



# News Bulletin

September – October 2005

## Baku Branch members' grand meeting

On 1 October AzETA Baku branch members held their first grand meeting at Baku Slavic University. The aim was to update the members on AzETA Action Plan for September 2005 – September 2006, as well as to celebrate Teachers' Day and newly renovated AzETA office.

Ragsana Mammadova, AzETA President opened the meeting thanking the members for their support to AzETA in many ways and congratulated the teachers on their professional day.

Elizabeth Murphy, Public Diplomacy Officer of the US Embassy welcomed the teachers and expressed her willingness to further co-operation with AzETA.

Brian Maguire, ELT Projects Manager of the British Council congratulated the teachers on their day and their great job at AzETA. He highlighted partnership relations between the British Council and AzETA and mentioned its importance for both of them, as well as for the English teachers of Azerbaijan.

Among the guests of the meeting there was Martin Quirke who works with the British Council in Tripoli, Libya. AzETA members were happy to see Martin as he was the pioneer of the AzETA-British Council regional visits project. Although it is not a real project with specific funds, it is a project where the British Council teacher trainers join AzETA regional visits to support AzETA, as well as to give workshops in the regions.

Hijran Huseynova, AzETA Vice-President updated the members on the Action Plan and informed them on the forthcoming events.

Leaders of Special Interest Groups reported on the work done since the 2<sup>nd</sup> AzETA ELT Conference and informed on the forthcoming events. After their presentation AzETA new members joined SIGs of their interests.

AzETA website was also presented at the meeting.

The official part of the meeting ended up with the congratulation performance of the members of AzETA Enjoy English Club.

After the official part the members had a chance to celebrate Teachers' Day over tea in the newly renovated

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

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 Azerbaijan

AzETA office. They had a chance to meet Onur Senarslan, newly arrived ELT professional who kindly agreed to continue conversation groups. *If you want to join the conversation groups, contact us by email or by phone.*

### **AzETA co-operation with other ELT providers develops further**

- **Executive Board meets the British Council ELT team**

AzETA Executive Board held its second meeting with the British Council ELT team on 13 October. The aim of the meeting was to update each other on the work done and on the forthcoming events.

AzETA gave an update on the Action Plan adopted at the Executive Board meeting on 29 June 2005. Possibilities of future co-operation was also discussed.

Both sides emphasised the importance of these meetings and decided to continue this useful tradition. The next meeting is scheduled for January.

- **Opening of the Center for English Language Learning and International Education**

*By Eddie McGee, M.Ed.- English Language Senior Fellow*

In September 2005, the Center for English Language Learning and International Education (CELLIE) was founded in Ganja by English Language Senior Fellow Eddie McGee with the help of AzETA member Faiq Ibrahimov. CELLIE is a partnership between the U. S. Department of State/Office of English Language Programs and the Leaders' School of Ganja.

Currently, CELLIE houses a collection of English language books including English Language Teaching materials, books, tapes, and videos. Many AzETA-Ganja members have taken advantage of these materials, which will be enhanced by 2005-2006 program funds. Information is also available about international organizations and the academic and professional exchange programs they offer. CELLIE also offers beginning and advanced

School #29 Student Elvin Mammadov helped design the CELLIE website <http://www.cellieaz.tk> offering online resources for English teachers and students, academic and professional exchange programs, and Caucasus area information.

Two AzETA Ganja members, Rena Hassanova and Gunel Shirinova are currently teaching beginning English conversation classes at the Leader's School and the Azerbaijan Teacher's Institute and will receive a teaching practicum certificate from CELLIE.

*The Center is located at:*

The Leaders' School  
55 Israfil Mammadov Street  
Ganja, Azerbaijan

**Email:** [maqi3@yahoo.com](mailto:maqi3@yahoo.com)  
**Website:** <http://www.cellieaz.tk>

- **AzTEP - Social Studies in Elementary Curriculum**

*By Lyudmila Jafarova*

AzTEP (Azerbaijan Teacher Training Project) - Social Studies in Elementary Curriculum was implemented on 7-12 September. Teachers were chosen from schools #27, 10, 199, 1, 23. There were 6 teachers and all of them are AzETA members: Narmina Alieva, Lyudmila Jafarova, Solmaz Kazimova, Solmaz Gulieva, Gamar Rustamova and Albina Sultanova.

