



# News Bulletin

March – April 2006

## Study tour of AzETA Branches

### Baku:

Study tour to Baku Branch was held on 4 March. Discussion points were:

- Branches – why do we need them?
- People – who are in charge of what?
- Organisational structure of a branch
- Financing
- Branch communication points

As usual, Eddie McGee also joined the study tour. This time he gave presentation on “Internet based TOEFL”.

British Council Teacher Trainers also contributed to the study tour and gave workshops as below:

1. Anne Chapman: "Using graded readers in the classroom"
2. Simon Best: “Facilitating Listening Comprehension”

There were 30 participants at the event. As in previous cases, the participants (5 members from each branch) left the study tour more empowered and with new ideas to apply to their respective branches.

The study tour was financed from the AzETA membership fee budget.

### Ganja:

Study tour to Ganja Branch was held on 22 April. The meeting started with the news on organisational issues, namely, AzETA 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference and election to AzETA Executive Board.

Then the participants were introduced to the topic of the day: Project Proposal Writing. The participants were given some guidelines on effective project proposal writing. After the session they were given a chance to think in groups of some project titles, to develop a project proposal and submit to the AzETA Executive Board in 2 weeks' time. They were also provided with the list of some potential donors and were informed on the US Embassy Democracy Commission Small Grants Programme.

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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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As always the British Council teacher trainers joined the study tour to give their contribution. After lunch Anne Chapman had a workshop on dictation. Erika Sigvallius gave a workshop on warmers and fillers. Both workshops were very interesting and the participants were very active after a challenging workshop on project proposal writing.

As the previous ones, this study tour was also financed from the AzETA membership fee budget.

AzETA acknowledge Anne and Erika to spend their Saturday with the members and give great contribution to the event.

### Peace Corps Conference

Peace Corps held its next Conference for its Volunteers and their counterparts.

The aim of the Conference was to bring Peace Corps Volunteers who work in different regions of Azerbaijan and their counterparts together to train them on basic skills of ELT. AzETA was invited to the closing ceremony of the Conference held on 31 March to inform the participants on AzETA's mission, its aim, activities and future plans. The participants were briefed on:

- Mission of AzETA
- Membership
- Branches
- SIGs
- Associate membership with IATEFL
- Website
- Partnership, including the British Council, US Emb, ACCELS, IREX, Project Harmony, Ministry of Education, education departments of the regions, other education related institutions/NGOs, etc.

It was also a good opportunity to inform more people on AzETA 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference. The participants were very interested and exchanged contact details for further co-operation.

AzETA extend acknowledgement to Peace Corps for such an opportunity and for always seeking ways to continue the co-operation.

### AzETA officers attended IATEFL 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference



*Ragsana Mammadova and Hijran Huseynova with Lady Mayor of Harrogate, IATEFL President and Vice-President*

With the invitation of IATEFL Ragsana Mammadova, AzETA President and Hijran Huseynova, AzETA Vice-President attended IATEFL Associates' Day and IATEFL 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference held in Harrogate, UK on 8-12 April.

IATEFL has around 70 Associates. 30 of them were represented at the Associates' Day, including AzETA. The day started with welcoming notes of Ms Tessa Woodward, IATEFL President. Then the participants were given a chance to introduce themselves. After the introduction the participants were involved in heat discussion on the challenges and success stories of the TAs they were representing. Everybody was amazed to hear the success story of AzETA after a big challenge of getting about collapsing due to lack of management skills.

There were famous ELT professionals among the plenary speakers and presenters, like Michael Swan, Penny Ur, George Pickering, Carolyn Graham, etc.

All in all, it was a very useful event as:

- It created lots of learning and sharing opportunities
- There was a chance to promote AzETA
- The Associates Day enabled AzETA to extend its co-operation and join a new

- Colourful evening events for different Networks had been organised
- Different sessions provided food for thought
- Programme was very sophisticated
- Forums of different SIGs were very helpful to understand their missions better

AzETA acknowledge the British Council Azerbaijan for funding AzETA's representation at the event and the IATEFL for complimentary registration of the AzETA representative.

### US Ambassador and Mrs Leslie Harnish bid farewell to AzETA members



*Ragsana Mammadova presents the Ambassador with the Certificate of Honorary Member of AzETA*

HE Mr Reno Harnish, US Ambassador to Azerbaijan accomplished his assignment to Azerbaijan and left the country on 24 April. Before leaving the country, he held several meetings with the Government officials and heads of diplomatic corps and international organisations in Azerbaijan.

As a loyal friend, he made a surprise visit to AzETA to bid farewell to members and donate some more books to the library of the Association on 20 April.

