

**“Establishing Big Data Research and Training Centre”  
partnership signing event**

**Speech by Gordon Birrell, BP’s Regional President for  
Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey**

19 October 2014

Rector Pashayev, Minister Jabbarov, Minister  
Guluzade, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and  
Gentlemen,

I am pleased to be here today to sign, on behalf of BP  
and its co-venturers, an important partnership with  
one of the leading universities of Azerbaijan.

BP and its co-venturers are pleased to support this  
project which is expected to provide an opportunity  
for establishment of a new area of educational  
development in the country.

We are proud to be able to assist the establishment of  
the first Big Data, Data Science Research and Training  
Centre in Azerbaijan.

The importance of this centre is not only about its  
being the first in the country. We believe it is also  
about commencing a new area of science and  
research development in the country – the area of big  
data.

We expect that it will pave the way for development  
of national data scientists and big data analysts, as  
well as for new areas of local expertise in a range of  
best-in-class software and hardware technologies.

BP and its co-ventures are joining this project as part of our commitment to supporting education, training and capacity-building in the country. This project fully meets these objectives. It is designed in such a way that it will have a wider impact by providing opportunities for utilization of its resources by public institutions and the private sector.

This is also an opportunity for BP and its co-venturers to expand their cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the ADA University. We welcome this new partnership.

I would like to say a few words about the ADA University. We are aware of this university's achievements. Despite the comparatively short period of its existence – just over 10 years, it has become one of the leading universities of the country making a substantial contribution to Azerbaijan's educational development.

We hope our joint project will expand the university's capacities. It will enable us to contribute together to developing qualified data scientists, data and information engineers and big data analytics professionals for the country. We hope this, in its turn, will help improve analysis capabilities in a range of areas and disciplines in both private and public sectors.

As Azerbaijan's long-term partners, BP and its co-venturers take their social responsibility very seriously. From the start, our social investment has involved support for education through many great development and training initiatives in the communities, vocational schools and universities. We are aware how much the government, the Ministry of Education and universities themselves are doing to develop the country's educational system and infrastructure.

We – the corporate dimension in Azerbaijan's oil and gas developments, over the last twenty two years – also have tried to support these developments where we could.

As a result, many schools and universities, and more than one hundred rural communities in Azerbaijan have benefited from our educational initiatives. We are proud to support education among other social development areas in this country and will continue this support. We believe by investing in children, in youth and in education we invest in the country's future.

**Birlikdə təhsili uğurlu edək!**  
(Together we will make education a success)

Thank you!