



# ANNUAL REPORT 2008



AZƏRBAYCAN TÜRKİYƏ İŞ ADAMLARI BİRLİYİ  
AZERBAIJAN TURKEY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



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HEYDAR ALIYEV



MUSTAFA KAMAL ATATURK





Dear colleagues,  
Dear members!

The year 2008 which will stay in human history as a year of important events and turning points, is left behind. No doubt, 2008 will be remembered as a year of global economical crisis. In fact, the first signs of this crisis were observed in 2006 and 2007. Indeed, the mankind who always been neglectful and didn't learn lessons from the previous practice believed in completion of the crisis by the middle of 2008 and fast recovery of previous growth tempos by "invisible hand" of the world capitalist system so that didn't take serious these signs. Results are obvious: current economic crisis fundamentally differs from the others with its scale and quality in negative sense, and seems impossible to be averted within the upcoming year. According to optimistic specialists, it will require about two years, and important changes will not be demanded in the international economical arena. But according to those who don't share this approach, it will take more time to eliminate the consequences of crisis which makes it necessary to completely reconstruct the world economic system.

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In such a crucial period, businessmen who have most affected by this crisis, must increase their vigilance and have to make efforts to take their position to decision makers through their own resources. From this viewpoint, NGOs and associations set up by businessmen become to assume importance. As Azerbaijani Turkey Business Association, we will continue our efforts in 2009 in representing entrepreneurial views and positions in the World Economic Forum, Vienna Economic Forum and other international events and conferences we have partook since 2008.

The year left behind was also significant with a number of events taken place in the region. The latest escalation in Georgia is among one of those to mention. As a result of purposeful policy of political leadership of Azerbaijan and Turkey, our counties were able to get out from these events with minimum losses, and even gained certain benefits.

The year 2008 was remembered with the strengthening of political, economical, social and cultural relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey. It is proved with serious increase in the mutual official visits in comparison with previous years. Moreover, the volume of the trade turnover between our countries reached USD2 billion. It gives us a hope that we will achieve the goal of 3 billion volume of trade turnover in 2009 which was set by the leaders of our countries.

Azerbaijan Turkey Business Association (ATIB) undertakes to strengthen economic relations between our countries as well as raise their international and regional influences and assist in resolving common problems both countries. The past year, the events within the ATIB activity helped to strengthen not only the relations of Azerbaijan and Turkey, but also joint activity of these countries in the Region.

During last year, ATIB in cooperation with its partners held a number of events aimed at broadening of both trade and investment relations between the two countries. We organized business forums jointly with Ministry of Economic Development of the Azerbaijan Republic, Azerbaijani Export and Investment Promotion Foundation (AZPROMO), Foreign Economic Relations Committee of the Republic of Turkey (DEIK), Azerbaijan-Turkey Business Council, Embassy of Turkey in the Azerbaijan Republic and other organizations. In addition, we held meetings with 40 foreign companies interested in making business in Azerbaijan and provided them with broader information about investment environment and business opportunities in the country. This year, ATIB will also continue making efforts towards the realization of economical potential between the two countries.

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The other important issue, as mentioned above, was to strengthen the leadership of Turkey and Azerbaijan in the region. As vice-president on entrepreneurship and innovation, ATIB took an active part in the Union of Black Sea and Caspian Confederation of Enterprises (UBCCE) which was founded with joint initiative of ATIB and the Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association (TUSIAD) late 2006. ATIB will continue its active engagement within UBCCE in 2009 as well.

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 continues 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, pose the obstacles faced by Azerbaijan and Turkey on the way of developing the economic relations, and require the joint activity of both countries as well as their Diaspora organizations. ATIB continuously works in this direction. 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.

The first meeting of ATAF Board of Trustees in Ankara June 14, 2008 was important for the formation of ATAF structure and management. Held in Asya Termal Kızılcahamam Hotel of Ankara September 27-28, 2008, ATAF Brainstorming Conference was important from the standpoint of assessing further works and activities and exchanging views on the Armenian Dispute. The following meeting of ATAF Board Trustees, at the Atatürk Center of Baku on November 15, 2008, discussed and approved ATAF Strategy Document for 2009-2015 by considering appropriate amendments as well as decided to organize "First International Azerbaijan Turkey History Congress" in June, 2009. ATIB is going to continue the activity within ATAF in 2009.

According its mission, ATIB was active in 2008 in strengthening the relations of our countries with 3-rd countries. From this standpoint, it is worth of noting the establishment of Azerbaijan-Turkey-America Foundation (ATAF US) in Washington in October 2008. The main objective of ATAF US is to unite the efforts of Turkic community of America to achieve united coordination in their activity. ATAF US will also lobby the interests of Azerbaijan and Turkey in the US governing bodies, the White House, Senate and Congress. ATIB will continue efforts to strengthen its activities within ATAF 2009 as well.

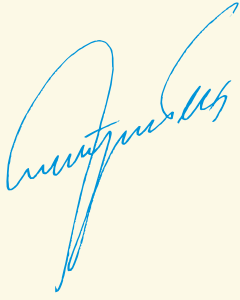
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According to its mission, ATIB tries broadening cultural and social relations in line with developing economic relations between our countries. Within this activity ATIB organized the 1-st ATIB Chess Cup, concert of Azerbaijani and Turkish musicians. You can get more information about these and other activities which are not mentioned in my adress from annual report.

I believe the development of our activities, support of our members and partners in 2009 will help us to succeed and prosper.

Fianlly, I feel my duty to express my gratitude to ATIB members as well as partner organizations and agencies for their financial and in-kind support to our initiatives which led us to achievements and progress in the short period of time. Meanwhile, on behalf of our members and myself I thank all colleagues of ATIB Secretariat for their everyday activity.

Sincerely,



Ahmet Erentok  
Chairman of Executive Board

## ATIB VISION

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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

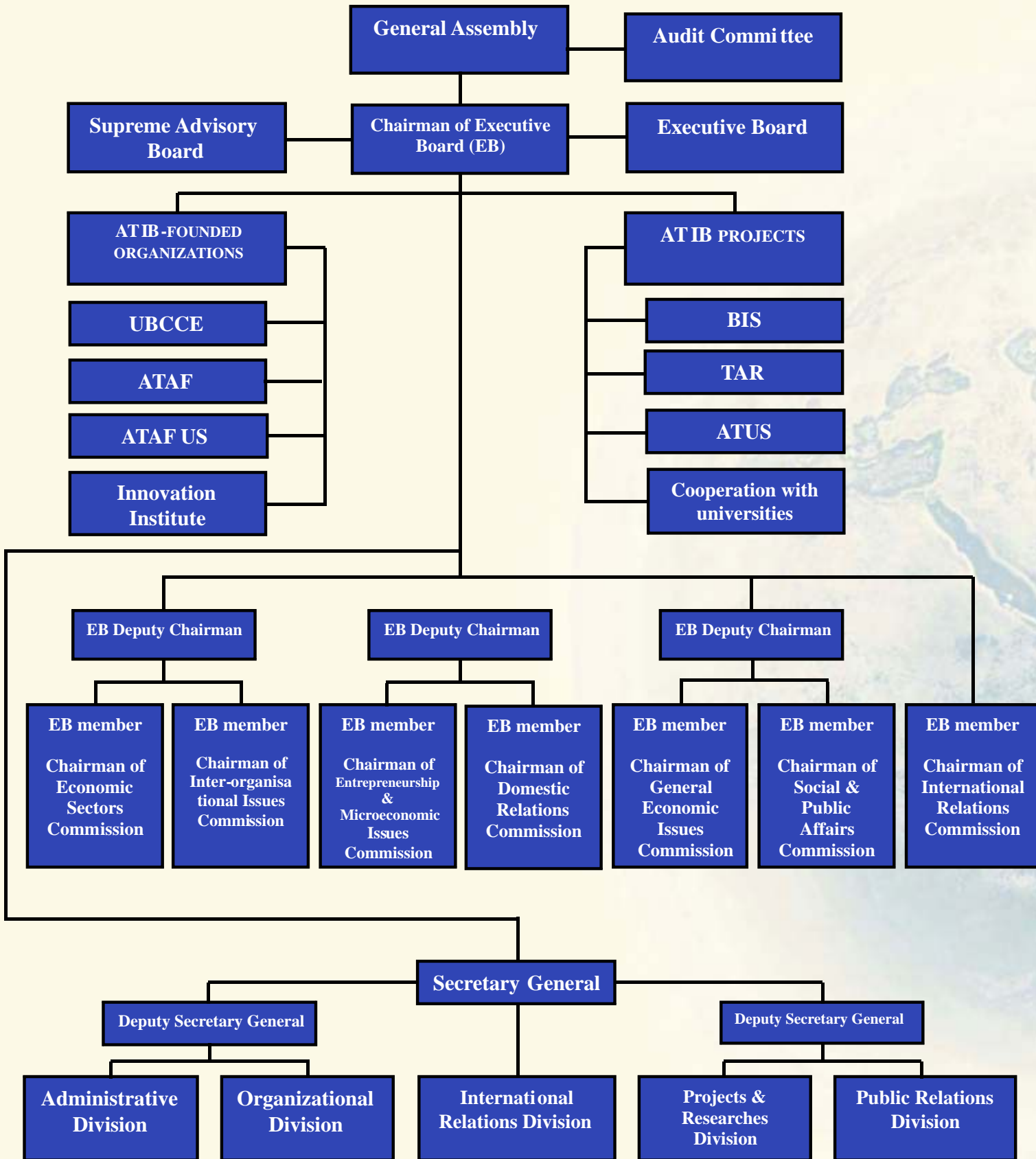
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Established on new development platform reviving Azerbaijan economy, ATIB aims to unite Turkish and Azerbaijani businessmen for the continual economic development of both countries, use together the potential of the two countries and create SINERGY in third countries by joint promotion.

