



## News Bulletin

SPECIAL ISSUE

Dedicated to 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AzETA

### 2<sup>nd</sup> AzETA ELT CONFERENCE

#### “Empowerment Through ELT”



On 23-24 April 2005, AzETA held its 2<sup>nd</sup> ELT Conference in Baku Slavic University. The event was supported and sponsored by IREX, the British Council – Baku, and the US Embassy Public Affairs Office.

The aim was to give an opportunity to English teachers in Azerbaijan to come together and discuss issues of interest, to feel a belonging to the ELT community, to unite with AzETA and to empower the organisation, as well as to be empowered as professionals through giving presentations and joining the discussions.

The Conference was vital as a common purpose and understanding was established by the ELT professionals involved in the Conference to combat problems in the field of ELT that are faced in the country.

British Ambassador Dr Laurie Bristow, Deputy Chief of Mission of the US Embassy Mr Jason Hyland, Deputy Director of the British Council Mr Paul Hilder, Country Director of IREX Ms Nigar Mammadova, representatives of the Ministry of Education, Baku Slavic University, Azerbaijan University of Languages, Community Shield Azerbaijan attended the opening ceremony of the Conference, welcomed the participants and wished every success to the work of the Conference, as well as to AzETA in its future activities highlighting the importance of the Association as an educational NGO with strong potential as a valuable counterpart for the organisations involved in professional development in education.

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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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Room 322, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
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Baku Slavonic University  
Baku AZ-1014  
Azerbaijan

After the opening ceremony the Conference continued its work through a plenary session. The plenary speaker was Ruxandra Popovici, English Language Projects Manager at the British Council, Romania, a famous ELT professional of the Central and Eastern Europe. The title of her talk was: *“Educating English language learners for the 21<sup>st</sup> century”*

Then the Conference continued its work in the concurrent sessions (5 concurrent sessions at a time). In the course of concurrent sessions some special sessions were organised: branch managers meeting, AzETA Executive Board’s meeting to discuss AzETA matters, its sustainability, action plan for the next one year and opportunities for establishing AzETA branches in more regions of Azerbaijan. These sessions were also attended by the representatives of the organisations which co-operate with AzETA to get more information what is happening in the branches, also to exchange opinions and provide suggestions, as well as, assistance.

Concerning presenters, AzETA gave priority to local teachers encouraging teachers from the regions of Azerbaijan more as the main aim of the Conference was to empower local English teachers professionally, to help in the growth and development of AzETA, as well as English language instruction and learning in Azerbaijan. Around forty presentations on a wide range of topics were given both by Azerbaijan ELT teachers and educators and by overseas specialists.

The Conference was the best sign of the rapidly increasing interest in ELT in the country. The Conference listened to the report on the Action Plan for 2004-2005 adopted at the 1<sup>st</sup> Conference and held elections to the Executive Board of AzETA for the first time in the history of AzETA where President, First Vice-President, Vice President and 7 Board members were elected at the end of the first day of the Conference. *(the names are below)*

Day 2 started with the announcement on the results of the election followed by the report of the AzETA SIGs established at the 1<sup>st</sup> Conference, on their activities and action plan for the next one year. Branch managers also reported on their work in the past one year and future plans.

Representatives of the British Council, US Embassy, ACCELS and Peace Corps wished best of luck to the work of AzETA at the closing ceremony congratulating the organisers of the Conference and members for a very successful Conference.

## 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION

After the Conference on Day 1 there was a reception dedicated to the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of establishment of AzETA. At his speech at the reception BP President Mr David Woodward, Deputy Chief of Mission of the US Embassy Mr Jason Hyland and Deputy Director of the British Council Mr Paul Hilder congratulated AzETA with the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, as well as, for a successful conference mentioned how AzETA has grown from strength to strength. They encouraged the members to continue their good work emphasising that all that they are doing are very important for a developing country like Azerbaijan. The participants had a chance to introduce themselves to and take photos with Mr Woodward and Mr Hyland, as well as, talk to them about their work, schools, programmes/projects they are involved in and challenges they are facing.

Senior English Language Fellows of the US Embassy Jim Solan, Eddie McGee and Teacher Trainer of OSI Geoge Bishop made the 10th Anniversary reception special with their live American music.

Mrs Quinta Woodward of the Community Shield Azerbaijan was among the guests. AzETA Qizildash Project teachers had a good chance to talk to her about their work and future plans concerning the project.

The reception was an important event as it enabled the participants to meet one another, to discuss issues of the common interest, to exchange opinions and experiences in a more informal way.

AzETA extends its acknowledgement to the British Council to fund the reception and give the members such an opportunity to celebrate their ten-year achievements through this reception.

