



# News Bulletin

January – February 2007

## Lisa Harshbarger, Regional English Language Officer visited Azerbaijan

Lisa Harshbarger visited Azerbaijan again. During her visit she attended training session of Glenn Deckert, Senior English Language Fellow.

She also participated in ELT Programme providers' meeting held on 5 January (*See the next article for more details on the meeting*).

She also had a working dinner with Ragsana Mammadova, AzETA President where they talked about AzETA future activities, forthcoming events, etc. Ragsana Mammadova briefed her on the progress of English Access Microscholarship Programme. They also discussed AzETA President's participation in the coming TESOL 41<sup>st</sup> Convention to be held in Seattle, Washington on 21-25 March. Elizabeth Murphy, Second Secretary and Afet Ibrahimova, Education Assistant of the US Embassy also joined Ms Graffy in her visit.

## ELT Programme Providers' meeting

As mentioned above, availing of the opportunity of the visit of Lisa Harshbarger, US Embassy hosted the next ELT Programme Providers' meeting. The meeting was attended by the representatives of the British Council, US Embassy, ACCELS, Peace Corps. AzETA was represented by Hijran Huseynova, Vice-President. The participants gave information on their activities sharing the news on the forthcoming events. Hijran Huseynova shared the below information on AzETA with the participants:

AzETA implemented the below projects/activities since the last meeting:

- Study tour to Khachmaz Branch (20 May with participation of Andy Keedwell)
- Charity concert on 1 June
- Enjoy English Summer Camp 2 held on 19 - 26 August in Qebele and Sheki
- International Forum of TAs on 7 September in Sheki
- AzETA 3rd Conference held on 8-10 September

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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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AzETA have branches in Baku, Ganja, Khachmaz, Mingechevir and Sheki.

- Children's 3rd Conference with celebration of Enjoy English Club 5th anniversary held on 18 October
- Press Conference held on 1 November
- NQT project
- Trainer training project (trainer is Glenn Deckert, Senior English Language Fellow)
- English Access Microscholarship programme (EAMP) in Baku (10 groups), Lenkaran (3 groups), Qebele (3 groups) -
- New Year celebration with the EAMP students on 23 December
- Regional Project titled "Development of English Language Teachers' Cross-Regional Network Association".

#### **Future projects:**

- Establishing Enjoy English Clubs in the regions
- Joint project with INGED (Turkey) on exchanging experiences on involving young learners in extra-curricular activities
- Grand meeting of branches (first meeting in Ganja branch in February)
- AzETA 4th annual conference was agreed by the Executive Board to be held on 10-11 November 2007
- Enjoy English Summer Camp 3
- AzETA seeks an opportunity to affiliate with TESOL
- Starting from September 2007 AzETA will provide teacher training to all its members. The trainers will be the ones trained by Glenn Deckert
- A regional Conference in Qebele in May is intended to be organised.
- Establishing SIGs in the Branches
- Establishing more branches in the regions.

This meeting was as useful as the previous ones, as it created an opportunity for AzETA to spread the news on its forthcoming events and seek possibility for getting funding for some of them.

### **Ms Colleen Graffy, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs attended EAMP classes**

Ms Colleen Graffy was in official visit in Azerbaijan in early February. On 6 February she visited EAMP classes and observed the students. She also gave a chance to the students to ask her questions. It was a great opportunity for the students to practise their English with a native speaker. She also asked the students different questions on their world outlook, interests, hobbies, etc. In one of the groups they even had "a trip to the US" on the map. It was fun for the children to have such "a trip".

The children also had an opportunity to have photos with Ms Graffy. Ms Elizabeth Murphy, Second Secretary and Ms Afet Ibrahimova, Education Assistant of the US Embassy also joined Ms Graffy in her visit.

### **Peace Corps Volunteer-Counterpart Conference**

Peace Corps held its next Conference for the volunteers and their counterparts from different regions of Azerbaijan on 9 February at the Baku Business Centre.

As in previous conference, AzETA was invited to this conference, too, to inform the volunteers on AzETA activities in Azerbaijan. Ragsana Mammadova attended the Conference and made presentation. She informed on AzETA mission, the way it is managed, branches, SIGs, implemented projects, projects under implementation, as well as, its forthcoming events.

It was a great opportunity and promotion for AzETA as there were teachers from the regions where AzETA has not had its presence so far. AzETA acknowledges Peace Corps for this opportunity and for co-operation, in general

## NEWS FROM SIGs

### *Newly Qualified Teachers:*

#### **Baku:**



NQT training was held at AzETA Baku office on January 4, 2007. The trainers were Gulshan Samadova, AzETA Co-ordinator for NQT Project and Leader of AzETA NQT SIG and Amalia Musayeva, AzETA teacher-trainer.