The members were very impressed with the Ambassador's attention who thanked them for their great work and asked to continue it mentioning that AzETA is one of the best NGOs he has known in Azerbaijan and the US Embassy will always support AzETA.

For their great support to AzETA the Executive Board members decided to give to the Ambassador and Mrs Harnish a Certificate of Honorary Member of AzETA. Both of them were very impressed by this attention and said that they would keep the certificates in the best places at home and would always have fond memories from AzETA.

Local TV channels (ATV & ITV) taped the ceremony for their news programmes.

Sahiba Qafarova, Vice-Rector of Baku Slavic University, Johathan Henick, Public Affairs Attache and Afet Ibrahimova, Education Assistant of the US Embassy, Shane Austin, Country Director of ACCELS were among the guests of the ceremony.

### NEWS FROM THE SIGs

**Young Learners:** *Enjoy English Club celebrated International Women's Day & Novruz*

*By Dilara Bunyatova*

AzETA EEC organised an event on 11 March to celebrate 2 events - International Women's Day and Novruz. The title of the event was: Woman and Novruz. They had prepared a special concert programme in English and exhibition of paintings in AzETA office.

The participants of the event were 14 students from Gizidash and Ümud Yeri and 10 students from Lyceum after Heydar Aliyev, 18 students from EEC, 3 members from the school # 77.

The event also aimed at promoting the Marathon "Friend in need is a friend indeed" AzETA started in March. So far some donations have been made by different members, partners. The donations mainly are clothing items for the orphans.

As the previous events, this event also left fond memories with the children - they recited poems, sang songs in English, danced, demonstrated some pieces from famous performances, were very active in Q & A session on Novruz and International Women's Day, as well as on different contests like eating bananas, peeling apples, eating an apple placed in the water in a

plate, painting, etc. At the end of the event all the children were given a chance to dance together which was the crescendo of the event.

For the success of the event we acknowledge:

- Hijran Huseynova, AzETA Vice President for co-ordinating with Baku Slavic University for the venue of the event and for other administrative issues regarding the event;
- Members of AzETA Young Learners' Special Interest Group who organised tea party after the event and children from other schools to join the event;
- Enjoy English Club members who organised and funded the event;
- Eddie McGee, English Language Senior Fellow in Ganja who donated \$50 to the event with the help of which we arranged transportation for the children-orphans from Qizildash to attend the event;
- Anne Burke, short term English Language Fellow of the US Embassy who donated 20 AZN to the event which we will add to the summer camp budget we intend to organise for these orphans and for the presents that were used in the event to award the winners of the contests and quizzes;
- Quinta Woodward from Community Shield Azerbaijan, who attended the event and encouraged the children and in general, for her great support to Qizildash children in many ways;
- Samir Mammadov, Hornby Alumna who joined the event and always seeks opportunities to support AzETA activities;
- Flora Kerimova, People's Artist of Azerbaijan, who joined the event and encouraged the children with her speech and live singing;
- Children from the participating school who donated to the event.

Media coverage of the event was from "Respublica gencleri" (Youth of the Republic) local paper.

The impact of the event was that it strengthened the friendship ties between the orphans and children from different schools of Baku as in the below poem the children composed:

This is a special day for us  
Our friends are here again  
From Gizildash and Umud Yeri  
Come, come here dear friends  
Sing, dance and say  
Thanks to AZETA  
Thanks to the supporters

Thanks to BSU  
Thanks to everyone,  
For giving us a chance  
To sing, rejoice and dance.

We do hope that we will continue supporting these children as our aim is to bring them up as worthy citizens of this country and of the world, in general.

**Teacher Training:**     *Regional co-operation continues*

*By Lyudmila Jafarova*

The Group members continue regional visits to give workshops. On 24 March-26 March Narmina Alieva I were in Ganja to organise training for 20 teachers from different schools in Ganja, including schools # 5, 8, 16, 28, 29. The topic of the training was "Social Studies" We discussed the ways of developing new curriculum for elementary levels, what must be done for curriculum development, which will reflect all aspects of social studies, of own life, create new knowledge needed for teaching at school in a rapidly changing world. The selected teachers for teaching were very active, showed interest and requested us to extend the training from 3 days to 6 days.

After giving the workshop they made presentation which showed that they understood the main goals of social studies. The teachers created their presentation connecting them with natural world, using new methods of teaching. All the presenters were successful in achieving the goals of the training.

On 2 May we will go to Ganja again to observe selected teachers while teaching. We hope that they will make good presentations.

The goal of this project is to raise the students' awareness and prepare them for social life.

