



The results of the  
**15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of the  
Caspian Oil and Gas Exhibition and Conference  
Incorporating Refining and Petrochemicals  
3–6 June 2008  
Baku, Azerbaijan**

*Platinum Sponsor of the Exhibition and Conference*



**THE INTERNATIONAL BANK  
OF AZERBAIJAN**

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The 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the international Caspian Oil and Gas exhibition and conference incorporating refining and petrochemicals was held in the Sports and Concert Complex named after Heydar Aliyev on 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2008. This event demonstrated the development of the oil and gas sector in Azerbaijan and the attractiveness of Azerbaijan as an energy partner.

Caspian Oil and Gas 2008 was officially supported by the President of the Azerbaijan Republic, His Excellency Mr. Ilham Aliyev, the Ministry of Industry and Energy and the State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR).

The official opening ceremony of the exhibition took place at 10 o'clock on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The President of the Azerbaijan Republic, ministers from Azerbaijan and abroad, and ambassadors to Azerbaijan took part in the ceremony, amongst others. Following introductory speeches given by the organisers of the forum, the Senior Advisor to ITE Group plc, Sir Andrew Wood, and President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Azerbaijan, Mr. Suleyman Tatliyev, the President gave a speech in which he explained the history of the exhibition.

The ambassador for the special US delegation on Eurasia energy issues, C. Boyden Gray presented a letter from President G. Bush in which the President congratulates the organisers and participants of the exhibition on the celebration of the event's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary and wishes them further prosperity. The Minister for Trade & Investment of Great Britain, Lord Digby Jones also read out a welcoming letter on behalf of the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Gordon Brown. Other officials who participated in the opening ceremony included the Minister of National Infrastructure of Israel, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, the Minister of Energy of Georgia, Alexander Khetaguri, the Minister for the Economy and Energy of Bulgaria, Petar Dimitrov, the Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of Turkey, Yusuf Yazar, the Deputy Minister for Oil of Iran, Dr. Hossein Noghrekar Shirazi, and the State Secretary and Deputy Minister of the Oil Industry and Energy of Norway, Liv Monika Stayboldt.

The guest speakers emphasised the growing role of Azerbaijan in the global community and underlined the significance of transnational 'East-West' pipelines in promoting prosperity in regional areas and energy security on a global level. The concept that was common amongst all speakers was that "common economic interests help to develop a strategic partnership". During the opening ceremony, world leaders expressed their plans to develop economic relations with Azerbaijan.

After the opening ceremony, the President of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, accompanied the VIP tour of the exhibition accompanied by other high-ranking guests.

The topic of this year's anniversary conference was 'The role of Caspian oil and gas resources in supplying energy to Europe'. The forum gathered 450 delegates and 50 speakers who were leading

specialists in the industry, heads of the leading oil and gas companies and heads of state agencies from Azerbaijan, USA, Great Britain, Turkey, Bulgaria and Norway, amongst others.

The conference took place in the conference hall at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June. The Minister of Industry and Energy of Azerbaijan, Mr. Natiq Aliyev, who opened the conference, said that rather than facing the issue of the availability of energy resources, Azerbaijan must try to solve the problem of energy efficiency and ecological safety of production. Speeches were also given by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Department of State's Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs of the US Secretary on Europe and Eurasia, Matthew Bryza, the Minister of Economy and Energy of the Bulgarian Republic, Petar Dimitrov, the Minister for Trade and Investment of Great Britain Lord Digby Jones, and First Vice-President of SOCAR, Mr. Khoshtakht Yusefzadeh.

It is well known that the Caspian's energy resources are hugely significant for the implementation of the global and particularly European energy policy. At the heart of all the speeches was exploration and production in the Azerbaijan part of the Caspian Sea and Azerbaijan's potential participation in international oil projects, both as an exporting and transit country. Representatives from BP, TPAO, Statoil, OMV, Edison, SOCAR, SOFAZ and many others spoke about oil production, sustainable production, placement of companies' assets and growing investments into the oil and gas sector.

On the second day of the conference, participants touched upon the subject of the future development of the oil and gas industry, particularly transportation of hydrocarbon resources and the long-term role of Azerbaijan in this vitally-important process. After this, a round table discussion on 'The Caspian Sea on a Global Scale' summarised all the issues discussed at the conference. Participants included speakers, delegates and media representatives.

This year, the Caspian Oil & Gas Exhibition has grown further. The Caspian Oil & Gas programme of events created a particularly business-like and celebratory atmosphere due to the amount of information relayed and the diversity of its topics. One of these events involved planting trees in the park next to the Gulistan Palace on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. The event was organised in memory of the former president, Heydar Aliyev, who founded the exhibition, and was attended by exhibition participants and VIP guests.

In celebration of the anniversary event, the organisers had prepared a short documentary, giving the history of oil production in Azerbaijan, as well as the launch and development of the exhibition and conference. Also, a private performance of the legendary 'Caspian Ballade' by composer, Tofiq Bakikhanov, was held in the Azerbaijan State Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet for VIP guests, exhibition participants and accredited media representatives. This is the only ballet in which the work of men working on oil rigs in the Caspian Sea is depicted.

An annual scholarship was presented to a first-year student from the Automation of Production Processes at the Azerbaijan Oil Academy, who scored 692 in his entrance exams.

For many years, the Caspian Oil & Gas Exhibition and Conference have gathered together specialists and key players from the region's oil industry. Since its launch, the Caspian Oil & Gas Exhibition has been known as a business forum for which many companies schedule the launch of their latest products and projects.

The annual growth in the number of participants reflects the continuing interest of foreign companies in Azerbaijan. This is evident through the declarations made by officials at the event, as well as business agreements between participants.

Oil is the national wealth of the Azerbaijan people. Azerbaijan is strengthening its position in the region and boosting its economic potential. The country is rich in hydrocarbon resources and has an important role in the global oil community. The exhibition and conference reflect this success. Caspian Oil & Gas is now the spearhead of Azerbaijan's oil strategy, initiated by former president, Heydar Aliyev. The organisers are confident that the event will continue to reflect the achievements of the region's oil sector long after this anniversary edition and will remain the ideal place to establish business relations and discover new prospects for mutual cooperation through the exchange of opinions and experience.