



News Bulletin

January – February 2006

Executive Board meets

AzETA Executive Board held a meeting on 21 January to discuss the below issues including AzETA 3rd Annual Conference:

1. AzETA study tour results and next study tour
2. Visit to the branches
3. Teacher Training in AzETA Baku office
4. AzETA library
5. Assessment of the Executive Board members:
Individual EB member's report to the 3rd Conference
6. Activity & financial report book on AzETA projects implemented in 2003-2005

As the most important event of the year is the Conference the Executive Board went into details of its discussion. The date of the Conference was fixed for 8-10 September 2006. This is the period when the summer holiday for schools and universities still continues and thus, the teachers can easily attend the Conference without taking any leave from their teaching.

Apart from plenary and concurrent sessions, the Conference will also hear the reports of the SIGs, AzETA branches, the Executive Board. Individual Executive Board members will also account to the Conference on their work during the reporting period. The Conference will elect the new Executive Board. This time AzETA is having a different strategy for elections and will announce an election campaign for the interested members to run for elections. Executive Board will set criteria for nomination and the candidates will be given an opportunity to visit the regions to speak about their election platform. Short biodata and election platform of the candidates agreed to be included in the Conference package for the voters to make a fair decision on their choices. *If you are interested in running for elections, please contact AzETA Baku office for details.*

As in previous years, it was agreed that the Conference would be open to international participation. Although there is not funding available for the Conference so far, potential donors will be approached with a project proposal soon. The Conference has already been announced through different international networks, as well as nation-wide.

Registration forms are available online at www.az-eta.org

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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:

Tel.: (+994 12)441 5068 (ext: 1-51)

Tel/Fax: (+994 12) 441 3632

Email: info@az-eta.org

Web-site: www.az-eta.org

AzETA Head Office is located at:

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

Chris Tribble meets AzETA Executive Board

Chris Tribble, British Council External Evaluator met AzETA Executive Board members to evaluate the state of in-service teacher training in Azerbaijan and AzETA's involvement in it. He was informed how much in-service teacher training AzETA had been doing so far and AzETA's future plans in this regard.

It was mentioned that due to financial constraints AzETA has been unable to provide nation-wide in-service teacher training, but would be happy to co-operate on this with Azerbaijan Teachers' Institute and the University of Languages that provide official in-service teacher training.

It was agreed at the meeting that AzETA would develop a questionnaire to collect data on in-service teacher training in the regions of Azerbaijan. (**Note:** AzETA has already developed and distributed the questionnaire among its contacts in the regions).

Chris Tribble was impressed with the work of the Association and had a family photo with the Executive Board members.

AzETA joins a regional project on Newly Qualified Teachers

As mentioned in November-December issue of the News Bulletin, Sue Leather, British Council Consultant on Newly Qualified Teachers (NQT) visited Azerbaijan to investigate the situation on NQTs. This visit resulted from a regional project on NQTs, which AzETA also joined.

After her visit, Sue developed a sample materials starter pack which was discussed at a workshop held in Sofia, Bulgaria on 23-25 February. Ragsana Mammadova and Gulshan Samedova represented AzETA at the workshop.

The idea is that the pack will address the needs of the most sophisticated and the least sophisticated contexts in the region. The teacher working in a small village in a rural area, with little access to internet or other resources will find it useful. She will also have the aim of being able to access all of the resources available at some point. The NQT working in the city with access to more resources

will find it exciting enough.

The pack is intended to be designed as self-access material as well as for training purposes by Teachers Associations. There will therefore be training exercises in the appendix. These will be cross referenced in the modules themselves.

It should, therefore, have the following elements:

1. Hard copy (paper)
2. CD Rom
3. Available online with links to resources online

It was agreed at the workshop that 2-4 trainers from each TA would attend a training to be organised in summer under the current Project.

With this purpose AzETA established a new SIG to unite NQTs and to achieve the sustainability of the Project.

ACCELS book donation ceremony

Every year AzETA members apply for ACCELS TEA programme and most of them become award winners and attend courses in the US. After coming back they always organise workshops in AzETA to share the knowledge gained through these courses with their peers.

Narmina Aliyeva, ACCELS TEA Programme award winner of 2005 approached AzETA with an initiative of donating books they have brought from the US to AzETA library. The aim is that the books reach the hands of as many English teachers through AzETA. Her idea was supported by ACCELS and by her peers Lyudmila Jafarova, Qamar Rustamova and Solmaz Kazimova, who had attended the course together with her.

