

AZERBAIJAN

Cooperative Activities under the SPS Programme

Azerbaijan has been involved in NATO science activities since 1995. In total, scientists and experts from Azerbaijan have had leading roles in 87 activities, and more joined various cooperative activities as participants and key speakers.

Today, NATO science activities enable close collaboration on the two key priorities of **defence against terrorism** and **countering other threats to security** and are managed under the Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme. SPS activities contribute to NATO's strategic objective of partnership, helping to connect scientists and experts from NATO countries with their counterparts from Partner and Mediterranean Dialogue countries through workshops, training courses, team collaborations and multi-year projects.



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All activities supported by the SPS Programme are approved by NATO nations on the basis of consensus.

Examples of Activities

An SPS training course entitled **“Crisis Management National Capacity Building: an Essential Element in the Fight against Terrorism”** took place on 22 – 26 June 2009 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Azeri and international experts studied the experiences of NATO member countries and sought ways to apply best practices at the national level. They also strategised on how to increase public understanding of crisis management and develop a pool of experts including young researchers, NGO and media experts, and government representatives. The course was held in response to the priority of developing the crisis management and response system, as identified in Azerbaijan's Individual Partnership Action Plan with NATO. [ref 983666]

Researchers from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, the United States, Italy, Greece, Canada and Turkey are cooperating on a new project to gather comprehensive seismic observations, conduct hazard analyses and prepare for effective and prompt response to emergencies in the Southern Caucasus region. This project, entitled **“Caucasus Seismic Emergency Response (CauSER)”**, will update a regional seismic network by adding instrumentation and recording equipment. The experts intend to create a regional earthquake attenuation model and study the response of buildings and structures to strong earthquakes. A communication network will link Data Acquisition Centres in the Southern Caucasus countries and allow them to

acquire earthquake data. The end-users of the project include the Departments of Urbanization and Construction, Nature Protection and Emergency Structures in Azerbaijan. [ref 983284]

In the field of environmental security, researchers from Azerbaijan, Canada and the United States have been working to improve the **“Management and Sustainable Development of Urban Water Resources in Azerbaijan”**. Their aim is to measure the quantity and quality of ground and surface water, as well as catchment water supplies. An assessment will be made of the extent to which these water supplies have been altered though urbanization and pipe leakage. Particular attention will be on the development of a model of regional groundwater flow for the Absheron Peninsula,

Starting in April 2007, scientists from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia and the United States have cooperated in improving the **“Water Resources Management of Agro-Ecosystems in the South Caucasus”**. The project involves the demonstration of state-of-the-art irrigation techniques and the use of more accurate methods of estimating water use. To this end, a 6.5 ha demonstration plot with a 4.5 ha drip irrigation scheme was established in Georgia. The drip irrigation scheme has resulted in yields that are four to five times higher than those obtained with traditional irrigation systems, as well as water savings that are up to four to five times larger. There has been much interest shown by local producers in purchasing drip irrigation systems, and local farmers have begun to participate in the project. The experts also foresee the establishment of a

South Caucasus Scientific Research, Information and Extension Centre for end-users. [ref 982227]



Prof. Tamaz Odilavadze (right) introduces the main lines of the drip irrigation system to local female farmers and other stakeholders (photo courtesy of project co-directors).

SPS networking infrastructure grants provide Internet connectivity and information technology to academic institutions in NATO's Partner countries. Ongoing networking projects include the development and expansion of the **Azerbaijan Research and Educational Network Association (AzRENA)**. The projects have enabled academicians and young scientists to have easy access to the World Wide Web and the possibility to exchange large

which extends about 60 km eastward into the Caspian Sea and is the easternmost extension of the Caucasus Mountains. The project results are being shared with experts from “Azersu” and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan. [ref 981313]

documents and datasets with their local and foreign counterparts. In addition, researchers can sign up to distance learning programmes and set up video conference facilities. This helps promote collaboration and integrates local institutes in the international community.