I am sure that Social Studies will have positive impact on the teaching process at schools and our country will benefit from it.

### **Testing and Assessment**

This SIG has been functioning for more than two years. During this time we have had regular meetings, discussed the importance and necessity of designing tests.

As we all know our previous tests were mostly based on grammar and in the entrance exams our matriculates – school leavers came across with the tests that caused confusion for students and for us – teachers as well.

So in order to overcome the obstacles, solve the challenges and clarify the problematic tests we created Testing and Assessment Interest Group.

This is how the necessity popped out and our SIG was created.

We have gained experience through coming together, discussing, sharing and learning from each other and in this way could develop. About 45 teachers – school teachers and University teachers both from public and private sectors joined our SIG and were involved to design and type new style tests.

Last we had our meeting on Saturday April 22, where we discussed a number of questions, worked on the test bank for the 8th grade trying to explain the confusing tests in the book. Then we decided to continue our co-operation with State Committee on Students' Admission till the end of May.

We also renewed the list of the most active, hardworking members of our SIG who do their best for the improvement and promotion of our Interest Group demonstrating great enthusiasm, creativity and capability. Nowadays we all try to develop logical tests, based on practical English that make the students concentrate on learning more words, enlarge their word stock, think critically and also make a right choice. The members came to a decision to develop and increase the number of new style tests in the website till the upcoming AzETA 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference. We are sure that our joint efforts will give its fruitful results and all teachers and our children will benefit immensely from our test bank placed in AzETA website.

Our aim is to bring up skilled, educated, creative citizens, because the future of our Republic is in the hands of future generation. Each of us should do our best to do for our children, for their education and direct them correctly. This is our duty!

*Khalida Rustamova,*

*Testing and Assessment SIG Co-ordinator*

## NEWS FROM AzETA BRANCHES

### Mingechevir:

The Branch was facing some problems recently. Mingechevir Affiliation of Azerbaijan Teachers University where AzETA Branch office is located is closed for repair and the University authority requested to move AzETA office to the University library until the repair was over.

AzETA Executive Board members Ragsana Mammadova, Afet Husyenova and Ayna Sadigova visited Mingechevir on 1 April to have a meeting of Branch activists. They discussed problems the Branch was facing. The main problem was that due to some family reasons the Branch manager was unable to run the Branch properly since January. After discussion with the activists, a management committee was established to run the Branch. The activists volunteered Nasiba Huseynova Deputy Head of Branch. Sevil Nuriyeva volunteered to lead Young Learners SIG, Erkinaz Mammadova volunteered to lead Teacher Training SIG, Zamira Abbasova volunteered to assist the Deputy Head of the Branch in organisational issues.

After the visit Teacher Training SIG started workshops in the Branch and Young Learners SIG is preparing an event involving the secondary students they teach. The activists also attended the study tour held in Ganja and informed that they managed to return the Branch to its previous pace.

### Khachmaz:

Khachmaz was also facing some management problems. AzETA President and Vice-President visited Khachmaz to meet members and solve location problem with the Head of Education Department on 29 April. They managed to meet the directors of schools of Khachmaz region who were having a grand meeting that day. The directors were informed on AzETA, its mission and work and were invited to co-operation through their English teachers.

The Head of the Education Department promised to give an office space for AzETA Branch in a central school of Khachmaz town before AzETA branches study tour to Khachmaz on 20 May.

A Management Board of the Branch was established where Fizuli Baratov was elected Head of the Branch.

## YOUR COLUMN

### 1. Speaking and Listening For Information

<http://www.storyarts.org/lessonplans/newstandard/index.html>

#### Practising Factual Recall

*Facts are data. Once data is collected we can interpret, analyse, evaluate, or apply it. Factual recall is somewhat mechanical but it provides the basis for more creative uses of information.*

#### Read or Tell a Folktale to the Class.

Ask students to listen carefully to the tale so that afterwards they can answer simple, factual, non-subjective questions such as inquiries related to **who, what, where, or when**.

**Who:** Name the main characters.

**What:** Describe one action that a character in the tale did.

**Where:** Describe a detail mentioned in the story that refers to the setting of the tale.

**When:** Make a linear timeline of the sequence of events of the plot.

Keep in mind that since listeners create, in their imagination, much of the subjective detail of a story that is heard, assessing factual recall must be based on information overtly contained in the story. (Thanks to Karen Morgan for this thought) Unlike watching TV, story listeners create the costumes, scenery, and character details in their own imaginations. Factual questions should not be about subjective detail.

#### Exploring Comprehension

Once a folktale plot is understood as a sequence of events, students can use this information to explore further comprehension and creative arts activities.

