



NEWSLETTER

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June 04, 2009

№ 13

Azerbaijan Celebrates National Day

28th may, the day of establishment of Azerbaijani Democratic Republic in 1918, first democracy in the Muslim world, marked great momentum in the history of Azerbaijani statehood. Before being conquered by the Soviet Union in 1920, the leadership of ADR managed to put forward outstanding democratic values for those times. In its short life, the Republic did great works in national army building, national currency, democratization, free elections, international relations, official recognition of Azerbaijan's independence by the international community, economic reforms and other fields. Granting the right of vote to women, opening a school for girls for the first time in a Muslim society in 1918 were among those achievements. This remarkable date is celebrated each year by Azerbaijani people all over the world since regaining independence in 1991. 91st anniversary of ADR was also celebrated by Azerbaijani community of Canada. Azerbaijani flag was raised in Ottawa, Toronto and Edmonton by Azerbaijanis of Canada. Azerbaijani community of Toronto held series of different events, including the reception with Canadian MPS and MPPS, and Azerbaijani officials, academic conference on the foreign policy of Caspian states with the participation of Canadian and Azerbaijani professors.

Baku Hosts 16th International Caspian Oil and Gas Exhibition on June 2-5

International Caspian Oil, Gas, Oil Refining, Oil Chemistry Exhibition and Conference, held each year in Baku, have already become an international forum covering the most topical questions. Numerous new companies have got access to Azerbaijan market for the first time and now are attending the Exhibition. This year's exposition includes oil and gas industry products, various types of machinery for oil, gas and oil chemistry, new technologies works and others. US President Barack Obama congratulated President Ilham Aliyev and Azerbaijani People on the opening of the

exhibition. "Your country has emerged as an important and reliable supplier of energy to world markets. Azerbaijan is an example of how developing energy resources with the involvement of international companies can result in rapid progress and access to the best technology" the letter says. President Obama also expressed strong support for the regional projects and development of energy resources by Azerbaijan. "We commend you for continuing to develop your hydrocarbon sector in a process that will increase regional prosperity and cooperation as well as global energy security, while also offering an invaluable opportunity to address the needs and aspirations of all Azerbaijani citizens. In your drive to continue developing your energy resources, Azerbaijan will find a strong friend and partner in the United States". Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Gordon Brown also sent a letter congratulating on this occasion. "It is not surprising that the exhibition coincides with an impressive growth and changes in Azerbaijan's economy," the British Premier said in his message. He also said that Great Britain was proud to be Azerbaijan's partner, and expressed confidence British and Azerbaijani companies would closely cooperate in the future. The exhibition is joined by 300 companies from 22 countries, including OMV Gas & Power, National Iranian Gas Company, RWE AG and others. State Oil Company will negotiate with a number of foreign companies on the sale of natural gas on the sidelines of the Exhibition. Several companies attending the exhibition showed interest in buying Azeri gas, according to State Oil Company. In addition, foreign oil firms involved in the Azeri-Chirag-Gunashli (ACG) Project in the Azerbaijan sector of the Caspian Sea, in accordance with the so-called Contract of the Century, offer to prolong the 30-year agreement signed in 1994, as was said by Shahmar Movsumov, Executive Director of Azerbaijani State Oil Fund. The Agreement signed in September 1994, covers the 30 year development of the contract area and expires in 2024.