With this purpose a book donation ceremony was organised in AzETA on 5 February. AzETA EEC members were also present at the ceremony. One of the Club members had a lesson on environmental protection involving his peers in heat debate on the topic.

Narmina Aliyeva and her peers enjoyed the demonstration of the Club members very much and were pleased to donate the books to AzETA.

AzETA acknowledges Narmina Aliyeva and her peers for this valuable donation and is proud of its members for always caring about AzETA.

NEWS FROM THE SIGs

Teacher Training:

One of the tasks in the AzETA Action Plan for 2005-2006 is to organise teacher training courses in AzETA Baku office.

With this purpose in September 2005, Teacher Training SIG distributed application forms for teacher training courses in AzETA. The courses started in November 2005. It is a pilot course with the purpose of achieving a sustainable teacher training courses in AzETA to be delivered to every member in future.

There are 20 trainees in the course. The courses are organised during school holidays of the teachers. It will last until May 2006 and the participants will get a certificate at the end. The first course was organised during November school holiday. Huzura Agayeva trained the teachers on 4 skills of ELT.

During winter holiday Hijran Huseynova and Amalia Musayeva trained the teachers on Academic Writing

Below one of the participants shares her impression on one of the courses:

My participation in the Academic Writing course conducted by Hijran Huseynova and Amalia Musayeva in January 2006 was beneficial for me as a teacher to grow and develop professionally, to achieve goals and to cope with challenges, and develop further and implement innovative approaches to developing writing skills in my lessons.

I consider the pilot course on Academic Writing was very interesting and useful for its practical value in the classroom. We, teachers, had a great fun and productive time during the course. We were introduced to fresh ideas on teaching writing with effective and enjoyable learning activities. I acknowledge Huijran and Amalia for being such imaginative and creative teachers.

Apart from this regular training, TT SIG members organise workshops, demonstrations in AzETA every Saturday. The aim is to share knowledge with peers and improve presentations skills. Such a strategy helps the members develop personally and professionally.

Welcome to Samir Mammadov



Samir Mammadov is an alumna of the British Council managed Hornby Educational Trust. He studied for his MA in the University of Lancaster of the UK in 2004-2005. After accomplishing his studies successfully, Samir came back and was introduced to AzETA by the British Council. He showed interest in finding solution to some of the problems AzETA was facing and offered his assistance.

The British Council donated some computers to AzETA, but the staff were having some problems in accessing them. Samir invited an IT specialist and spent a Saturday afternoon in a cold AzETA office to solve all computer problems.

Samir also helped AzETA get connected to internet. Now there is a regular internet connection in AzETA Baku office.

As an alumna of a US Programme, Samir also submitted a project proposal on behalf of AzETA to organise a summer camp for orphans in July.

We cordially welcome Samir to AzETA and are very happy that now there are 2 Hornby alumni in AzETA who can help AzETA develop further through Hornby Alumni network.

Congratulations to Friendship Force

AzETA congratulates Friendship Force organisation that has recently been registered officially as an NGO.

The head of the organisation is Solmaz Kazimova, one of active members of AzETA and leader of AzETA Young Learners SIG.

AzETA is very proud that our members, especially female members, get empowered and establish their own organisations.

We wish best of luck to Friendship Force!

YOUR COLUMN

What Colours Mean

<http://www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0769383.html>

We live in a colourful world. In many countries, colours represent various holidays; they are also used to express feelings and enliven language. Find your favourite colour and see what it means around the world.

Red

For the ancient Romans, a **red** flag was a signal for battle.

The ancient Egyptians considered themselves a **red** race and painted their bodies with **red** dye for emphasis.

In Russia, **red** means beautiful. The Bolsheviks used a **red** flag as their symbol when they overthrew the tsar in 1917. That is how **red** became the colour of communism.

In India, **red** is the symbol for a soldier.

In South Africa, **red** is the colour of mourning.

It's considered good luck to tie a **red** bow on a new car.

In China, **red** is the colour of good luck and is used as a holiday and wedding colour. Chinese babies are given their names at a **red**-egg ceremony.

Superstitious people think **red** frightens the devil.

A "**red**-letter day" is one of special importance and good fortune.

