



BP's educational initiatives in Azerbaijan

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BP as the operator of Azerbaijan's major oil and gas development and transportation projects is committed to Azerbaijan's successful future and as part of this commitment BP supports very important educational initiatives and programmes in this country.

Most of these initiatives are designed to support development of the energy industry, widen learning opportunities in technical fields and promote business training. To implement these programmes, BP closely cooperates with the National Academy of Sciences, the State Oil Academy, Khazar University, Baku State University, the Technical University and Qafqaz University, various secondary and vocational schools. This cooperation continues to contribute to the development of the scientific basis of Azerbaijan's petroleum industry and supports education and training of the new generation of highly-qualified national energy industry experts and workforce.

This press pack provides information about the most important examples of BP's educational and capacity-building initiatives.

1. BP bursary program

BP's Bursary Programme is an ongoing initiative which was first launched in 2007 with the aim to motivate academic excellence of students who are specialising in petroleum engineering and geosciences at the State Oil Academy.

As part of this programme some 120 first year students majoring in petroleum engineering and geological prospecting at the State Oil Academy received BP's bursary awards (1,000 AZN each) in 2007 and 2008. These were mainly winners of the city, regional and national olympiads, as well as talented students from internally displaced and refugee families.

BP's bursary programme together with another equally important educational initiative funded by BP together with its co-venturers – Azerbaijan oil and gas scholarship initiative, provides the main resourcing line for the company's annual summer internship programme. In 2009, for instance, 70% of the students, who practiced engineering and geosciences summer internship with BP, were recipients of either BP bursary awards or other BP-involved scholarships.

In 2011, 77 Oil Academy students received BP's bursary awards. Of these 33, who were first-year students with the highest university admission scores, were presented with BP-branded laptop computers. The remaining 34 were second-year students specifically selected on the basis of the results of BP's technical tests on mathematics, physics, logic and basic geology. These were granted an opportunity to improve their English language skills through BP-funded training which will add to their high-level technical knowledge.

As part of the bursary awards programme over the past years BP has also donated some 5,000 AZN worth books and scientific magazines to the library of the State Oil Academy.

Please also see the press release issued today (June 28, 2012)

2. Establishment of new departments at the Qafqaz University

BP continues to support the Baku-based Qafqaz University to broaden its scope to cover undergraduate education in three engineering disciplines, including chemical, and mechanical engineering. As part of this project the chemical engineering department was established in 2009 and in 2011, BP opened five fully equipped modern laboratories for this department. The laboratories specialize in general chemistry, analytical chemistry, organic chemistry, chemical engineering and physical chemistry. The chemical engineering department currently has 51 students. In 2011, the mechanical engineering department was opened at the university with 16 students admitted for the first year. The plans are to open fully equipped mechanical engineering laboratories for this department in 2012.

3. South Caspian basin modeling centre

BP presented a South Caspian Basin Modelling Centre to the Geology Institute of the National Academy of Sciences as part of its long and successful cooperation with the institute. The Centre was designed to bring the most advanced geological modelling capability into the institute allowing for subsurface modelling of the challenging and unique South Caspian Basin. In addition, the centre aimed to bring together a full range of related disciplines from geology, geophysics, geochemistry and biostratigraphy in order to improve understanding of Azerbaijan's near-shore and onshore hydrocarbon potential. In addition to being a technology transfer effort, this important project marks BP experts desire and intention to share their knowledge and experience with their Azerbaijani colleagues through teaching the centre staff how to operate this extremely high-tech and advanced equipment. To that end BP also funded some of the institute experts' internships in Paris and Moscow.

The practical application of the results of the basin modelling will help Azerbaijani experts understand the complexity of geological structures into which they drill. BP believes that the advanced equipment transfer and cooperation between the company and institute experts creates new opportunities for the Azerbaijani geological science.

