Survey items for IT project formation survey (For sector survey)

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* Instructions for survey

1. Use official data (e.g. statistical data issued by government) if any, and name the source.

2. If there is no official data, and such data as those surveyed by other organizations, newspaper articles and/or those independently inquired are to be quoted, indicate the source and the survey method.

3. If a local way of saying without specific basis is to be quoted, specify so accordingly.

4. For items without any piece of information, write "Unknown".

5. For nonexistent items, write "Nonexistent".

6. Regarding 1 & 2, if the source material is written in English and is available, submit it with the report, preferably in electronic media (e.g. MS-Word, PDF).

7. If a Development Gateway exists in the surveyed country and E-Readiness Assessment / ICT Needs Assessment are performed, obtain the latest English documents and submit them with the report, preferably in electronic media (e.g. MS-Word, PDF). (For the Development Gateway, see the following site: http://www.developmentgateway.org/countryprofile/intermediary).

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1 Basic information

1-1 Economy related (Obtain the latest data.)

- GDP, Real GDP growth rate, GDP growth per capita
- National budget
- Average monthly salary of civil servants
- Entire population and urban population
- Working population
- Major industries and the market size
- Major exports and the export values
- Major imports and the import values

2 IT policies

2-1 National development policy, Master plan

- Outline of country-level informatization plan (long-term and medium-term plans)

and the state of implementation

2.1. National Development Policy, the Main Plan

-Long-Term Plan- "National Strategy for Development of Information and Communication Technologies for national development of Azerbaujan Republic. (2003-2012)" – Helping democratic development of the country, establishing a single information zone, providing for information security of the country, creaing a suitable environment for transition to an intensive information-citizen society until 2011, etc. is covered.

> The strategy is planned to be implemented in 3 stages, covering years 2002–2003, 2004–2007 and 2008–2011.

- Outline of country-level informatization plan (short-term plan) and the state of implementation

- Short-Term Plan- "State Program for Development of Communication and Information Technologies in Azerbaijan Republic (2005-2008)" (draft has been prepared) - Key goals and directions of the Program are: ensuring implementation of the National Strategy for ICT development, alleviating "the digital catastrophe", implementing economic-structural reforms in the sector, preparing and executing projects on ensuring modernization and expansion, as well as transition to the information society.

2-2 IT-related administrative organization

- Organization chart of major agencies that make decision on introduction of IT to central government agencies (e.g. National IT committee and the subordinate working groups, Departments of government agencies)

- Minister of Communication and Information Technologies is appointed the IT Coordinationr. A new IT department within the Ministry will operate as a separate entity..

> There are IT organizations within the Ministry and most of the committees.

- Role of each organization indicated on the above organization chart

2-3 Preparation of IT-related laws

- Outline of IT-related laws (e.g. E-commerce law, E-signature law, Unauthorized computer access prohibition law)
- Outline of copyright law
- Outline of censorship

2.3. Preparation of the Laws regarding IT

<u>The following Laws already exist: "On Electronic Signature and Electronic", "On Information, Informing and Protection of Information". Does not exist</u>

2-4   Promotion measures for IT industry

- Outline of preferential treatments given to attract overseas IT-related companies (e.g. preferential taxation)
- Outline of promotion measures for local IT industry (e.g. preferential taxation, special loans)
- Outline of IT park / IT incubator plans and the state of implementation
- State of government budgetary steps (budget related to promotion measures for IT industry) and the secular change

<u>2-4.</u>

<u>There are benefits for the foreign companies in licencing expences, taxes, etc.</u>

2-5   E-commerce

- Outline of E-commerce promotion measures
- State of approach by government (central government and local government) and major industries
- E-commerce transaction values
- Number of registered sites (GtoB, BtoB, BtoC)

<u>2-5. Law on Electronic Trade is being prepared.</u>

3   IT infrastructure

    3-1   Penetration of PC

- Number of units per thousand people, secular change

<u>3-1. Number of computer users throughout the country is 150,000.</u>

    3-2   Penetration of land phones

- Number of fixed line companies and market share of each company
- Penetration rate (Number of units per thousand households, Number of units per thousand people)
- Initial costs for introduction
- Local call rate (3 minutes)
- International call rate (3-minute call to U.S.A.)

- Number of backlog applications (number of applicants who applied for the fixed line and are waiting for the introduction) and an average waiting period from application to introduction
- Nationwide map showing coverage areas

3-2.