In Greece, eggs are dyed **red** for good luck at Easter time.

To "paint the town **red**" is to celebrate.

Red is the colour most commonly found in national flags.

In the English War of the Roses, **red** was the colour of the House of Lancaster, which defeated the House of York, symbolised by the colour white.

The "**Red**shirts" were the soldiers of the Italian leader Garibaldi, who unified modern Italy in the nineteenth century.

To "see **red**" is to be angry.

A "**red** herring" is a distraction, something that takes attention away from the real issue.

A "**red** eye" is an overnight airplane flight.

Green

Only one national flag is a solid colour: the **green** flag of Libya.

Ancient Egyptians coloured the floors of their temples **green**.

In ancient Greece, **green** symbolised victory

In the highlands of Scotland, people wore **green** as a mark of honour.

Green is the national colour of Ireland.

A "**greenback**" is slang for a U.S. dollar bill.

Green means "go." When "all systems are **green**," it means everything is in order.

The **green** room of a concert hall or theatre is where performers relax before going onstage.

The "**green**-eyed monster" is jealousy.

A **greenhorn** is a newcomer or unsophisticated person.

Green is youthful.

Being "**green** around the gills" is looking pale and sickly.

"**Green** with envy" means full of envy or jealousy.

A person with a "**green** thumb" is good at making plants grow.

Green is a healing colour, the colour of nature.

Blue

In ancient Rome, public servants wore **blue**.

Today, police and other public servants wear **blue**.

In Iran, **blue** is the colour of mourning.

Blue was used as protection against witches, who supposedly dislike the colour.

If you are "true **blue**," you are loyal and faithful.

Blue stands for love, which is why a bride carries or wears something **blue** on her wedding day.

A room painted **blue** is said to be relaxing.

"Feeling **blue**" is feeling sad. "**Blue** devils" are feelings of depression.

Something "out of the **blue**" is from an unknown source at an unexpected time.

A **bluebook** is a list of socially prominent people.

The first prize gets a **blue** ribbon.

Purple, Violet

The Egyptian queen Cleopatra loved **purple**.

To obtain one ounce of Tyrian **purple** dye, she had her servants soak 20,000 **Purpura** snails for 10 days.

In Thailand, **purple** is worn by a widow mourning her husband's death.

A "**purple** heart" is a U.S. military decoration for soldiers wounded or killed in battle.

Purple is a royal colour.

Purple robes are an emblem of authority and rank.

"**Purple** speech" is profane talk.

"**Purple** prose" is writing that is full of exaggerated literary effects and ornamentation.

Leonardo da Vinci believed that the power of meditation increases 10 times when done in a **purple** light, as in the **purple** light of stained glass.

Purple in a child's room is said to help develop the imagination according to colour theory.

Richard Wagner composed his operas in a room with shades of **violet**, his colour of inspiration.

Yellow

In Egypt and Burma, **yellow** signifies mourning.

In Spain, executioners once wore **yellow**.

In India, **yellow** is the symbol for a merchant or farmer.

In tenth-century France, the doors of traitors and criminals were painted **yellow**.

Hindus in India wear **yellow** to celebrate the festival of spring.

If someone is said to have a "**yellow** streak," that person is considered a coward.

In Japan during the War of Dynasty in 1357, each warrior wore a **yellow** chrysanthemum as a pledge of courage.

A **yellow yellow** ribbon is a sign of support for soldiers at the front.

Yellow is a symbol of jealousy and deceit.

In the Middle Ages, actors portraying the dead in a play wore **yellow**.

To holistic healers, **yellow** is the colour of peace.

Yellow has good visibility and is often used as a colour of warning. It is also a symbol for quarantine, an area marked off because of danger.

"**Yellow** journalism" refers to irresponsible and alarmist reporting.

White

A **white** flag is the universal symbol for truce.

White means mourning in China and Japan.

Angels are usually depicted wearing **white** robes.

The ancient Greeks wore **white** to bed to ensure pleasant dreams.

The Egyptian pharaohs wore **white** crowns.

The ancient Persians believed all gods wore **white**.

A "**white** elephant" is a rare, pale elephant considered sacred to the people of India, Thailand, Burma, and Sri Lanka; in this country, it is either a possession that costs more than it is worth to keep or an item that the owner doesn't want but can't get rid of.

It's considered good luck to be married in a **white** garment.

