



ANNUAL REPORT 2007



AZƏRBAYCAN TÜRKİYƏ İŞ ADAMLARI BİRLİYİ
AZERBAIJAN TURKEY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



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Dear colleagues,
Dear members!

The year 2007 is left behind, the year of greater developments of relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan, and more strengthened positions of our countries in the region.

If we have to estimate the past year from standpoint of economic relations, first of all, we should notice that in 2007 the trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Turkey already exceeded 1 billion USD which we set as a goal several years ago. Besides it, other pleasing factor is that after the long period Turkey won the first place on trade volume among the partner countries of Azerbaijan. We are confident that during the short time we can reach a new purpose set during the official visit of President of Turkey Abdullah Gul to Azerbaijan November 6-8, 2007 - bringing trade turnover to 3 billion USD.

Besides, the trade turnover already reached USD1,7 billion in 2007, the belief in successful realization of the railway project of Baku-Tbilisi-Kars, started by leaders of our countries - President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and Prime Minister of Turkey Rajab Tayyip Erdogan last year, strengthens more our confidence.

This project construction, planned to start in 2008 and complete in 2010, will become the first railway route connecting Georgia with Turkey and promote essential

development in transportation of passengers and goods from Asia to Europe. This project will allow overland transport of goods from the Far East to Europe and will sharply reduce transportation time in comparison with sea shipping. This network will also reduce the period of time spent for transit of goods transported from Caucasus and Central Asia to North Africa or east coast of the United States.

Funded by own funds and without the financial assistance of the United States and European Union, the realization of the project of great importance for the region, is a bright example of the increase in the economic power and political influence of our countries as well.

Strengthening economic relations between our countries by means of realization of its activity, Azerbaijan Turkey Business Association also tries increasing the influence of our countries in the region and internationally. The events organized within ATIB's activity last year, created conditions not only for boosting relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan as well as for strengthening of joint regional activity of the two countries.

Last year, ATIB together with its partners realized some initiatives to expand both trade and investment relations between the two countries which are one of the primary goals. Thus, ATIB jointly with the Ministry of Economic Development of the Azerbaijan Republic, Azerbaijan Export and Investment Promotion Foundation, Azerbaijan Turkey Business Council, Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in the Azerbaijan Republic and other organizations held a series of business forums. Besides, last year ATIB hosted the meeting of 50 foreign companies willing to be engaged in business activity in Azerbaijan, and provided them with full information on investment conditions and business opportunities in Azerbaijan.

As noted above, one of the important matters in 2007 was to strengthen the leadership of Azerbaijan and Turkey in the region. As Vice-President on Entrepreneurship and Innovation Issues, ATIB actively participated at the events of the Union of Black Sea and Caspian Confederation of Enterprises established by a joint initiative with Turkish Industrialists and Businessmen Association (TUSIAD) late 2006. As a newly founded organization, UBCCE attained much success in 2007. Hosted by ATIB in Baku, October 2, 2007 and attended by over 300 delegates from approximately 20 countries, the UBCCE conference 'Foreign Direct Investments: Opportunities and Challenges for Black Sea and Caspian Region' and business forum were one of the important events which made valuable contribution to regional economic cooperation. Not casually, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev sent congratulation letter to participants of the conference and business forum as well as received the UBCCE delegation.

Another important event in the frame of UBCCE was the visit of its delegation to EU headquarters in Brussels October 10, 2007. During the meetings held with EU commissioners and other officials as well as representatives from BusinessEurope which is comprised of EU business community, it was mentioned that Azerbaijani

businessmen take interest in close cooperation with EU structures and it is believed to have a great importance in raising the welfare of the region.

In 2007, ATIB organized a series of events aimed at increasing the image of Azerbaijan and Turkey in the region and providing true information to the main players about these countries. First of them was international conference 'The Role and Importance of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia in European Geopolitics' organized by Azerbaijan Turkey Business Association in a joint effort with the Russian Modern Humanitarian Academy in Moscow, Russia October 16, 2007.

Following the conference in Moscow, ATIB organized another international conference "Azerbaijan-Turkey-US Relations and Its Importance for Eurasia" together with Hudson Institute and John Hopkins University on December 10, 2007. Featured video messages from the President of the Azerbaijan Republic Ilham Aliyev, Turkish President Abdullah Gul and former President of Turkey Suleiman Demirel, the conference was attended by high level officials from respective countries.

ATIB organized a seminar on "Strategic Importance of Azerbaijan and Turkey as Modern Islamic Partners of the United States" together with General Consulate of Azerbaijan in Los-Angeles which took place at Beverly Hilton Hotel of Los-Angeles on December 13, 2007.

It should be noted that these events brought together representatives from the government, economic, academic and policy spheres in an effort to define the goals of each state in the strategically important Eurasian region and joint activity for achieving them as well as problems preventing welfare of the region and the ways of obviating them. ATIB's goal was to ensure the sustainable economic development by increasing the cooperation level of the countries leading in Eurasian geopolitics, and particularly realize healthier and securer future perspectives for the next generation by strengthening non-oil sector.

As an organization representing the businessmen of Azerbaijan and Turkey, ATIB does not consider its mission fulfilled by implementing the works for the development of economic relations between our countries, and makes commitment to the solution of common problems of our countries and to the increase of their influences in the region and the world.

Nagorno Karabagh conflict and groundless "Armenian genocide" dispute, discussed in some foreign countries with support of Armenian lobby, are the obstacles faced by Azerbaijan and Turkey on the way of developing the economic relations, and requiring the joint activity of both countries as well as their Diaspora organizations. Azerbaijan Turkey Historical Research Foundation (ATAF) is one of our initiatives to address these challenges. ATAF was established within the framework of the Baku Declaration and Quadrilateral Cooperation Protocol which was signed among ATIB, Baku State

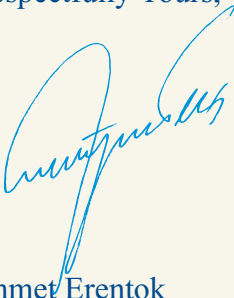
University, History Institute of National Academy of Sciences of the Azerbaijan Republic and Turkish Historical Council, and the organization and expansion of its activities in 2008 is one of our main duties.

According to its mission, ATIB tries developing economic relations between our countries and broaden cultural and social relations as well. In this direction, ATIB organized the concert of the Children's Philharmonic Orchestra in the frame of the presentation ceremony of 'Golden Wheel' Award, Healthy Family Project, 'Jalaladdin Rumi – 800' Project, Best Autopark Project, 'Evening of Turkish and Azerbaijani Music'. More information about these and other activities that I have not mentioned are available from our annual report.

Due to our developing activities in 2008, I believe that we will attain even greater success and sign new achievements with the assistance and support of ATIB members and our cooperating organizations.

In conclusion, it is my duty to express gratitude to ATIB members, as well as to our cooperating companies and organizations for significant results and attained success during short time and for economic and moral support to our initiatives. At the same time, on behalf of our members I thank every colleague of ATIB Secretariat who carries out ATIB's daily activities.

Respectfully Yours,



Ahmet Erentok
Chairman

ATIB VISION

ATIB sees Azerbaijan as a leading country of the region and amongst one of the developing countries of the world. We believe in the necessity of developing economic, social and cultural relations first between Azerbaijan and Turkey then among Azerbaijan and other countries.