The main goals were: 1. to learn what Social Studies is; 2. how to integrate it in the learning process in the elementary levels, to bring up knowledgeable, active citizens, who are also to recognize and seek solutions to personal and public problems.

Teachers play a critical role in promoting active participation in strict study. Social study is the study of main relationships between human and physical environment. It is a process of learning about variety and change in the people's behavior. 20 teachers took part in training and during 6 days they learnt what Social Studies meant, went on a field trip, watched the video films about teaching process in American schools, observed lessons and then gave wonderful presentations of the

lessons using Social Studies.

The main goals were achieved. It was the beginning of piloting using Social Studies in 5 schools of Azerbaijan. Work is going on.

## NEWS FROM THE SIGs

### Young Learners:

#### SGAs Visit To Sheki

On September 13 SGAs (Student Government Associations) from three schools of Baku – School 200 (co-ordinator Rasmiya Badirova), School 177 (co-ordinator Nazaket Mehdiyeva) and School 164 (co-ordinator Irada Samadova) visited Sheki to hold a meeting after one year activity. SGA of Sheki School 8 (former co-ordinator Turkan Kerimova, our congratulations to Turkan, she got married in summer and left Azerbaijan, present co-ordinator Afer Mammadova) also joined and hosted this meeting. The meeting started with opening speech of the SGA Project Co-ordinator Afet Huseynova and it was continued with warm-up activity to give opportunity to the students to know one other. Then it was facilitated by Nazaket Mehdiyeva and SGAs shared their experiences with one another looking back to their one-year activity. After having some break they worked again in groups to discuss together their plans for the next year.

It was good for pupils to be aware of each other's experiences and plans, and continue the project with more confidence. All of them were happy to be involved in this project while they felt more important, their voice would be heard and they learnt how to organise events, to deal with the problems. Best of all they learned election rules while electing their SGA president.

The seminar was held in one of the picturesque places of Sheki called Mustafa Bey's Place. The students were also taken to Sheki Khan's Palace. The pupils wished to have such visits frequently.

This project has been possible thanks to Democracy Commission Small Grants Spring 2004 Competition of the US State Department.

### Civic Education.

*By Tarana Aliyeva*

With some AzETA members I am involved in Deliberation in Democracy Project of OSI. For the sustainability of the Project, we regularly share the knowledge gained through this Project with our peers in AzETA through workshops. In these workshops we involve teachers to prepare materials on Civic Education and share our ideas with the teachers on how to live in different communities, how to protect our rights, etc.

Some members of our SIG visited the US to learn the ways of teaching deliberation. American teachers visited Azerbaijan and attended our classes to observe our lessons. Student Government Associations organised a Summer Camp in June. Some teachers were trained and they are going to give workshops in future. We have close ties with History Teachers' Union "Nur". We speak much about democracy, about its principles, objectives, elections, freedom of speech, tolerance, diversity, ecological problems, etc. Some people don't have any knowledge about all this. We carried out a survey in schools among teachers and students. Results showed that we really need Civic Education. Deliberating civic issues is not a natural behavior. It must be taught, developed and practiced regularly.

We are very grateful to Open Society Institute-Assistance Foundation, British Council, American Education Department, ACCELS, Project Harmony providing. AzETA with support and with trainers. By the end of the year, 200 teachers will have been trained on civic education. The aim is to promote AzETA more, to create opportunity for many other teachers to benefit from AzETA. We believe that we will be able to achieve our goal successfully.

### Testing and Assessment

*By Khalida Rustamova*

As all other AzETA SIGs, our SIG was also established in June 2004. It popped out of the necessity and demand of having new style tests that are mostly logical rather than grammatical. And our aim is to help our students matriculates and teachers to ease the process of working with English tests at school and in taking the entrance exams

At the moment we have approximately 48 members, out of which 12-13 are active members. They all compile and design tests for different levels. The group members meet once a week to share their problems and opinions on challenging questions, solve challenging tests. While working together we learn from each-other's experience and each time make a step forward, improve and gain new skills, become more creative.

