



**ACCESSION OF AZERBAIJAN
STATUS REPORT
SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE STCU GOVERNING BOARD
JUNE 2003**

In late April, the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director (US) visited Baku with the purpose of advancing the accession process of Azerbaijan to the STCU. The President of the National Academy of Sciences informed the Executive Director in late May that the Parliament had approved the accession of Azerbaijan to STCU; reportedly, President Aliyev's signature is still needed. In May, the Chief Administrative Officer visited Baku and signed a lease for office space in the Institute of Physics of the National Academy of Sciences and as well, signed a contract to hire the STCU Information Officer for Azerbaijan.

Messrs. Carmel and DuCharme traveled to Baku April 20 – 25, to meet with key governmental officials; visit a series of prominent research laboratories, institutes and organizations; interview candidates for the STCU Information Officer position; and, review possible facilities for the STCU Information Office. Besides calling on officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Taxation, the National Aerospace Agency and the State Customs Committee, Carmel and DuCharme met at some length with the President of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Mahmud Kerimov; in addition, Kerimov hosted a dinner for them on the occasion of their visit.

The STCU officials also visited a series of research facilities, including the Institute for Radiation Problems, the Institute of Petrochemical Processes and the Oil Academy. Moreover, they met with officials at Baku State University, the Agency on Author's Rights, the Committee of Conversion and Special Machinery, "Gasavtomatika" Research and Production Association and the Institute of Chemistry. The National Academy of Sciences offered STCU two possible locations for office space; Mr. David Cleave, Chief Administrative Office, traveled to Baku May 21 – 25 to sign a lease with the Institute of Physics where the Information Office will be located.

Messrs. Carmel and DuCharme interviewed six candidates for the position of STCU Information Officer and selected Dr. Adalyat Gasanov, a Ph.D. geophysicist with considerable business and NGO experience. Dr. Gasanov's responsibilities will include *inter alia* promoting STCU among the Azerbaijani scientific community, assisting with project proposal preparation and project monitoring, and supporting communications between STCU Kiev Headquarters and scientific teams in the region. Dr. Gasanov and Mr. Cleave signed an employment contract during the latter's visit to Baku.

The STCU visitors noted in April that the organizations which they toured had already approved their own participation in implementing the STCU agreement. In late May, Academy President Kerimov informed Mr. Carmel that the Parliament had approved Azeri accession to STCU. Mr. Cleave was told in Baku that accession needed only the signature of President Aliyev to become official.