ATIB MISSION

Established on new development platform reviving Azerbaijan economy, ATIB aims at using together the economic potential of Azerbaijan and create SINERGY by getting together Turkish and Azerbaijani businessmen.

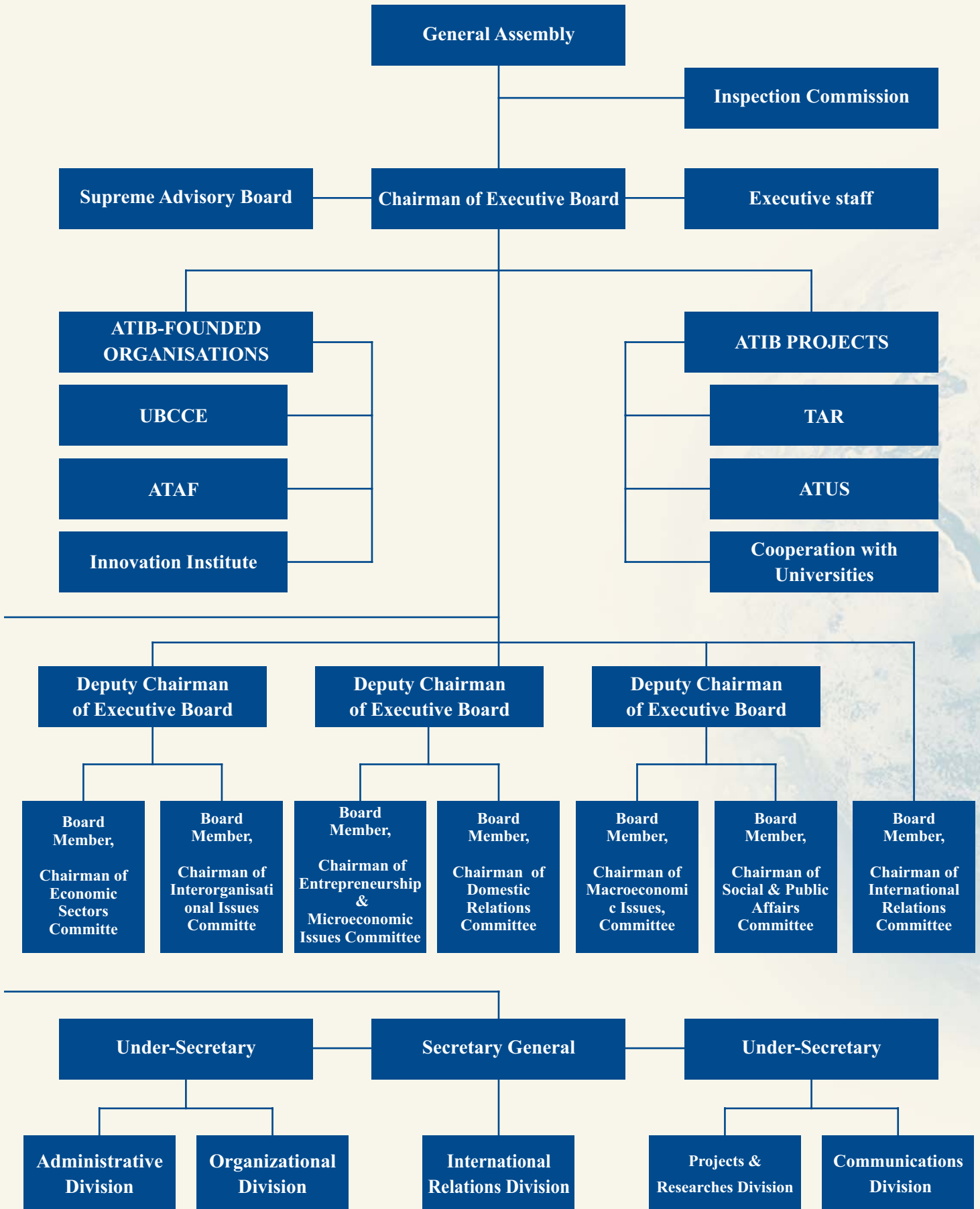
Purpose of establishment:

- Assist in implementing legal procedures on business activity of ATIB members in Azerbaijan;
- Represent ATIB members and protect their interests;
- Promote Azerbaijan in Turkey and other foreign countries for increasing foreign investments;
- Develop industrial, trade and other economic relations between companies from Azerbaijan and Turkey;
- Strengthen and protect the image of Azerbaijani and Turkish Businessman;
- Enter into agreements of joints activities in line with the purpose of the Association, and cooperate with other associations, foundations, and similar organizations in Azerbaijan

To achieve these purposes ATIB

- Cooperates with Turkish and Azerbaijani associations of Turkey and developed countries of the world in order to increase investment to Azerbaijan;
- Organizes activities to develop relations between businessmen of the two countries;
- Organizes “training programs” with the objective of preparing qualified personal in Azerbaijan;
- Arranges opportunities for investors interested in Azerbaijan and provide them with reports and surveys on different sectors of economy.

ATIB's ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



UBCCE – Union of Black Sea and Caspian Confederation of Enterprises
ATAF – Azerbaijan Turkey Historical Research Foundation
TAR – Turkey-Azerbaijan-Russia
ATUS – Azerbaijan-Turkey-US



AHMET ERENTOK
Chairman of Executive Board

AtaHolding OJSC



Cemal YANGIN
Deputy chairman
of Board

Istanbul Charshi



Oruj HEYDAROV
Deputy chairman
of Board

AB Standard



Ali Ihsan GENCH
Deputy chairman
of Board

Turquoise



Fatima ASLAN
Board Member

ATTAS PR



Halim ATESH
Board Member

Azercell JV



Aysel SAGHLIK
Board Member

**Vehby Koch Health
Organization**



Tayyar SHUKUROV
Board Member

NJT 2000



Hakan ÖZALPAY
Board Member

AtaTourism



Rafail SHIRINOV
Board Member

TAİS İKF



Akyl IMRE
Board Member

Saga Company

FINANCE & INSPECTION COMMITTEE



Khayal MAMMADKHANLY

Chairman of Finance & Inspection Committee



Vugar ISMAYILOV

Member of Finance & Inspection Committee



Salim DILMEN

Member of Finance & Inspection Committee

SECRETARIAT



Rashad Rasullu

Secretary General



Louette Ragusa

International Projects Adviser



Alesker Aghayev

Head of Administrative & Organization Division



Sarkhan Hashimov

**Senior Expert
International Relations Division**



Amin Cherkezov

**Senior Expert
Economic Researches Division**



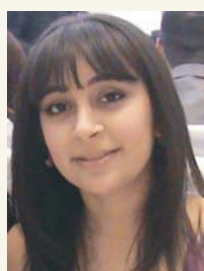
Konul Mukhtar

Projects Specialist



Gulnara Khalilova

Accountant



Jale Azizova

Public Relations Manager



Gulnar Ibrahimova

Public Relations Specialist



Rakhshanda Najafova

Administrative Assistant

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

“Why should your company be ATIB member?” - We are frequently asked this question. ATIB membership will give you the following benefits:

New business relations – You will have an opportunity of establishing new ties. We will help our members, willing to develop their businesses, to establish and maintain relations with leaders of business sectors and state officials in both countries. You also broaden your business and networking opportunities through participating in ATIB-organized meetings, conferences, workshops, business forums and luncheons, which enable you to get acquainted with opinions of high-ranking officials and businessmen and have an opportunity of building new relations.