- **Aztelecom Company, Baku Telephone Communication Company, AzEurotel Co., Ultel LLS, Catel Co.**
- **Number of phones per 100 people - 12**
- **Between 300 000-600 000 manat**
- **No charge**
- **21 600 manat from Baki, Sumgayit and Absheron, 16 200 manat from other regions of the country**
- **there is no queueing and all the connection possibilities are used once applied for. (approx. waiting time - 3 months)**
- **----------------**

3-3 Penetration of mobile phones
- Name of mobile phone companies and market share of each company
- Penetration rate (Number of units per thousand people)
- Initial costs for introduction
- Local call rate (3 minutes)
- International call rate (3-minute call to U.S.A.)
- Nationwide map showing coverage areas

3-3.

- **Azercell JV və Bakcell LLC (private)**
- **Total number of cell-phone users in the counrtry 1 300 000**
- **DIfferent (average $100)**
- **4320 manat**
- **28 500 manat**
- **--------------**

3-4 Data communication service (including Internet)
- Name of ISP (Internet Service Provider) and market share of each company
- Speed of circuit, if there is any ISP directly connected to foreign countries
- Number of users who established account with ISPs
- Number of Internet users (including not only those who established an account

with ISP but also those who use Internet at such places as Internet cafe, office and school)

- Whether there is any Internet Exchange Point
- Monthly rate of typical course that is most used (e.g. No time restriction, Dial-up connection)
- Service types, number of users and rate of narrowband (connection method for lines slower than 512Kbps)
- Service types, number of users and rate of broadband (connection method for 512Kbps and higher speed lines)
- Whether ISDN lines is usable for video conferencing system, and the connection fee to Japan
- Nationwide map showing Internet-unavailable areas

3-4.

List of Internet Providers

1.Bakinternet

2.Azeronline

3.Azeurotel

4.İntrans

5.Azerin

6.Azersat

7.Adanet

8.Baku Telecom

9.Azcom

10.OSİ-AF

11.Oxygen

12.Azintex

13.Uninet

14.Artel

15.Smart System

16.Sinam İnvest

17.KATEL

18.Ultra

19.Aztelecom.net

20.Karvan.net (Nakhchivan)

- 20 Mb¥s   Bakinter.net
- does not exist
- 360 000
- present
- dial-up connection $50
- There are narrow-line, wide-line and dial-up connections. Number of narrow-line and dial-up connections 350 000
- There are narrow-line, wide-line and dial-up connections. Number of wide-lne connections 1000
- PRA İSDN .(Price in 3-2)
- -------------

3-5 Remote education service
- Name of private companies that rents a video conferencing facility, and the rental rate

3-5.
- Does not exist

3-6 Backbone communication lines (optical fiber, microwave, satellite connection etc.)
- Map showing domestic backbone data circuit, and bandwidth of each circuit
- Data communication backbones connected to foreign countries, and the bandwidth

3-6. Major comunication lines - optical, RRX and copper.

3-7 Present state of electric power infrastructure
- Power supply, voltage change, frequency of blackout
- Map showing areas where power can be supplied 24 hours a day

3-7.
- 50 hs, ∿   220 V
- does not exist

4   IT utilization by government
   4-1 Overall plan
- Outline of E-government plan (long-term and medium-term plans) and the state of implementation

- Outline of E-government plan (short-term plan) and the state of implementation

4-1.

- • Initial steps have been taken for exercising the Law.

4-2 Implementation structure
- Organization that is responsible to implement E-government plan established by central government, and the organization chart
- Role of each organization, and name and affiliation of the members

4-2.

- • Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies

4-3 Plans by each government agency and local governments
- Outline of E-government plan established by each government agency and the state of implementation (Specify progressive government agencies if any in particular.)
- Outline of E-government plan established by each local government and the state of implementation (Specify progressive local governments if any in particular.)

4-4 Penetration of IT devices in government institution
- Number of PCs introduced into central government agencies
- Number of national public servants per PC
- Annual budget of central government for purchase of IT devices
- Number of PCs introduced into local government agencies
- Number of local public servants per PC
- Annual budget of local government for purchase of IT devices

4-5 Systems in actual operation
- Outline of major IT systems that are used by central government to improve efficiency of internal operations
- Outline of major IT systems that are used by central government to provide services to their citizens (e.g. Issuance of residency cards via network, One-stop service for various kinds of applications)

4-6 Governmental strategy for human resource development in IT area
- Outline of governmental strategy for human resource development in IT area (target values etc.)

-   Contents of IT education given to government agents and the number of agents who took the courses so far

5   IT utilization by companies

(If there is no statistical data, interview several non-IT companies and specify the summary of interview per company.)

5-1   IT investment cost

-   Ratio of IT-promotion investment cost to sales
-   Whether there is any plan to raise the IT-promotion investment ratio after this year

5-2   Introduction state of IT devices

-   Number of employees per PC
-   Ratio of employees who can access Internet

5-3   Purposes of IT use

-   Application areas of IT systems in use (Choose from the below items.)
-   Application areas of IT systems that are expected to be introduced in future (Choose from the below items.)

