Local media covered ADB funded project in Goychay

On October 16, ADB office in Azerbaijan organized a one day media tour for local journalists to Goychay visiting an ADB funded water and sanitation project. Nail Veliyev of AZRM led the media tour.

Thirteen media agencies, 5 TV channels, 1 online TV, 7 new agencies and online newspapers participated in the tour. The media representatives were taken to the water reservoir and water pipeline construction sites.

The project was covered in TVs as part of the main news program. The format was informative, up to 4 minutes. Online newspapers and agencies covered the project mostly as informative with some analysis.

Vijay Padmanabhan, CWUW's Senior Urban Development Specialist answered media's questions on the project.

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ADB contributes to knowledge sharing and capacity building

ADB’s overall active portfolio in Azerbaijan accounts for almost $1 billion. In addition, ADB has been providing technical assistances to the country in various fields. ADB’s main focus is not only to help the developing member countries through investment in infrastructure, health care services, or financial and public administration systems, but also to encourage them in sharing knowledge and to strengthen government officials’ capacity in managing development.

Knowledge sharing programs are usually conducted through various workshops and trainings aiming to promote better understanding of important development issues, learn appropriate policies or measures to address them, and exchange ideas in implementing best practices in development effectively.
Local media covered ADB funded project in Goychay
(continued from page 1)

The aim of the tour was to give the media an opportunity to observe ADB’s work in the field and have a chance to have in depth reporting.

The coverage included the cost of the project, work progress, other regions included to the project and the interview with Vijay Padmanabhan.

ADB is mostly covered by print and online media in Azerbaijan. Most of the information is getting to media through AZRM, ADB website, and initiative of individual journalists. As most projects are implemented in regions, media does not have a chance to have a field observation. It is especially challenging to broadcast media to cover ADB projects, as they need detailed visuals for it.

Yurd TV journalists report on the project

ADB contributes to knowledge sharing and capacity building
(continued from page 1)

In 2012, ADB provided financial assistance to 64 professionals from 23 state organizations to attend various trainings and workshops. They participated in 29 different capacity building events organized in 14 cities around the world (Delft, Singapore, Manila, Chengdu, Urumchi, Beijing, Wuhan, Chongqing, Shangai, Hohhot, Bangkok, Mukdahan, Almaty, and Astana)

The participants included staff from Ministry of Economic Development; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Transport; Ministry of Industry and Energy; Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population; Ministry of Agriculture; Azeryolservice; Azersu; Azerenerji; State Agency on Alternative and Renewable Energy Sources; State Maritime Administration; State Customs Committee; State Statistical Committee; State Committee for Amelioration and Water Management of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic; State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs; and State Committee for Standardization, Metrology and Patents.

The workshops and trainings were conducted on various topics such as energy policy; trade and transport facilitation; regional cooperation; environment and climate change; water security; sustainable inland waterway transport; and public investment planning, budgeting, and evaluation.
Article competition on “Increasing water security”

On December 13, ADB office in Azerbaijan awarded the winning price of the article writing contest on water security to Azerbaijan Press Agency, Khalg newspaper, and Mediaforum news agency.

The competition was announced on August 16 and journalists had a freedom in choosing the writing subject within the water security theme.

The stories show the overall water security in Azerbaijan, improvement in water supply and sanitation sector, why securing water is important for Azerbaijan, how the situation changed over years, the government policy in the field, works done in recent years, and water and sanitation work gaps left.

Three best stories were selected among the submitted and published articles taking into consideration the writing style, use of statistics, analytical approach, reference to expert opinions, and impact story on people’s lives.

ADB is to allocate about $578 million for 2012-2014 for Azerbaijan

On October 1, Asian Development Bank (ADB) management circulated the 2012-2014 country operations business plan (COBP) for Azerbaijan, worth of $578 million, to the Board of Directors for information.

The COBP for 2012–2014 will prioritize transport, urban services, and private sector development, consistent with the government’s development objectives. ADB continues a dialogue with the government on possible further assistance in the energy sector. Improved transport infrastructure will increase efficiency and competitiveness and boost connectivity within the country and beyond. Improving energy and urban services efficiency will strengthen the country’s economy and improve people’s living conditions. The new COBP will address inclusive growth. ADB’s intervention in the transport sector will have substantial indirect benefits to the poor and women.

ADB assistance in the water supply and sanitation sector will improve living conditions and the economic and urban environment and directly benefit the country’s population, including the poor, the internally displaced, and households headed by women. The improvements will include reducing the incidence of waterborne diseases. A proposed intervention in the urban transport sector is expected to create effective, efficient, and inclusive transport solutions for all, including the poor, and to mitigate climate change effects.

ADB operations in Azerbaijan have been guided by an interim operational strategy and country strategy and program updates. The latest update was approved in 2006. The COBP for 2011–2013, the first for Azerbaijan, was approved in 2011.
AZRM News Brief

Director General of ADB’s Central and West Asia Department visited Azerbaijan

On December 10, Mr. Klaus Gerhaeusser, Director General of ADB’s Central and West Asia Department, on his one day mission in Azerbaijan met with President Azerbaijan Republic, Minister of Finance, Deputy Minister of Transport, and Chairman of Azersu (Water Utility Company). The President appreciated the successful cooperation between Azerbaijan and ADB, and highlighted the importance of ADB-funded projects on water, transport, and other infrastructure. They also expressed their confidence in the expansion of this cooperation in other areas.

AZRM Resident Representative shared his views on Draft Azerbaijan 2020

On December 3, Olly Norojono, Azerbaijan Resident Representative gave a public speech on the development in Azerbaijan.

In his speech on December 3 discussing “Azerbaijan 2020: The vision for the future”, he talked about infrastructure development and the need to searching for innovative ways of meeting the gap in infrastructure financing. He highlighted the importance of bringing private sector in financing public utilities.

The event was organized by the Strategic Studies Center under the Azerbaijani President, the United Nations Development Programme, "PriceWaterHouse Coopers (PWC) Azerbaijan", and the Azerbaijani Youth Fund. The event was attended by more than 200 participants.

AZRM chaired a development partners meeting on water supply and sanitation

On November 8, Olly Norojono chaired a development partners meeting to discuss the water supply and sanitation projects in Azerbaijan. The meeting was attended by ADB, JICA, KfW, SECO, and the World Bank. Azersu, the Azerbaijan water utility company and the project executing agency, was represented by Ilgar Tagiyev, the company's Vice Chairman.

Azerbaijan President at the Beylagan water supply and sanitation project groundbreaking

On October 28, President Ilham Aliyev officially announced the start of the ADB-funded water supply and sanitation project in Beylagan. President laid the foundation of the sewerage system constructed under a $300 million tranche 2 loan of the Multitranche Financing Facility for the Water Supply and Sanitation Investment Program approved in December 2011.

NEWS FROM

Azerbaijan

The quarterly newsletter of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Azerbaijan Resident Mission (AZRM) aims to enhance communications between ADB and its client. News from Azerbaijan disseminates information on ADB activities and provides a forum on development issues in Azerbaijan. Articles in the newsletter, however, do not necessarily reflect the official ADB view. We welcome readers’ comments and suggestions.

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Spotlight

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Prior to joining ADB, Mr. Luo was a Project Manager in the State Power Grid Company of People’s Republic of China, where he was responsible for planning, developing, and managing power generations and transmissions.

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