Better introducing your company - Necessary information about our members will be presented to all interested parties by means of both our website and membership catalogue. In addition, information about your company profile and your website link will be placed on our website. Through sponsoring ATIB website and placing your advertising in ATIB publications, you will deliver information about your company to interested parties.

You can also get information about your company rank in the economy of Azerbaijan and Turkey using different kind of ATIB services.

Obtaining latest information – Through periodical publications, ATIB keeps informed its members about the important news in the relations of Azerbaijan and Turkey as well as main local and global political and economic events which are meanwhile significant in view of Azerbaijan and Turkey interests. Members get acquainted with daily news, economic reports and analytical information, which are prepared by ATIB and other experts to investigate different aspects of Azerbaijan economy. ATIB website features information on relations of main state and public organizations and invitation for bids. In addition, we build effective discussion platforms for business community organizing conferences and workshops on various subjects. All of these opportunities will help you in making important decisions concerning your business activity.

Familiarity with business etiquette and traditions of both countries - ATIB also provides its members with necessary information about business etiquette and traditions in Azerbaijan and Turkey. Despite close relations and similarities between two countries, there are also a lot of differences in their business etiquette and traditions, and every businessman needs to be aware of them. Being informed about these important points, your competitive ability will increase which will in turn help you attain success in your business.

Participation in various projects - Proceeding from its vision, ATIB carries out a number of projects to increase Azerbaijan and Turkey's influence in the region and in the world. We are proud of our works related with promoting culture, history and tradition of our countries, and are sure that our members feel the same.

Essential services for ATIB members:

- Discuss proposals and opinions on existing legislation of the Azerbaijan Republic and submit proposals to relevant state authorities
- Notify by email about amendments and changes to legislation of the Azerbaijan Republic
- Investigate business opportunities and support ATIB members in the search for business partners through member countries of UBCCE, where ATIB holds vice presidency (www.ubcce.org)
- ATIB media bulletin
- Daily distribution of online tender announcements published on the official media outlets of the Azerbaijan Republic
- ATIB quarterly and annually reports
- ATIB bulletin
- Hold presentations, workshops and trainings at ATIB office
- Place information about ATIB members on the website
- Participate in ATIB luncheons
- Enjoy ATIB 'discount program'
- ATIB human resource database
- Support services on public relations
- Opportunity of meeting with authorized officials of various ministries at ATIB office
- Opportunity to advertise in corporate magazine, and others

MEMBERSHIP CONDITIONS

Any representation of legal entity, individual or foreign company operating in Azerbaijan can become ATIB member. For this purpose, a copy of certificate about state registration and ATIB membership form (printed form is available on the website and at ATIB Secretariat) should be submitted to Executive Board. Following positive decision of the Executive Board and payment of membership fee, defined by Executive Board, within ten days, it is accepted as ATIB member for one year term. Membership period is further prolonged upon annual payment of membership fee.

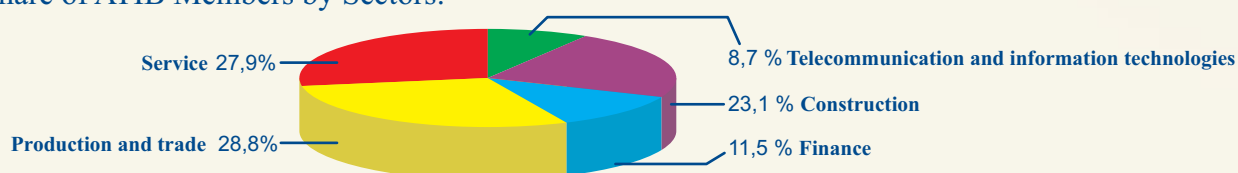
MEMBER PROFILES

ATIB presently has 91 companies and their structure for capital belongings is as follows:

Capital belonging	Number	Percentage
100% capital belonging to Azerbaijan	38	41,8%
100% capital belonging to Turkey	30	33,0%
Joint Ventures	23	25,2%

Apparently, 38 ATIB member companies (41.8 %) are of Azerbaijani capital, 30 or 33 % of completely Turkish capital. 23 or 25.2 % of ATIB members are joint ventures.

Share of ATIB Members by Sectors:



Presently, total authorized capital of ATIB member companies amounts to USD800 million. Focused mainly on the non-oil sector, ATIB member companies employ over 40 thousand personnel. Investments made by ATIB members to the non-oil sectors amount to USD3 billion.

ACTIVITIES OF ATIB COMMISSIONS

Presently there are 7 committees engaged in various matters in ATIB. Each committee is managed by one of the Executive Board members and participation in their activities is occurred on basis of voluntariness. Any ATIB member company willing to participate in the activities of committees should simply apply to ATIB Secretariat. Commissions are acted on the basis of approved regulations available at ATIB Secretariat.

ECONOMIC SECTORS COMMISSION

Directions of basic activities consist of the following:

- Work out and implement measures to develop various sector of the economy;
- Transform economic sectors to highly technological, effective and competitive sectors integrated to global economy;
- Create a favorable environment for attracting investments to various economic sectors;
- Support in forming the structure of Azerbaijan's economy to meet modern standards

INTERORGANISATIONAL ISSUES COMMISSION

Directions of basic activities consist of the following:

- Increase the satisfaction level of ATIB members connected with organizational activities;
- Search financial resources for ATIB's implemented and proposed projects;
- Form the organizing mechanism of ATIB meetings and measures in accordance with accepted modern standards;
- Provide systematic distribution of ATIB publications

COMMISSION OF ENTERPRISE AND MICROECONOMIC ISSUES

Directions of basic activities consist of the following:

- Support the activities on the development of private enterprise;
- Support the establishment of a market economy in the Azerbaijan Republic by creating a favorable environment for private enterprise including small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Support the creation of favorable environment for carrying out civil business activities;
- Provide a simplified state regulation and control over activities of business entities and eliminate excessive administrative obstacles;
- Build effective infrastructure for entrepreneurship;
- Shape stable business relations among business circles of Azerbaijan and other countries;
- Create a favorable social-economic environment for developing entrepreneurship in the spheres of scientific-technical innovations and high technologies;
- Support the advancement of science and technology, research and innovation activities;
- Based public policy, protect and develop intellectual potential of entrepreneurship in the area of protecting intellectual property;
- Form and apply mechanisms of conflict solutions
- Protect the interests of entrepreneurs including ATIB members for carry out of their economic activities

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

Directions of basic activities consist of the following:

- Establish and develop ATIB's bilateral and multilateral relations with relevant overseas organizations;
- Develop and support ATIB's position connected with its membership and participation in international organizations;
- Raise awareness and support in the business communities about ATIB and Azerbaijan abroad;
- Support the social protection of ATIB's interests and its members in the area of foreign economic activities;
- Provide relevant information and consulting services to local and foreign businessmen with relevant ATIB's structures;
- Providing ATIB's participation in the work of intergovernmental commissions on trade and economical cooperation established with foreign countries;

DOMESTIC RELATIONS COMMISSION

Directions of basic activities consist of the following:

- Create and manage positive image and reputation of ATIB in local and international communities;
- Form positive image of Azerbaijan business community in the local, foreign business and public circles;
- Form and develop ATIB's relations with state authorities, civil society organizations, research and educational institutions and the media.

GENERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES COMMISSION

Directions of basic activities consist of the following:

- Provide effective activities on macroeconomic analysis, tax matters, trade policy, WTO membership, matters of investment and economic legislation;
- Research the macroeconomic situation in the country, region and the global market;
- Define administrative obstacles preventing business development on tax matters, trade policy and the investment environment, and prepare revised proposals of policy consideration, as well as form a single position on these issues in business community;
- Supporting ATIB members on matters connected with foreign economic activity;
- Forming a single position of business community on matter of WTO membership of our country;
- Supporting the dynamics in the development of sectors within the Azerbaijan economy through attracting investments;
- Comprehensive development of investment environment in the country;
- Development of organizational, technical and informational opportunities of investment in the Azerbaijani economy;
- Assist in strengthening the image of the country to attract capital investment;
- Activating and stimulating the participation of the business community in economic legislation activity;

SOCIAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Directions of basic activities consist of the following:

- Form a modern and effective system of social protection;
- Form and realize efficient employment policy of the state;
- Protect consumer rights;
- Increase the quality of work force;
- Adapt professional education system to economic needs;
- Minimize negative influence of undertaken economic activities to environment (ecology);
- Increase efficiency of environment protection activities
- Form platforms among the business community, authorities and other interested parties in order to solve important social problems;
- Form mechanisms for mutual useful activities among organizations and businessmen to raise the efficiency of social and charity projects;
- Form and realize social responsibility policies for businessmen and their unions;
- Support positive development inclinations of business ethics of entrepreneurs;
- Develop a national business ethics system;
- Standardize civilized work ethics and rules of practice for local companies;
- Carry out relevant measures connected with social insurance system reforms;
- Provide constructive dialogue between businessmen and state authorities in the area of environment and ecology;
- Develop civilized consumption market;
- Form a national system for farmed products, commodities and services quality.

ATIB'S INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

UNION OF BLACK SEA AND CASPIAN CONFEDERATION OF ENTERPRISES (UBCCE)

In 2007, ATIB gave special consideration to strengthening the leadership of Azerbaijan and Turkey in the region. As UBCCE Vice President on Entrepreneurship and Innovation, ATIB actively participated in the implementation of the events within the framework of UBCCE which was established by ATIB initiative on November 27, 2006. Despite the fact that the UBCCE is the newly established organization which currently embraces 17 organizations from 14 countries, it undertook several successful activities in 2007. Amongst them we can note the first meeting of the UBCCE Management Committee in Alma-Ata of Kazakhstan March 6, 2007, the first meeting of the UBCCE Thematic Committee “Regional economic integration” in Bucharest of Romania May 23, 2007 and the second meeting of the UBCCE Management Committee in Baku of Azerbaijan October 3, 2007.¹



UBCCE FIRST BUSINESS FORUM AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The UBCCE most important event in 2007 was the international conference 'Direct foreign investments in Black Sea and Caspian Region' and business forum which were hosted by ATIB in Baku on October 2, 2007. Over 300 delegates from the business community of the region, high level officials from different countries and representatives of international organizations attended the UBCCE First Business Forum which significantly contributed to the development of the regional economical cooperation.



Reception of UBCCE delegation by President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev

Not casually, Ilham Aliyev, President of the Azerbaijan Republic sent a special message to the participants of the conference and business-forum as well as received the delegation headed by UBCCE President Arzuhan Dogan Yalchindag and UBCCE Vice-President Ahmet Erentok. Stressing the importance of the conference and business forum for the Black Sea and Caspian regions, President Ilham Aliyev stated that it would be interesting and fruitful both for Azerbaijan and other countries of the region and expressed his hope this event would pave the way for further realization of joint projects.



*Heydar Babayev
Minister of Economic Development of AR*

The forum was inaugurated by UBCCE and TUSIAD President Arzuhan Yalchindag, ATIB Chairman and UBCCE Vice President Ahmet Erentok, Minister of Economic Development of the Azerbaijan Republic Heydar Babayev as well as video address of the 9th president of the Republic of Turkey Suleyman Demirel.



ATIB Chairman Ahmet Erentok

The forum was held in three different panels with the participation of business community and high level officials from different countries of the region who had the opportunity to share their views on 'foreign direct investment', a key issue for development in this emerging part of the globe.

Mahmud Mammadgulyev, Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister of the Azerbaijan Republic, Alpaslan Korkmaz, President of Turkish Investment Support and Promotion Agency, Giuseppe Belsito, Manager of UNDP Black Sea Trade and Investment Promotion Programme, Gregory Jedrzejczak, Azerbaijan Country Representative of World Bank, Jahangir Hajiyev, Chairman of Executive Board of International Bank of Azerbaijan, Halim Atesh, General Director of Azercell Telecom LLC delivered speeches at the first panel session entitled “Key Issues and Trends for Investments in UBCCE Region.”



UBCCE Baku Conference on FDI

**TO THE PARTICIPANTS OF “DIRECT FOREIGN INVESTMENTS
IN BLACK SEA AND CASPIAN REGION” CONFERENCE AND
THE BUSINESS FORUM**

Respected conference and forum participants!

I welcome you – participants of the international conference “Direct Foreign Investments in Black Sea and Caspian Region” and business forum and wish you success in your work!

As a result of fundamental reforms implemented in Azerbaijan Republic, the significant progress has been achieved in economy. The expansion of non-oil sector, diversification of the economy, establishment of modern infrastructure has been set as the main objective for provision of social-economic development in the country.

The political stability and democratic environment established in our country has strongly stimulated the formation of market economy principles based economic system.

The suitable condition in Azerbaijan has been created for foreign investments and this process is continuously supported by the government. Today the existing economic condition and investment environment of our republic gives the free functioning opportunity to business people. Our country, situated at the crossing of east west as well as north-south transport corridor and known in history as “Great Silk Road” is becoming an important industry-trade center in the region.

Successfully implemented mega projects, like Baku-Tbilisi-Jeyhan, Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum and Baku-Tbilisi-Kars have the special importance not only at the regional scale, but also at all Eurasian space. This global partnership has turned the Black sea and Caspian region into a just and equal partnership arena, ensured strengthening the process of its integration into world economy.

I hope this conference and business forum will be interesting and fruitful for both Azerbaijan and other countries of the region creating a solid ground for realization of joint future projects.

Sincerely,

Ilham Aliyev

President of the Azerbaijan Republic

Baku city, 2 October 2007

During the second panel entitled 'Policies to Attract Foreign Direct Investment: Regional & International Experience', Azer Amiraslanov, Deputy Chairman of Economic Commission of Azerbaijan Parliament, Mohammed Otaredian, President of Iranian Confederations of Employers' Associations, Monia Skhiri, Secretary General of Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Entrepreneurs (UMCE), Akkan Suver, President of Marmara Group Strategic and Social Research Foundation, Michael Lövy, International Affairs Director of Federation of Austrian Industrialists, Michael Davey, Director of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development for Caucasus, Belarus and Moldova, shared their own experience with the audience on attracting foreign direct investment.