### ATIB BASIC PRINCIPLES:

- **leadership:** maintaining and strengthening leadership position in its field of activity
- **independence:** defining and implementing independently strategy and action plan as well as considering needs and interests of all stakeholders in the activity and being independent on neither sides
- **honesty:** maintaining positive reputation by treating honestly to service beneficiaries and the society as a whole
- **justice:** finding optimal correlation of responsibilities and obligations to achieve equality and objectivity in the attitude to the ongoing events and in the mutual activity with staff
- **innovation:** constantly learning and applying innovations to increase the effectiveness of resources and activities
- **transparency:** flexibility in joining local, regional and global initiatives, showing tolerant approach to controversies and different approaches

## ATIB ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



UBCCE – Union of Black Sea and Caspian Confederation of Enterprises

ATAF – Azerbaijan Turkey Historical Research Foundation

ATAF US – Azerbaijan Turkey America Foundation

B S – Links, Ties, Synergy

TAR – Turkey-Azerbaijan-Russia

ATUS – Azerbaijan-Turkey-US

EXECUTIVE BOARD



**Ahmet ERENTOK**  
Chairman of Executive Board

AtaHolding OJSC



**Cemal YANGIN**

EB Deputy Chairman  
Istanbul Çar 1



**Oruj HEYDAROV**

EB Deputy Chairman  
AB Standard



**Ali Ihsan GEN**

EB Deputy Chairman  
Turquoise



**Fatima ASLAN**

Executive Board  
Member  
ATTAS PR



**Halim ATEZ**

Executive Board  
Member  
Azercell JV



**Farhad MEHT YEV**

Executive Board  
Member  
Bakı Innovation  
Institute



**Tayyar SHUKUROV**

Executive Board  
Member  
NJT 2000



**Ihsan FATO LU**

Executive Board  
Member  
Fato lu Production  
Azerbaijan Ltd



**Rafail SHIRINOV**

Executive Board  
Member  
TA S KF



**Akyl IMRE**

Executive Board  
Member  
Saga Company

## AUD T COMM TTEE

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**Khayal MAMMADKHANLY**  
Chairman of Audit Committee



**Vugar ISMAYILOV**  
Member of Audit Committee



**Salim DILMEN**  
Member of Audit Committee

## SECRETARIAT

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**Rashad Rasoullu**  
Secretary General



**Louette Ragusa**  
International  
Projects Advisor,  
ATAF US  
Executive Director



**Alesker Aghayev**  
Head of  
Administrative &  
Organizational  
Division



**Kenan Aslanly**  
Head of  
Projects &  
Researches  
Division



**Amin Charkazov**  
Senior Expert  
Projects &  
Researches Division



**Ferid Melikli**  
Senior Expert  
International  
Relations Division



**Gulnara Khalilova**  
Accountant



**Jale Azizova**  
Senior Expert  
Public  
Relations Division



**Gulnar Ibrahimova**  
Specialist  
Public  
Relations Division



**Gunel Rasulova**  
Administrative  
Assistant

## ATIB MEMBERSHIP

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### 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.

**Getting to know 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 the legislation of the Azerbaijan Republic
- Investigate business opportunities and support ATIB members in the search for business partners through member countries of UBCCE
- 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 or 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.

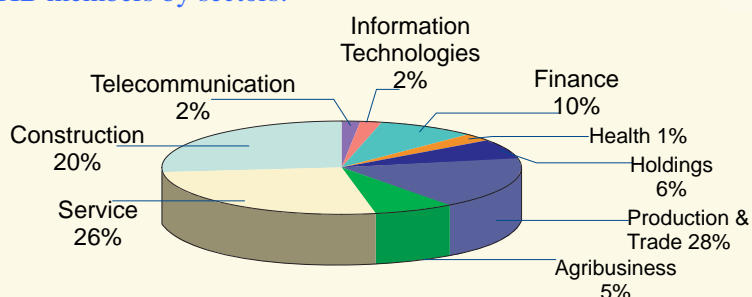
## MEMBER PROFILES

By the end of 2008, 90 companies has become ATIB member and their structure for capital belongings is as follows:

<i>Capital belonging</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Share</i>
Foreign capital	43	38 41,8%
Local capital	29	30 33,0%
Joint Ventures	18	23 25,2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100%</b>

Apparently, 29 ATIB member companies (32 %) are of Azerbaijani capital, 43 or 48 % of completely foreign capital. 18 or 20 % 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 almost 50 thousand personnel. Investments made by ATIB members to the non-oil sectors amount to USD3 billion.

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## **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 volunteer basis. 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, which are 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

### **INTER-ORGANISATIONAL 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.

### **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 state employment policy;
- 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 civil consumption market;
- Form a national system for products, commodities and quality services.

### **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;

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- 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;

## **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 alternative conflict resolutions
- Protect the interests of entrepreneurs including ATIB members for carry out of their economic activities

## **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.

## **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

## ATIB COOPERATION WITH GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES

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From the outset of its activity, ATIB attributes prime importance to relations with government bodies. During the past period, ATIB established business relations with both Azerbaijani and Turkish state and government agencies based on mutual beneficial cooperation principles. Activities in this direction continued in 2008.

ATIB held the meetings of its members with the representatives of Ministry of Taxes of the Azerbaijan Republic on February 1, 2008, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection on February 15, 2008, State Social Protection Fund of the Azerbaijan Republic on February 29, 2008, State Customs Committee of the Azerbaijan Republic on March 14, 2008, State Committee for Management of State Property of the Azerbaijan Republic on April 4, 2008.



*Meeting of ATIB members with Hamid Zeynalov and Shamil Arabov from Taxes Ministry*



*ATIB members at the meeting with state officials*

During these meetings, government representatives provided ATIB members with broad information about the issues related to the functions and answered the questions of ATIB members.

Meanwhile ATIB and its founded organizations cooperated with different Azerbaijani and Turkish official bodies while organizing a number of events, as well as different business forums and conferences.

In 2009, ATIB will continue efforts to develop and expand its relations with state and government bodies of both countries as well as the third countries.

## **LOCAL EVENTS AND MEETINGS**

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In 2008, ATIB held numerous meetings aimed at broadening contacts with members, developing relations with associate and partner organizations in Azerbaijan, and informing companies interested in making business and learning about investment environment.

### **Meeting with “Abdi Ibrahim” company**

On January 17, 2008 ATIB Secretary General Rashad Rasullu and Senior Expert of International Relations Division Sarkhan Hashimov met with Chairman of Executive Board of Turkish “Abdi Ibrahim” Company Nezir Barut and Chief of International Markets Levent Sonmez. The representatives from “Abdi Ibrahim” which is one of the biggest companies in the Turkish pharmaceutical sector, emphasized their interest in Azerbaijan’s investment environment, expressed their desire to work in Azerbaijan and need for ATIB’s support in cooperating with local companies. Rasullu provided the company representatives with broader information about Azerbaijan’s investment environment, developing economy, and expressed willing of support.

### **Organizing Committee of Turkish World’s Architecture and Town-Planning Congress visits Baku**

During the visit to Azerbaijan on January 23-26, 2008, 5 representatives from Organizing Committee of the Turkic World’s Architecture and Town-Planning Congress held a number of meetings in regard with the upcoming II Turkish World Congress which is supported by Azerbaijan Architecture and Construction University. The delegation included Chairman of Engineers’ Union of Turkey (TBM) Ilyas Demirçi, Chairman of TMB Scientific Council Kamil U urlu, Assistant to Advisor of the Ministry of Public Works Arif Korkmaz, Chairman of Executive Board of CMS Turkey Gökhan Ölmez, representatives of Chief of Technical Department of Justice Ministry of Turkey rfan Bozkaya.

On January 23-24, Deputy Chairman of ATIB Executive Board Cemal Yangın who is meanwhile one of the organizers of the Congress gave the dinner reception for the delegation of Turkish World’s Architecture and Town-planning Congress.

Within their travel, TMB representatives visited ATIB office and met Deputy Chairman of ATIB Executive Board Cemal Yangın and Board member Ali hsan Genç, member Kenan Köse, Secretary General Rashad Rasullu and Projects Coordinator Könül Mukhtar. During the meeting, both sides discussed the organizational issues of the Congress, ATIB’s support in PR, and inviting Azeri and Turkish mass media representatives.

### **Meeting with “CompAp” representative**

On January 31, 2008 ATIB Secretary General Rashad Rasullu and Senior Expert Sarkhan Hashimov met with Sales Executive of “CompAp” Roman Slavik at ATIB office. Roman Slavik expressed his company’s intention for launching business in Azerbaijan, finding business partner in the country and asked ATIB’s support in these issues. In turn, Rasullu told ATIB assists entrepreneurs willing to establish business in Azerbaijan.