AzETA extends its acknowledgement to IREX, the British Council – Baku, US Embassy – Baku and ACCELS for all kinds of support to AzETA in its activities in general, and for financial and organisational support to the Conference, in particular. AzETA also acknowledges to OSI Teacher Trainers, ELF’s of the US Embassy, as well as, Peace Corps Volunteers for their unbending great support to AzETA, to help the organisation, as well as its members get empowered in many ways.

AzETA acknowledges Ruxandra Popovici for agreeing to join the Conference as a plenary speaker and for her very interesting talk and workshop.

## WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED IN 10 YEARS

### Branches:

AzETA has 5 branches so far.

❖ **AzETA Baku Branch** established in 2003 is located at:

Room 322, Baku Slavic University,  
25 Suleyman Rustam Street, Baku AZ-1014

Tel.: (+994 12) 415068/416985/ (ext: 1-51)  
Email: [azer\\_eta@yahoo.com](mailto:azer_eta@yahoo.com)

It is also AzETA's Head Office.

The Director of the Branch is Hijran Huseynova, Senior Teacher of Baku Slavic University

❖ **AzETA Ganja Branch** established in 2003 is located at:

House 1, Lane 1, F. Malikov Street  
Gence

Tel.: (+994 22) 566294  
Email: [AzETA-GB@GITC.AZNET.ORG](mailto:AzETA-GB@GITC.AZNET.ORG)

The Director of the branch is Xalida Aliyeva.

❖ **AzETA Khachmaz Branch** established in 1999 is located at:

Kindergarten # 4  
Khachmaz city

Tel.: (+994 50) 374 5034  
Email: [sevda\\_bagirova@yahoo.com](mailto:sevda_bagirova@yahoo.com)

The Director of the Branch is Sevda Bagirova.

❖ **AzETA Mingechevir Branch** established in 2004 is located at:

Azerbaijan Teachers Institute  
Heydar Aliyev Avenue  
Mingechevir  
Email: [durdane\\_azeta@hotmail.com](mailto:durdane_azeta@hotmail.com)

The Director of the branch is Durdana Qurbanova.

❖ **AzETA Sheki Branch** established in 2004 is located at:

International School # 8, Sheki  
Email: [turkankerimova@yahoo.com](mailto:turkankerimova@yahoo.com)

The Director of the branch is Afer Mammadova.

## Special Interest Groups

### ❖ Young Learners

Leader of the Group is Solmaz Kazimova. The Group has implemented the below projects:

- We are the children of the 21<sup>st</sup> century – 1<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Children in collaboration with ACCELS
- Smile Project held on 29 January 2005 with the grant of IREX
- Novruz Party held on 13 March 2005
- Qizildash English Language Project (October 2004 – present) launched with the financial support of the British Council and now continued by BP

### ❖ Testing and Assessment

Leader of the Group is Khalida Rustamova. The Group regularly meets to discuss different tests, prepare test banks in AzETA.

### ❖ Teacher Training

Leader of the Group is Afet Huseynova. The Group is successfully implementing Outreach Teacher Training Project in 4 regions of Azerbaijan funded by the Open Society Institute.

The Group members also visit different regions of Azerbaijan for giving workshops, promoting AzETA in collaboration with the British Council Teacher Trainers.

### ❖ Civic Education

Leader of the Group is Tarana Aliyeva. The Group is successfully implementing Student Government Association Project funded by the Democracy Commission Small Grants Competition Spring 2004 of US State Department. Having won in this competition AzETA has started establishing a new form of children organisations, SGAs in 4 schools of Azerbaijan, Baku - schools #200, #164, #177 and #8 of Sheki. With this Project AzETA closely co-operates with the History Teachers Union of Azerbaijan.

Some of the members of the Group also participate in Deliberating in Democracy Project managed by Open Society Institute – Assistance Foundation.

## Regional co-operation

AzETA is the member of RENTA – Regional Network of Teachers' Association which is composed of Teachers' Associations of South Caucasus, Central Asia and the Russian Federation (8 Teachers' Associations, including AzETA).

AzETA closely co-operates with RENTA member TAs and has successfully implemented the below projects:

- First meeting of RENTA held in Tbilisi, Georgia on 20-23 March 2003 with the financial support of the British Council managed Hornby Educational Trust;
- First Caucasus ELT Conference in Tbilisi, Georgia held on 25-27 April 2003. (40 Teachers participated from Azerbaijan, including 33 AzETA members with financial support of the US Embassy in Baku where the British Council, Azerbaijan invited Peter Medgyes from Hungary as a key speaker for the conference);
- AzETA – ETAT (English Teachers' Association of Tajikistan) Joint Project on Study Tour implemented on 27 July – 3 August, 2003. Pursuant to the Project Prof. Parvona Jamshedov, ETAT President and Barno Kasymova, Director of ETAT Dushanbe Branch had a study tour to AzETA with the financial support of Hornby Educational Trust. We took them to all AzETA branches. This visit laid the foundation of co-operation between AzETA and ETAT branches;
- TAs' regional workshop in Istanbul, Turkey held on 8-11 May 2004 with the financial support of the British Council managed Hornby Educational Trust where 2 AzETA members attended;
- RENTA Training on Website Designing held in Moscow on 26-28 November 2004 funded by the British Council managed Hornby Educational Trust where 2 AzETA members attended.
- AzETA Project on the Workshop for the branch managers of the TAs of the South Caucasus, held in Tbilisi, Georgia on 9-11 December 2004 funded by the British Council managed Hornby Educational Trust where 4 AzETA branch Managers attended.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> South Caucasus ELT Conference to be held in Tbilisi, Georgia on 13-15 May 2005 with the financial support of the British Council and US Embassy offices in South Caucasus where 12 AzETA members attended;