White heat is a state of intense enthusiasm, anger, devotion, or passion.

To **white**wash is to gloss over defects or make something seem presentable that isn't.

A "**white** knight" is a rescuer.

A **white** list contains favoured items (as opposed to a blacklist).

A "**white**out" occurs when there is zero visibility during a blizzard.

A "**white** sale" is a sale of sheets, towels, and other bed and bath items.

A "**whited** sepulcher" is a person who is evil inside but appears good on the outside, a hypocrite.

"**White** lightning" is slang for moonshine, a homebrewed alcohol.

A **white** room is a clean room as well as a temperature-controlled, dust-free room for precision instruments.

White water is the foamy, frothy water in rapids and waterfalls.

Black

The ancient Egyptians and Romans used **black** for mourning, as do most Europeans and Americans today.

The “**Blackshirts**” were the security troops in Hitler's German army, also known as the S.S.

Black often stands for secrecy.

Black humour is morbid or unhealthy and gloomy humour.

A “**blackhearted**” person is evil.

If a business is “in the **black**,” it is making money.

A “**blacklist**” is a list of persons or organisations to be boycotted or punished.

Black is associated with sophistication and elegance. A “**black tie**” event is formal.

A **black** belt in karate identifies an expert.

A **black** flag in a car race is the signal for a driver to go to the pits.

A **blackguard** is a scoundrel.

The ancient Egyptians believed that **black** cats had divine powers.

Black lung is a coal miner's disease caused by the frequent inhaling of coal dust.

Blackmail is getting things by threat.

Black market is illegal trade in goods or money.

A **black** sheep is an outcast.

“**Blackwash**” (as opposed to “whitewash”) is to uncover or bring out in the light.

A **blackout** is a period of darkness from the loss of electricity, for protection against nighttime air raids, or, in the theatre, to separate scenes in a play.

When you “**black** out,” you temporarily lose consciousness.

YOU WILL READ IN THE NEXT ISSUE

1. **EEC celebrate International Women's Day and Novruz**
2. **AzETA officer attends TESOL Conference**
3. **AzETA officers attend IATEFL Conference**
4. **AzETA organises a roundtable of educators**
5. **Study tour of branches**
6. **..... and more**

NOW IT IS TIME TO LAUGH



A first-grade teacher, Ms. Brooks, was having trouble with one of her students. The teacher asked, "Harry, what's your problem?"

Harry answered, "I'm too smart for the 1st grade. My sister is in the 3rd grade and I'm smarter than she is! I think I should be in the 3rd grade too!"

Ms. Brooks had had enough. She took Harry to the principal's office.

While Harry waited in the outer office, the teacher explained to the principal what the situation was. The principal told Ms. Brooks he would give the boy a test. If he failed to answer any of his questions he was to go back to the 1st grade and behave. She agreed.

Harry was brought in and the conditions were explained to him and he agreed to take the test.

Principal: "What is 3 x 3?" Harry: "9."

Principal: "What is 6 x 6?" Harry: "36."

And so it went with every question the principal thought a 3rd grader should know.

The principal looks at Ms. Brooks and tells her, "I think Harry can go to the 3rd grade."

Ms. Brooks says to the principal, "Let me ask him some questions." The principal and Harry both agreed.

Ms. Brooks asks, "What does a cow have four of that I have only two of?" Harry, after a moment: "Legs."

Ms. Brooks: "What is in your pants that you have but I do not have?" The principal wondered why would she ask such a question! Harry replied: "Pockets."

Ms. Brooks: "What does a dog do that a man steps into?" Harry: "Pants."

Ms. Brooks: "What starts with a C, ends with a T, is hairy, oval, delicious and contains thin, whitish liquid?" Harry: "Coconut."

The principal sat forward with his mouth hanging open. Ms. Brooks: "What goes in hard and pink then comes out soft and sticky?"

The principal's eyes opened really wide and before he could stop the answer, Harry replied, "Bubble gum."

Ms. Brooks: "What does a man do standing up, a woman does sitting down and a dog does on three legs?" Harry: "Shake hands." The principal was trembling.

Ms. Brooks: "What word starts with an 'F' and ends in 'K' that means a lot of heat and excitement?" Harry: "Fire truck."

The principal breathed a sigh of relief and told the teacher, "Put Harry in the fifth-grade, I got the last seven questions wrong....."