There were 18 participants, teachers of the secondary schools and higher educational institutions of Baku at the seminars. The observer from the British Council was Gulshan Huseynova, ELT Programmes Co-ordinator

The topics of the training were “Classroom management” and “Lesson planning”. They consisted of 4 sessions with 2 tea-breaks and a lunch (at “Aqua Park”).

The aims of the training were:

- to raise the trainees awareness on the importance of creating effective conditions for learning;
- to develop teachers’ presentation skills based on the material taught;
- to give teachers clear idea of how to plan effectively.

Based on the participants’ feedback it can be mentioned that the aims were achieved successfully. Now 18 NQTs from Baku, trained on classroom management and lesson planning will apply the newly learned knowledge at their lessons.

## **Sumgayit**



As Sumqayit is also included in the NQT Project regions, training for AzETA members - newly qualified teachers from Sumqayit was also held in Sumqayit on 12 January. Sumqayit Education Department provided the Project teachers with a room for training in its premises.

Before the start of training Vidadi Bagirov, Head of the Education Department and Gulbahar Hagverdiyeva, English Language Supervisor had a short meeting with the trainers Ayna Sadiqova and Farida Huseynova. After a short briefing the

There were 17 teachers from different schools. At ten o’clock British Council Insect Project Manager Brian Maguire and English Language Coordinator Gulshan Huseynova made open speech and greeted the teachers, gave them some suggestions and wished them success in their training. The trainers were to the training room and were introduced to the trainees – newly qualified teachers. The trainers were asked to introduce themselves, but it was made in a way of warm-up activity so that the trainees could benefit from every minute of the training.

After the introduction by the trainees, the trainers the starter pack “Steps to Success” specifically produced for the purposes of the Project.

The training consisted of two parts. In Part 1 the following topics were introduced to the trainees: “*Classroom Management*” where importance of the following the issues were highlighted: “*Respect Lesson*”, “*Problems and Solutions for Disruptive students*”, “*Instructions*”, “*Behavior Lesson*”, “*Timing*”, “*A Snippet of Information*”

The trainees had an opportunity to join discussions in groups and in pairs of the ways they apply the above to their teaching.

In part 1 the the trainees also had a chance to discuss the following after a short tea break: *classroom options, skills, techniques, seating arrangements, eliciting, how to organize group and pair work.*

In Part 2 the trainers introduced the topic “*Lesson Planning*”. Here the trainees were given a chance to discuss: *Formal and informal lesson plans, aims of the lesson plan, stages of the lesson, elements of the lesson and writing lesson plans on various topics.*

The trainees were very happy for such an opportunity and below are some of the comments made at the questionnaire distributed at the end of the training:

- The training met my expectaions where I learned new methods, innovations.
- I enjoyed group and pair work and will apply it to my teaching now on. I liked the ways we were introduced to classroom managemnet..

The next training will be organised in March.

### Ganja:



NQT training was also held in Ganja on 6 January. The venue was Ganja Central Library. The trainers were Khalida Aliyeva, Vefa Meherramova from AzETA Ganja Branch.

There were 14 trainees: 3 university teachers and 11 secondary school teachers

As in Baku and Sumqayit, the topics of the training were: Classroom Management and Lesson Planning.

Although the trainees were AzETA members, the trainers gave brief information on the British Council and AzETA and their activities in Azerbaijan, in particular, their co-operation on NQT Project.

After this brief introduction the trainees were involved in discussion of the above topics. They were very active in discussion and were excited about the training and well motivated. Trainees took active part in every activity.

This training demonstrated that young teachers really need trainings like this. They all were happy that they were chosen for the training, as they mentioned in their feedbacks. And they all thanked British council and AzETA. They all look forward for the next training. And they all expressed their gratitude to British Council and AzETA for organizing such trainings. Some commencts from the feedbacks.

“ I learned and repeated a lot of words. And I also enjoyed the lunch time where I had a chance to socialise with my colleagues and have informal discussions”

“I learned a lot of methods of teaching – Classroom Management, Lesson Planning”

“I want to improve my 5 skills in the future”

“Junior Class. Put in the future I would like to hear about methods in senior class”

“I learned information gap”

“We spoke English and I improved my English”

“How must be a teacher’s behavior. What was said here all of them was usefull (Thanks)”

## Young Learners

English Access Micro scholarship Programme students gave very interesting lessons. During the month of January the students showed their abilities, knowledge and skills of learning English.

Elizabeth Murphy, Second Secretary of the US Embassy visited the classes.

They try to learn a lot .They learned a lot of new English words. Now the students can communicate to each other in English. They have learned a lot of poems, songs, dialogues. They can write letters, dictations, paraphrase, compositions. They can speak about Azerbaijan and America. They have learned about the first President of the USA George Washington They showed very good result in tests. The students prepared different questions and gave them to the guests .And we must proud of it, It shows that AZETA works and always tries to help others.

