

KHAZAR COURIER

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We are looking for you!

WEB EDUCATION CONFERENCE AT 'KHAZAR'

The Internet is a form of communication and information. We use the internet for getting news and useful information. We cannot think of our life without internet. We can use the internet for our educational purposes. To answer the question whether the internet helps us on education, "The Youth Network of Azerbaijan" organized a "WebEducation" Conference.

This conference was on March 13, 2013 at Khazar University. The goal of the conference was to apply internet resources to education, e-books, active use of information technology on education.

Participants chose 100 students from different universities. In the beginning of the conference there was a Twitter competition and the winner went to Lankaran city for 2 days.

This conference started with a speech by Khazar University Public Relation and Media director **Alovsat Amirbayli**. He spoke about Khazar University education systems and use of Information Technology in lessons.

After, "AzEdunet" company's marketing director said that they are always ready to support students in this field.

The conference had 3 pannels. The first pannel was about current resources and how to improve them.

Pannels guests were **Mursal Aliyev, Rashad Aliyev, Elguj Jafarov, Elvin Hajili, Azar Jabbarov**.

The panel moderator was "Gənclərin Səsi Radiosu" Project director **Azar Nazarov**.

The panel continued more than one hour.

In the second pannel, they talked about use of IT in our education system. This panel's guests were **Osman**

Gunduz (Azerbaijan Internet Forums director), **Vusal Xanlarov** ('Madad' Azerbaijan Organisations director), **Alasgar Mammadli** (IREX Azerbaijan Organisations lawyer), **Ayaz Abushov** (To Manage Information Technology in Educational System vice president), **Emin Axundov** (Microsoft-Azerbaijan Company, education works coordinator), **Etibar Umudov** (MCIT Improvement Society Information Technology vice-president). The panel was a discussion. The moderator was "Sahil" IT company's director **Vahid Qasimov**.

The last pannel was very interesting because the panel guests were students. No one knew who was invited and it was a surprise for students. The moderator chose students from different universities. There were 8 persons. They discussed their problems in applying internet resources to education, use of IT at their universities and so on. The panel continued for 30 minutes and the moderator was **Azar Nazarov**.

After the last panel the winner of Twitter competition was presented.

In the end, everyone took a picture together.



After the conference... Photo for memory

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By **Tajli Alasgarli**,
School of Education



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES - AZERBAIJAN RELATIONS: BOUND TO GROW

In the real world of international politics, with its diverse theories seeking to explain the causes of the level and type of interaction between sovereign states, some cases invariably



By **Sehon MARSHALL**,
School of Humanities
and Social Sciences

depart from the norm and raise more questions than answers. In a series of short articles, the special and rarely discussed relationship between St. Vincent and the Grenadines, my native country, and The Republic of Azerbaijan will be examined. At first glance, finding common interests between these two states, separated by large distances and quite different national cultures, is not obvious. But I think it is pertinent to try as it can be interesting for curious political science and inter-

national Relations student and Khazar professors.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is a small tropical multi-island state located in the Eastern Caribbean. The main island, St. Vincent, is 29 kilometres long and 17.7 kilometres wide or if you prefer 344 square kilometres. Realist thinkers in international relations would surely agree that this country does not have the attributes for one day becoming a "hegemonic" state on the world stage! The country has a population of approximately 107,000 people and an abundance of natural resources considering the small size of the island-country. In relative terms, though, my country's natural resources does not compare with the great majority of independent states. For a long time characterized as a country with a strong agricultural sector, St. Vincent and the Grenadines has made strong efforts in the last twenty years to diversify the national economy towards more service-based production, as the forces of globalisation made it quite difficult to compete with larger countries in

world's agricultural markets, the banana industry being a well know case in this regard.

No wonder then that a small developing state, like St. Vincent and the Grenadines, is seeking to establish diplomatic relations with a country like Azerbaijan. A potentially wealthy country in the South Caucasus, endowed with a natural resource – oil – in high demand and quickly becoming a major player in the geopolitics of the region and even Europe, Azerbaijan is attracting and will in the future attract many new trade partners with the aim of developing diverse areas of cooperation and gaining mutual benefits. St. Vincent and the Grenadines made one important step towards establishing deeper relations with Azerbaijan when it appointed a non-resident ambassador in Baku in December of 2012.