Natig Aliyev, Minister of Industry and Energy of the Azerbaijan Republic delivered a special statement during the last panel of the Forum under the theme 'Energy and Regional Investment Strategies'. Sheref Ege, President of Strategy Department Unit at the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Turkey, Mehmet Uysal, Acting President of Turkish Petroleum Co (TPAO), Nusret Comert, Managing Director of Shell EP Gas & Power Turkey and Alan Waddams, Special Envoy of European Commission to Azerbaijan delivered speeches as well.

The conference was closed by the final speech of Togrul Erkin, President of Turkish-Eurasian Business Council of Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey.

The event showed the importance of Azerbaijan's role in organizing the projects like UBCCE, because the realization of such initiatives will ensure the protection of Azerbaijan's strategic interests. Azerbaijan may become a main ring in transcontinental cooperation due to its geographical position in Eurasia, level of participation at regional communication lines and its unique resources. As a result, Azerbaijan will have decent stand in Eurasia and generally in globalizing world, play a leading role in establishing integration grouping that gives opportunities to development of equal rights relations with any interested union both in West and East.

COOPERATION OF UBCCE WITH EUROPEAN UNION

Since its foundation, UBCCE has given high importance to different structures of European Union as well as the formation and development of relations with the BusinessEurope that combines 39 members from 33 countries including business people of 20 million EU companies. From this viewpoint, the visit of UBCCE delegation to EU headquarters in Brussels on October 10, 2007 and the meeting with EU Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities Vladimir Spidla, Commissioner for the Environment Stavros Dimas, Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid Philippe De Bruycker, BusinessEurope Secretary General Philippe de Buck, Head of European Neighborhood Policy General Coordination Unit John O'Rourke, was not coincident.



UBCCE Vice-president Ahmet Erentok with BusinessEurope President Seilliere and Secretary General Buck

During the meetings of UBCCE delegation, Ahmet Erentok, ATIB chairman and head of UBCCE Entrepreneurship and Innovation Thematic Committee informed EU Commissionaires about the activities of the committee as well as brought the position of Azerbaijan business society about above mentioned issues to the attention of EU Commissionaires.

It was mentioned that, Azerbaijan business society is interested in close cooperation with EU structures as well as those uniting business people of European Union, and this cooperation is believed to have a great importance in raising the welfare of the region. In the course of the visit, UBCCE Delegation was invited to the event on "SMEs Day" which was organized by Business Europe later November 21, 2007. During the visit, UBCCE delegation met with the leadership of BusinessEurope as well as President Ernest-Antoine Seilliere and Secretary General Philippe de Buck, where cooperation opportunities between BusinessEurope and UBCCE were primary issues discussed. The sides reached principal agreement to organize a joint conference on the above mentioned topic in future.

Holding the vise-presidency of UBCCE on Entrepreneurship and Innovation, ATIB actively participated at the events of the organization and completely met the obligations set before. In 2007, ATIB had successful activity in finding partners for UBCCE from Russia, Ukraine and Turkmenistan, and the bodies representing these countries are expected to become UBCCE member. By expanding its activities within UBCCE and creating new business opportunities for its members in 2008, ATIB intents to realize certain events for correct propagation of our country in this region.

Established within the framework of the Baku Declaration and Quadrilateral Cooperation Protocol which was signed among ATIB, Baku State University, History Institute of National Academy of Sciences of the Azerbaijan Republic and Turkish Historical Foundation in Ankara May 15, 2006, Coordination Council made some important decisions in the meeting in Ankara on February 27, 2007. For coordinated and correct implementation of the adopted decrees, Coordination Council considered expedient the establishment of Azerbaijan Turkey Historical Research Foundation. Undertaking this initiative, ATIB prepared the necessary documents and submitted to the Ministry of Justice of the Azerbaijan Republic which registered ATAF on December 26, 2007. ATAF Board of Trustee is chaired by Suleyman Demirel, the 9th President of Republic of Turkey, and its objectives are the following:

- Provide support in researching Azeri and Turkish history, and identify their common problems;
- Identify the ways of solving common problems and prepare proposals;
- Make contribution to the peaceful co-existence of the Caucasian people, the solution of problems preventing the economic integration, and boost economic welfare of the region within this context.

To achieve these objectives the Foundation will implement the following activities:

- Inform the local and international community about the historical truth on the common problems of both Azerbaijan and Turkey by restoring, preparing and printing related documents;
- Organize scientific conferences, seminars, round tables for discussion and solution of common problems on the history of Azerbaijan and Turkey;
- Provide support for developing the academic level of historians through granting stipends;
- Organize campaigns for collection of voluntary donations, and conduct cultural and mass events;
- Grant scientific researches on common problems in the history of Azerbaijan and Turkey;
- Establish information resources on common problems in the history of Azerbaijan and Turkey, and carry out their propaganda, advertisement and marketing;
- Cooperate with state authorities, local and international organizations, NGOs, business community and diaspora organizations.

ATIB started the activities on the above mentioned initiative in 2007. A joint meeting of the Azerbaijani and Turkish Diaspora members in the United States and the Assembly of Turkish-U.S. Associations held in Washington December 11, 2007 are worth of mentioning.



*Meeting of Coordination Board at Ankara
Turkish History Foundation*



*Members of Coordination Council in Turkish
History Foundation in Ankara*

During the meeting, the Azeri and Turkish officials, the leading diaspora representatives of these countries in the USA discussed the main commitments, particularly the ways of realizing coordinated and effective activity set before the Diaspora organizations of both countries by Ilham Aliyev, President of the Azerbaijan Republic and Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of Republic of Turkey during the First Forum of World Azerbaijani Leaders and Turkish Diaspora in Baku March 9, 2007. The participants proposed different concert offers and made a number of decisions and productive discussions at the meeting.

ATIB also met with the representatives of Jewish Diaspora at Jewish Institute on National Security Issues (JINSA) in the United States December 11, 2007. Providing JINSA representatives with in-depth information about economic development in Azerbaijan, ATIB delegation stressed once again the existence of high tolerance in the country and respect for national minorities, including Jewish. The meeting also discussed the existing conflicts and security issues in the region. At the end of the meeting, ATIB and JINSA came to an agreement on mutual cooperation.

The ATIB delegation attended a meeting in the US House of Representatives on December 12, 2007. The various members from Sub-Committee of Europe, Foreign Affairs Committee and Congressional Staff including Kay King, Director of Inter-parliamentary Relations Office, participated in the meeting, which mainly focused on historical facts of Nagorno Karabagh conflict and the regional security issues. The ATIB delegation gave an overall view about current political, economic and social situation in Azerbaijan and the region, and answered the numerous questions from attendees. At the end of the meeting, the books and CDs reflecting Azerbaijan realities were presented to the officials of the U.S. House of Representatives.

As an organization representing the businessmen of Azerbaijan and Turkey, ATIB does not consider its mission fulfilled by implementing the works for the development of economic relations between our countries, and makes commitment to the solution of common problems of our countries and to the increase of their influences in the region and the world.

The existing conflicts are no doubt the main factor preventing the economic development in the region. These conflicts don't only stifle the development of the region, but also seriously hinder improving the welfare of the people in the region. Nagorno Karabagh conflict and groundless "Armenian genocide" dispute, discussed in some foreign countries with support of Armenian lobby, are the obstacles faced by Azerbaijan and Turkey on the way of developing the economic relations, and requiring the joint activity of both countries as well as their Diaspora organizations. The establishment of ATAF arose from this necessity, and the organization and expansion of its activities in 2008 is one of the main duties set before ATIB.



