2011 Baku Summer Energy School
in partnership with
State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR)

July 2-16, 2011
“Retro” hotel
Baku, Azerbaijan

Program Description

Held and organized in partnership with the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) on July 2-16, 2011, ADA’s Fifth Baku Summer Energy School focused on Fundamentals and International Politics of Energy. The 2011 Baku Summer Energy School examined a wide range of issues, such as fundamentals of energy, energy law, economics and politics of energy, environmental impacts and strategic management.

A special focus of the program was the Caspian Basin, including regional pipeline network development, geopolitics of the Caspian Sea, its legal status and strategic outlook of SOCAR. Environmental issues, as well as revenue and resource management were emphasized throughout the program.

Interactive in its format, the Baku Summer Energy School provides an extensive opportunity for professionals in the field of energy to socialize and build long-lasting ties.

International Body of Participants and Scholars

In 2011, there were forty-two participants from seventeen countries including middle and senior level policy makers, energy company representatives, academic faculty members, journalists and young researchers focusing on energy, as well as representatives of regional and international organizations.

Extra-Curricular Activities

While learning at the Baku Summer Energy School, participants enjoyed the Baku summer by the shore of the legendary Caspian Sea. Living close to the sea, in the Bilgeh seaside guest houses (Hotel “Retro”) provided an excellent and very relaxed atmosphere while the shuttle bus service was provided to take the participants to the city center area twice a day.

During the weekends, the participants were taken out for excursions to various regions of Azerbaijan, including unique sites connected to Azerbaijan’s oil and gas industry of the past and present. These were the Bibi Heybat oil fields, Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, the Sangachal oil terminal, petro cliffs of Gobustan, mud volcanoes, the museum of Azerbaijan’s first oil baron, Haji Zeynalabidin Tagiyev and the famous Nobel brothers’ house museum.
Students Testimonials

Morten Schmelzer, Germany

“This program offered me the opportunity to finally get to Azerbaijan not just as a tourist but also to experience the culture for a longer time, get to know the energy policies, the geopolitics of the region and take a new knowledge of the matter and new impressions back with me.”

Dmitrios Vogias, Greece

“I was in Poland two years ago and saw advertisement on CNN that was promoting Azerbaijan. Since then I have been to Azerbaijan two times and this is already my third visit not just as a tourist but as a participant of this very thorough program.”

Richard Bjercke, Norway

“I was very impressed by our top-ranking speakers not only from the government sector but also world famous universities such as Brown, Texas A&M as well as guest lecturers from the world famous oil companies. I was especially impressed by the representative of the State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan, Mr. Shahmar Movsumov. It is notable that the Fund invests in future education of Azeri students as we have done with the Norwegian Fund.”

Massimio Merighi, Italy

“One of the most unique elements of this program is that we get a chance to meet the high-ranking representatives from the government office of Azerbaijan and ask them questions that only they, being experienced professionals, would give the best answers to. Here I met different kind of people: from political scientists to engineers and traders and each one gives an analysis of the situation from his point of view and if you are able to collect all the views together and make your own conclusion then you can get a good overall vision of the discussed issues.”

Guest Speakers Testimonials

Mr. Jean-Marie Bourdaire, Total Professeurs Associes

“I was very impressed by the overall quality of the students. One can see that the selection process has been very carefully thought out in advance.”

Pauline Jones Luong, Brown University USA

“More and more countries that have state ownership and strong national oil companies are trying to internationalize them pursuing internationalization strategies and the question for them is how can they do it in most efficient way. I think it is very relevant to Azerbaijan because it has a very strong national oil company.”