### **Current situation of social insurance was discussed with ADB representatives**

On January 7, 2008 the meeting was held at ATIB office between ATIB Secretary General Rashad Rasullu, Senior Expert of Economic Researches Division Amin Charkazov and Asia Development Bank (ADB) Lawyer Russel G.Galer and Economics Officer of ADB Azerbaijan Resident Mission Rafael Abbasov.

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ADB representatives showed their interest in the position of Azerbaijani entrepreneurs to social insurance and current social insurance law, their proposals as well as the differences between SMEs with major enterprises in this field. Rasullu told all proposals of ATIB members are annually collected and sent to appropriate agencies.

Afterwards, the guests got interested in the activity of private pension funds. In turn, Rasullu spoke about the efforts of several large companies in using private pension funds services and explained that services were rejected by employees as innovation. Meanwhile, the guests were informed about drafting the law for regulating the activity of private pension funds.

### **Meeting with Teachers of Atatürk University**

On March 4, 2008 the meeting held between Atatürk University Economics and Administrative Sciences Faculty Teachers Ass.Professor Dr.Kerem Karabulut and Ass.Professor Dr. Mustafa Ergunel with Head of ATIB Administrative Division Alesker Agayev, ATAF Coordinator Konul Mukhtar, PR Manager Jale Azizova.

The aim of the visit was to discuss and learn more necessary information for their project “Analysis of Turkey’s economic relations with other Turkish Republics” supported by Atatürk University. The guests got an interest in the level of Azerbaijan’s economic relations with Turkey and other countries.

Alesker Agayev spoke about ATIB activities and works within the Union of Black Sea and Caspian Confederation of Enterprises as well as UBCCE Business Forum organized by ATIB in Baku, Azerbaijan. Konul Mukhtar informed the guests about the establishment of Azerbaijan Turkey Historical Research Foundation (ATAF) and its goals.

### **Meeting with CIPE representative**

On March 13, 2008, ATIB Secretary General Rashad Rasullu and Senior Expert of Projects and Researches Division Amin Charkazov held a meeting with Center for International Private Enterprises (CIPE) Consultant Despina Pascal.

During the meeting, Pascal was informed about ATIB activities and scheduled projects. In turn, Pascal told the goal of her visit was to estimate trainings demand in Azerbaijan and spoke about CIPE activities and works. Pascal talked about her meetings held with many organizations to find out the areas local business structures and NGOs might need trainings.

### **Meeting with Development Bank of Turkey representatives**

On April 30, 2008, Specialist of Economic and Social Research Department Ahmet Hakan from Development Bank of Turkey and Deputy Director Mustafa ?im?ek visited ATIB office and met with Secretary General Rashad Rasullu, PR Manager Jale Azizova and ATAF Coordinator Konul Mukhtar.

The guests were first informed about the ATIB activity, share of ATIB member companies in non-oil sector of Azerbaijan and told 50 000 employees these companies made investment at the amount of over USD3 billion. Afterwards, Rasullu spoke about ATIB’s position to the Armenian dispute, the organized conferences in Moscow and Washington as well as the seminar in Los Angeles on this issue in 2007 as well as touched upon the UBCCE as a unique regional business initiative.

Mustafa ?im?ek emphasized the importance of ATIB on developing the relations between the two countries and spoke about long and mid-term loans of Development Bank of Turkey. ?im?ek said 90 percent of bank’s funding source is financed by the state. Mustafa ?im?ek told the goal of their visit was to investigate investment field of Azerbaijan, and requested for ATIB support on the issue.

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Rashad Rasullu spoke about the business environment and rapid growth of economy in the country during the past years. He said the main tasks set before the state is to reduce the level of inflation, to adjust the value of manat and to increase the volume of export. Rasullu also touched upon the activity of Ministry of Taxes, tax system improvements, the implementation of “one stop shop” registration system and ATIB proposals on tax system.

Rashad Rasullu informed Ahmet Hakan about the most suitable fields in Azerbaijan for investment opportunities.

### **ATIB hosts meeting with well-known American historian**

Professor of Louisville University, well-known scientist-historian Justin McCarthy visited Azerbaijan Turkey Business Association on June 5, 2008. Opening the meeting, ATIB Chairman Ahmet Erentok expressed his gratitude to McCarthy for accepting the invitation to attend the meeting, and spoke about joint strategy of Turkey and Azerbaijan in solving the Armenian dispute. Erentok also informed the guest and meeting participants about newly-established Azerbaijan Turkey Historical Research Foundation (ATAF) with an initiative of assessing common issue for Azerbaijan and Turkey, researching the Armenian dispute and revealing the truth on the basis of historical documents. Erentok thanked Prof. McCarthy to be on the Board of Trustees, and said that not only citizens of Azerbaijan and Turkey, but also people from all over the world join the foundation.

Speaking at the meeting, Prof. McCarthy informed about his research works regarding the Turkish-Armenian history and the bloody crimes committed by Armenians on the territories of Turkey and Azerbaijan. McCarthy said Armenians` claims about genocide by Ottoman Turkey were fabricated, and that the "genocide" never occurred. He said that Armenians historically had negative relations with Turks: "Armenians have strong Diaspora and this factor plays its role. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to change this situation".

Scientist also told about the unity of history of Turkey and Azerbaijan: "Armenians' extending propaganda of the so-called genocide is connected with politics. They want to win in the political arena, that's why they attempt to make use of the history." The researcher said the main aim of historians was to reveal the truth, and the aim of the Turks and Azerbaijanis was to bring these truths to the notice of the world community.

Touching upon Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict over Nagorno Karabakh, professor stressed the necessity to bring the realities to the international community. Finally, the scientist answered to the questions.

Justin A. McCarthy is an American demographer, who is a professor of history at the University of Louisville, in Louisville, Kentucky. His areas of expertise include the histories of the Ottoman Empire and the Balkans, and he has authored eleven books on the Armenian-Turkish history.

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## **Visit of Turkish MP to ATIB**

Representatives from the Justice and Development Party (AK Party) Mustafa Açıklı, member of Turkish Grand National Assembly from Istanbul and member of Planning & Budget Committee, Dr. Aytac Eker, Professor of Economics and Management Faculty at Sakarya University, Mustafa Ekinci, Financial Deputy of BKR Isik Consulting Company and Elchin Aliyev, Head of Representative Office in Azerbaijan visited ATIB office June 13, 2008. Member of ATIB Executive Board Ali Ihsan Genç and Secretary General Rashad Rasullu received the delegation.

Discussions were held around Azerbaijan's economy, the development of relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey and membership of BKR Isik Consulting's to ATIB.

BKR Isik Consulting was founded in 1990 and is one of the ten leading audit companies of Turkey.

## **Discussion of regional trade condition with ADB representatives**

On June 25, 2008 Delegation of ADB Logistics Expert Andy Sze, ADB Azerbaijan Branch Economist Rafael Abbasov from Asia Development Bank met with Head of ATIB Projects and Researches Division Kanan Aslanly.

Trade relations of Azerbaijan with neighboring countries, the development of trade regulation tools and logistics, the US and Chinese practices, global economical and trade trends were primary issues discussed at the meeting. The sides also agreed to develop the existing level of relations.

## **Discussion of the regional trading relations with ADB representatives**

On September 5, 2008 ATIB Secretary General Rashad Rasullu, International Projects Advisor Louette Ragusa, Senior Expert of International Relations Division Ferid Melikov met with ADB Economist from Central and West Asia Department Philip Chang, Economics Officer of ADB Azerbaijan Mission Rafael Abbasov.

The meeting discussed the implications of war on Georgia as a transit country, resulting changes, and the negative impact of latest developments on trade relations. The sides continued the discussion around trade relations of Azerbaijan and Turkey with Georgia, the most traded products of Azerbaijan and Turkey with this country, and the volume of transported goods from Turkey to Azerbaijan via Georgia in the last 5 years as well as basic ways of realizing foreign trade via railway, by land or air.

Meeting participants also made an exchange of views around the impact of latest developments on investment climate and international investors, the alternative transport routes – negative consequence to the transportation of Kazakh oil to Turkey via the Caucasus Region) and some other presumable developments.

## **Meeting with TeliaSonera company representatives at ATIB office**

On September 23, 2008, TeliaSonera delegation from Daniel Mellgren, David Do, Elin Strindmark, Henriette Bourghardt, Imran Bagirov, Karolina Czemko, Oskari Tinkanen, Thomas Jönsson, Tor Olav Mattsson, Vibeke Theilgaard Risvig and Özlem Özden visited ATIB office and met with ATIB Deputy Chairman Ali Ihsan Genç, ATIB member Anar Aligulov, Secretary General Rashad Rasullu, International Projects Advisor Louette Ragusa, Senior Expert of International Relations Division Ferid Melikov and Senior Expert of Projects and Researches Division Amin Charkazov.

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Firstly, International Projects Advisor Louette Ragusa informed the guests about ATIB, its mission, objectives and activities, the TAR and ATUS Concepts, and the international conferences held in Moscow and Washington within these concepts. Then, Ferid Melikov presented the UBCCE and spoke about the cooperation of ATIB with the Union.