Glenn Deckert

Senior English Language Fellow

Visits to schools

Glenn Deckert helps to AZETA to provide professional development training. A group of Baku English teachers are being trained by Glenn Deckert. They are learning all the new interactive methods during the teaching English and American studies. During this session the teachers are being provided with different interesting materials for developing students speaking, reading ,writing and listening skills.

The half part of the session has finished. Now Glenn visits the schools. He observes the teachers lessons ,gives them some advice in teaching English and American studies.

On the 18-th of February Glenn visited Lyceum named after Heydar Aliyev, which is situated in Khatai District. The English teacher, a member of AZETA Ayna Sadigova gave an open lesson on the 3-rd grade. The students were very active. The title of the lesson was “Countries”. The students spoke not only about their country Azerbaijan but also they spoke about America .They could show the differences and similarities of these countries. They sang songs, said the poems by heart. Props, such as real objects pictures of objects used to present the key vocabulary for a poem. The teacher tried to use all the new methods in her lesson.

## NEWS FROM BRANCHES

### Grand meeting of Branches

#### Ganja:

Pursuant to AzETA Action Plan for 2006-2007, the branches are tasked to organise grand meetings. The aim is to gather all the members of a branch together, to arrange the report of the Branch Management on the work done and to be done, and to update the members on the forthcoming events.

The first such a meeting was held in Ganja Branch on 17 February. The meeting started with the opening welcome of Khalida Aliyeva, Branch Manager. Tarana Aliyeva, AzETA Media Co-ordinator had a warm-up activity to check the members' knowledge on AzETA. It was very encouraging to see members well-informed about AzETA.

Khalida Aliyeva reported on the work of the Branch and informed about forthcoming events and projects. Ganja Branch is intending to organise a summer camp this year, too, in collaboration with Gene, Peace Corps Volunteer. Gene informed the participants on the new project he implements in AzETA. He has created a video library in Ganja Branch and has produced some materials for using videos in the classroom.

After this presentation the possibility of establishing SIGs in the Branch was discussed. Ragsana Mammadova informed about the SIGs functioning in Baku Branch, talked about the roles and importance of the SIGs within any TA. Then the participants were divided into 4 groups and tasked to establish a SIG and develop an action plan. The result was that 4 SIGs were established and each team presented the Action plan. The following SIGs were established:

- Materials Development
- Newly Qualified Teachers;
- Teacher Training;
- Young Learners

The Branch has implemented projects on the above SIGs and now it was time to establish these SIGs for further improvement and sustainability of the projects impelented or under implementation.

Khalida Aliyeva, Vafa Maharramova and Catherine Thompson, ELT professional gave presentations after the discussions. The members had also an opportunity to socialise and share experiences, information in an informal way over tea and lunch break.

Executive Board was represented by Ragsana Mammadova, AzETA President; Dilara Bunyatova, First Vice-President; Hijran Huseynova, Vice-President and Tarana Aliyeva, Media Co-ordinator.

All in all, it was a very productive meeting. AzETA acknowledges Ganja Branch management team for organising the meeting at a very high level. It was an opportunity for the Branch management team to demonstrate their management skills and team work which was very high.

The approximate dates for the meetings at the other branches are as below:

**Mingechevir Branch** 31 March  
**Sheki Branch** 28 April  
**Khachmaz Branch** 9 June

As AzETA annual conferences are held in Baku, the Executive Board decided not to include Baku Branch in this list.

The approximate agenda of the meetings is as below:

**10:30 – 11:00** Registration  
**11:00 – 11:10** Opening  
**11:10 – 11:30** Presentation of the Branch Action Plan  
**11:30 – 11:45** Tea break  
**11:45 – 12:30** General discussion of the issues of the Branch  
**12:30 – 13:15** Concurrent sessions 1  
**13:15 – 14:00** Lunch break  
**14:00 – 14:45** Concurrent sessions 2  
**14:50 – 15:30** Concurrent sessions 3  
**15:30 – 16:00** Wrap up  
**16:30** Departure of the Baku members

AzETA will render financial support to these meetings in stationary and tea breaks from the membership fee budget. Individual members are expected to cover their own transportation and meal costs. If you are interested in attending these meetings, please contact your nearest branch.