#### Interpretive Activities:

Have students generally **summarize** the folktale. Have students generously **retell** the folktale in dramatic style with character dialogue. Have students **differentiate** between the characters by creating distinctive voice qualities and gestures for each character in the tale.

Have students **discuss** their sense of the underlying meanings or messages in the story (moral)? Have

students imagine themselves as a character in the tale. Would they have made the same choices? Why or why not?

**Compare** two versions of the story's plot as told by different authors or by two or more cultures. Notice similarities and differences.

### 2. Speaking and Listening for Literary Response and Expression

#### Generating New Ideas:

*Creativity allows us to take information and use it in innovative, unique, and interesting ways.*

#### Read Or Retell A Folktale To The Class:

Ask students to write a sequel to the folktale **predicting** how another episode might evolve. Ask students to **create** a scene that happens before the plot of the folktale actually begins. Ask students to **imagine** the folktale set in modern times.

**Invent** a different way to retell the folktale in written form from the point of view of one of the characters as a:

Diary entry (communication to one's self)  
Newspaper report (a public communication)  
Letter to a friend (a communication to a trusted associate)

**Revise** a classic fable by rehumanizing the animal characters. Give the generic characters names and retell the story featuring humans instead of animals.

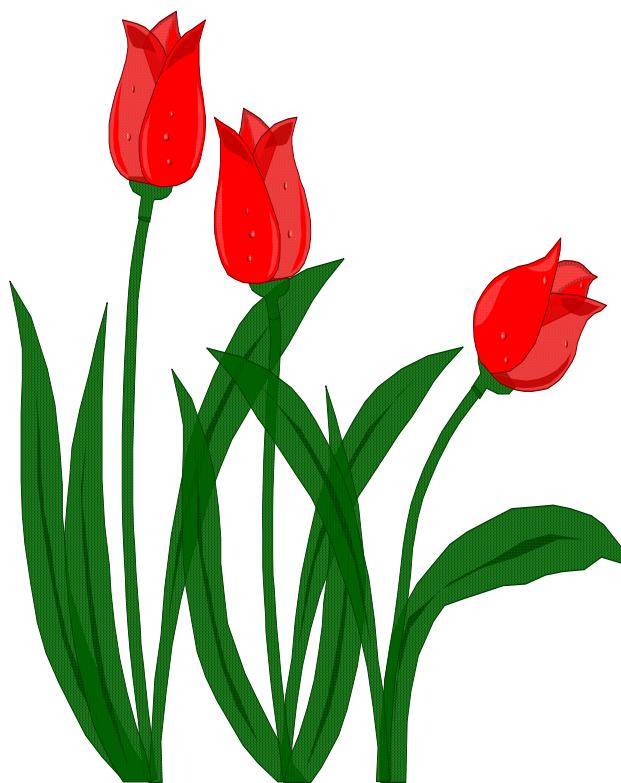
Have students plan a storytelling concert celebrating a cultural heritage. Have them investigate the culture by researching the ethnic group in the library or on the Internet. Have each student learn a folktale from the culture. Bring in foods of the ethnicity and have a feast.

Ask student to create the following narrative forms based on a folktale plot:

- a picture book
- a puppet show
- a play
- a ballad
- a narrated pantomime show
- a storytelling presentation

## YOU WILL READ IN THE NEXT ISSUE

1. Meeting of the ELT stakeholders in Azerbaijan
2. AzETA Study tour to Khachmaz
3. AzETA Regional Visits
4. EEC celebrates International Day of Defence of Children
5. Report on ELTeCS Project
6. How AzETA prepares for summer
7. And ..... more



## NOW IT IS TIME TO LAUGH



### *Disorder in the Court:*

ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth?

WITNESS: July 18th.

ATTORNEY: What year?

WITNESS: Every year.

\*\*\*

ATTORNEY: How old is your son, the one living with you?

WITNESS: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember which.

ATTORNEY: How long has he lived with you?

WITNESS: Forty-five years.

\*\*\*

ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

\*\*\*

ATTORNEY: The youngest son, the twenty-year-old, how old is he?

WITNESS: Uh, he's twenty-one.

ATTORNEY: Were you present when your picture was taken?

WITNESS: Would you repeat the question?

\*\*\*

ATTORNEY: She had three children, right?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: How many were boys?

WITNESS: None.

ATTORNEY: Were there any girls?

\*\*\*

ATTORNEY: Can you describe the individual?

WITNESS: He was about medium height and had a beard.

ATTORNEY: Was this a male or a female?

\*\*\*

ATTORNEY: ALL your responses MUST be oral, OK? What school did you go to?

WITNESS: Oral.