Amin Charkazov informed about Azerbaijan's economic indicators and investment circumstances which was met with interest and followed with questions.

ATIB Deputy Chairman of the Board Ali Ihsan Genç thanked Consultant of Consulate General of Sweden Özlem Özden for organizing the visit of the TeliaSoniera Delegation to Azerbaijan and talked about economic growth of the country and negative impact of Nagorno Karabakh conflict on the country.

ATIB member, Director of R.I.S.K. Company Anar Aligulov made presentation of his company. The delegates particularly showed their interest in the economic growth and investment climate created for entrepreneurs in the country.

### **Meeting with MODSIAD representatives**

On October 11, 2008 the delegation from Furniture and Decoration Industrialists and Businessmen Association (MODSIAD) led by Mustafa Yedikarde visited ATIB office and met with ATIB Deputy Chairman of the Board Ali Ihsan Genç and Head of Economic Researches Division Kanan Aslanly. The rapid economic growth of country especially during the last years, current trade routes and investment facilities as well as current situation and opportunities in furniture industry were primary issues discussed at the meeting.

### **Meeting with TÜRKSOY delegation**

The meeting of TÜRKSOY General Director Dusein Kasseinov and representative from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan in TÜRKSOY Elchin Gafarly with ATIB Chairman Ahmet Erentok, Deputy Chairman of the Board Cemal Yangin, Board member Akyıl Imre, Secretary General Rashad Rasullu and Senior Expert of International Relations Ferid Melikov was held on November 18, 2008.

TÜRKSOY General Director Dusein Kasseinov first spoke about the works and activities of TÜRKSOY during the past 15 years. Kasseinov said 6 Turkish-speaking countries as well as Turkish-speaking autonomous countries of the Russian Federation are members of the organization. According to him, the most active members are Kazakhstan, Turkey and Azerbaijan. Kasseinov touched upon the newly established Foundation for Support of TÜRKSOY in Kazakhstan whose aim is to promote TÜRKSOY activities in the Turkish-speaking countries, and said the similar Foundation would be soon established in Kyrgyzstan in the coming days.

ATIB Chairman of the Board Ahmet Erentok thanked guests for their visit to ATIB office and provided them with broader information about ATIB activities in the development of economic, cultural and social relations between the two countries, Azerbaijan Turkey Historical Research Foundation (ATAF), its objective and future plans, ATIB's activity within the Union of Black Sea and Caspian Confederation of Enterprises (UBCCE).

At the end of the meeting Dusein Kasseinov presented memorial plaque to Ahmet Erentok.



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## **Ahmet Erentok addresses international theoretical and practical conference on “Legal aspects of investment agreements”**

International theoretical and practical conference on “Legal aspects of investment agreements” was organized in Europe Hotel November 21, 2008. The conference was implemented by UNESCO Center for Human Rights, Democracy and Peace Problems at the State Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Azerbaijan Republic, Kehl University of Germany, Institute of State and Law of Russian Academy of Science, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University with the support of Economic Development Ministry of the Azerbaijan Republic, German-Azerbaijan Trade Chamber (DAWF), Azerbaijan Turkey Business Association (ATIB) within the project “Rights of foreign investments in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Russia: balance of concerns”.

ATIB Chairman of the Board Ahmet Erentok in his address told there is much work to be done to attract investments to non-oil sector alongside continuing investment environment reforms and acquired achievements. Activization of investment process and increase of its efficiency are very important for the future of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Erentok noted Azerbaijan as top reformer in 2007/08 rose to 33-rd rank in Doing Business 2009 Report which indicates to ongoing measures taken for the development of investment and business environment in country.

## **Meeting with MÜS AD delegation**

24 November, 2008, delegation from MÜS AD (Independent Industrialists and Businessmen Association) visited ATIB office and met with ATIB Deputy Chairman Cemal Yangin, Executive Board member Həsən Fətullu and Secretary General Rashad Rasullu.

10 companies represented the MÜS AD delegation and included Ahmet Akman from Tifak Holding, Lətif İmşek from Al-Sey Aluminum, Selçuk Öztürk from Kayı-Tes, Murat Özsandıqçı from Sandıqçılar Company, Sami Bağan from Konçim, Hasan Hüseyn Karapınar from Pınar Company, Mustafa Veli Tekelioğlu from Tekman Cıvata, Ziya Özboyacı from Sarraf Özboyacılar Company, İbrahim Özen from Özen Makina, Ali Kemal Bağan from Bağanlar Company, Ramazan Erkuş from Erkuş Döküm Company, Mehmet Togan Şişkan from Şişkan Company and Seyit Saruhan from Seykun Makine.

The delegation received information about the investment climate, favorable condition created for the development of entrepreneurship in Azerbaijan.

MÜS AD is interested in private health, gadget trade, steel gates and design works, industrial kitchen work / processing, aluminum – profile / cutting, welding, construction, electricity, heating, natural gas, structuring works, sale of all sorts of sweet stuff, retail, food (flour, macaroni and etc.), mill devices, auto textile, automobile accessories, compressor machining and some other sectors.

### EURASIA BUSINESSMEN ASSOCIATION (AVIB)

ATIB has stepped up with an initiative to establish Eurasia Businessmen Association with an objective of contributing to the strengthening of economic cooperation aspects of global Eurasia platform, which comprises of macro-economic states like Russia, Turkey and China. ATIB considers it important for other regional developing countries as well as Azerbaijan to expand regional influence in order to join the union. The UBCCE (Union of Black Sea and Caspian Confederation of Enterprises), established in 2006, will be the core of AVIB for the realization of this idea.



Union of Black Sea and Caspian  
Confederation of Enterprises

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

Established November 2006, UBCCE is a non-governmental organization composed of central, private and nationally representative business organizations from the countries neighboring or having strong geographical ties with the Black Sea and Caspian Region. UBCCE is headquartered in Istanbul, Turkey, and ensures permanent contacts with 17 member organizations in 13 countries (Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Iran, Kazakhstan, FYROM, Romania, Serbia and Turkey).

The Union's main objective and mission are to establish cooperation between business organizations from member countries with a view to assist the economic and social development of the region and to permit concerted action by these business organizations vis-a-vis governments and the business community, as well as favoring the adoption of policies conducive to the better functioning of a market economy under optimal conditions for member countries. Within this framework UBCCE aims to maintain close contacts with BSEC as well as with other European, international regional and sectoral organizations to pursue its objectives and aims to become the voice of private business in the Black Sea and Caspian.

UBCCE held a number of large-scale events of special importance which will be found in the following pages.



### AZERBAIJAN TURKEY HISTORICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION (ATAF)

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 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.

Goals of the initiative are to assess the common issues for both Azerbaijan and Turkey researching the Armenian dispute from impartial and scientific viewpoint as well as to reveal the truth on the basis of historical documents, and to contribute to the elimination of existing problems preventing the cooperation among the nations of the region. You can get additional information on futher activities of the Foundation in the following pages of report.



## **INNOVATION INSTITUTE**

Innovation Institute Public Union was initiated and founded by ATIB under the program of inter-governmental cooperation in the humanitarian sphere between Azerbaijan and Russia for 2007-2009 on May 30, 2008. The decision on establishing Innovation Institute was made in the conference organized within the TAR concept on “The Role and Importance of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia in Euroasian Geopolitics”. Besides ATIB, Azerbaijan Export and Investment Promotion Foundation (AZPROMO), Baku Innovation Technologies, and Innovation Institute under the Economic Development Ministry of Russian Federation are among the founders. By the decision of the founders, Innovation Institute was established in the building of Baku Innovation Technologies Center. Goal of establishing the Institute is to develop the cooperation in the area of innovation and to create a techno-park on its base. Innovation Institute is the first educational establishment in Azerbaijan giving the citizens of Azerbaijan an opportunity of getting the distance education in higher, secondary and vocational schools abroad. Innovation Institute offers multiple-discipline distance programs (bachelor’s, master’s, postgraduate), additional professional education as well as vocational training and distant programs in various foreign educational establishments - Modern Humanitarian Academy, Open Business Education and Design Institute, US Global Open University, Anadolu University, Professional Development Association and other partners.



## **AZERBAIJAN TURKEY AMERICA FOUNDATION (ATAF US)**

ATAF US is a non-governmental, non-profit organization which was founded in October, 2008 by the decision of ATAF Board of Trustees with main objective of promoting Turkey and Azerbaijan through social, economic and cultural activities in the United States.

Headquartered in Washington DC, ATAF US aims to unite the efforts of Turkic community of America to achieve united coordination in their activity. Meanwhile, in cooperation with Azerbaijan Turkey Business Association, ATAF US supports in disseminating ATAF publications and visual materials to necessary agencies. ATAF US also raises awareness of American community, US Government about common challenges of Azerbaijan and Turkey on the Armenian dispute, and represents the interests of Azerbaijan and Turkey in the White House, Senate, Congress and the media.

## **AZERBAIJAN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESSMEN FEDERATION (ABIF)**

Initial steps were taken to establish Azerbaijan International Businessmen Federation (AIBF) on October 28, 2005. The meeting was dedicated to the integration under the title of Coordination Board of unions and associations (business institutions) of local and foreign businessmen functioning in the Azerbaijan Republic. The main purpose of the Coordination Board is to improve the business environment in Azerbaijan, to intensify entrepreneurs' activities and to submit relevant proposals to the President and Government bodies in regards to economic policy, etc.