    (Application areas) : Production planning, production control, purchase/outsourcing, inventory management, sales management, accounting, cost control, budget control, human resources/payroll

-   Whether E-commerce is in use or not, and the ratio to sales / purchase if in use.

<u>5.3.</u>

-   <u>Accounting is not completely implemented.</u>
-   <u>Almost all of the fields, except te ones given above.</u>
-   <u>Not implemented, the Law is being prepared.</u>

5-4   Impediments to IT promotion

(Ask this if interviewing to companies directly.   If the above item is available from statistical data etc., ignore this item.)

-   What is the biggest problem in promoting IT in the company ? (e.g. shortage of IT engineers, introduction of IT devices, maintenance costs, communication costs, education of employees)

<u>5.4</u>

-   <u>Procurement of IT equipment.</u>

6 Software industry

6-1 Present states of software industry and affiliated organizations

- Whether there is any industry group, and its profile
- Whether there is any foreign company, and its business contents
- Number of companies developing software
- Number of people engaged in software industry
- Market size (annual sales, export values and import values) and the secular change
- Major export counterparts and export products & services (e.g. offshore software development, data input, CAD drawings)
- Average monthly salary of people engaged in software industry
- Annual number of engineers moving out to foreign countries and the major countries they move out to.

6-1

- <u>no information</u>
- <u>no information</u>
- <u>800 000 manat</u>
- <u>no information</u>

6-2 Software development capacity (Obtain data through interview with a few major software companies and specify the names of the companies interviewed.)

- Classification of software that is mainly developed (package software or custom software, applicable business area)
- Program language usable in development
- Man-month of largest-scale system that has been development so far
- Experience of software development based on an order by government
- Skills of internal technical staffs that are perceived as insufficient (e.g. Project management, requirement definition, documentation). Whether trainings to acquire the skills is locally available or not.
- (For countries with IT industry promotion measures) Whether any national support is given, and whether it is giving good effects on corporate management.

6-2.

- <u>Both are used</u>
- <u>Cobol, delphi, c+c++,foxpro.</u>
- <u>normal</u>

6-3 Software penetration rate

- Penetration rate of pirated copy of software
- Penetration rate of open-source software

<u>6-3.</u>

- <u>high</u>
- <u>normal</u>

7 Hardware industry

7-1 Present states of hardware industry and affiliated organizations

- Whether there is any industry group, and its profile
- Articles that are produced (e.g. IC chip design, IC chip production, PC assembly)
- Average monthly salary of people engaged in hardware industry
- Market size (annual sales, export values and import values) and the secular change

8 Education of IT engineers

8-1 Supply and demand of IT engineers

- IT-industry employed workforce
- Number of IT-related researchers/engineers
- Outflow of IT-industry employees to foreign countries (statistical data etc.)
- Inflow state of IT-industry employees from abroad

<u>8-1</u>

- <u>engineers</u>
- <u>does not exist</u>
- <u>no statistical information.</u>
- <u>no statistical information.</u>

8-2 Training organizations

- Number of universities with IT-related faculty / Number of IT-related vocational schools, and their enrollment
- Outline of curriculums in representative training organization and outline of the facilities

<u>8-2.</u>

- <u>24 institutions</u>

8-3 IT engineer examinations

- Outline of national qualification examination

- Kinds of private qualification examination (e.g. Oracle, CISCO, Microsoft) that can be taken.

9 IT literacy education

9-1 Compulsory education system and IT education

- Outline of compulsory education system

- Outline of IT education in compulsory education curriculum

- Number of schools giving compulsory education

- IT budget for schools giving compulsory education

9-2 Penetration state of IT education (Compulsory education)

- Number of schools giving compulsory education, number of schools having PCs, number of schools with Internet connection

- Total number of PCs owned by schools giving compulsory education, and the number of students per PC

- Average number of PCs owned by urban schools giving compulsory education, and average number of PCs owned by suburban schools giving compulsory education

- Outline of IT curriculum

- Major software (OS, application) in use

- IT utilization state in other subjects such as mathematics and science

- Factors hindering expansion of IT education (e.g. shortage of IT teachers, shortage of devices, nonexistence of software that can handle local language)

9-2.

- normal
- Lack of IT trainers, equipment and no software in local language.

9-3 Private educational institutions

- Number of private PC schools

- Contents of popular lectures and the lecture fees

9-3.

- No information

9-4 Remote education

- Usage state of remote education in higher educational institutions
- Usage state of remote education in compulsory educational institutions

<u>9-4</u>

- <u>Does not exist</u>
- <u>Does not exist</u>

10 Locally available equipments

10-1 Hardware: Whether the following articles are available, their typical brands and referential price

- Notebook PC
- Desktop PC
- Rack-mount server
- Blade server
- Router
- Switching hub
- Wi-Fi LAN access point
- Video conferencing system (Polycom etc.)

