

Speech by Gary Jones, bp's regional president for Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey at special Shusha session of Baku Energy Week

4 June 2022

'Together towards Azerbaijan's clean energy future'

Welcoming

- Good morning, everyone.
- It's a pleasure to join this special session, as part of the Energy Week.
- I cannot think of a more beautiful and symbolic place for this event.
- Shusha signifies a glorious page in Azerbaijan's newest history.
- No doubt, this amazing city will continue to host many local and international events in the future.
- I had a chance to visit here during the Food Festival several weeks ago.
- It feels great to be back.
- Shusha has been the cultural capital of Azerbaijan for centuries.
- Now this city, and the wider Karabakh region, are set to become the heart of sustainable development.
- Azerbaijan is aiming to turn this region into a green energy zone.
- That means the energy to be generated and used here will have net zero emission, so it will be clean and sustainable.
- And what better way than this, to contribute to the world's energy transition.

Energy transition and bp's role

- The last couple of years have not been easy for anyone.
- A global pandemic, the crisis in Ukraine with all its consequences, the pressing threat of climate change.
- This has all but accelerated the energy transition.

- It is no longer just about climate. It's also about the security, reliability, and affordability of energy.
- For us in bp, this has made our role even clearer – keep delivering the energy the world needs.
- We must help ensure the security of supply by providing reliable, affordable and – increasingly over time - cleaner energy.
- Two years ago, we set ourselves a new ambition.
- We are aiming to be a net zero company by 2050 or sooner, and to help the world get to net zero too.
- Today, we are firmly progressing towards our goal.
- In parallel, we are looking at how we can support the countries where we operate in their journeys to net zero.
- Azerbaijan is one of the key countries for us in this regard.

Opportunities for new energy era in Azerbaijan

- Today, Azerbaijan is an established global energy player.
- Its huge energy potential helps meet the growing demand, and it contributes to the security and diversity of supply.
- And that's exactly what the world needs.
- We believe Azerbaijan can equally succeed in building the low carbon energy value chains of the future.
- Because it has advanced infrastructure, strong partnerships and abundant renewable energy resources.
- The last is particularly true for the liberated territories.
- This region is blessed with some of the country's best solar and geothermal resources, as well as strong hydro power and onshore wind potential.
- This mix of dispatchable and intermittent renewable power sources is a perfect opportunity for a fully net zero system.
- And here, it can be built fresh from a new start, without a need to adjust to existing systems.
- All this can turn the region into an exemplary 'green zone'.

How can bp support

- bp is ready to support Azerbaijan in developing its low carbon energy resources.
- And we have been working closely with the Ministry of Energy.
- Last week, we presented to the Ministry a set of recommendations on how Azerbaijan can decarbonize its economy by 2050.
- We hope it will help the country formulate its plans for the energy transition, including the Karabakh region.
- And the opportunities are plenty.
- From utilizing the rich renewables potential, such as solar, wind and geothermal, to low carbon solutions, such as hydrogen and ammonia generation and carbon capture.
- We are already in action in certain areas.
- For example, we are exploring ways to electrify our facilities.
- We could do it by powering our offshore platforms through the grid or floating offshore wind turbines.
- Also, by replacing the Sangachal gas turbines with grid access. This would allow us to export the displaced gas through SGC.
- Or let's take renewables.
- We are completing a deal to build a 240-megawatt solar power plant in Jabrayil.
- For this, I'm pleased to say that today, we will be extending the Implementation Agreement with the Ministry of Energy.
- Together we have identified an innovative approach that will enable us to rapidly progress the next steps in the project.
- This is a significant milestone and brings us closer to commencing the execution.
- We have seen how great things can be done faster together.
- So, I'm also happy to announce today that we are partnering with SOCAR to look for similar potential renewable projects.

- All this can serve as a basis for pioneering a virtual power plant model in Azerbaijan.
- And last, but not least, all this work will require competent and skilled future workforce.
- Therefore, I'm pleased to say we are also helping establish a new master's degree programme in renewables at the Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University.
- We hope this programme will meet the growing demand for local renewables experts, as Azerbaijan gets ahead in its energy transition.

Conclusion

- So, as you can see, there are many exciting opportunities ahead.
- For the past 30 years, we have been privileged to work with Azerbaijan and global partners. And we have developed one of the strongest energy partnerships here.
- Now, we are ready to build on this success.
- To help Azerbaijan shape its new, clean energy future.
- And while much work lies ahead, I am confident that the strength of our partnership will make this vision a reality!
- Thank you.

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