During the last period of time, a number of organizations expressed their positive views on establishing ABIF. ATIB invites the business associations and organizations in Azerbaijan to partake in the establishment of ABIF, and show its willingness to cooperate in this direction.

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## AZERBAIJAN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (ATIF)

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AZERBAIJAN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

ATIF believes the development of Azerbaijan economy is directly connected with the development of human resources, and from this standpoint consider the development of human resources one of the main objectives before the Azerbaijan society as well as entrepreneurs. In this connection, ATIF has started its activity in the implementation of Education TV project in 2005. The project aims at the establishment of a TV channel to implement interactive education in Azerbaijan on very different topics for various groups of people – from 2-3 aged kids to elderly people. As the implementation of education TV project requires coordinating human resources, the further goal is to establish Azerbaijan Education Development Foundation for financing other large-scale projects for the common benefit of people and the development of human resources, the support of conducting scientific researches in Azerbaijan, the provision of the business visits to foreign countries for raising the skills of young researches (scholars). ATIF cooperates with the Haydar Aliyev Foundation for the establishment of Azerbaijan Education Development Foundation.

### BIS CONCEPT



### **ACTIVITY WITHIN UNION OF BLACK SEA AND CASPIAN CONFEDERATION OF ENTERPRISES (UBCCE)**

As mentioned above, ATIB took close and active part in the UBCCE events throughout 2008. First General Assembly on March 11, Istanbul of Turkey, UBCCE Second Business Forum on "Discovering Investment Opportunities of Southeast Anatolia: an Emerging Region in Turkey" in Sanliurfa of Turkey October 22, Management Committee Third Meeting in Istanbul of Turkey October 23 are among those events held in 2008.

UBCCE Second Business Forum should especially differ among the above-mentioned events. UBCCE Business Forum, organized yearly in a different country of the Black Sea and Caspian Region took place under the chairmanship of Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association (TUSIAD) in Sanliurfa, Turkey on October 21-22, 2008, with a view of sharing investment opportunities of Southeast Anatolia. Ahmet Erentok, Chairman of ATIB Executive Board and UBCCE Vice President, and Rashad Rasullu, ATIB Secretary General were among attendees.

It is worth of noting that Turkey is currently applying a regional development plan in this part of the country called as GAP (Turkish acronym for "Southeast Anatolia Project") which is the 4th largest regional development plan in the world worth of 32 billion USD. The program encompasses sectors such as irrigation, hydraulic energy, agriculture, infrastructure, forestry, education and health. As an emerging region with sizeable business opportunities, Southeast Anatolia with its potential ranging from young and dynamic population and low cost of labour to its proximity to the European and Middle Eastern markets, provide vast opportunities for foreign investors.

It should be noted that the second UBCCE Business Forum was hosted by ATIB in Baku, Azerbaijan in October 2, 2007.

UBCCE together with Munich think tank, Sudosteuropa-Gesellschaft (Southeast Europa Association) and TUSIAD Berlin office organized an international conference on "EU and Turkish Perspectives on Black Sea Regional Cooperation" in Berlin, Germany May 29-30, 2008.

More information about about UBCCE activity is available at [www.ubcce.org](http://www.ubcce.org)

### **AZERBAIJAN TURKEY HISTORICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION (ATAF)**

As the association representing the businessman of Azerbaijan and Turkey, ATIB doesn't 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 regional conflicts stifle the economic development and seriously hinder raising the welfare of 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. ATAF's establishment was initiated from this necessity, and the organization and expansion of its activities were one of ATIB main duties in 2008.

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 theCaucasian people, the solution of problems preventing the economic integration, and boost economic welfare of the region within this context.

The first meeting of Azerbaijan Turkey Historical Research Foundation in Ankara June 14, 2008 was important for the formation of ATAF structure and management. The meeting participants made amendments to ATAF Charter and approved ATAF Budget for 2008.

Azerbaijan delegation held a number of meetings in Ankara within this visit. During the meeting in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) Ahmet Erentok, head of delegation and AT B Chairman informed Speaker Koksal Toptan about the outcomes of ATAF Board of Trustees meeting. Dinner reception was given in the honor of ATAF delegation in GNAT as well. Delegation also met with Suleyman Demirel, former President of Turkey, Chairman of ATAF Board of Trustees, ATIB Honorary Member.

During the dinner reception for ATAF delegation in the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) Ahmet ekero lu, member of Executive Board, highly estimated the establishment and activity of ATAF. The sides exchanged opinions and discussed the perspectives for cooperation between the organizations. Members of delegation also met with H. Corps General Akin Soyly, head of General Plan and Principles Division of Turkish Armed Forces Staff. In the frame of the visit, Azerbaijan delegation paid a visit to Anitkabir, the Mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, Founder of the Republic of Turkey.

Held in Asya Termal Kızılcahamam Hotel of Ankara September 27-28, 2008, ATAF Brainstorming Conference was important from the standpoint of assessing further works and activities and exchanging views on the Armenian Dispute. The representatives from government, academic and policy spheres of Azerbaijan, Turkey and the United States attended the conference.

The first part of the meeting discussed the topics “Armenian dispute from the viewpoint of international law”, “Armenian dispute from the viewpoint of Turkey” and “Armenian dispute from the viewpoint of Azerbaijan.” The meeting went on with brainstorming sessions with the participants divided into subgroups to share their views about the ways of achieving accomplishment of defined goals and objectives. The final document following the discussions was submitted to ATAF Strategic Commission with the purpose of preparing the Strategy for 2009-2015. It was also decided to organize “Azerbaijan Turkey Historical Congress” in Baku by May 2009.



*Meeting of ATAF Board of Trustees at Turkish Historical Council*



*Meeting with Koksal Toptan, GNAT Speaker with ATAF delegation*



*ATAF delegation at Board of Trustees First Meeting in Ankara, June 14, 2008*



*ATAF Brainstorming Conference*

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Meeting of ATAF Board of Trustees members from the United States was held in Washington October 2-3, 2008 for promoting ATAF mission in the United States and discussing the works and future actions for joint activities. The meeting participants discussed ATAF strategy document for 2009-2015 and made their proposals.

The following meeting of ATAF Board Trustees was of great importance to defining the future activity of the Foundation at the Ataturk Center in Baku November 15, 2008. State officials from Azerbaijan and Turkey, as well as representatives of different organizations partook in the meeting.



*ATAF Board Trustees Meeting at Ataturk Center,  
November 15, 2008*



*Delegation of ATAF  
Brainstorming Conference*

During the meeting ATAF Strategy Document for 2009-2015 was discussed and approved considering appropriate amendments. The meeting participants exchanged their views on further events for 2009 and decided to realize the following three tasks:

- Organize “First International Azerbaijan Turkey History Congress” in June, 2009
- Prepare and publish a pocket book reflecting historical chronology about the common issue of Azerbaijan and Turkey - Armenian Dispute;
- Shoot short film on “Khojaly Massacre.”

The budget for 2009 was also approved at the second meeting of ATAF Board of Trustees.



*Reception of ATAF Delegation by  
Speaker Ogtay Asadov,  
November 17, 2008*

During the event, a number of meetings were held with Azerbaijan officials. Ogtay Asadov, Speaker of Azerbaijan Parliament received ATAF delegation 17 November, 2008. The same day, ATAF delegation was received by Nazim Ibrahimov, Chairman of State Committee on Affairs with Diaspora.

## **OVERSEAS VISITS AND PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS**

By making various overseas visits and participating in international events, Azerbaijan Turkey Business Association represented not only its position, but also the position of Azerbaijan.

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## **Visit of Chairman of ATIB Executive Board to Kazakhstan**

Chairman of ATIB Executive Board Ahmet Erentok made a business trip to Kazakhstan in January, 2008. During the visit, Mr. Erentok met with Azat Peruashev, Chairman of National Economic Chamber of Kazakhstan - "ATAMEKEN."

Azat Peruashev was informed about the activities of ATIB and UBCCE, and joint cooperation opportunities were a point at issue. Azat Peruashev expressed his willingness to the cooperation with ATIB and UBCCE and emphasized a great potential to develop it.

Ahmet Erentok told UBCCE together with European Commission is going to hold an international conference on "Ecological Challenges of Black Sea and Caspian Region" based on the decisions taken during the meeting with some EU commissioners on October 10, 2007. In this regard, Ahmet Erentok made a proposal to hold the conference in Kazakhstan and the idea was met by Azat Peruashev with interest.

During the visit Ahmet Erentok held meetings at the Embassies of Azerbaijan and Turkey in Kazakhstan as well as in "KazMunayQaz" state enterprise.