*Ahmet Erentok at ATAA meeting in Washington
December 2007*



*Meeting at ATAA office – Samad Seyidov
(Head of AR delegation to PACE) and
Yashar Aliyev (Ambassador of AR in USA)*

In 2007, ATIB organized a series of events aimed at increasing the image of Azerbaijan and Turkey in the region and providing true information to the main players about these countries.

Role and Importance of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia in Eurasian Geopolitics

Azerbaijan Turkey Business Association and the Russia Modern Humanitarian Academy jointly organized an international conference "The Role and Importance of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia in European Geopolitics" in Moscow, Russia October 16, 2007. Attended by state authorities, leading politicians, businessmen, scientists and civil society representatives of all three countries, the conference discussed the issues like the European geopolitics and geo-economics, the role of NGOs in development of business environment, human resources and innovation.

The initiative of the conference was the first of its kind in the context of building multilateral relations among Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia from a trilateral viewpoint. Quite different for their political structures and economic indicators, these countries have numerous factors which meanwhile tie them. As the organizer of the conference, ATIB envisioned and cultivated «TAR» (Turkey-Azerbaijan-Russia) Concept while proposing this idea. By mentioning the fact that Turkey and Russia had not developed a joint project in any third country, ATIB considered more expedient the realization of such a project in Azerbaijan for its political, economic, cultural, historical relations with its neighbors Turkey and Russia, and suggested initiating the «TAR» Concept. As a first and important step in the realization of «TAR» Concept, this conference aimed at contributing to the development of existing and future relations among the three countries.

The purpose of the conference was also to discuss different views, reach a consensus and contribute to the welfare of the region by gathering state authorities, politicians, scientists, universities, NGOs and entrepreneurs, in one word, specialists representing all clusters of society. As a result, this will create an opportunity for reaching sustainable and stable economic development and strengthen the cooperation level of the leading countries in Eurasian geopolitics. At the end of the conference, the participants decided to hold the conference annually and on a rotating basis.



International conference on "The Role & Importance of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia in Eurasian Geopolitics"



International conference on "The Role & Importance of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia in Eurasian Geopolitics"



International conference on "The Role & Importance of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia in Eurasian Geopolitics"

The conference resulted in the following recommendations:

- Azerbaijan, Turkey and Russia have to establish an economic integration union in the future that will include other countries from the region;
- Opportunities for NGOs uniting entrepreneurs should be widely used for the development of economic relations among these three countries;
- Turkey and Russia should realize a joint project in economy sphere (or other field) in Azerbaijan;
- Experts groups functioning permanently on different levels should be formed among three countries;
- Fair solution of Nagorno Karabagh conflict should be a clear priority issue for ensuring stability and advancement of economic welfare in the region;
- Iran is the main problem that may impede trilateral partnership;
- Events like this conference should be a regular occurrence, preferably with the site rotating among Washington, Ankara and Baku.

The final report of the conference will be presented to the public in Azeri, Russian, Turkish and English during first quarter of 2008.

Azerbaijan-Turkey-US Relationship and its Importance for Eurasia

Following the conference in Moscow, ATIB organized an international conference “Azerbaijan-Turkey-US Relations and Its Importance for Eurasia” together with Hudson Institute and John Hopkins University on December 10, 2007. The conference represented the continuation of ATIB's mission to foster good relations first between Turkey and Azerbaijan, then among Turkey, Azerbaijan and other countries. The Washington conference brought together representatives from the government, economic, academic and policy spheres of Azerbaijan, Turkey and the United States in an effort to define the goals of each state in the strategically important Eurasian region and joint activity for achieving them as well as problems preventing welfare of the region and the ways of obviating them. The conference also featured video messages from Turkish President Abdullah Gul and former President of Turkey Suleiman Demirel.

The priority geo-political issues for Azerbaijan, Turkey and the USA as well as trilateral partnership opportunities in Eurasia, factors preventing this partnership, the ways of strengthening tripartite partnership within the framework of energy security projects, development directions of existing transport corridors in the region were primary issues discussed during the conference. ATIB's goal was to ensure the sustainable economic development by increasing the cooperation level of the countries leading in Eurasian geopolitics, and particularly realize healthier and securer future perspectives for the next generation by strengthening non-oil sector.



International conference on “Azerbaijan-Turkey-US Relationship & its Importance for Eurasia”



International conference on “Azerbaijan-Turkey-US Relationship & its Importance for Eurasia”

The conference resulted in the following recommendations:

- In order to have an effective strategic partnership, Azerbaijan, Turkey and the United States need to share a common perception of their goals and objectives;
- The US push for democracy in countries where there is no basic security is counterproductive. US democracy promotion efforts need to place much greater emphasis on institution building;
- The US is increasingly perceived as less effective than Russia in executing its policies in the Eurasian region. The US needs to reinvigorate its engagement in the Caspian region;
- The EU also needs to be more engaged in the next phase of Caspian energy developments, especially regarding natural gas. So far it has little credibility in the region, projects like Nabucco can not happen without strong EU political will and “ownership”.
- Assisting Georgia in its continued westward orientation is a shared goal;
- Resolution of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict needs to become a clear priority;
- Iran is the main issue that is likely to challenge the trilateral partnership;
- Additional trilateral groups, such as a meeting of legislators from all three countries, should be established;
- Events like this conference should be a regular occurrence, preferably with site rotating among Washington, Ankara and Baku.

The final report of conference will be published in Azeri, Turkish and English and released in 2008 after presentation ceremony at the Hudson Institute in Washington.

Strategic importance of Azerbaijan and Turkey as modern US Islamic Partners

After the conference in Washington, ATIB organized a seminar on “Strategic Importance of Azerbaijan and Turkey as Modern Islamic Partners of the United States” together with General Consulate of Azerbaijan in Los-Angeles which took place at Beverly Hilton Hotel of Los-Angeles on December 13, 2007. The seminar discussed the role of Azerbaijan and Turkey as main regional partners, their long-lasting tolerance and endurance traditions as modern Islamic societies, positive experience in ensuring rights of Jewish, Christian communities as well as women, Azerbaijan-Turkey-Israel partnership, radicalism and regional threats, Azerbaijan's contribution to global energy security, Silk Road Corridor and cooperation perspectives in Middle East, cooperation with Georgia, GUAM and Euro Atlantic institutes, Armenia's isolation from regional projects and its negative impact on its population.



Mr. Jimmy Delshad, Mayor of Beverly Hills city

BLACK SEA TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION PROGRAMME

In 2007, ATIB was selected by United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as a local stakeholder for the implementation of the Black Sea Trade and Investment Promotion Programme. The main objective of the program is to develop the investment and trade relations between the countries of the Black sea region (Albania, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine and Greece). The program is also targeted at creating the appropriate platform for those interested in doing business in this region. The program plays the role of an ideal bridge for development of partnership between the countries neighboring to European Union in the frame of European Neighborhood Policy.



The program has recently researched trade and investment potential of regional countries and prepared appropriate report. This, the program was presented in the member countries of the Black Sea region and the United States with the opening meeting held in Greece in 2007. The delegations, selected for the participation in the program, represented their business associations during the opening meeting. Azerbaijan was represented by ATIB and AZPROMO at the meeting. Meeting participants presented the priority sectors directed to the development of trade and investment relations of their countries. As a result of discussion, 7 sectors were selected for the development of trade and investment flows in the region which are machine building plant, agriculture and food industry, business services, tourism, construction materials, information and communication services, transport services.

