Integrated Biodiversity Management, South Caucasus

Study tour for employees of Republican Center for Ecological Training and Experience to the Czech Republic

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Report

January 2017
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Introduction

During the last 1.5 years Integrated Biodiversity Management, South Caucasus (IBiS) programme of "Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH" (hereinafter "GIZ") was supporting Environmental Education Centres ("EEC"), under the Ministry of Education. This cooperation has already been established during the predecessor programme of GIZ – Sustainable Management of Biodiversity in South Caucasus.

In August 2015 "Roedl & Partner" LLC (hereinafter "Roedl & Partner") participated and won a tender on the "Legal assessment of Environmental Education Centres in the Republic of Azerbaijan" which is the part of the "Sustainable Management of Biodiversity Project in South Caucasus" announced by the Representative Office of "Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH" in the Republic of Azerbaijan. Later they developed new model charter for EECs and adapted it for the newly established Development Center of Child and Youth.

Starting from May 2016 GIZ hired German expert Ahmed Al Samarrei for preparation of the usage concept for the new building of RCETE. The concept was prepared and presented in August 2016.

IBiS programme held a capacity building training for staff of RCETE and Republican Young Tourists and Ethnography Centre (RYTEC) in Shamakhi on 2-4 of December.

IBiS together with Czech Embassy, RCETE and RYTEC organized a study tour to Czech Republic for experience exchange on environmental education on 14-20th of December 2016.
1. Agenda

14th of December

7:50 Departure from Baku
14:20 Arrival to Prague
16:00 Arrival to the EXE City Park Hotel [www.execitypark.com](http://www.execitypark.com)
18:00 Booking of train tickets

15th of December

6:30 Arrival to the Central Train Station
7:19 Departure from Prague to Brno. Train number RJ1035. Tickets from REGIOJET
9:51 Arrival to Brno (group will be greeted by the representative of “Partnerství” foundation and translator.
Translator - Serhei Smartichenka
Representative of “Partnerství” foundation - Roman Truksa
10:00-11:00 meeting at Ecological Institute “Veronica” with Yvonna Gaillyová
11:00 Lunch
12:00-16:00 Meeting at “Partnerství” OpenGardens [http://www.otevrenazahrada.cz/Home.aspx](http://www.otevrenazahrada.cz/Home.aspx)
17:09 Departure from Brno to Prague. Train Number RJ1038
19:42 Arrival to Prague

16th of December

9:00 Meeting with translator in the lobby of the Hotel.
Translator Veranika Bialkovich
10:00-13:30 meeting and tour in Toulcuv Dvur Environmental Education center, agricultural and cultural heritage site
13:30 Lunch
15:00-17:30 visit to TEREZA - a nongovernmental non-profit organization fostering environmental education in the Czech Republic
18:00 Arrival to the Hotel

17th of December

8:30 Meeting with translator in the lobby of the Hotel

09:12 Departure by train EC354 from the Central Train Station from Prague to Plzen

10:49 Arrival to Plzen, take trolleybus 16 to Techmania

11:30-16:30 (Lunch at 13:00) Tour to Techmania (Techmania Science Center is based on explanations of particular physical or mathematical principles by means of game-like activities. The interactivity involves visitors making the exhibits move, so the natural principle will be demonstrated by the particular process. In these cases, learning is based on personal experience.) Meeting with marketing department representative Jan Stepan

18:06 Departure from Plzen to Prague Train Rx765

19:41 Arrival to Prague

18th of December

10:00 Meeting in the lobby of the Hotel

10:30 Departure for Zoological Center

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Visit to the Zoological Center continued