## **ATIB Chairman visits the USA**

Ahmet Erentok, Chairman of ATIB Executive Board visited the USA, April 1-3, 2008. During his visit, Erentok attended numerous meetings to follow-up ATIB's conference in December of 2007 and to discuss the forward actions of 2008. He met with Nabi Sensoy, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the USA, Svante Cornell, Research Director for Central Asia-Caucasus Institute of John Hopkins University, Adil Baghirov, Chairman of US-Azeri Network (USAN), Mike Considine, Director and Duygu Erdemgil, Deputy Director of US Chamber of Commerce on Eurasian Affairs, Gunay Evinc, President-Elect of the Assembly of Turkish-US Associations, Tom Neumann, Acting Director of Jewish Institute on National Security Affairs (JINSA) and Yola Johnston, JINSA Projects Officer, Mahir Iskender, Executive Director of USACC, and lobbyist Lydia Borland.

On December 10, 2007, a joint effort among ATIB, Eurasia Policy Center of Hudson Institute and Central Asia-Caucasus Institute of John Hopkins University held the first of its kind trilateral conference; 'Azerbaijan-Turkey-US relations and their importance for Eurasia' in Washington, the series of meetings where the primary focus for planning of the next conference in Baku by the year end.

The discussions also covered issues pertinent to current political affairs, the upcoming US presidential elections, ATIB's activity and the importance of ATIB's cooperation with US organizations, signing working Memorandum of Understanding with ATIB between USAN, ATAA and ASA and talks around the Azerbaijan Turkey History Research Foundation.

## **ATIB delegation attend the first meeting of World Turkish Businessmen Council**

Ahmet Erentok, ATIB Chairman, Jemal Yanghin, Deputy Chairman of Executive Board and Ihsan Fataghlu, Board Member, attended the first meeting of the World Turkish Businessmen Council, recently established by the Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEIK), in Istanbul on May 4-5, 2008.

The meeting gathered over 200 Turkish entrepreneurs from all over the world to provide a forum for boosting business and investment opportunities in Turkey. This was the first of its kind to develop a worldwide network of Turkish entrepreneurs. The meeting discussed future goals and the primary issues of the council to support economic and social activities of Turkish businessmen living abroad, to ensure joint coordination and cooperation in order to unite their personal and social benefits with national advantages and to create synergy for their activities.

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## **ATIB Delegation visit Ankara**

ATIB Chairman Ahmet Erentok, Deputy Chairman Cemal Yangın, member of the Executive Board Hsran Fato lu were on a business trip to Ankara, Turkey on May 6-8, 2008.

During the visit, ATIB delegation held meetings with 9th President of the Republic of Turkey Sleyman Demirel, Private Secretary (Chief) of the President Ambassador Hseyin Avni Karslio lu, State Minister of the Republic of Turkey Sait Yazıcıo lu, Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister of the Republic of Turkey nal evik?z, former Foreign Affairs Minister Hikmet etin, Ambassador of the Azerbaijan Republic to the Republic of Turkey Zakir Hashimov, Founder of Bilkent University, ATIB Honorary Member Hsran Do ramacı, UBCCE and TUS AD President (Turkish Industrialists and Businessmen Association) Arzuhan Do an Yalçında , TOBB (Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey) and DEIK Chairman (Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey) Rifat Hisarcıkho lu, Chairman of Turkish-Eurasian Business Councils Tu rul Erkin, Chairman of Turkish-Azerbaijani Business Council Cengiz G?l, Chariman of Turkish-Russian Business Council Turqut G?r, ASAM (Eurasia Strategic Studies Center) President Faruk Lo o lu, Chief of ASAM Armenian Studies Institute of Eurasian Strategic Studies Center mer Engin L?tem, Chairman of Turkish Historical Council Yusuf Halaço lu, Head of Keçiören Municipality Turgut Altınok, member of Turkish Parliament Mustafa Kabakçı, Chairman of Executive Board of Istanbul Chamber of Commerce Murat Yalçinta and Board member ?adan Di?li.

The overall activity, and completed, ongoing and future projects of Azerbaijan Turkey Business Associaton as well as the forthcoming targets of Azerbaijan Turkey Historical Research Foundation (ATAF) were primery issues discussed during the meetings. ATIB delegation also partook in the commemoration ceremony dedicated to the 85th anniversary of Azerbaijan's National Leader Heydar Aliyev which was held at Bilkent University on May 7, 2008.

## **ATIB Chairman attends ARI Security Conference in Istanbul**

ATIB Chairman Ahmet Erentok attended ARI Movement's 10th Annual Security Conference titled "Looking Ahead: Managing Turkey's International Relations in the Coming Decade" which took place on September 11-12 in Istanbul, Turkey. The conference was organized by ARI Movement in partnership with Friedrich Naumann Foundation, the German Marshall Fund of the United States and NATO Public Diplomacy Division. The conference highlighted the key issues facing Turkey's international relations with particular emphasis on the analysis of Turkey's role in international organizations, most importantly the UN Security Council and NATO; Turkey's vision for its regional role and the realignment in the geopolitical landscape; and the key energy security issues in light of the geo-economic rivalries.

During the roundtable discussion of the second panel on Turkey's neighborhood policies and balancing of Relations with its Neighbors, Erentok stated his position about Turkey's strategic location in transporting Caspian energy resources and its initiative in bringing peace through the Caucasian security and cooperation platform, military confrontation between Georgia and Russia and its possible impact on the solution of Nagorno Karabakh conflict, the role of the United States and Russia in ensuring peace and stability in the region, the importance of economic growth project in improving the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises and private sector development.

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## **4th Global Youth Employment Summit YES, Azerbaijan 2008**

The 4th Global Youth Employment Summit YES Azerbaijan 2008 was held in Baku September 24-27, 2008. This Summit focused on Enterprise Solutions to Poverty Eradication and was organized by Youth Employment Systems (YES) in close collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Azerbaijan.

The opening ceremony was conducted by the Minister of Youth and Sports of Azerbaijan Mr. Azad Rahimov, the co-patrons of the summit Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva, the first lady of Azerbaijan, Mrs. Suzanna Mubarak and other representatives of Azerbaijan's official structures. The opening was followed by the workshop and plenary sessions which focused on the youth employment issues.

Kenan Aslanly, Head of ATIB Projects and Researches Division delivered a speech on "Social Entrepreneurship in Azerbaijan: Problems and Opportunities" at the plenary entitled Social Entrepreneurship for Youth Enterprise Development. He talked about the problematic issues with the implementation of social entrepreneurship in Azerbaijan such as a lack of legislation and funds, needs and social impact assessment, benchmarking dissemination, oil wealth sensibility, fragile education system. Additionally, he considered establishment of the NGO Council, extended social investments, charity traditions, business associations' and individual efforts, sound social policy as a present-day opportunities for broad application of the social entrepreneurship concept.

As with past summits, the summit brought together Ministers, high-level representatives of intergovernmental organizations, UN agencies, the donor community, private sector representatives, academia, parliamentarians, media, and civil society, particularly youth groups, to discuss practical tools and solutions to resolve the global youth employment challenge. The structure of the Baku gathering differed for previous summits in seeking to build capacity, promote partnerships for program development and implementation by creating targeted delegations from the 55 YES Network countries. The agenda focused on sharing effective practices for developing enterprise solutions for youth employment.

### **ATIB Chairman speaks at USAN Conference**

ATIB Chairman Ahmet Erentok attended a two-day conference organized by the U.S. Azeris Network (USAN) at the George Washington University in Washington D.C. October 1-2, 2008. The conference, entitled "Energy Security and Diaspora in the Development of the U.S.-Azerbaijan Strategic Allied Relations", aimed at achieving several important goals, such as explaining the crucial position of Azerbaijan as the source and transit for Caspian Basin riches, promoting the U.S.-Azerbaijan strategic allied ties, and educate the Azerbaijani Americans, the U.S. policy and decision makers, and the general American public about the issues and opportunities facing the Azerbaijani-Americans as well as the state of Azerbaijan, a strategic U.S. ally.

The USAN high-level conference brought the diaspora leaders and activists together, energize the base, raise the political aspirations and profile of the approximately 400,000-strong Azerbaijani-American community. The USAN conference attendees came from across the nation as well as from Canada and Mexico.

Addressing the meeting, Erentok spoke about the positive role of NGOs and grassroots organizations in becoming an alternative platform to discuss national, regional and global problems within multilateral framework. Touched upon the existing strategic relations between

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the United States and Azerbaijan, he stressed the importance of strengthening economic and energy security cooperation under the US-Turkey-GUAM-Kazakhstan format for further integration and security of the Euro-Atlantic geo-economic area. He also encompassed other key cooperation issues such as expanding the mutual investment, bolstering effective economic institutions and coordinated decision-making, building collaboration and technical assistance in the agricultural sector of the economy, allocating short-term gains in creating jobs and increasing incomes, launching new energy projects, especially generating alternative energy sources and promoting Azerbaijan's accession to the World Trade Organization.

The conference was followed by a spectacular concert, "Dance and music stars from the ancient land of Azerbaijan", involving major dance and music stars from Azerbaijan, performing at the prestigious John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts.

### **ATIB representative joins traditional “Mises Seminars” of Bruno Leoni Institute**

Head of ATIB Projects and Research Division Kenan Aslanly participated at the fifth edition of the Mises Seminar on "Competition, Regulation and Anti-Trust 3-5 October in Sestri Levante of Italy. The topic was investigated from the perspective of economics, philosophy, law, sociology, history, economic history. The seminar also discussed global financial crises, its causes and implications. Aslanly was the only participant from the South Caucasus at the seminar.

