



NISA
NATO INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF AZERBAIJAN

NISA newsletter

ACTIVITIES • AZERBAIJAN AND NATO • NATO NEWS • PUBLICATIONS

NATO International School of Azerbaijan

June – July 2010

NISA Activities

NISA Alumni Conference

June 27, 2010

On June 27 over 60 NISA Alumni and members met to hold discussions regarding the organizational development and the future of the alumni network of NISA and ways to improve it. The aim of the conference was informing past and present NISA alumni on the current institutional development plans and that involving them to open discussions to get their input. The conference also aimed at identifying how far the expectations of the NISA Alumni have been covered and that discuss the ways to use and capitalize on the experience of older alumni to benefit of the alumni network of NISA. The new Acting Director of NISA opened the conference and informed the participants on the aims of the event. NISA Board Member Yalchin Rafiyev reported the participants on the previous activities and future plans. After reporting on previous activities he presented a new institutional development plan of NISA to the Alumni. He presented the three strategic directions that NISA prioritized:



Research: NISA becomes a research centre for its alumni and members, both foreign and local and those who wish to study NATO, other security policy-related issues, as well as Azerbaijan and NATO relations. NISA also grows to be a good source for publishing those researches conducted by above groups.

Education: Apart from its established activities such as winter and summer sessions, simulation games, weekend lectures, NISA develops into playing a key educational institute on NATO and security studies for the Azerbaijani civil servants.

Public diplomacy: As part of the important element of public diplomacy wink of Azerbaijani NATO relations NISA will make more contribution to raising awareness of public on NATO. This activity will not be limited to Baku but get extended to regions as well.

Wrap up of the conference

The following conclusions were made after the open discussions:

- Restructuring in management and involving the members to relevant organizational/managerial responsibilities;
- Apart from involving volunteers and interns, NISA should seek the opportunities to take paid employees on board;
- Giving more space to academic events in the Action Plan;
- Members should be provided with IDs;
- Extending activities to the regions

NISA Summer Session 2010

NATO International School of Azerbaijan organized a Summer Session on Financial Security in Baku on July 4-11, 2010. The Event brought together young researchers, academics, as well as NGO, government and media representatives to discuss the problems of current international financial security.

The Summer Session was a unique opportunity for the participants to discuss and examine the financial security problems, the new economic world order, current financial crisis and its implication for security, international financial architecture and the role of financial institutions, money laundering and economics of terrorism, financial crimes investigations, etc.

13 foreign and 6 local experts joined NISA Summer Session 2010 as experts/lecturers. NISA Summer Session has hosted 40 young professionals coming from Azerbaijan and 15 other countries, as well as speakers (13 foreign and 6 local) representing 19 different institutions.

NISA Summer Session 2010 consisted of eight panel sessions. Each session had at least 2-3 lecturers and a moderator. Each session started with a brief introduction of the topic and speakers by the moderator and followed by presentations and Q&A sessions. After each session the moderators, lecturers and participants came together to wrap up. Depending on the number of the lecturers, the sessions lasted 1.5 and 2.5 hours. Each lecturer had 35-40 minutes for presentation and 15-20 minutes for Q&A at their disposal.



NISA Summer Session wasn't just about the classroom experience. It was also about meeting new people and having fun! NISA arranged a wide range of social events to help students get to know both each other and Azerbaijan. Below you can see some events organized by NISA to make the time of participants interesting.

Intercultural night - It is rare to find a mixture of cultures represented at one cultural night, but NISA has managed to do just that with Intercultural Night conducted within the NISA Summer Session 2010 on July 7. The event was started with country presentations conducted by the representatives of each country. 40 participants from 16 nations showcased the culture of their native lands, presenting traditional dancing and music, national food and drinks as well as various customs and traditions. The aim was to bring together international and local participants to provide cultural exchange among them. The night is not only about celebration, but also about awareness and integration. During the event it was offered free food from other cultures, more informal performances and a chance for people to engage in conversations about culture. Programme continued with traditional Azeri dance "Janji" performed by Azerbaijani participants.



Chess tournament - Chess tournament took place during the NISA Summer Session 2010. NISA invited Azerbaijani grandmaster Shahriyar Mammadyarov to share his experience, successful games against world's top grandmasters with the participants of NISA summer session. A chess séance of Mammadyarov where he played six games simultaneously with amateur chess players was remarkably interesting for the participants. After the game, the participants had a great opportunity to talk to Mammadyarov and take a picture with him.



Visit to Gobustan - On July 8, a visit of participants to Gobustan – ancient caves and rock inscriptions site was organized. During the visit the participants had opportunity to see ancient cave drawings on the limestone walls done during the Paleolithic period. The site has been designated as a national historical landmark so that the paintings would be preserved.

City tour: the Old City Visit in Baku - This guided walking tour was a great way to get to know Baku, its architecture and history. It covered the most important and interesting sights in Baku, including the Old City – "İçəri Şəhər", Fortress Walls, Shirvanshahlar Palace (the most striking example of the medieval palace structures in Azerbaijan, dating to the middle of 15th century), the Maiden Tower, Karvansarays (Inns), City Hall, etc. classified as World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The participants had also a walk along Baku Boulevard, the second largest one in the Europe.

Simulation Game

Moderator: Brian Sturgess, a managing editor of the UK-based World Economics Journal

On the last day of Summer Session, NISA organized a simulation game. The game was about financial security problems in "The Federated Republic of Dystopia".

The participants were divided in groups and given a task to elaborate a joint position on further steps of the organizations they represent. Eight groups were identified: IMF, Central Bank of Dystopia, Hedge Fund Manager, Queensbury Representatives, Football Federation, Payus Limited, EUROTERROR, President's Cabinet. Information was distributed to them about the current state of affairs as assumed for the purposes of the game. They also received instructions about their aims, limits and maneuverability. Their first aim was to get all parties to resume negotiations, the second aim was to achieve a basic agreement among parties and the final aim was to find a basic consensus among parties about a rough outline for the future. In the course of the following hours the participants tried to start the negotiations while adhering to the rules of the game.

The value of the simulation consisted in giving the participants the opportunity to test and develop their diplomatic skills. The difficulties and challenges encountered by the group closely resembled those that arise in real-life negotiations. Thus, this practical exercise was greatly appreciated by the participants, as a useful preparation for professional activities and a way to further explore the financial security problems.

Award ceremony

An official ceremony of certificate awarding for Summer Session participants was held on 10 July 2010. NISA Summer Session 2010 Award Ceremony took place on July 10. The Summer Session participants, Jean Fournet, Former NATO Assistance Secretary General and Huseyin Huseyinov, representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan attended the ceremony. Jean Fournet and Huseyin Huseyinov awarded the participants.

