



NEWSLETTER

Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

275 Slater Street, Suite 904. Ottawa ON K1P 5H9 Canada

Tel: (613) 288 0497 Fax: (613) 230 8089

E-Mail: azerbaijan@azembassy.ca

April 30, 2007

№ 6

Azerbaijan and South Korea Boost Ties

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev paid official visit to South Korea on April 23-25 at the invitation of President Roh Moo-hyun to hold talks on enhancing practical bilateral cooperation. President Roh Moo-hyun and Mr. Aliyev held a summit to discuss expanding two-way exchanges and cooperation in energy and natural resources. Mr. Aliyev was the first Azerbaijani head of state to visit South Korea since the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations in 1992. President Roh visited Azerbaijan in May 2006. Several documents on various fields, including a memorandum of understanding between Korean Oil Corporation and State Oil Company of Azerbaijan were signed during the visit. The two countries sealed accords on investment guarantees and dual tax avoidance.

Baky Hosts International Conference on Role of Media in Promoting Tolerance

A conference in the framework of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) entitled "Role of media in the development of tolerance and mutual understanding" organized jointly with the government of Azerbaijan was held in Baky on April 26-28. 180 participants from about 50 countries, including 4 representatives from Canada attended conference co-chaired by the former Romanian President Ion Iliesku and Mr. Abdulaziz Ohtman Altwajri, Director General of Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. "The Conference is an attempt to summarize ideas on how the OIC, the governments of its member states, the public and commercial media and communication and media training institutions, as well as other organizations and individuals, can contribute to improving dialog and mutual understanding among religious and cultural communities," Azerbaijan's Minister of

Foreign Affairs Elmar Mammadyarov commented about the goal of the conference. In his speech Minister Mammadyarov stressed that "while the media invariably has to abstract and often use simple terms to describe complex realities, it also has to avoid stereotypes and gross distortions, which foster intolerance and the frequent belittling of religions and cultures. Instead it should promote inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue, and it can do so through programming, editorial policies or reporting practices. If that happens, we can come closer to each other and avoid prejudices". Mr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, OIC Secretary General addressing the conference praised the host country for promoting tolerance and dialogue. There are many religious confessions in Azerbaijan and tolerance and understanding the important factor for together living, Mr. Ihsanoglu said. The Secretary General said that Islam is deliberately interpreted as a religion of extremism in the West with the purpose of arousing fury against it. Mr. Ihsanoglu said the media can play a major role in removing such a situation. In an effort to curb growing tension between West and East dialog must be promoted among religions, regions and nations – became the central message of the conference participants.

Azerbaijan to Establish Transport and Scientific Research Academies

Azerbaijan intends to establish a Transport Academy and a Scientific Research Academy in a few years. Transport Ministry informed that the Transport Academy will qualify specialists for various sectors of transportation. The Scientific Research Academy will deal with new standards, projects and various research activities concerning transportation.