The Ludwig von Mises Institute is the research and educational center of classical liberalism, libertarian political theory, and the Austrian School of economics. Working in the intellectual tradition of Ludwig von Mises (1881-1973) and Murray N. Rothbard (1926-1995), with a vast array of publications, programs, and fellowships, the Mises Institute seeks a radical shift in the intellectual climate as the foundation for a renewal of the free and prosperous commonwealth. The Mises Seminars annually get together scholars and young economists worldwide, INGO representatives and the media to discuss the urgent challenges of global economy.



### **ATIB Chairman attends World Economic Forum**

ATIB Chairman Ahmet Erentok attended the first “World Economic Forum on Europe and Central Asia 2008” in Istanbul, Turkey October 30 - November 01, 2008. The meeting brought together international and regional business leaders and government representatives, as well as media, cultural and religious leaders from across Europe, western and Central Asia and the Middle East to explore the common challenges faced by the regions and to map the path towards a common collaborative future. This event strived to achieve three main goals: to examine business opportunities in the region and define strategies to compete with Asian economies in the context of the global economic crisis; to address cross-regional challenges, uncertainties, conflicting interests and regional geopolitical security; and to develop intercultural and inter-religious dialogue as a necessary condition for prosperity, stability and security across the countries.

The program focused on business opportunities, energy security, the role of Central Asia, and Turkey’s leadership role in the region. The three goals of the meeting, convened under an overarching theme of “Confronting Challenges in Defining a Collaborative Future.”

### **ATIB partakes in Black Sea NGO Forum 2008**

The Romanian NGDO Platform (FOND) organized at the beginning of November the Black Sea NGO Forum: “Time to Meet”. The Forum was held on October 31 – November 2, 2008 in Bucharest, Romania. It was the start of an annual tradition bringing together over 100 NGOs from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Republic of Moldova, Turkey, Ukraine, Romania, Russia, and other EU member states active in the wider Black Sea region.

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The aim of this event was to increase the level of dialogue and coordination among NGOs in the wider Black Sea region as well as to strengthen the advocacy capacity of NGOs in the Black Sea region in order to influence development strategies in the region. The forum focused on creating a pool of concrete projects and on proposing concrete recommendations for regional NGOs and donors in order to increase the number and quality of regional partnerships and projects.

In the panel “Social justice and human rights,” Kenan Aslanly, made a presentation about “Social Policy and Citizen Participation: Azerbaijan’s situation as general example for regional countries” which was followed with intense discussions. On the sidelines of the Forum, Ambassador of the Azerbaijan Republic to Romania received the Azerbaijani delegation of 10 representatives from different organizations.

The event was organized in partnership with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation and UNDP Romania in the framework of the Black Sea Synergy.

### **Ahmet Erentok attends Vienna Economic Forum**

On November 10-11, ATIB Chairman Ahmet Erentok attended 5th Jubilee Vienna Economic Forum on “Investment Possibilities from the Adriatic to the Black Sea and the Caspian Region” in Raiffeisen Zentral Bank in Vienna. 500 participants from 37 countries throughout the world including honorable VIP-Guests, Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers from our Member countries, high ranking representatives from OPEC, Energy Community Secretariat, IETI Europa (Institute for European Training and Information), South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECF), Regional Cooperation Council located in Sarajevo and UNIDO, United Nations Industrial Development Organization) took part in the meeting.

Erentok participated at the workshop on “Corporate Responsibility in the field of Education – Challenges for the Investors in the Region” which was held at the second day of the forum. During the panel discussion, Erentok spoke about the lack of vocational education in Azerbaijan, the current problems that discourage companies from investing in social projects and the important role of the government in improving this particular sector.

A. Erentok imparted ATIB-initiated Education TV Project to develop elementary education and vocational skills as well as active participation with ATIB member companies and other organizations within cooperation platform with higher learning institutions to promote investment opportunities in education sector of Azerbaijan.

### **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

ATIB signs memorandum of understanding to develop the cooperation with different organizations.

### **ATIB and US Azeris Network sign MoU**

On April 22, 2008, Azerbaijan Turkey Business Association and the U.S. Azeris Network signed a memorandum of understanding on joint future cooperation. The agreement envisages the promotion of Azerbaijan business environment in the United States, the development of economic and trade relations between the two countries as well as raising awareness about historical facts and current positions of Azerbaijan on important issues. The sides will make mutual efforts to organize seminars, workshops, business forums, conferences in their respective countries and facilitate the visits of member companies from one country to another.



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ATIB will inform its members and other future groups about the activities and importance of the USAN in the United States. Meanwhile, the USAN will join the Azerbaijan Turkey History Research Foundation and assist in recommending the academic level of historians for the research of common problems on Azerbaijani and Turkish history.

The memorandum was signed by Ahmet Erentok, ATIB Chairman and Adil Baghirov, USAN Managing Director.

### **ATIB joins the UN Global Compact**

Azerbaijan Turkey Business Association has recently joined the UN Global Compact by sending the commitment letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations expressing its intent and support for the Global Compact and the ten principles of the Global Compact with respect to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and to advance those principles within its sphere of influence. ATIB has taken commitment to making the Global Compact and its principles part of the strategy, culture and day-to-day operations, and to engaging in collaborative projects which advance the broader development goals of the United Nations, particularly the Millennium Development Goals.

The Global Compact is a leadership platform, endorsed by Chief Executive Officers, and offering a unique strategic platform for participants to advance their commitments to sustainability and corporate citizenship. The objectives of UN Global Compact are to mainstream the ten principles in business activities around the world as well as catalyze actions in support of broader UN goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Structured as a public-private initiative, the Global Compact is policy framework for the development, implementation, and disclosure of sustainability principles and practices and offering participants a wide spectrum of specialized workstreams, management tools and resources, and topical programs and projects -- all designed to help advance sustainable business models and markets in order to contribute to the initiative's overarching mission of helping to build a more sustainable and inclusive global economy.

### ATIB presented Winners of 'Golden Wheel' Award 2007

Azerbaijan Turkey Business Association (ATIB) held the presentation of the Golden Wheel Awards at the State Philharmonics named after Muslum Magomayev in Baku on April 17. Opening the ceremony, Ahmet Erentok, Chairman of ATIB Executive Committee said in tradition of its birthday celebration ATIB presents the Golden Wheel Awards recognizing particular project or events that contributes and or impacts the development of multilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey, that in turn increases the regional influence of both countries.

Ahmet Erentok said that ATIB Executive Board recognized the foundation and launch of the Union of the Black Sea and Caspian Confederation of Enterprises (UBCCE) as a significant event contributing to strengthening economic and social relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey. Touching upon UBCCE first year of activities, he also noted that UBCCE currently unites 19 organizations representing 16 countries and continues to meet with other potential counties to participate and or become observer members. Erentok said ATIB annually presents the award in four category nominations with Special Award of Gratitude established in 2007.



*Mr. Omar Sabanchi receives  
'Businessman of the Year' Award*



*Performance by State Symphonic  
Orchestra named after Uzeyir Hajibayov*

Mr. Kurshat Tuzmen, the State Minister of the Republic of Turkey was honored as 'Public Figure of the Year' Award for his generous support in founding UBCCE. The award was accepted by Hulusi Kilic, Turkish Ambassador to Azerbaijan.

'NGO of the Year' Award was presented to Union of Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association (TUSIAD) for taking the initiative of founding UBCCE and ensuring the daily activity of UBCCE Secretariat. Mr. Omar Sabanchi was honored 'Businessman of the Year' for his support in founding UBCCE during his presidency in TUSIAD.

'Azercell' was recognized as 'Company of the Year' for its support in UBCCE's events organized in 2007, and 'Science and Arts Man of the Year' Award was presented to Mr. Haluk Tukel for his leadership in preparatory process of founding UBCCE. Special Award of Gratitude was presented to Mr. Heydar Babayev, Minister of Economic Development of the Azerbaijan Republic.

The award presentation ceremony was followed by concert program of State Symphonic Orchestra named after Uzeyir Hajibayov and soloist Murad Huseynov.

## President Ilham Aliyev receives Supervisory Board Member of Turkey's Sabanchi Holding

On April 17, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev received one of the leaders and Supervisory Board member of Turkey's company "Sabanchi Holding" Omer Sabanci and ATIB chairman Ahmet Erentok.



Omer Sabanci said this was his first visit to Azerbaijan. He pointed out that the audience granted him by President Ilham Aliyev is a manifestation of the great attention the Azerbaijani leader pays to business people and development of private sector. Omer Sabanci added that Turkish businessmen were watching closely the development processes in Azerbaijan initiated by national leader Heydar Aliyev and successfully continued by President Ilham Aliyev.

President Ilham Aliyev mentioned successful activities of the world's leading energy companies in Azerbaijan. He underlined that the government also attaches great importance to development of non-oil sector in the country.

The Azerbaijani leader expressed confidence in further enhancement of the successful cooperation between Azerbaijani and Turkish businessmen.

## ATIB CHESS TOURNAMENT

ATIB organized its First Chess Tournament with the purpose of developing relations among ATIB member companies on March 15-16, 2009. The tournament which was dedicated to Novruz - national holiday of Azeri and Turkish people, lasted two days. 33 participants joined the tournament and the head referee was International Chess Master Sarkhan Hashimov. The tournament consisted two stages, and the players divided into two groups to compete for the first two spots in the semifinal.