The centre is in addition to BP's other efforts to support the Geology Institute:

- In 1992 - 2000 BP helped publication of a series of articles and monographs on geological science
- 2011-2012 BP supported Research project in Leoben University, in Austria by an employee of the Geology Institute.
- In 2000 BP helped the institute design and implement BTC monitoring project which included creation of seismic stations, installation of Geographic Projection System, radiometric and gravimetric devices along BTC.
- In 2005 and 2007- 2011 BP supported the conference of young geoscientists.
- In 2012 BP sponsored International Conference on Ultra Deep Hydrocarbon Potential

Talking about the biggest achievement of the past 19 years of BP's support for the Geology Institute academician Akif Alizade says: "BP has encouraged and facilitated the development of the institute staff, has trained and equipped them so that they can communicate with the international science community on the same level".

4. Geosciences and engineering speaker series initiative

BP has an ongoing geosciences and engineering speaker series (BPGESS) initiative which is designed to enhance commitment by future generations of engineers to promoting geosciences in Azerbaijan. The project provides students and academia in the areas of geology, geophysics, and engineering disciplines a good opportunity to meet, talk and engage with scientists and practitioners in these fields. The sessions are hosted by BP and the first speaker in the series was Rashid Javanshir, BP's Regional President, Doctor of Geology and Mineralogy, professor, member of Azerbaijan's National Academy of Sciences. The topic of Dr. Javanshir's lecture was "The South Caspian Basin: Unique Geology and Unique Petroleum System".

Hundreds of students and faculty members from the State Oil Academy, Baku State University, Khazar University and those representing the geology, geophysics and petroleum engineering faculties from other universities have to date attended these sessions.

For more information go to: www.bp.com/caspian/bpgess

5. BP summer students geology field course

This is another initiative launched by BP to support education of young people specialising in oil and gas industry related disciplines. Since 2005 BP has been sponsoring summer students' field courses in sedimentology and structural geology for undergraduate and graduate students, as well as young geoscientists. The courses, held in Baku and Baku regions, include practical sessions at the Geological Outcrops. They are aimed at building Azerbaijan's academic capability and knowledge, helping the next generation of geoscientists to develop their skills and enhance Azerbaijan's hydrocarbon industry capabilities. About 28 students every year from the State Oil Academy and other universities, selected through open competition, enjoy a three-week practical course arranged by BP.

6. Media training on English language and business journalism

For over 10 years BP funded a successful programme of English language training for over 200 national journalists. The success of the programme can be measured by the fact that currently there is a large number of Azerbaijani journalists with very good English language skills and this opens up good opportunities for them to build international networking and cooperation and enter global media markets.

Based on the success of the language training programmes and following several rounds of consultations with the leading business journalists in the country, in 2006 BP launched a new initiative to support journalists' capacity-building and development efforts through a specifically designed international quality Business Journalism training programme.

The overall aim of this initiative was to strengthen professional competencies and skills of the national media (print and online media) through a training programme tailored to the needs of the selected target audience. The four-year project completed in 2011, is expected to contribute to strengthening the credibility of the national media among the society at large, local and international business community, international media, business analysts and other communities. The participants of the project - a group of leading business journalists who have been through "General Course in Business Journalism", "Train the Trainers", "Online Journalism" and "Investigative Journalism" sessions and have received international certificates - are expected to set an example of internationally-accepted fair and quality reporting and to promote this standard of journalism in the country.

7. English language teachers training programme

To support improvement of the English language teaching in Azerbaijan, BP sponsored in 2009 English language teachers training courses at the Azerbaijan University of Languages. The training was provided by experts from the UK. Participants in the programme have committed to transferring their skills and knowledge to a larger group English language teachers at the university.

8. Petroleum engineers societies

BP has encouraged creation of a number of professional engineers' societies to support their development through networking and knowledge and experience sharing.

The most successful of these are the Caspian Engineers Society (CES) founded in 2007 by BP employees, the Society of Azerbaijan Young Specialist Developers (SAYSD), established in 2006, by 6 young BP employees who have petroleum engineering and geosciences background. These are volunteer organizations which continue to bring together professionals and talented university students in their common goal of contributing to the development of Azerbaijan's oil and gas engineering science.

9. Azerbaijan Society of Petroleum Geologists

BP provides continuous support to the Azerbaijan Society of Petroleum Geologists through professional networking and knowledge sharing initiatives that engage professional local technical community, young geoscientists and students. A number of technical conferences (Students Forum in 2011, Annual Students Scientific Conference) have been supported by BP