During the last 5-6 months we have worked on the tests for the 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> grades. Some teachers have designed a number of tests on different parts of speech and mostly logical tests. We have prepared 700 tests and till the end of the year we are planning to increase the number up to 1000.

We have worked out an action plan of our SIG for 2005-2006, which includes:

- to hold regular meetings of the Group
- to attend the seminars at State Committee on Students Admission and take an active part in the discussions, learn from their experience, cooperate with them
- to encourage all AzETA branches to establish their own Testing & Assessment SIG and thus increase the number of enthusiastic and creative teachers – test designers.
- to have a special page on AzETA web-site where all these tests designed by the Group will be compiled for the use of the web-site visitors
- to seek the possibilities to cooperate with relevant test designing Centers.

But I should say that we have problems as well. We need the ones who can be responsible for typing the hand –writing. If there is a volunteer among you, you are welcome to join us. Because we have lots of tests in hand-writing.

## NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

### Ganja

On 1 October AzETA Ganja branch had an opening at the new space. Quite a lot had been done during the week to arrange the place. The books are in order and it feels like an office now. Apart from AzETA members some Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) also joined the opening ceremony. Some English teachers came from Guranboy with a PCV.

Although Ganja Branch faced some problems due to change of location several times recently, with the help of its dedicated members the Branch could survive the difficulties. The activities, teacher training workshops continue, the members are interested in establishing different SIGs to add more flavour to the activities organised in the Branch and to involve more teachers.

### Mingechevir

Mingechevir Branch was busy this summer. Some members came together and implemented a project titled "Read to Me". They involved 15 students from different secondary schools. They were the students of the 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades. The students from the Institute of Languages taught the little ones how to read and explain their feelings, expressions about the books. There are many interesting colored English books, stories, fiction in Mingechevir Branch office. AzETA members read many interesting English stories to the children and discussed them with the children. The teachers of the project were: Zamira Abbasova, Leyla Khalilova, Sabina Alieya, Aysel Aliyeva, Turan Salahova, Saba Hashimova. With this Project Mingechevir Branch established Young Learners SIG.

Seeing the interest of the children and effectiveness of the project, the student-teachers of the Project decided to work on another project, where they will teach the little ones to sing English songs, to play different games.

### Study tour of AzETA branches

On 15 October 50 members from all AzETA Branches had a study tour to Sheki Branch. The aim was to share experience and opinions, to learn from one another's experiences and to seek ways for co-operation among the branches.

AzETA branches functioned separately and co-operation among them was not high. The study tour enabled the participants to hear success and failure stories of branches. The branches were also given an opportunity to present their one-year action plans.

The study tour was funded by AzETA membership fee budget. AzETA members from Zaqatala and Yevlax also joined the study tour. AzETA acknowledges Eddie McGee for supporting transportation of Ganja Branch members.

## NEWS, NEWS, NEWS, NEWS....

Dear members,

Now you can be more proud with the organisation you belong to, i.e. AzETA as:

➤ ***AzETA has got a web-site now:***

[www.az-eta.org](http://www.az-eta.org)

Now on, AzETA will be with you wherever you go. You will be able to get the latest news on AzETA, its activities and forthcoming events. You will also be able to read about your own or your peers' achievements, see photos and share them with your friends worldwide. AzETA acknowledges the British Council for supporting the web-site.

➤ ***Now AzETA is the member of IATEFL***

(International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language) – a UK based international organisation. This will enable AzETA members to attend IATEFL Conferences with some discounts in registration, IATEFL officers will attend AzETA conferences, and thus our international co-operation will foster. AzETA is also working towards becoming an Associate member of IATEFL through which AzETA and its members will benefit from being a part of a world-famous organisation like IATEFL. We are grateful to the British Council for enabling us to join IATEFL and enjoy belonging to an international ELT community.

➤ ***AzETA widens its map of co-operation.***

On 7-9 October AzETA President attended IATEFL-Hungary 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference where the foundation of co-operation between these 2 organisations was laid. It was also a very good opportunity for AzETA to meet the representatives of the TAs of the Eastern European countries represented at the Conference. An agreement was reached among all the TAs to seek an opportunity for implementing joint projects and attending one another's events. AzETA acknowledges the US Embassy for supporting AzETA to be represented in such an important event.