It was decided to organize the meetings of business representatives from selected sectors in the Black Sea countries. The meeting participants agreed the participation of representatives of 10 companies from appropriate sector of each country. The surveys are planned to be conducted by the UNDP selected organizations for identification of priority products within the sector. It was agreed to conduct the meetings on trade investment for the above mentioned sectors in Istanbul (June 2008), Kiev (November 2008), Moscow (June 2009), Bulgaria (November 2009), Fessalonki (June 2010), Bucharest (November 2010) and Tbilisi (2011). The meetings on investment promotion is planned to be organized starting from 2008. All these meetings will serve for the expansion of commercial and investment relations among business communities of the countries.

GOLDEN WHEEL AWARD

On its third year birthday, ATIB held the presentation of 'Golden Wheel' award at the Azerbaijan State Philharmonics on April 17, 2007. ATIB annually presents Golden Wheel award on different nominations for the projects or events contributing to the development of relations between both countries. By the decision of ATIB Executive Board, start of Baku-Tbilisi-Jeyhan (BTC) oil pipeline was identified as the event making a major contribution to the strengthening of close relations between two countries in 2006. In this relation, ATIB has made a decision on presenting the award on three nominations – “Person of the Year”, “NGO of the Year” and “Company/Businessman of the Year”. Meanwhile, ATIB Executive Board also instituted “Special Gratitude Award” particularly for this year.

Considering the efforts undertaken by the leaders of Azerbaijan, Turkey and Georgia in starting the operation of the BTC oil pipeline, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, President of Georgia Michael Shaakashvili and Prime Minister of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan were honored with “State Person of the Year” for their role in strengthening mutual relations among three countries.

“NGO of the Year” Award was given to the US Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce (USACC) and Marmara Foundation for their lobbying in the implementation of BTC oil pipeline as well as supporting the development of business relations through research activities. The award in the nomination of 'Company of the Year' was presented to “BTC Co” and “BOTASHA.SH.”, one of the main subcontractors in the construction of BTC pipeline.

Suleyman Demirel, the 9th president of Turkey and Bill Clinton, the 42nd president of the USA were honored with 'Special Gratitude' Award for their support in initiating BTC pipeline. The official part of the ceremony was followed by the performance of the children orchestra.



Presenting the award of President of Azerbaijan Republic Ilham Aliyev to Mr Ali Asadov, President's Secretary on economic issues



Presenting the award of Rajab Tayyip Erdogan to the Ambassador of Turkey in Azerbaijan Mr Huseyn Avni Karshoghlu



Presenting the award of USACC to Mr Hafiz Pashayev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs



Performance of State Philharmonic's Children Orchestra during presentation of Golden Wheel Award

HEALTHY FAMILY PROJECT

ATIB jointly with the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Issues of the Azerbaijan Republic organized the visit of Turkish delegation of the initiative platform “Nature and Health Volunteers” of Turkey (SYMBYOSIS) to Azerbaijan during May 5-12, 2007. The delegation included 11 doctors from 6 Turkish leading hospitals and 2 media representatives.

Based on “Strong economy requires healthy young generation” principle, the main purpose of this visit was to provide free of charge health services to needy families, including refugee and internally displaced people as well as to raise awareness on hygienic, ecological problems and protection of environment.

May 5-11, on the eve of International Family Day which also coincided with commemorating the 84th anniversary of National Leader Heydar Aliyev, highly experienced doctors from different areas made free medical inspections for more than 2000 people, particularly for refugee and IDP families and distributed medical and daily necessity goods to vulnerable people.



Turkish doctor conducting eye surgery



Lesson on hygienic, ecological problems and protection of environment

Besides, the awareness works related to hygienic, ecological problems and protection of environment were also carried out among secondary school pupils, and scientific-practical conference “Healthy Family of XXI Century” was organized at Baku State University on May 12, 2007.



Meeting at kindergarden



Scientific-practical conference on Healthy Family of XXI Century

VISIT TO HEYDAR ALIYEV PEAK

On memory of birth date of National Leader Heydar Aliyev, the employees of “AtaSecurity” LLC, ATIB Member Company, together with “Alpinist-Tourist” Sport Club of Azerbaijan Trade Union Organization visited Heydar Aliyev Peak on May 10, 2007. The flags of the Azerbaijan Republic and Azerbaijan Turkey Business Association were waved on Heydar Aliyev peak.



ATIB flag stocked in Heydar Aliyev peak

BEST AUTOPARK PROJECT

Realizing the necessity of forming a close cooperation platform with universities and higher educational institutions for the development of business world and environment, ATIB established close relations with higher educational institutions of both Azerbaijan and foreign countries during the past years.

As a result of cooperation relations with universities, ATIB initiated a number of important projects. One of these important and global projects is to support the issue of preparing future personnel up to modern standards. Considering the provision of Azerbaijan's bright future with increase of the intellectual level of the population and trained personnel, ATIB has promoted the cooperation with universities since 2004.

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Signed on June 8, 2006, the cooperation memorandum between ATIB and Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction (AUAC) can be cited as an example. According to the principle of Article 2.5 of Memorandum on "Consideration of production requirements in education process while preparing the Specialists", ATIB announced a contest on the topic "Best Autopark Project" with the objective of increasing AUAC students' initiatives and interest to the production practices. The topic of the contest was "Autopark up to Modern Standards" to be considered as a global problem of Baku with increasing population.

Within this framework ATIB formed the board of judges to assess the works of students. Based on the decision of judges, Shahnaz Mammadova won the first place, Yalchin Mammadov, Aysel Huseynova, Hafiz Asadov, Shumshad Abdullayeva the second, Ilgar Azizov and Rashad Ibrahimov the third place. On November 27, 2007, Rector of the Azerbaijan Architecture and Construction University Gulchokra Mammadova and ATIB Chairman Ahmet Erentok awarded AZN1000 to the winner of the first place, AZN500 to the second place winner and AZN250 to the winner of third place.

It should be mentioned that ATIB established and developed appropriate relations with Khazar University, Bilkent University (Turkey), Seljuk University (Turkey), Bahceshehir University (Turkey), Middle East Technical University (Turkey), TOBB University of Turkey, Doghu Akdeniz University of North Cyprus, Yakin Doghu University (Turkey), Modern Humanitarian Academy of Russia, John Hopkins University (the United States) during the past years.

In the framework of cooperation with universities, ATIB hopes to make its contribution to the development of human resources between Azerbaijan and Turkey, and in the region. ATIB is also interested in cooperating with other higher educational institutions in this framework and ready to review appropriate proposals.

MOVLANA JALALEDDIN RUMI – 800

Regarding the 8th centenary of Movlana Jalaleddin Rumi announced by UNESCO "Year of Movlana" for the year 2007, Azerbaijan Turkey Business Association together with International Movlana Foundation headed by Esin Chelebi Bayru, the 21st generation grandchild of Movlana, Selchuk University of Konya and Baku State University carried out several activities on 'The International Year of Rumi' during October 3-4, 2007. Sema Group and the Mevlana Research Center of Turkish Seljuk University presented the "Huzzam Mevlevi Ceremony" composed by Hamami-Zade Ismayil Dede Efendi at the Azerbaijan State Philharmonics named after Muslim Magomayev on October 3, 2007.



