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## The Millennium Project Has Concluded its Trip to Azerbaijan, Where the Findings from a Study on the "Azerbaijan State of the Future Index" Were Presented, Followed by a Round Table Discussion and Ceremony.

The 23rd through 28th of November marked the introduction of the first "Azerbaijan State of the Future Index", stemming from a study conducted by the Azerbaijan Future Studies Society and Millennium Project. These findings were presented to the President of Azerbaijan, and were followed by an expert driven round table discussion, followed by a formal ceremony celebrating the 5th anniversary of the Azerbaijan Futures Studies Society and Azerbaijani Node of Millennium Project and Millennium Prize Awards Ceremony.

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The study has been done with the support of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies and in collaboration with Strategic Research Center of Azerbaijan. Research results of the "Azerbaijan State of the Future Index" were published as a report in 2 languages – English and Azerbaijani. On November 23rd, 2011 a personal copy of the AZ-SOFI report was presented to the President of the Azerbaijan at the opening ceremony of the 17th "BakuTel-2011" Azerbaijan International Telecommunications and Information Technologies Exhibition by the director of the Millennium Project, Jerome Glenn, and chairwoman of Azerbaijan Future Studies Society Reyhan Huseynova. Jerome Glenn gave His Excellency a very short briefing on it at the exhibit of the Azerbaijan Future Studies Society and the Millennium Project Azerbaijan Node.

This was followed on the 25th by the launch of the "Azerbaijan State of the Future Index 2011" and of the "State of the Future" 2011 at the Center for Strategic Studies under the President of Azerbaijan. Director of the Millennium Project Jerome Glenn spoke at the round table, attended by the core expert group that selected the AZ-SOFI variables and the Delphi Panel and representatives of Azerbaijan Future Studies Society, experts of the Center for Strategic Studies, Minister of Communication and Information Technologies and Azerbaijan National Academy of Science

<http://www.1news.az/politics/20111126013717792.html>

<http://1news.az/interview/20111202110229398.html>

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Mr. Glenn said a poll was held within the framework of the study in October of this year. 101 experts from 13 countries shared their views about 24 critical events which influenced the countries. Mr. Glenn provided extensive information about the results of the study, while stressing its importance.

Chairwoman of Azerbaijan Future Studies Society Reyhan Huseynova said that "Azerbaijan State of the Future Index" will contribute to the strategic planning process for the future of Azerbaijan.

Chief of the political analysis and forecasting sector of the Presidential Administration Farhad Mammadov said every country faces difficulties in forming its future, while stressing that existing problems and stereotypes hindered the formation of new views. "The processes in our country make it possible to say that Azerbaijan follows a positive direction in its development", said F. Mammadov and added that the priority of the state is to consider the opinions of public and scientific research centers in ensuring the sustainable development of the state. Outlining Karabakh conflict as the main hindrance to Azerbaijan's development, the chief of the sector added that the conflict settlement will be a strong stimulus to further development of the country.

The trip concluded on the 28th at the Hilton hotel in Baku, Azerbaijan, where there was a combined Ceremony: The Celebrations of the 5th Anniversary of the Azerbaijan Futures Studies Society and Azerbaijani Node of Millennium Project and Millennium Prize Awards Ceremony.

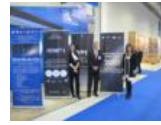
Azerbaijan Future Studies Society (AFSS) was established in January 2006 as a non-profit research center. On October 5, 2006, Memorandum of Understanding was signed between AFSS and the Millennium Project (MP) on the acquisition of the status as Azerbaijan Node of the Millennium Project. Thus, Azerbaijan became 29th country in the world to have the Node of MP. At present, there are 40 Nodes of the Millennium Project around the world. The

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### Attachments



Millennium Project is a global participatory futures research think tank organized as an independent, interdisciplinary and trans-institutional information system, providing an international capacity for early warning and analysis of global long-range issues, opportunities and strategies. The Millennium Project led by Professor Jerome C. Glenn, produces State of the Future annual report and a unique input for policymaking which provides a framework for understanding global change via 15 Global Challenges. AFSS is the first research center of such kind in Azerbaijan with the aim of studying the current trends and predicting the future ones. AFSS combines various interdisciplinary approaches to the study of the future, such as political, economic, social, cultural, geo-political analysis as well as the consideration of the mentality, history, regional conflicts, security issues and global trends. One of the directions of the activities of Azerbaijan Future Studies Society is connected with propaganda of the cultural values of Azerbaijan.

The Azerbaijani Millennium Prize Annual Essay Contest called "Face to Face with the Future Generation" is a joint project of the Azerbaijan Futures Studies Society and the Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Youth and Sport and The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs.

There was the historical overview of the evolution of futures research in the country. The Ministers and other government leaders, plus some Ambassadors were participated at the Ceremony and about 300 people with television in prominence.

Awards for essays on the 15 Global Challenges were given to both university and high school students. There were 68 finalists - 45 high school students and 23 from universities. Winners were awarded by notebooks, digital cameras and iPods.

Among the distinguish guests was the Director of the Millennium Project, Jerome Glenn, who delivered his greetings to the winners.


There were video greetings from the heads of the some Nodes of MP and other foreign prominent futurists.

<http://www.1news.az/society/20111128053754040.html>

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