➤ ***AzETA – US Embassy Book recycling project***

has been re-established. You can buy original ELT books published in the US with very reasonable prices. The fund raised through this project will be used for AzETA events in future. The sale is organised in AzETA office on Wednesdays at 14:00-17:00

## YOUR COLUMN

If you have new ideas on teaching English this is just the place for you to share your experience with other teachers. In this issue two of our members share with the readers their presentations on civic education:

***By Ayna Sadiqova***

On 7 October I organised a workshop on Human Rights. The topic was "The Convention on the Rights of Child". 25 members of AzETA participated in that workshop.

I involved the participants in different activities on children's rights. I shared with the participants handouts on teaching Human Rights through English.

The main idea of the workshop was to encourage the participants to teach their students the main principles of the Convention through teaching English. Children must know their rights, understand their responsibilities and act accordingly.

Objectives of the workshop were to:

- Introduce to the participants main groups of Children's Rights, their importance and the context of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Encourage the participants to explain to their students that Children's Rights cover all spheres of a child's life and that they retain importance in the contemporary world
- Raise awareness of the participants on the ways of teaching children's rights through teaching English.

Seeing the effectiveness of the workshops as such, at the end of the workshop it was decided that the members of the Civic Education SIG would regularly organise such workshops both for the members in Baku and in all AzETA branches throughout the country. If you are interested, contact me at: [s\\_sadigova@az-eta.org](mailto:s_sadigova@az-eta.org)

***By Farida Huseynova***

This year I am involved in "Deliberating in Democracy" Project and we had three deliberations this year.

In June I gave two presentations: "The principles

of Democracy” and ”Saying “No” to Violence” in the summer camp, in Zugulba for members of Civic Education SIG.

All the participants were interested in learning the principles of Democracy. First, I Presented a map of a perfect democracy. We did a lot of tasks. It was very interesting for the participants to learn how to go from Dictatorship to Democracy.

My second presentation was:”Saying “No” to Violence“. It was also exciting for the participants. I gave two types of violences: physical and psychocological violences. I also focused on what makes the violences happen, reasons of violences and how to solve them. They worked in three groups and gave arguments and at the end they came to an agreement. It was very interesting for the participants to learn more about this aspect of Civic Education.

In future I am going to give some more workshops about the Democracy in AzETA office. If you are interested in participating in the workshops, you may contact AzETA office or me directly at: [feride290@box.az](mailto:feride290@box.az)

### YOU WILL READ IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

- **Sue Leather, the British Council NQT Consultant meets AzETA Executive Board**
- **Children’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference**
- **Lisa Harshbarger, new Regional English Language Officer visits Azerbaijan**
- **AzETA Regional Conference in Neftchala**
- **AzETA Branches’ study tour to Mingechevir Branch**
- **AzETA Branch managers’ meeting**
- **New Year party for the beneficiaries-orphans of AzETA Qizildash and Umid Yeri Projects**

## NOW IT IS TIME TO LAUGH AND THINK

### LET’S LAUGH AND THINK TOGETHER



A man went to a barber’s shop to have his hair and his beard cut as always. He started to have a good conversation with the barber who attended him. They talked about so many things and various subjects.

Suddenly, they touched the subject of ALLAH. The barber said: "Look man, I don't believe that ALLAH exists as you say so." "Why do you say that?" asked the client. Well, it's so easy; you just have to go out in the street to realize that ALLAH does not exist. Oh, tell me, if ALLAH existed, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If ALLAH existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't think of an ALLAH who permits all of these things." The client stopped for a moment thinking but he didn't want to respond so as to prevent an argument.

The barber finished his job and the client went out of the shop. Just after he left the barber shop he saw a man in the street with a long hair and beard (it seems that it had been a long time since he had his hair cut and he looked so untidy). Then the client again entered the barber shop and he said to the barber: «know what? Barbers do not exist."

"How come they don't exist?"-asked the barber. "Well I am here and I am a barber." "No!" - The client exclaimed. "They don't exist because if they did there would be no people with long hair and beard like that man who walks in the street."

"Ah, barbers do exist, what happens is that people do not come to me." "Exactly!"- affirmed the client. "That's the point. ALLAH does exist, what happens is people don't go to Him and do not look for Him. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."