identify the problems faced by participants in their teaching situations and to provide them with the skills and knowledge to start planning innovations to be implemented in their classroom.

Dilara Bunyatova, 1st Vice-President of AzETA represented AzETA at the opening ceremony and presented AzETA Action Plan for 2005-2006. She also briefed the participants on the mission of AzETA, projects it has implemented so far, co-operation among AzETA and other ELT related programmes both in Azerbaijan and worldwide, as well as forthcoming events.

Although the teachers were from the regions where AzETA does not work, they were well informed on AzETA and its activities. After the presentation the participants were given an opportunity to ask questions. They asked a lot of interesting questions requesting AzETA to open its branches in their respective regions, too. Even during coffee break the participants asked lots of questions and promised that they would promote AzETA in their respective regions to benefit from the services AzETA provides to its members.

Dilara Bunyatova also encouraged the participants to be active during the seminar and to get as much as possible from the seminar emphasising the importance of the seminar and its positive impact on them and their respective communities.

AzETA acknowledges the British Council for creating regular opportunities for AzETA to promote among English teachers the British Council work with. It increases AzETA's reputation as the teachers see AzETA's close co-operation with the British Council – an experienced and world-famous organisation.

- **ACCELS Resource Centre in Zaqatala**

By Yeter Quliyeva, TEA Alumna

Zaqatala Gymnasium of European languages is an English specialised school and was established in 1997 with the purpose of promoting English and American studies. The staff of teachers promotes mutual understanding among teachers and students of different local and some American schools. There are TEA-PIE Alumni and exchange students among the staff of the Gymnasium.

I am TEA Alumna of 2003 and grantee of the Teaching Resource Centre. We are very happy that now we have a resource centre where teachers, students and members of community can be involved in different activities and get benefits. The main objective of TRC is to create favourable conditions for the implementation of the educational reforms, enhancing teachers' professionalism and international relations.

On 10 August we had an opening ceremony of the Resource Centre. The head of the gymnasium Masuma Afandiyeva – PIE Alumni and the head of Social Educational Department welcomed everybody, Ayshar Bulayeva – English teachers' instructor expressed her pleasure and happiness for establishment of TRC and congratulated everybody.

AzETA 1st Vice President Dilara Bunyatova, Editor-in-Chief Ayna Sadigova and Khumar Qaziyeva also attended the opening ceremony. I am very grateful to them for such wonderful speeches they made. English teachers feel very happy to have an opportunity to co-operate with such experienced teachers. We hope we can strengthen our relations in future.

Dilara Bunyatova informed the participants on the work of AzETA, its mission, branches and future plans. Our teachers were very interested and requested to open an AzETA branch in Zaqatala. This way we can join our efforts to help the English teachers and students more. We are very hopeful that soon we will have an AzETA branch in our region, too.

NEWS FROM THE SIGs

Young Learners:

ENJOY ENGLISH SUMMER CAMP

With the financial support of the British Council, AzETA Young Learners Special Interest Group started an English Language Project for the orphans in Qizildash in October 2004. Now the Project is continued with the fund of BP (British Petroleum).

Qizildash is a district in Gobustan region of Baku. There is a Vocational Educational Lyceum No 8 where 50 orphans study. These are the children at the ages of 15-17. They get basic vocational training. They live in the Lyceum dormitory. The

aim of AzETA Project is to teach them some English to enable them to apply for a job or admission to the Universities after graduating from the Lyceum.

With the financial support of the British Council managed Hornby Educational Trust AzETA organised a summer camp involving 10 children from Qizildash, 4 members of AzETA Enjoy English Club (the Club members are the talented children from different schools of Baku).

As a member of RENTA (Regional Network of Teachers' Association) AzETA also closely co-operates with ETAG (English Teachers' Association of Georgia) implementing joint projects. AzETA involved ETAG in this project, too, and invited some children from Georgia to the summer camp. So, this was a partner project.

The aim of the summer camp was to bring these children together, to organise different contests, discussions with them alongside with organising a cross-cultural event where the children recited poems, sang songs, and demonstrated performances in Azerbaijani, English, Georgian and Russian. The children also had a one-week English speaking environment where they had different daily activities that helped them improve their English skills.

The children were also taken to different historical places of Baku, namely, Ateshgah (Fire worshippers Temple), Maiden Tower, Old City and to a botanical garden.

"Dan Ulduzu" (Morning Star) children's music group and Orient Xpress, a band composed of different nationalities residing in Baku were the guests of the summer camp with their very interesting music programmes.