Presentation of "Best Autopark Project"



Esin Chelebi Bayru, the 21st generation grand child of Movlana

An international symposium on the topic “Living and Immortalizing Movlana in our life” was also organized at Baku State University on October 4, 2007. The scientists from International Mevlana Foundation, Selchuk University, Marmara University, Kirikkale University, Suleyman Demirel University and Ankara University of Turkey as well as scientists from National Science Academy and Baku State University, who currently conduct research on the subject, participated at the symposium. Honored doctor of Baku State University Javad Heyati, Academic Vasim Mammadaliyev, Professor Yusif Rustamov, Professor Zumrud Guluzade, Professor Emine Yeniterzi, Professor Mahmud Erol Kiliji, Professor Ismayil Yakıt, Adnan Karaismailoghlu and some other outstanding scientists were among participants. The lectures on “Mevlana as a great Islamic Intellectual”, “Great Sufi Thinker Mevlana Jalaleddin Rumi”, “Problems of modern man and Movlana”, “Movlana's attitude towards woman”, “Movlanizm in Our National Ideology”, “Movlana and Azerbaijan”, “Movlana and Fuzuli” and other topics were delivered during the symposium.

Within the frameworks of these events, ATIB published special brochure about Mevlana Jalaladdin Rumi.



International scientific symposium on “Living and Immortalizing Movlana in Modern Life”



Ahmet Erentok and Esin Chelebi Bayru



International scientific symposium on “Living and Immortalizing Movlana in Modern Life”

AZERBAIJAN AND TURKEY MUSIC EVENING

With support of Azerbaijan Turkey Business Association, “Turkey and Azerbaijan Musical Evening” was held at “May Flower” hotel in Washington, the USA on December 11, 2007. Azerbaijan Honored Artist Murad Huseynov, Associate Professor of Baku Musical Academy / French government scholar, performed the musical compositions of Qara Qarayev, Adil Babirov, Tofiq Guliyev, Farhad Bedelbeyli, Vasif Adigozalov, Wolfgang Mortsart at the event. Huseynov played for the first time the composition by Azer Dadashov dedicated to the memory of our national leader Heydar Aliyev.



Murad Huseynov, Honored actor of AR



Famous Turkish pianist and composer Fahir Atakoghlu

BIS Concept

ATIB's annual BIS Concept was prepared with the objective of creating understanding about foreign investment indicators, ties and relations of both countries as well as providing necessary information to business people interested in putting investments in Azerbaijan by introducing social and economic life of Azerbaijan.



ATIB Annual Report – 2006

The report reflects ATIB's activities, events, business forums, overseas travels, meetings and major achievements in 2006. The report is issued both in Azeri and English languages.



Investment Leader in Azerbaijan – 2007

This edition deals with the brief history of Azerbaijan economy and overall information, foreign trade, international relations, direct foreign investments, tax regime, privatization and private sector development as well as state programs.



Quarterly Economic Reports – 2007

The edition quarterly features the topics like economic development, trade turnover and major changes in Azerbaijan economy. The publication is issued once in a quarter.



Small and Medium Entrepreneurship in Azerbaijan

The document reflects the criteria of determining the small and medium enterprises, state policy on developing small and medium entrepreneurship, appropriate completed state programs, the improvement of the legislation, the impact of entrepreneurs' existing problems on the development of entrepreneurship in the republic and works undertaken for their solutions as well. Based on the economic-social development concept of the Azerbaijan Republic for 2007-2010, the publication also highlights development perspectives of the small and medium entrepreneurship.



UBCCE Position Paper on Innovation

The publication researches the role of small and medium-sized enterprises and the UBCCE approach to the innovation processes. The paper also reflects recommendations for the countries on the development of innovation in the region and UBCCE future works as well as the perspective cooperation development.



Movement of Heaven and Universe

ATIB translated and published the article of Ms. Jalaeddin Bakir Chelebi, the 21st generation grandchild of Hazrati Movlani, into Azerbaijani language within the framework of cultural events on commemorating the year 2007 declared "The International Rumi Year" by UNESCO. It provides information on Heaven ceremonies and their meaning related to Mevlana flow.



ATIB IN MASS MEDIA

Since its inception, ATIB have tried building relations on the basis of mutual respect and cooperation with media. The main purpose of ATIB relations with mass media is as below:

- Achieve formation of communication, mutual understanding and cooperation relations between ATIB and public;
- Assist in solving different problems and duties, being informed about public opinion and react in time, create opportunities for leadership of serving public interests;
- Achieve formation of positive opinion about ATIB's activity in society by providing objective and correct information



Press conference at International Press Center, 28 September 2007

By establishing relations with mass media, ATIB assumes the following principles as a basis:

- *Mutual respect* - We respect the relations with all public representatives, unions, organizations and the media. In return we would like the media as well to follow the rules and practices accepted by these organizations, and require the same attitude towards us.
- *Truthfulness* - We don't misuse either information or commentary, doesn't spread false and misleading information to population.
- *Professionalism* - We base our ethics on the European Profession Behavior Codex standards (ratified on April 1987 in Lisbon).
- *Freedom of speech and press* - We respect people's right for obtaining the information, and tries not to let partiality among them as well as media representatives.
- *Transparency* - We strive for building our work in fully transparent condition and ensuring to maintain easy contact with anyone.
- *Confidentiality* - We are confident about our organizational activities and seek to follow the requirements of the existing legislation.
- *Mutual trust* - We seek to cooperate with the public on the basis of mutual confidence, trust and assurance and do our best to continue building the mutual trust and respect.

Observing the fulfillment of above given principles in our work, different newspapers and information agencies positively assessed activities of our Association in Azerbaijani media with 126 news, reportages, interviews and comments in 2007.

We are pleased and confident to say that, during the past years there was no negatively published information about ATIB in press.

In 2007, there were many published press releases and articles about ATIB in Azerbaijan, Khalq qazeti, Respublika, Ayna, 525-ci qazet, Yeni Azerbaijan, Ekho, Express, Iqtisadiyyat, Hafta ichi, Palitra, Uch Noqta, Xazar, EU xeber, Ses, Iki sahil, Olaylar, Sharq, Paritet, Kaspi, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, Business Baku, Gun Sahar, Media News, Shamkir, Khalq Jabhesi and other media outlets.

ATIB believes in the importance of cooperation with information agencies. Almost all leading information agencies of Azerbaijan including AzerTaj, APA, Interfaks, Turan, Trend, Sharg, Azerpress, Azadinform, Fineko, MPA, Assa Irada, Anadolu, Novosti Azerbaijan, 1 News, online 365, PressRelease.az and New Economics published numerous news articles about ATIB throughout 2007.

The cooperation with television is of importance in ATIB's relations with mass media. Last year all Azerbaijan TV channels widely highlighted ATIB events in their news bulletins. ATIB's representatives were also invited to different weekly and analytical programs on TV channels.

ATIB's activities were also highlighted in Turkish media in 2007. The leading Turkish agencies like Yeni Mesaj, Ortadoghu, Turkish N. Y.com, Piramitmenkul.com featured ATIB's activities in their news bulletins, and newspapers like Zaman, Milliyet, Turkish Daily News published the articles.



A series of horizontal dashed lines for writing, set against a background of a satellite-style image of Earth's surface.





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