This begs the question as to whether Azerbaijan can gain economic and political advantages and benefits from this budding relationship with the Caribbean country. At a first glance it would seem that St. Vincent and the Grena-

dines, a minuscule state, is the partner that can reap profits from a deeper engagement with Azerbaijan. But can the same be expected on the Azerbaijan side? In part 2 of this series of articles, I will go into more details of the already active relations between the two countries. I will also discuss possible areas that can increase and strengthen the Azerbaijan-St. Vincent and the Grenadines bilateral relations.

It will be remiss of me not to thank the Government and people of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the assistance offered to my country both on a personal and state level. The fact that I am a student at Khazar University is indeed a testimony of deeper contacts between my country and Azerbaijan and this will be discussed further in subsequent articles. I look forward to sharing my thoughts Khazar readers in the next issue of *The Khazar Courier*. Until the next issue Xudahafis and enjoy Novruz.

NOVRUZ HOLIDAY THROUGH STUDENTS' EYES



The Novruz tradition of Azerbaijan is very interesting. Novruz is a feast of spring, is the sign of the coming New Year, rebirth of the land. Before Novruz Azerbaijanis celebrate a number of previous days saying good bye to the Old year and welcoming the New year. These days are the four pre-holiday Tuesdays: Su Chershenbe (Water Tuesday), Od Chershenbe (Fire Tuesday), Torpag Chershenbe (Earth Tuesday) and Akhyr Chershenbe (Last Tuesday).

On March 19th, Khazar students, the English for Professional Communication group 2D had a presentation about the Novruz holiday. The first group wanted to show us how they can explain Novruz traditions to foreign guests. Their group mates were divided into two groups;

1. Foreign guests;
2. Azerbaijanis.

The foreign players acted as if they were guests from Arabia, Spain, Portugal, France. The other two girls wore national Azerbaijani clothes and played to be Azerbaijanis celebrating their Novruz holiday with special sweets, eggs on the tray. Suddenly, the foreign guests entered the room and asked questions about sweets, xoncha and different tradition of the Azerbaijan nation. What I liked most was the explanation of my group mate to the guest from Portugal.

The foreign guest asked. "You've candle as well. Are you celebrating your holidays with candles like we?"

The Azerbaijani girl answered: "Yes, Sure. You know, it has its deep roots connected to the history and the name of this land. Azerbaijan –means the Land of Fire."

The foreign guest replied: "Really? That's interesting. I didn't know that."

The second group presented how an Azerbaijani family celebrates the Novruz holiday. All the family members gathered around the table. Father – head of the family was at the head of the table. Mother was wearing a traditional Azerbaijani costume. They also had guests, but the guests were from the TV channel called *Ictimai TV*, from Azerbaijan. They offered some traditional meals to the journalist guests. Suddenly, someone left a hat in front of their door. The mother of the family took the hat, filled it with sweets and nuts putting it back in front of the door. The people celebrated the holiday together. People

talked about Azerbaijani national traditions. In this play, the students demonstrated the hospitality of Azerbaijani families and the unity of the nation.

The third group's presentation was linked to the ancient history of Azerbaijan. The student told about the history of the Novruz holiday. Each member presented interesting and strong historical facts about the history of the Novruz holiday. Most of the facts were challenging to hear, and some of them were the facts that we didn't know.

The stages were colored, projects were different. All students wanted to show the audience their national Novruz holiday with its specific characteristics and ancient tradition in the history of the Republic of Azerbaijan. All the stages were played in English.

By **Aygul ALIYEVA**,
School of Humanities and Social Sciences



Students and their teacher are celebrating Novruz Bayrami



MY EXPERIENCE in ISFIT

My name is Davud Huseynzada. I am a first year student at Khazar University. I am studying petroleum engineering. I want to talk about my recent trip to Norway.