When the children were asked on their impressions on the summer camp at the closing ceremony all of them said they were happy not only for learning the word "friendship", but also feeling and experiencing it.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Executive Board members elected at the 2nd AzETA ELT Conference on 23 April 2005 established a Branch Monitoring Group to help AzETA branches develop further. For this aim every two EB members are responsible for a branch. In July and August the Monitoring Group members visited their respective branches. The aim of the visit was to introduce Monitoring Group members and inform the branches that now definite people in AzETA are responsible for the branch and each branch should contact its respective Monitoring Group members concerning any issues of the branch.

The Monitoring Group members also had the below tasks to discuss with their respective branches:

- Number of members
- Number of people involved in organisational management of the Branch
- Financial report
- Branch action plan for September 2005 - September 2006.
- Preparation for the new academic year – events to be held in September-December 2005.
- Branch office opening hours
- Problems/challenges the branches face.

The next visit is scheduled for 19 November.

Minjechevir:

The branch has been busy in summer. Some members implemented a project named "Read to me". They had 15 students from different secondary schools. They were the students of 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grades. AzETA members – students of Azerbaijan Teachers' Institute taught the little ones how to read and explain their own feelings, expressions about the books. There are many interesting story, fiction, colored English books in AzETA Mingechevir branch. AzETA members read many interesting English books to the children.

In future they are going to work on another project. They want to teach the little ones to sing English songs, to play different English games. The teachers of the project were: Zamira Abbasova, Leyla Khalilova, Sabina Alieya, Aysel Aliyeva, Turan Salahova, Saba Hashimova.

YOUR COLUMN

Freeze the writing - A way to make writing tasks a group activity

Taken from: <http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk>

This activity would follow input work on writing in a particular style - for example, an informal letter inviting a friend to visit your home town for a holiday.

- Set up the context for the letter, you might do a letter layout on the board to make sure that everyone knows how to lay out an informal letter.
- Put the students in pairs or threes.
- Give them a large piece of paper and say, 'Right, everyone I want you to write your address, write the opening greeting and then stop. And you do it immediately and you do it straight onto the paper.' And they do that. Then you say, 'OK now you're going to write the letter. But as you write it, at some point you'll hear me say 'Freeze!' and when I say 'Freeze!', I mean 'Freeze', even if you're in the middle of a word - you stop writing. If you're in the middle of a sentence you stop writing.'
- The students begin to write. I check that everyone has written something before I say freeze for the first time. I try to hurry the ones along that are lagging behind a little.
- When I say 'Freeze!', I transfer each paper to the next group so that everyone's working with another piece of paper with a letter on it. I give the following instruction which is to read, correct, improve and continue. So, they work on the letter that they've received and then they continue that letter.
- A bit later I say 'Freeze!' and off we go again. Transfer letters, read, correct, improve and continue.

It's always good to get the paper back to the original group just before the ending and again the same instruction - read, correct and improve and this time you say 'close'. So they bring it to a finale.

Tongue twisters

1. Three witches watch three Swatch watches. Which witch watch which Swatch watch?
2. Three switched witches watch three Swatch watch switches. Which switched witch watch which Swatch watch switch?

YOU WILL READ IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

- Launch of AzETA web-site
- AzETA members attended English teachers' meetings in 11 districts of Baku
- Baku branch members' grand meeting
- AzETA widens its international co-operation: AzETA signs an agreement of partnership with IATEFL-Hungary
- Executive Board meeting with the British Council
- News from SIGs:
 - SGA children meet in Sheki
 - Children's 2nd Conference
- News from Branches
- And more.....

Dear Members,

AzETA Baku office is open again.

We are once more extend our acknowledgement to all of you for your kind contribution to AzETA for refurbishing its Baku Office. We hope you will enjoy newly refurbished AzETA office.

Our special acknowledgement goes to: Dilara Bunyatova, Hijran Huseynova, Antiqa Vezirova, Nushaba Bakhshiyeva, Solmaz Hasanova, Mehebbet Asadova, Intizar, Solmaz Kazimova, Elmira Ilizarova. They did not only financially contribute to the repair, but they spent one full Saturday to prepare AzETA office for the repair and re-organised the office after the repair.

AzETA is proud of such members.

NOW IT IS TIME TO LAUGH

LET'S LAUGH TOGETHER



Two factory workers are talking.

Woman: I can make the boss give me the day off.

Man: And how would you do that?

Woman: Just wait and see.

She then hangs upside-down from the ceiling. The boss comes in and says, "What are you doing?"

Woman: I'm a light bulb

Boss: You've been working so much that you've gone crazy. I think you need to take the day off.

The man starts to follow her and the boss says, "Where are you going?" The man says, "I'm going home, too. I can't work in the dark."

Teacher: How can we get some clean water?

Student: Bring the water from the river and wash it.

The teacher speaking to a student said, "Saud, name two pronouns." Saud who suddenly woke up, said, "Who, me?"

Q: Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building?

A: Yes, because the Empire State Building can't jump!

For more jokes visit:

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