## YOUR COLUMN

**WHAT TEACHERS MAKE** The dinner guests were sitting around the table discussing life.

One man, a CEO, decided to explain the problem with education. He argued, "What's a kid going to learn from someone who decided his best option in life was to become a teacher?" He reminded the other dinner guests what they say about teachers: "Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach." To stress his point he said to another guest; "You're a teacher, Bonnie. Be honest. What do you make?" Bonnie, who had a reputation for honesty and frankness replied, "You Want to know what I make? (She paused for a second, then began...) "Well, I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could. I make a C+ feel like the Congressional Medal of Honor. I make kids sit through 40 minutes of class time when their parents can't make them sit for 5 without an I Pod, Game Cube or movie rental... You want to know what I make?" (She paused again and looked at each and every person at the table.) I make kids wonder. I make them question. I make them criticize. I make them apologize and mean it. I make them have respect and take responsibility for their actions. I teach them to write and then I make them write. I make them read, read, read. I make them show all their work in math. I make my students from other countries learn everything they need To know in English while preserving their unique cultural identity. I make my classroom a place where all my students feel safe. I make my students stand to say the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, Because we live in the United States of America. Finally, I make them understand that if they use the gifts they were given, work hard, and follow their hearts, they can succeed in life. (Bonnie paused one last time and then continued.) "Then, when people try to judge me by what I make, I can hold my head up high and pay no attention because they are ignorant... You want to know what I make? I MAKE A DIFFERENCE. What do you make?" THERE IS MUCH TRUTH IN THIS STATEMENT: "Teachers make every other profession "

## AzETA bids farewell to Keri Miller, Peace Corps Volunteer

Kerri Miller was one of the first Peace Corps Volunteers in Azerbaijan. She was assigned to Sheki, one of the most beautiful and historical regions of Azerbaijan where AzETA has one of its 5 branches.

As soon as she started her work in Sheki, she was introduced to AzETA Sheki Branch and established very good relations with the Branch. She regularly organised workshops, discussions for the Branch members. Thanks to her efforts, she got some grants for the Branch needs through the Peace Corps SPA programme.

She worked in Sheki for two years. Now she is back in the US. We have lots of fond memories about her. Thanks to her efforts and invaluable support AzETA Sheki Branch developed a lot in these two years. She provided the Branch management team with useful recommendations on management, organisational issues. She demonstrated her dedication to her country through sharing culture and traditions with her host colleagues, also she was very respecting towards the host culture, traditions. Within two years she learned Azerbaijani very well and amazed us with her fluency and accuracy.

AzETA acknowledges Keri for her invaluable work in Azerbaijan and wishes her best of luck wherever she is. Peace Corps should feel proud to have such a dedicated volunteer.

## YOU WILL READ IN THE NEXT ISSUE

1. Young Learners SIG celebrate Novruz holiday
2. Glenn Deckert visits Ganja Branch
3. AzETA President attends TESOL 41<sup>st</sup> Convention
4. Grand meeting of Mingechevir Branch
5. AzETA President and Vice President attend 41<sup>st</sup> IATEFL Conference
6. AzETA bids farewell to Mr Brian Maguire, ELT Projects Manager, British Council
7. ... And more

## NOW IT IS TIME TO LAUGH



### Fun English

#### Tenjeberrymuds

The following is a telephone exchange between a hotel guest and room-service at a hotel in Asia, which was recorded and published in the Far East Economic Review:

**Room Service (RS):** "Morrin. Roon sirbees."

**Guest (G):** "Sorry, I thought I dialed room-service."

**RS:** "Rye..Roon sirbees..morrin! Jewish to oddor sunteen??"

**G:** "Uh, yes, I'd like some bacon and eggs."

**RS:** "Ow July den?"

**G:** "What??"

**RS:** "Ow July den?...pyred, boyud, poochd?"

**G:** "Oh, the eggs! How do I like them? Sorry, scrambled please."

**RS:** "Ow July dee baykem? Crease?"

**G:** "Crisp will be fine."

**RS:** "Hokay. An Sahn toes?"

**G:** "What?"

**RS:** "An toes. July Sahn toes?"

**G:** "I don't think so."

**RS:** "No? Judo wan sahn toes??"

**G:** "I feel really bad about this, but I don't know what 'judo wan sahn toes' means."

**RS:** "Toes! toes!...Why jew don juan toes? Ow bow English moppin we bodder?"

**G:** "English muffin!! I've got it! You were saying 'Toast.' Fine. Yes, an English muffin will be fine."

**RS:** "We bodder?"

**G:** "No...just put the bodder on the side."

**RS:** "Wad?"

**G:** "I mean butter...just put it on the side."

**RS:** "Copy?"

**G:** "Excuse me?"

**RS:** "Copy...tea...meel?"

**G:** "Yes. Coffee, please, and that's all."

**RS:** "One Minnie. Scramah egg, crease baykem, English moppin we bodder on sigh and copy....rye??"

**G:** "Whatever you say."

**RS:** "Tenjeberrymuds."

**G:** "You're very welcome."