To begin with, I was chosen to participate in ISFIT-it is a student festival. Students all around the world gather in one city, communicate, share their ideas related to different topics. It was 10 days of festival in Trondheim. To tell the truth, it was quite cold there around -20 Celsius degree. I knew it beforehand and so, took very warm clothes with me. The festival's main theme was "Global Trade". Every day we had plenary sessions and workshops. Despite the fact that I am a person with a technical background, I learned a lot of things connected with trade and economics.

My topic was "Branding and Marketing". All participants were staying

with hosts, but I was staying in a student dormitory. It was really fun and enjoyable. We were seven persons staying in one room.

I chatted with people from different countries, cultures, and exchanged my ideas with other participants. We had a lot of games and quizzes. I made lots of new friends from all over the world, and I keep in touch with them. I cannot express my emotions on just this sheet of paper. To cut a long story short, it was an unbelievable and amazing experience for me.

It was the best 10 days in my life, I hope I will participate in ISFIT 2015 and meet my friends there again.



By **Davud Huseynzada**,
School of Engineering and Applied Science

I was thinking long before I started to write. I've made up my mind to write about Azerbaijani tradition associated with the creation of the family. Today, our young people watch

we make mistakes, we understand that only the wisdom of our parents can put us on the right way.

It is a good fact that in comparative terms with the past nowadays, girls graduate from university almost with

BOUND TO OUR CULTURE

many European films, learn foreign languages, and listen to foreign music. The Young Generation tries to follow the example of and to resemble movie characters, pop stars, heroes, etc.

Moreover, we must not forget that our mentality is totally different from Europeans.

When I listen to my grandmother, I admire morality of the past.

When she told me how she was married to my grandfather, I understood that our customs have lost their value. In ancient times people consulted with their parents in their every step. Today, young people mostly try to solve their problems without consulting with their parents. The long-lasting life experience of our parents, grandparents shows the opposite. Therefore, when

equal number to boys and seek to achieve success in life. They postpone their family life just for their future career. I think the most important thing in the life of every girl is a family. I propose following the old ways or traditions of our nation. Maybe it might not sound fashionable, but it is the correct way for me to follow.

We must appreciate our ancient traditions and culture bound to our history.



By **Nurana Balayeva**,
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

BILINGUALISM: IS IT ADVANTAGOUS or..?

Khazar's professor Richard Rousseau was interviewed on Canada's language policy and bilingualism.



–Please, introduce yourself to our readers...

–My name is Richard Rousseau. I'm Associate Professor and Director of the Department of Political Science and International Department at Khazar University. I'm Canadian citizen, born and raised in the French part of Canada. My native language is French, but I also speak English, Russian and Spanish. I am one of the few truly bilingual Canadian.

–Which languages are officially recognized in Canada?

–First of all, I want to say that I have been living abroad since 2001. French was recognized as an official language with the Canada's Official Languages Act, first adopted in 1969 and updated in 1988. French has been recognized as an official language quite recently in the history of Canada. It was recognized after many battles, debates and pressures. The language policy changed through a very slow revolution which took place over a period of 20-30 years. The francophone elite call it the "quite revolution" which started in the 1960s.

–Is it an advantage to be bilingual? What positive and negative benefits it?

–It is certainly an advantage in Canadian context, but particularly for professional reasons. With this new policy, to work for the federal state you have to be bilingual. If you go back 40-50 years ago, it was not a criterion to work in federal institutions. Now it is an obligation by law. However, the reality is quite different. The majority of Canadian population is Anglophone. So, most state employees at the federal level are Anglophones, because they constitute about 75% of total population. The problem is that you have a lot of people born in English Canada who do not know French at all. French is not predominant outside the Quebec province. You can be a successful; you can find jobs without knowing French. A unilingual Anglophone hired by the federal government has to make a pledge that within 2-3 years he/she will learn French. The government provides language courses for those in that situation. Of course, to learn a language like French in 2 years with one class a week is difficult. So, many people in Ottawa say I'm bilingual but in reality, they are not very good at French. Another problem is that even if you study French and acquire a working knowledge, state employees don't use French in their daily professional activities. So they tend to forget it quickly.

–What is the main reason for Canada's multicultural policy?

