

THE AZERBAIJANI PERSPECTIVE:

News from the Heart of the Silk Road

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U.S. Thanks Azerbaijan

President George W. Bush expressed his country's gratitude for the service of Azerbaijani servicemen in Iraq. In a letter to his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev, Mr. Bush wrote: "I express the deep gratitude of the United States to the government and people of Azerbaijan for the forces your nation has contributed to Multinational Forces-Iraq since 2003." According to Mr. Bush "the willingness of the Azerbaijani people to support the establishment and strengthening of a democratic government in Iraq, despite great hardships, testifies to their strong spirit."

Azerbaijani-American Forum at UCI

On December 6, the California-based Azerbaijani-American Council organized the Third Annual Azerbaijani-American Academic Forum at the University of California in Irvine. The forum was held in cooperation with the Consulate General of Azerbaijan and highlighted wide-ranging topics of interest for Azerbaijani-Americans. A diverse group of speakers addressed issues of Turkic identity, community organizing, the influence of global economic situation on Azerbaijan, social problems and strategic challenges facing the South Caucasus region.

Representatives of the Azerbaijani, Turkish and Jewish communities spoke at the forum sharing their experiences. In addition, a panel on regional implications of the recent Russia-Georgia crisis featured invited experts including Dr. Svante Cornell and Mr. David Soumbadze of the Central Asia Caucasus Institute at the Johns Hopkins University and Dr. Hakan Yavuz of the University of Utah.

Azerbaijan Focuses on Energy

Presidents of Azerbaijan and Turkey, Ilham Aliyev and Abdullah Gul, respectively, visited Turkmenistan on November 28-29 for talks with their Turkmen counterpart Gurbangulu Berdymuhammadov. This trilateral meeting marked a new cooperation momentum among the three nations and in efforts to secure diverse routes for Caspian energy resources.

The visit follows the Baku Energy Summit, a major regional event held on November 14 to discuss Europe's energy security. By bringing together presidents of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Lithuania, Poland, Turkey and Ukraine as well as ministers from other nations in Azerbaijan's capital, the summit underscored the nation's key regional role. At the event, the U.S. delegation was led by Energy Secretary Sam Bodner.

In other news:

*On November 11-14, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies organized its annual BakuTel exhibition with 105 exhibitors representing 21 countries. This year's conference featured world-famous scientist Lotfi Zadeh of UC Berkeley as a guest of honor and included the Azerbaijan-California Business Forum as part of the program.

*Earlier this month, Mr. Tamerlan Vahabov became Azerbaijan's first graduate of the Naval Post-Graduate School in Monterey.

***The Consulate General of Azerbaijan
in Los Angeles extends warm
Season's Greetings to all readers of the
Azerbaijani Perspective!***

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