



Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

PRESS-RELEASE

Azerbaijan Pledges More Contribution to Afghanistan

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Azerbaijani delegation led by Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan has participated at the 4th Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA IV) on November 2-4, 2010 held in Istanbul, Turkey. The conference was co-chaired by Mr. Ahmed Davudoglu, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey and Mr. Zalmay Rassoul, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan.

In the speech delivered at the conference Mr. Mammadyarov stressed that the experience proved that the military assistance should be combined with economic and humanitarian projects.

Azerbaijan strongly supports the efforts of the international community for establishing peace and stability in Afghanistan. Azerbaijan joined the international peacekeeping forces in 2002, doubled the number of the servicemen in Afghanistan in 2009. Azerbaijan has also made contribution to the non-military sector. Some Afghan specialists attended several trainings in Azerbaijan:

- two doctors and two engineers from Azerbaijan were sent to the Kabul Regional Command;
- 11 employees of Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan attended the trainings of Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA);
- 10500 booklets on the mine risk education were prepared by ANAMA at the request of the Ministry of Education of Afghanistan and were published with the support of the Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan and will be soon delivered to Parvan region;
- 4 Afghan diplomats attended trainings at Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (ADA) on May, 2009;

- 19 representatives of Afghan governmental and non-governmental institutions participated in the course “Rule of Law and Good Governance” jointly organized by ADA and Geneva Center for Security Policy on September-October, 2010.

Azerbaijan is ready to continue educational and training courses for Afghans in other fields and if it is necessary, Azerbaijan will also support the educations of Afghan students at the universities of Azerbaijan.

Because of its geographic location and transport infrastructure Azerbaijan is a very important transit place and it makes a large contribution for commercial shipment to Afghanistan. The Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway, when it is completed, will intensify and regulate quick and secure cargo transportation and the under-construction sea port is also expected to increase volume of shipment to Afghanistan.

Azerbaijan is interested in sustainable development of the Afghan economy and is ready to review possible proposals by the Afghan government in this field.

The Minister emphasized the importance of regional and international approach to the Afghan problem and the necessity of joint efforts by the international community to eliminate this problem and support the efforts of the Afghan government for security, economic development and welfare of the people.