## Projects:

- AzETA Regional Conference in Lenkaran supported by the BC held on 3-4 October, 1998.
- Teacher training seminars in 6 regions of Azerbaijan under Hornby Trust Project (Also in depth with trainer consultation by the BC, US Embassy ELF before seminars);
- AzETA Reception on the new location of AzETA office funded by US Embassy and BC at Irshad Hotel, Baku held on 26 May 2003;
- Mini Conference held on 29-30 March 2003 with the financial support of Open Society Institute-Assistant Foundation in Zugulba to prepare for Tbilisi Conference;
- Mini-Conference held on 13 September 2003 in collaboration with Independent Teacher's Union in Baku INSETT Institute;
- Mini-Conferences titled "Sharing and Caring" held on 29 November 2003 and on 18 September 2004 in Baku Slavic University with financial and organisational support of the British Council, the US Embassy and Open Society Institute – Assistant Foundation.
- First AzETA ELT Conference held on 1-2 May 2004 in Baku Slavic University with the financial and organisational support of the British Council, US Embassy and Open Society Institute – Assistant Foundation;
- Visit to orphanages by the Young Learners SIG on the International Day of Defence of Children.
- AzETA Ganja Branch Conference: "The Sun also rises in the West" held on 23 October 2004 with the financial support of the US Embassy and AzETA.
- Mini-Conference 4: "Sharing and Caring" held on 15 January 2005 where plenary speaker was Andy Keedwell from British Council Armenia.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> AzETA ELT Conference – 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AzETA held in Baku on 23-24 April 2005 with the financial support of IREX, the British Council and US Embassy;

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. **Afet Huseynova** – Projects Co-ordinator  
[AHuseynova@OSI-AZ.ORG](mailto:AHuseynova@OSI-AZ.ORG)
2. **Ayna Sadiqova** – Editor-in-Chief  
[Aynaxanum2001@yahoo.com](mailto:Aynaxanum2001@yahoo.com)
3. **Dilara Bunyatova** – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President
4. **Hijran Huseynova** – SIGs Co-ordinator
5. **Huzura Agayeva** – Branch Monitoring Group Co-ordinator  
[huzuraagayeva@yahoo.com](mailto:huzuraagayeva@yahoo.com)
6. **Khalida Aliyeva** – Branch Managers' Co-ordinator  
[AzETA-GB@GITC.AZNET.ORG](mailto:AzETA-GB@GITC.AZNET.ORG)
7. **Khalida Rustamova** – Public Affairs Officer  
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8. **Nezaket Beylarova** – Vice-President  
[bnzaket@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bnzaket@yahoo.co.uk)
9. **Ragsana Mammadova** – President  
[m\\_ragsana@email.com](mailto:m_ragsana@email.com)
10. **Tarana Aliyeva** – Media Co-ordinator  
[mtaranaazeri@yahoo.com](mailto:mtaranaazeri@yahoo.com)

2 of each officer is responsible for one AzETA branch:

### Baku:

Ragsana Mammadova

### Ganja:

1. Huzura Agayeva
2. Nezaket Beylarova
3. Khalida Aliyeva

### Khachmaz:

1. Khalida Rustamova
2. Dilara Bunyatova

### Mingechevir:

1. Afet Huseynova
2. Ayna Sadiqova

### Sheki:

1. Hijran Huseynova
2. Tarana Alieva

## OUR PARTNERS

- **ACCELS**
- **Baku Slavic University**
- **British Council**
- **Community Shield Azerbaijan**
- **Open Society Institute – Assistance Foundation**
- **Peace Corps Volunteers**
- **Public Affairs Office of the US Embassy**

## OUR SPONSORS

- **ACCELS**
- **British Council, Baku**
- **British Council managed ELTeCS**
- **British Council managed Hornby Educational Trust**
- **IREX**
- **Open Society Institute – Assistance Foundation**
- **Public Affairs Office of the US Embassy**

## Wishes from friends

To All AzETA Members,

Many CONGRATULATIONS on your 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY.