16:30 Departure for Hotel

17:00 Reflection and wrap up of the Study tour

19th of December

12:00 Check out and departure from hotel to the airport
## 2. List of Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name &amp; Surname</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Firuza Sultan-zada</td>
<td>Republican Center for Ecological Training and Experience/ Republican Young Tourists and Ethnography Centre</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Partner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salima Allahverdiyeva</td>
<td>Republican Young Tourists and Ethnography Centre</td>
<td>Deputy Director</td>
<td>Partner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ulviyya Abbasova</td>
<td>Republican Young Tourists and Ethnography Centre</td>
<td>Methodist/teacher</td>
<td>Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilaha Mammadova</td>
<td>Republican Young Tourists and Ethnography Centre</td>
<td>Methodist/teacher</td>
<td>Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agshin Lazimov</td>
<td>Republican Center for Ecological Training and Experience</td>
<td>Eco club leader</td>
<td>Partner</td>
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<td>Javidan Jafarov</td>
<td>Republican Center for Ecological Training and Experience</td>
<td>Eco club leader</td>
<td>Partner</td>
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<td>Tabriz Suleymanli</td>
<td>Republican Center for Ecological Training and Experience</td>
<td>Eco club leader</td>
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<tr>
<td>Narmin Hajiyeva</td>
<td>Republican Center for Ecological Training and Experience</td>
<td>Methodist/teacher</td>
<td>Partner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elnur Mukhtatarov</td>
<td>Republican Center for Ecological Training and Experience</td>
<td>Eco club leader</td>
<td>Partner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bahar Samadzade</td>
<td>Republican Center for Ecological Training and Experience</td>
<td>Eco club leader</td>
<td>Partner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nigar Mustafayeva</td>
<td>Republican Center for Ecological Training and Experience</td>
<td>Eco club leader</td>
<td>Partner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fidan Mikayilzade</td>
<td>Republican Center for Ecological Training and Experience</td>
<td>Eco club leader</td>
<td>Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jale Ismayilova</td>
<td>Republican Center for Ecological Training and Experience</td>
<td>Eco club leader</td>
<td>Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomris Bayramova</td>
<td>GIZ</td>
<td>Environmental Education Advisor</td>
<td>NP</td>
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3. Study tour

3.1 1st day

Guests visited the “Veronika” Environmental NGO in Brno city where they have been exposed to educational programs and activities of that institution. Ms. Maria Krivakova, the Director of the Center, has provided detailed information about the expansion of environmental education, green tourism, agrarian industry and agriculture. Guests have been informed about the certification of traditional and natural gardens where they also discussed the procedures of providing certificates. Moreover, guests were familiarized with environment-oriented development programs for local municipalities, communities and farmer families.

Then, the guests visited Environmental Cooperation Fund, called “Nadace Partnerstvi”. The main objective of that fund is to promote the green tourism and increase the interest of schoolchildren and youth to the environmental issues.

They have also provided the information about the European Union projects in the field of environment and tourism. During the meeting, they also discussed the mutual cooperation issues between Azerbaijan and Czech Republic. As part of the familiarization process, guests have also visited open air garden of the “Open Gardens” program supported by the Fund.
3.2 Study tour 2nd day

During the second day of the tour, a meeting was held at the “Toulcuv-Dvur” Environmental Center that operates in historical and ethnographic territory of the Prague city. Ms. Lenka Skoupa provided a broad information about the activities of the center. The primary goal of the center is to preserve natural habitats in urban environments and enrich the agro-biodiversity. A kindergarten, hostel and “Green” restaurant is operating within the territory of the Center. While visiting the Environmental Center, guests have been informed about the organization of tours and short programs for children and youth. After the meeting, they also discussed issues of cooperation and business.

At the second half of the day, a meeting was organized with Mr. Petr Danis, a coordinator from the “Tereza” Environmental Center. During this meeting, the visitors were exposed to different programs aimed at schoolchildren developed by the “Tereza” Environmental Center, like “Eco-schools”, International “GLOBE” monitoring program and “LEAF” program on International Forests. Mr. Petr Danis provided broad information about new educational programs designed for teachers and trainers. During this meeting, they also demonstrated their programs and teaching manuals and held discussions about the application of these programs in the extracurricular education centers of Azerbaijan.
During the third day, a tour was organized to the technological center called "TECHMANÍA", which is located in Pilsen city of the Czech Republic. During this tour, Mr. Jan Stepan, the marketing specialist of the "TECHMANÍA provided an information about the technical facilities / installations of this center and spoke about scientific expositions that are in compliance with modern standards. Then, guests were toured to Planetarium, which is located within this Center. Interactive exhibits on physics, chemistry, astronomy, biology and other fields of science were demonstrated in the Center. Programs that are conducted in this technological center are designed to raise the level of intellectual and logical thinking of pre-school, school children and youth.
References

http://az.trend.az/azerbaijan/society/2694070.html
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