

Speech by Gary Jones, bp's regional president for Azerbaijan, Georgia and Türkiye, at the premiere of the film 'Treasures of the World – Azerbaijan'

Distinguished guests,

Your excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

- Good evening.
- As part of our celebrations to mark our 30th year in Azerbaijan, it's such a tremendous pleasure to welcome you tonight at the premiere of the documentary film '**Treasures of the World – Azerbaijan**'.
- This film is a part of the well-known series that explores fascinating places, legendary cities and extraordinary natural landscapes around the world.
- You will of course find all of this in Azerbaijan.
- Azerbaijan's **deep history, rich heritage and stunning landscapes** will fascinate everybody. Not to mention the incredible **friendliness and hospitality** of its people.

Discovering Azerbaijan

- Since coming to work here early in 2017, I have had the **privilege** to visit and **experience** many of the sites and locations covered in the film, including two opportunities earlier this year to visit **Shusha**, during the international Food Festival and then Energy Week.
- What I **discovered and felt** there was very aligned to what you experience throughout this film.
- The immense **cultural legacy, traditions, music and dancing, art and crafts and the deep emotions** expressed by those that you meet.
- And that's true for the whole country.
- The film will take you through the most fabulous places in Baku, Shusha, Gobustan and Sheki.

bp's contribution

- We have been **privileged and proud** to develop and operate the country's major energy projects over the last 30 years, thanks to the unwavering support from the government, hand in hand with SOCAR and other co-venturers.
- But alongside our main priority of maximizing development of Azerbaijan's world class energy resources we are also very proud of the work we do as **a responsible corporate citizen**.
- For us, this film is an opportunity to show the world the hospitality, beauty and great values of Azerbaijan.
- It is also a **token of appreciation to our national employees**, who rightfully honor their heritage.
- And finally, it is **our gift to Azerbaijani people** on our 30th anniversary in this amazing country.

Joint achievement

- Of course, a lot of joint effort went into creating this documentary.
- First, I would like to thank the **Heydar Aliyev Foundation** for lending their support to this awesome project.
- This is the second film we have produced together that promotes Azerbaijan's unique heritage.
- To date, we have together delivered 10 social investment projects.
- All served one key purpose – to bring sustainable benefits to this country and its people.
- I hope our collaboration will continue with more such valuable initiatives.
- I am also hugely grateful to **Professor Bettany Hughes and the Sandstone Global Productions crew**, for delivering such an impeccable film.
- They have done an amazing job exploring Azerbaijan and showing its treasures to the world.

- A huge thank you to **Arzu Aliyeva and to the Baku Media Centre** for their outstanding technical support. They have proven to be true world-class professionals in their craft.
- And finally, thank you to the **bp team** for their relentless efforts and determination in turning this idea into reality.

Conclusion

- We hope millions of people across the globe will enjoy this film and discover Azerbaijan as a jewel of the world's cultural treasury.
- I'd like to conclude with a quote from the film you are about to watch.
- **“This land is a treasure and a wonder because it seems to exist somewhere between the natural and the supernatural.”**
- Boldly put and absolutely true.
- Thank you and hope you enjoy the film.

-ENDS-