–I'm not a specialist on multiculturalism, but Canada is a North American country which was populated by Europeans like in the United States. English, French, German and Spanish crossed the Atlantic Ocean to settle in the "new World." Later, people from all parts of the world emigrated to the North American continent. The U.S. does not have a cultural policy based on multiculturalism because the American culture is so strong that even if they accept immigrants they quickly become Americans. They use English on all the territory. We call it the American melting pot. Canada is different because of the presence of Francophones and Anglophones. The U.S. did not have this problem. Canada had a small population and a huge territory so we needed people to develop the Western provinces. Because of this situation the Canadian government, especially in the 1970s, opted for multiculturalism in its immigration

and cultural policies. In the U.S. social and cultural integration is achieved quickly. It takes only one or two generations.

–Why so many people in the world choose to immigrate to Canada?

–The two or three best passports in the world are Canadian, Australian and Swedish! A lot of people want to go to these countries if they can choose. Canada has the highest immigration rate in the world. Image plays a big role here. Canada is always presented and perceived as a peaceful country; Canadians are perceived as disciplined and respectful people. If there is a conflict somewhere in the world, the Canadian government always prefers to use diplomatic means to solve the problem. Also many potential emigrants think that everybody has a job in Canada; there is no unemployment, everybody has a nice car, nice house. They say to themselves: my children will be able to live better than me. They also think that we have a good education system, good universities, and, in comparative terms, they are right to think so.

–In the mass media (TV, newspapers, Internet), which language is used?

–There are two Canadas, one is the Anglophone (English Canada), the other is Francophone (French Canada). English Canada has its own TV channels and programs, newspapers and social institutions. French Canada has its own mass media, newspapers, schools, popular artists. But the two Canada do not know each other well. That is why I say that there are two Canadas, which is one the major problems of the country. The language barrier is the main problem, not culture, because the two groups are North Americans culturally. In the last 50 years or so the federal government has been trying to develop more ties between French Canada and English Canada. It is as if Francophones and Anglophones live in the same apartment but in the separate rooms; we don't talk much to one another. That is why that many people in Quebec want to separate from the rest of Canada and have their own sovereign state.

–What is the language policy of the Canadian government?

–The Federal government has an Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages and a Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages. The task of this commission is to make sure that language rights are respected on the whole Canadian territory and that Canadians are not victim of discrimination on the basis of the native language. This is a difficult mission and the Office is the object of constant criticism but at least the federal government makes an effort to keep a balance.

–What about the history of Quebec Nationalism? What does it mean? What's the role of the government in this movement?

–It would take two days to only sum up the history of Quebec nationalism. Nationalist movements existed even in the 19th century in Lower Canada, the British colony that was later renamed as the Province of Quebec. But it became more powerful in the 1960s. Personally, I identify two main factors. One is the emergence of a local elite, a group of people who were better educated, travelled abroad, who studied in Paris, New York, California, UK, etc. When these young people came back, they had a better idea of the political situation in Quebec, and its relations with the rest of Canada. Quebec, some in the new elite would say, was a colonized province; it acted like a colony. In my opinion, it is an exaggeration. Many in the new elite will become ministers, university professors and they started to debate the "Quebec issue" in the conferences and the mass media. The second cause is that in 1960s in Africa and other parts of the world a decolonization movement took root. After a decade of rebellions and revolutions,

most African colonies obtained their independence. Many Quebec intellectuals witnessed this process and they thought, if an African nation can liberate itself from European great powers, then Quebecers can certainly do the same. Also, they thought that the "Quebec nation" has all the features of a nation: a different language, a religion, a distinct culture and political institutions. But English Canada did not really understand Quebec, or did not want to understand Quebec. We have a very famous expression in Canada to express the misunderstanding between the two linguistic groups: the "two solitudes." Again, this is an exaggeration, because we do have contacts, but probably not enough.

–What about universities in Canada? Are they expensive? What's the teaching language in Canadian universities?

–I don't have statistics on the number of students in Canada. I know, for example, that the University of Montreal has around 60 thousand students. The University of Toronto, which is one of the top universities in the world, has even more full-time students. Quebec has 15 universities, among which three are Anglophone. McGill University, for example, is the considered the number one university in Canada. Recently, we have seen a growing number of Francophone students enrolling at McGill University. Canadian universities are less expensive than American's, while Quebec's universities are cheaper than universities in other Canadian provinces. However, because of state budget crises in many Canadian provinces – and in many Western countries – provincial governments are constantly increasing tuitions.