During the tournament, Vugar Hashimov, member of Azerbaijani national team and international grand master, played multi-board chess board with the two best scores in each group who advanced to the semifinal. After semifinals, a final match was played between the finalists to determine the winner.

Ilham Akbarov from Azercell Telecom JV won the tournament and the ATIB Cup was presented to the winner by International Grand Master Vugar Hashimov.



*Participants of First ATIB Chess Tournament*



*International grand master Vugar Hashimov during display of multi-board chess-play with the first round winners*

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Vaqif Naghyev and Rashad Almammadov from European Tobacco Baku OSC took 2nd and 3rd places respectively.

Special Award “Youngest Participant” was presented to the youngest participant of the tournament, nine-year old Toghrul Kerimov.



*Winner Ilham Akbarov from Azercell Telecom JV;  
Vaqif Naghyev and Rashad Almammadov from  
European Tobacco Baku OSC holds 2nd &  
3rd places respectively*

## **TURKISH CONDUCTOR PLAYS AT STATE CAMERA ORCHESTRA**

Concert of State Camera Orchestra named after Qara Qarayev was held in Azerbaijan State Philharmonics October 7, 2008. The soloists of the concert which was accompanied by Azerbaijan State Choir Capella Conductor - Hakan Shensoy, were Farida Rustamova, Laureate of many contests in the republic and Azerbaijan Honoured Artist Arzu Mustafayev. M.Beke's "Ay e's Fantasy," A.Vivaldi's "Seasons of Year" and "Summer," P.Sarasate's romance "Endelis," H.Shensoy's "Scenes," Frank British's variations were played at the concert.

As soloist, Hakan Shensoy attended a number of concerts in Italy, Poland, Romania, Sweden, England, Mexico and Turkey. Honoured many times with worthy musical rewards, Shensoy worked as a producer and commentator in a number of TV programs, and commented the works of Turkish composers. Shensoy played Yalchin Turan's "Three Waltz" and "Dancing melodies" dedicated to him as well as Munir Nurettin Beke's "Dance to the past" compositions which can be held up as an obvious example.

### 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 making investments in Azerbaijan by introducing social and economic life of the country.

### ATIB Annual Report

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



### Azerbaijan Investment Guide

This year's edition deals with the overall information of Azerbaijan economy, investment environment, foreign trade and capital, the investment of joint and foreign capital enterprises into different sectors of economy in 1995-2007 as well as forecast macro-economic indicators of Economic Development Ministry. The publication is issued both in Azeri and English languages once a year.

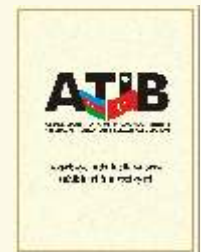


### Quarterly Economic Reports

The edition quarterly features the topics like economic development, trade turnover and major changes in Azerbaijan economy. The reviews are 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 existing entrepreneurial 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 small and medium entrepreneurship.



Azerbaijan Turkey Business Association perceives its social responsibility and tries to contributing to the social life of the country. By supporting the publication of the below books, ATIB states its position to the important topics, and assists in bringing realities to wider public

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## **‘The Last Blow from the Empire’**

ATIB member Resul Doghan sponsored the translations (from Russian to Turkish and English) of the book that is dedicated to the 20 January Tragedy.

Author Prof. Chapay Sultanov reveals little known facts of the horrible events preceding the incursion of the Soviet troops into Baku on January 20, 1990. Prof. Sultanov details the events in Khojaly by giving additional information on certain aspects of the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan. The author fairly reproaches the Azerbaijan and Turkish sides that they can not tell the whole truth about these events.

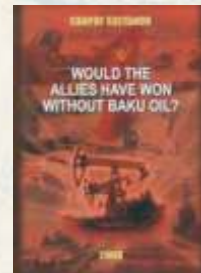
The information base of this book consists of foreign sources, opinions of politicians and political analysts from different countries. Since its release online and hardback, the book is recognized all over the world. The online version has been visited by over one million.



## **“Would the Allies have won without Baku oil?”**

This book sheds a light to the role of Baku oil in politics in the pre-war years and in the crucial battles of World War II, and analyzes the possible scenarios for events in the USSR and Europe if the Germans had seized Baku oil. Or if the oil fields had been destroyed as Stalin, Churchill and Hitler intended to do at different periods.

The book also considers the influence of the oil sector on the German and Japanese aggression against the USSR and the USA, as well as on the course of battles in World War II.



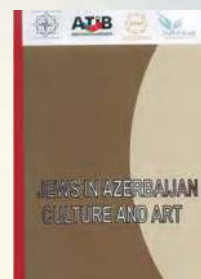
## **“Jews in Azerbaijan culture and art”**

The book "Jews in Azerbaijan culture and art" was published by joint efforts of ATIB (Azerbaijan Turkey Business Association), ATAF (Azerbaijan Turkey Historical Research Foundation), Azerbaijan Euro-Atlantic Center and Kultura.Az cultural and art portal.

Written under the supervision of Faraj Karayev, Moscow Conservatoire Professor, Composer, the book aims to inform the readers about exceptional services of the Azerbaijani Jews in the culture, art, education as well as other areas.

The author included meetings and interviews with the representatives from various segments of culture and art, the publication of original materials and recollections of the late colleagues and friends in the book.

The publication was the first book presented to the Information and Resource Complex of Azerbaijan Languages University (ADU).



## ATIB in MASS MEDIA

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

- Achieve formation of communication, mutual understanding and cooperative relations between ATIB and the public;
- Assist in solving different problems and duties, get informed and timely react about public opinion, create opportunities for leadership to serve public interests;
- Achieve the formation of positive opinion about ATIB's activity in society by providing objective and correct information.

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

*Mutual respect* - We respect the rules and practices of all public representatives, unions, organizations and the media, and require the same attitude towards us.

*Truthfulness* - We don't misuse information and commentary, nor 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 the citizens 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 408 news, reportages, interviews and comments in 2007. We are pleased to say with confident that no negatively published information about ATIB was found in the press during the past years.

In 2008, there were many published news and articles about ATIB in Azerbaijan, Khalq qazeti, Respublika, Ayna, 525-ci qazet, Yeni Azerbaijan, Ekho, Express, Iqtisadiyyat, Hafta ichi, Palitra, Uch Noqta, Xazar, EUxeber, Ses, Iki sahil, Olaylar, Sharq, Paritet, Kaspi, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, Business Baku, Gun Sahar, Media Heber, Azad Azerbaycan, Azernews and other media outlets.



*Press Conference at ATIB office, November 17, 2008*

ATIB believes in the importance of cooperation with information agencies. Almost all leading information agencies of Azerbaijan such as AzerTaj, APA, Interfaks, Trend, Azerpress, Azadinform, Fineko, MPA, Assa Irada, Anadolu, Novosti Azerbaijan, 1 news.az, Today.Az, online 365, PressReleaze.az, Ethnoglobus, Day.az, Sia.az, Lent.az and Ceo.az published numerous news articles about ATIB throughout 2008.

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 TVchannels.

During the past year, ATIB organized two press conferences for mass media representatives as well.

ATIB's activities were also highlighted in Turkish media in 2008. The Turkish newspapers like Hurriyet, Yeni Chagh and some others as well as a number of TV agencies published the articles and featured ATIB's activities in their news bulletins. On March 20, 2008, Deputy Chairman of ATIB Executive Board Cemal Yanghin gave an interview to TRT TV Channel.

ATIB activity was on the focus of attention of other international media outlets. January 14, 2008, ATIB Secretary General Rashad Rasoullu met and gave the interview to the Financial Times correspondents Leyla Boulton and Isabel Gorst. May 13, 2008, ATIB Chairman Ahmet Erentok was interviewed by columnist of the London-based First Magazine. 28 August, 2008, ATIB Secretary General Rashad Rasoullu held a meeting with Ian A. Gill, Consultant of Asian Development Bank, and exchanged his view about the perspectives of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Transport Corridor 2 for Azerbaijan.

Presentation of “Best PR Service of 2008” Award and Special Certificate by Press Release Distribution Center to Jale Azizova, Senior Specialist of Public Relations Division of Azerbaijan Turkey Business Association was just a result of the above mentioned works.

Meeting with mass media representatives at Mugham Theatre which took place on December 3, 2008 demonstrated once again that the close cooperation of Azerbaijan Turkey Business Association with mass media was essential part in its relations of with the public. ATIB Chairman Ahmet Erentok exchanged his views with media representative in an informal environment. ATIB Chairman expressed his gratitude for shedding light on ATIB events and for their warm attitude towards the Association. Ahmet Erentok informed the audience about Azerbaijan Turkey Historical Research Foundation (ATAF), Azerbaijan Turkey America Foundation (ATAF US), Union of Black Sea and Caspian Confederation of Enterprises (UBCCE), and spoke about ATIB future activities.



*Interview of Deputy Chairman of ATIB Executive Board Cemal Yanghin with TRT TV Channel*



*Meeting of ATIB Executive Board with media representatives at Mugham Theatre*





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