I remember first meeting AzETA ladies in a small room in Ganjlik for our Wednesday afternoon conversation group. I came along to help Patricia (Paddy) Desmond and then she left and there was just me!!!

Now you have lovely offices in the University and I think of you all on Wednesday afternoons. I had so much fun meeting you and learning from you – your English grammar was far better than mine!!!! We enjoyed sharing each other's culture and talking about so many different subjects.

My friends Fiona, Shenah and John still remember you all with affection – they too thoroughly enjoyed meeting you.

AzETA has grown from strength to strength and long may it continue.

Here's to the next 10 years!

Love, Jacky  
Jacky Sherwood  
Scotland

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A quick message to congratulate you on the second AzETA conference, which in my opinion was a great success. Each year AzETA gathers more momentum – it's great to see.

Paul Hilder  
Deputy Director  
British Council

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Congratulations not only on being elected (deservedly so) president of AzETA but also for putting together a fine conference.

Kitty Johnson  
Teacher Trainer  
Open Society Institute

The Conference helped me enhance my knowledge of the mechanisms of networking through teachers' associations and gave me the opportunity of sharing new aspects of ELT theory and practice with colleagues from Azerbaijan.

All presentations were very well prepared, very useful handouts were available and the exchange of ideas at the end of the sessions were very profitable for everybody. I can't really give a rating to the presentations I attended. I was very impressed with all and for me that showed Azeri teachers' professionalism.

I was very pleased to see the existence first, and then the work within the SIGs which shows the diversification of ELT aspects and also the variety of special interests among Azeri teachers of English.

As I said previously, the conference was impressive and an eye-opening experience for me in many ways:

- (a) Enthusiastic organising committee. Very dedicated and hard working.
- (b) Partnership between AzETA and donors.
- (c) A natural leader in the person of Ragsana Mammadova
- (d) Exemplary organisation of the Association: roles within the board, regional branches, democratic elections, reports for everybody involved, transparent use of funds.
- (e) Great organisation and smooth running of the conference: pre-conference information, accommodation and meals, the academic programme: good balance of thematic strands, AzETA meetings, social events, the raffle. Very good idea to leave 10 minute breaks between sessions. The time keeping at the conference was very good and I couldn't notice any disruption caused by prolonged sessions.
- (f) The interest and participation of all the teachers who were present also throughout Sunday.

I would like to express my great appreciation and thanks to all at the conference who made me feel very welcome and made the event a most profitable experience for me, professionally and personally. Particularly: Ragsana, Nezaket, Irada, Gulshan, Resmyie, Paul and Brian.

With love,

Ruxandra Popovici  
English Language Projects Manager  
British Council, Romania

## AZETA - OUR DAUGHTER AT TEN

By Donald Ornick

Come to Baku to celebrate  
The birthday of your daughter  
Come teachers now from all the world  
You collectively begot her.

AZETA is our daughter's name  
How could it be another.  
When the name was chosen by  
Azeri teacher mothers.

AZETA-child was very bright  
She brought great joy and mirth.  
She spoke English perfectly  
She spoke it from her birth.

We love AZETA with full hearts  
She is the one we love.  
We circle-round the sweetest child  
like proud and cooing doves.

Honour sweet AZETA  
Always treat her well  
Harm a hair on her dear head  
You'll see the wrath of hell.

If the should harm AZETA  
Teachers do not idly sit.  
They will form like packs of wolves  
and tear the foe to bits.

AZETA has a perfect home  
in a near perfect land.  
For learning, peace and teachers' rights  
AZETA always stands.

AZETA she is widely loved  
a love pure and platonic.  
If you should oppose our lovely child  
A PLAGUE TO YOU---BOUBONIC.

AZETA she has struggled  
From the day she first drew breath.  
She's here to spread her learning.  
AZETA, You're the best.

"Keep women teachers in "their place",  
the men said to AZETA.  
She answered, "Yes, I know "my place"  
It's there that I'll be seated."

"I'll not stay near to cook and clean  
nor be a slave at home  
I know "my place", cause I AM A QUEEN  
MY PLACE IS ON THE THROWN."

Now I love my sweet homeland  
and the teachers that all bore me  
For all the days they should be praised  
Raised to a place of honour.

Hurrah, Hurrah--AZETA!!!!  
Now she has aged to 10.  
She's now a grand young lady  
All the teachers she defends.

Teachers join together  
Then you can't be singly broken.  
There is strength in teachers' numbers  
Queen AZETA she has spoken.

Honour English teachers  
They must pay them what they're worth.  
Teachers deserve everything  
Give teachers half the earth.

When officials with their money  
Pass you by upon their stroll  
Stop each one and take their money.  
THIS IS AZETA'S TOLL.

Come and learn more teachers' skills  
and the rights we must defend.  
Now AZETA she will lead the fight  
SHE'S STRONG AND WISE AND TEN.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR AZETA  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU.

