

## **Ian Sutherland, BP's Regional Vice President**

Remarks to the agreement signing event to announce BP as an official partner of Baku 2015 European Games  
Four Seasons Hotel,  
12 June, 12:00-14:00

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen!

I am honoured to represent BP here today at this remarkable event which marks an important and exciting moment. Today we are signing an agreement with the 2015 European Games organization to become an official partner of the next year's biggest international sporting event to be held in Baku.

This agreement will allow us to be part of the preparations which are starting now. We hope this will be a successful beginning for the new European sport initiative.

As an official partner, we expect that this will be an opportunity for Azerbaijan to demonstrate that it can host major international events. We are delighted to be able to support Azerbaijan as it starts to prepare for such a grand sporting event.. We believe this presents a unique opportunity for the country as it makes efforts to become a greater centre for sporting excellence.

Today we will also become an official partner of the innovative Games Academy initiative. We see this initiative as a very good opportunity for hundreds of enthusiastic young Azerbaijani nationals to develop new skills and knowledge adding to the country's international events delivery capability.

BP is pleased to be supporting the initiative which we believe will enhance Azerbaijan's overall capacity-building efforts and will leave a strong legacy of project delivery. We are confident that there will be many more occasions in the future when the country will need and will successfully use this delivery capability.

BP has been in Azerbaijan for over two decades safely and reliably operating some of the country's major oil and gas projects. In fact we are Azerbaijan's biggest foreign oil and gas partner. The world-class projects that we operate here have significantly contributed to the country's fantastic economic growth and to its international

recognition as a major energy supplier. We are very proud of the role we have played and will continue to play in the country's energy sector.

We are also proud of our successful partnership in educational, cultural and sport projects. To name just one – we supported Azerbaijan's participation in London 2012 Olympic Games and last year we extended our official partnership with the National Olympic and Paralympic Committees through to 2016. As such, we are sponsoring Azerbaijan's National Olympic and Paralympic teams and a group of athletes that have been selected as our ambassadors. We believe this partnership has been very successful and has contributed to the country's efforts to achieve sporting excellence.

This new partnership, which today we are embarking on with the Baku 2015 European Games, is part of our continuous commitment to supporting the country in creating opportunities for young people and for the future of the nation.

As an official partner of 2015 Baku European Games we share the nation's passion for sport that will make Baku 2015 an international success. We are in Azerbaijan for long-term and will continue our longstanding support for major educational, cultural and sport initiatives in the country.

We in BP look forward to next summer which will be an exciting time for Europe and Azerbaijan. BP is honoured to share in this excitement and we expect to be part of a great national and international sporting success.

Thank you for your attention!