–Can Canadians French or English in the sector business and in education? Is it an obligation to speak English and French in your chosen career?

–I would say it's like in all other countries. If you get into business in Quebec and you produce something for the local or regional market, you don't have to know English because 95% of your customers will be Francophones. However, if you export it to the U.S. or to English Canada, of course you will have to know English. Everywhere in the world in business language is English, everywhere you go. One thing for sure though, English is the business language. For example, the great majority of business people in Montreal have a working knowledge of English. Overall, I would say that not more than 20% of the Quebec population has a good grasp of English. I would say that around 4-5 % of Quebecers have superior English skills. However, in a globalizing world, new generations know English better than their parents.

–In Music, literature, the arts, which language is more predominant?

–Quebec has its own literature, its own writers, some even well known in France who could become known in France. I write articles in French and some of them have been published in France. However, Quebec writers or university professor's books will not be published in English Canada, unless they are exceptionally good. Book published in English Canada, could be translated in French. Quebec's culture is quite strong within its borders. Quebecers have their own pop artists, painters, movies, singers, whom they love and revere. They have also many sports heroes, especially in Hockey. It is much like the Azerbaijani nation and culture.

* * *

Interviewed by
Nigar MOVSUMOVA,
MA student of School of Humanities and Social Sciences



MY NATIVE LAND AGDAM

I know about Agdam a lot because I was born in Agdam. Therefore, I can tell about my native land a lot. When our native land was occupied by Armenians, I was a baby of 3 months. My parents left Agdam together with me and my brother. I was too small then. I can't describe Agdam with my own words. Nevertheless, my parents told me about my native land during all my childhood.

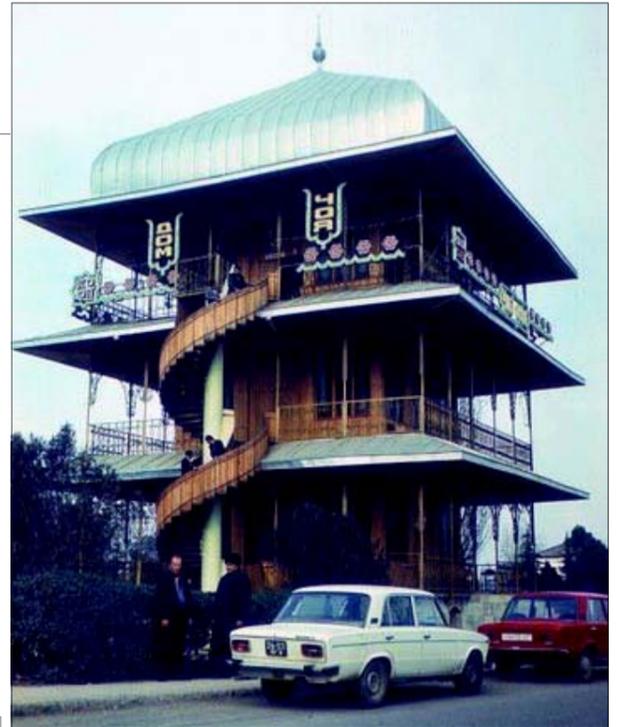
Due to my parents' stories, I feel as if I've been living in Agdam for a very long time. What did they tell me about Agdam? My parents told me that the years that they spent in Agdam were the happiest days of their youth. People who lived in this prosperous land didn't need anything because our land was very rich in vegetation. People could cultivate all sorts of trees and greens. Then every family had a house and one hectare of land, in which they cultivated what they wanted. Due to this land, they earned money in order to take care of their family. The productive land helped people to live in peace

and comfort. How did they earn money? They gathered vegetables and fruits and export them to the city, mainly to Baku. Together with that the people were busy with cattle and prepared dairy products both for their family and for sale.

Concerning nature, the air in my land was very fresh. Summer was not too hot, the mountains wore green cloth, the smell of flowers, singing birds and rich soil due to ozone and useful products fascinated everyone. People were very healthy and lived longer.

