

April 2008

CSI Program activities

Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF), in collaboration with Azerbaijan Export & Investment Promotion Foundation (AZPROMO), is organizing events within EPF's Corporate Social Investment Program, featuring renowned expert in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Mr. Wayne Visser. Mr. Visser is an expert on CSR, applying his expertise throughout different parts of the world (South Africa, UK, etc). In addition, Mr. Visser is the author/editor of five books, including four on the role of business in society, the most recent of which is entitled, "*The A to Z of Corporate Social Responsibility: A Complete Reference Guide to Concepts, Codes and Organizations*". Currently he is working at the University of Cambridge Program for Industry.

EPF and AZPROMO will hold an evening reception on April 29, 2008 with the attendance of CEO's from leading national and international business companies, governmental officials, representatives of various business associations, and nonprofit organizations. At the reception, Mr. Visser will make a presentation entitled, "*Corporate Social Responsibility - Strategic Benefits for Business*". EPF believes that this type of awareness raising activity gives an invaluable profile to the Azerbaijani CSI Network, and will strengthen ties among important stakeholders.

On April 30, 2008, Mr. Visser will lead two sessions at a workshop that will be address Corporate Social Responsibility, Human Resources and Public Relations managers and specialists responsible for implementing strategic corporate philanthropy programs within their companies.

The reception and workshop were made possible with the financial support from Garadagh Cement OJSC, StatoilHydro, Azerfon LLC (Nar Mobile TM) and USAID.

Corporate Philanthropy News

McDermott Supports Educational Programs for Children



In its numerous social investments throughout Azerbaijan, McDermott Caspian Contractors, Inc. (McDermott) pays special attention to the social and economic needs of the Garadagh district where the company operates.

One of the major projects held by company in the Garadagh district are the monthly food parcels distributed to the elderly living alone in the Lokbatan and Sahil settlements. The project is fully sponsored by McDermott and has been implemented by the Garadagh district Committee of the Red Crescent Society since April 2005, for a third year in a row.

McDermott's community projects are primarily focused on educational and development programs, especially for the institutionalized and poor children. Recently, the company took part in a charity initiative, *The Children's Book Project*, led by the Center for Innovations in Education, a local NGO. The NGO has published three books in Azerbaijani and English for children aged 3-10. The goal of this project is to provide a wonderful book to as many children in Azerbaijan as possible, to stimulate their interest in reading and to help them strengthen their language skills. The company has bought 638 books and intends to distribute them to schools in the Garadagh district and to the orphanages to which McDermott provides charitable sponsorship.

Most recently, McDermott provided co-sponsorship of a national children's chess tournament held April 13 to April 18 in Baku (on the photo).

The role of employers in the elimination of child labour in commercial agriculture

Since July 2004 the National Confederation of Entrepreneurs' (Employers') Organizations of Azerbaijan Republic (ASK) is successfully implementing the project, "*The role of employers in the elimination of child labour in commercial agriculture*", under the ILO ACT/EMP's Programme on combating child labour.



To study the use of child labour in agricultural sector and thus, to strengthen the capacity of employers in combating child labour, ASK carried out important project activities in three sectors, cotton, tea and tobacco, and focused on hazardous child labour.

Within the project implementation, ASK, carried out a wide range of activities, including a Rapid Assessment Survey in eight cotton regions of Azerbaijan, round table meetings, training modules, training of trainers, awareness raising workshops, Employers' Handbook, tripartite Conference on Child Labour, and fact-finding mission to four tea and four tobacco growing regions in Azerbaijan.

All awareness-raising and advisory measures implemented by ASK aimed to involve employers in more active work on the elimination of child labour, to increase their legal and ethical responsibility concerning child labour. Fortunately, those activities implemented within the project yielded positive results. The majority of employers re-evaluated the child labour occurring within their enterprise, and both eliminated this practice and supported the children returning to school.

Currently, ASK is preparing the third stage of the project and preparing for publication the Guide on Eliminating Child Labour. At the same time, the Child Labour Desk is being equipped within ASK (on the photo). To learn more about Child Labour project, please click (http://www.ask.org.az/ch_labour.shtml).