At the end, I want to say that I believe in the future. I believe that in the future Agdam, the historical land of Azerbaijan, will be released from occupation. Then, I would go back with my family to my native land where I was born. May be, I will raise my children in Agdam without depriving them of the beauty of Agdam in the future.

By **Fakhriyya BAGHIROVA**,
School of Humanities and Social Sciences



'The Tea House' ("Chay Evi") in Agdam, 1980's.

MY TRIP AROUND EUROPE

My name is Huseyn. I want to tell you about my trip to Europe.

The trip was interesting and long. So, I was in two big countries, in Italy and France.

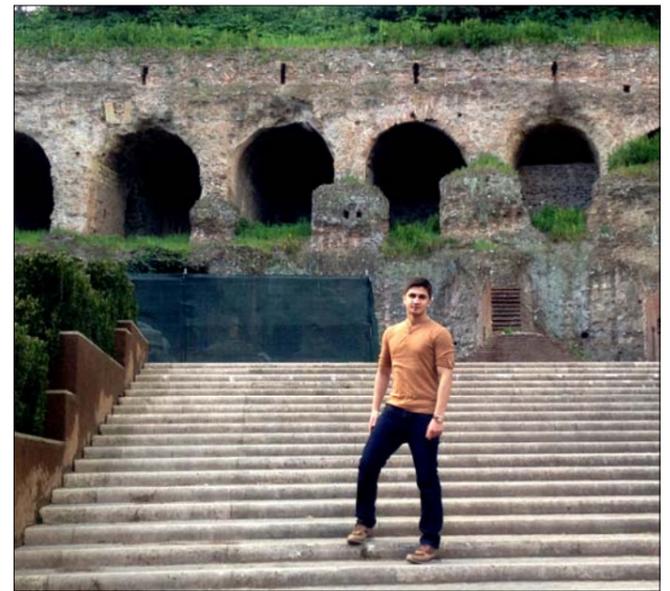
In Italy, I was in Rome, Florence, Pisa, Genoa, and Milan cities.

In France, I visited Nice. Thanks to my knowledge of English words and grammar, which I learnt in Khazar, I could talk with everyone, buy what I needed. I am very grateful to Khazar for the good English education. I have many impressions. I liked many things, warmth of the people, their hospitality, culture, historical monuments, Italian Fashion. I liked sunny beaches of Cote D'Azur. The best impression was that everyone

knew my homeland. Everyone who heard about the name of Azerbaijan started to talk about Euro-vision Song Contest in Azerbaijan, about our natural resources. The one of the impressions was that I saw few number of modern style buildings there. I saw old towers, monuments, and apartments everywhere. When I talked with my cousin in Azerbaijani, the people asked us questions about our nationality: Are you Turks?

Most of all these mentioned beauties, I liked sunny and beautiful sides of Cote D'Azur.

By **Huseyn HUSEYNZADE**,



EARTH DAY

Earth Day is an annual event, celebrated on April 22. This very day, earth celebrations are being held worldwide for the support of environment. Earth Day was celebrated for the first time in 1970. Nowadays, Earth Day is being celebrated in more than 192 countries for each year; in Canada, New York, Philadelphia, and etc.

On this day, I and my group mates celebrated the Earth Day at Khazar University. We have a colorful poster together dedicated to the Earth Day. We took photos, cut some pictures from related books, read

some articles in order to prepare our class poster. Afterwards, we discussed the Earth Day with our group mates in our English class. We talked a lot about the earth, different countries and languages at the same time. All my friends stressed the importance of the environment in our life, and went through environmental protection.

For our poster, we cut pictures and wrote articles. We decorated our poster with love to the Earth. To my mind, the Earth Day should be celebrated each year at all schools and universities with the aim

of strengthening students' love towards environmental protection.

By **Nurana QULUZADE**,
School of Humanities and Social Sciences



Handicraft of the students for Earth Day

**Please,
Keep Baku Beautiful**

We don't throw cigarette and candy papers on the floors of our homes, so please don't throw paper, plastics, cigarettes and trash onto the streets and side walks of Baku, the home of all of us.



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