<u>10-1</u>

- <u>notebook PC normal usage $1200</u>
- <u>desktop PC normal usage $500</u>
- <u>used</u>
- <u>$2000</u>
- <u>$4000</u>
- <u>$1000</u>
- <u>not used frequently</u>
- <u>terminal $5000, MCY-$20000</u>

10-2 Software: Whether official products of the following manufacturers are available, and whether maintenance contract can be closed with the local traders.

- Microsoft
- Macromedia
- Autodesk
- Oracle

<u>10-2</u>

- <u>Microsoft</u>

- <u>Macromedia</u>
- <u>Oracle</u>

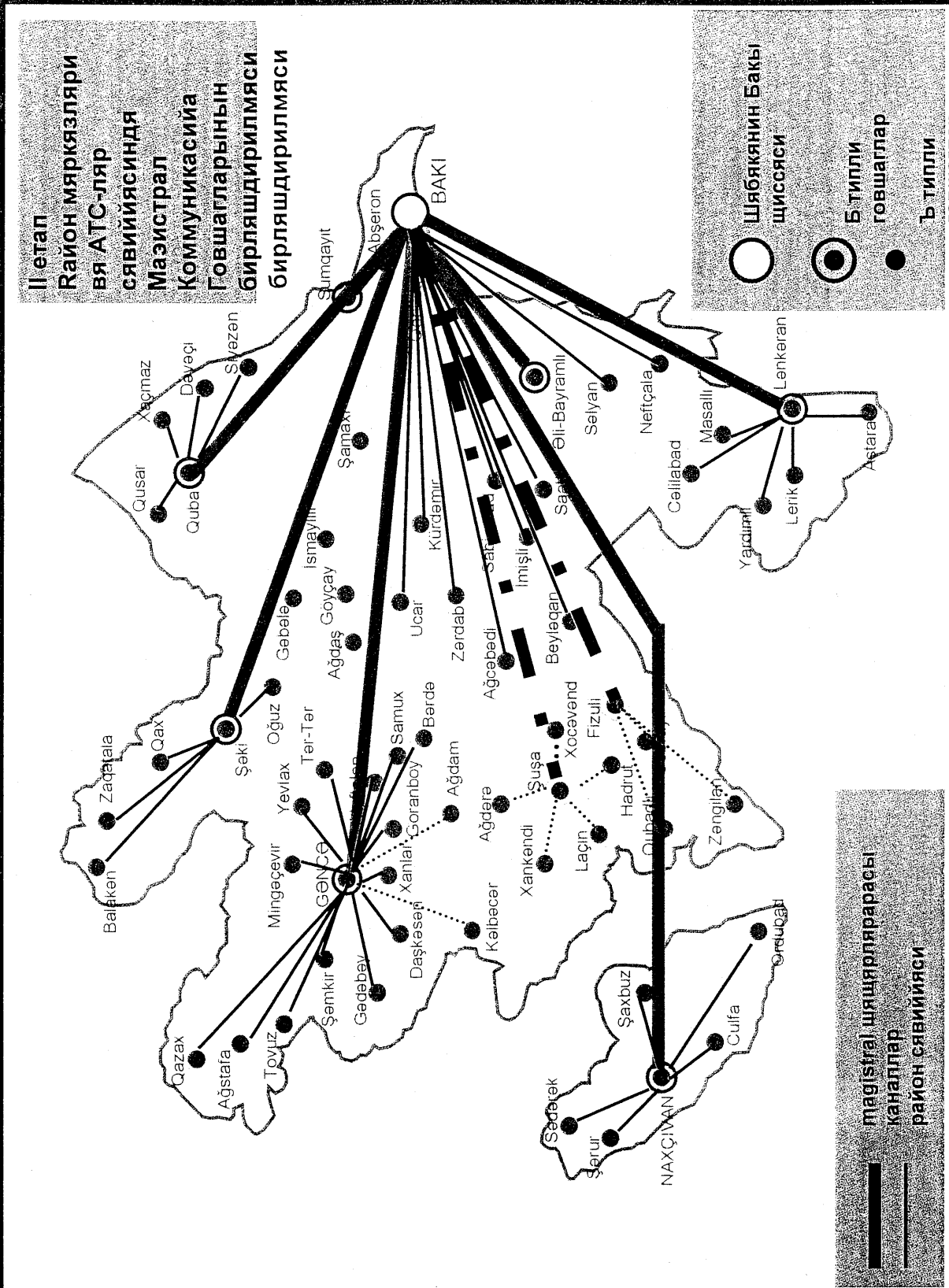**11** Trends of other donors

    11-1 World Bank, ADB, UNDP and donor in each country

      -    Support state of each donor, future trends, and strategic paper

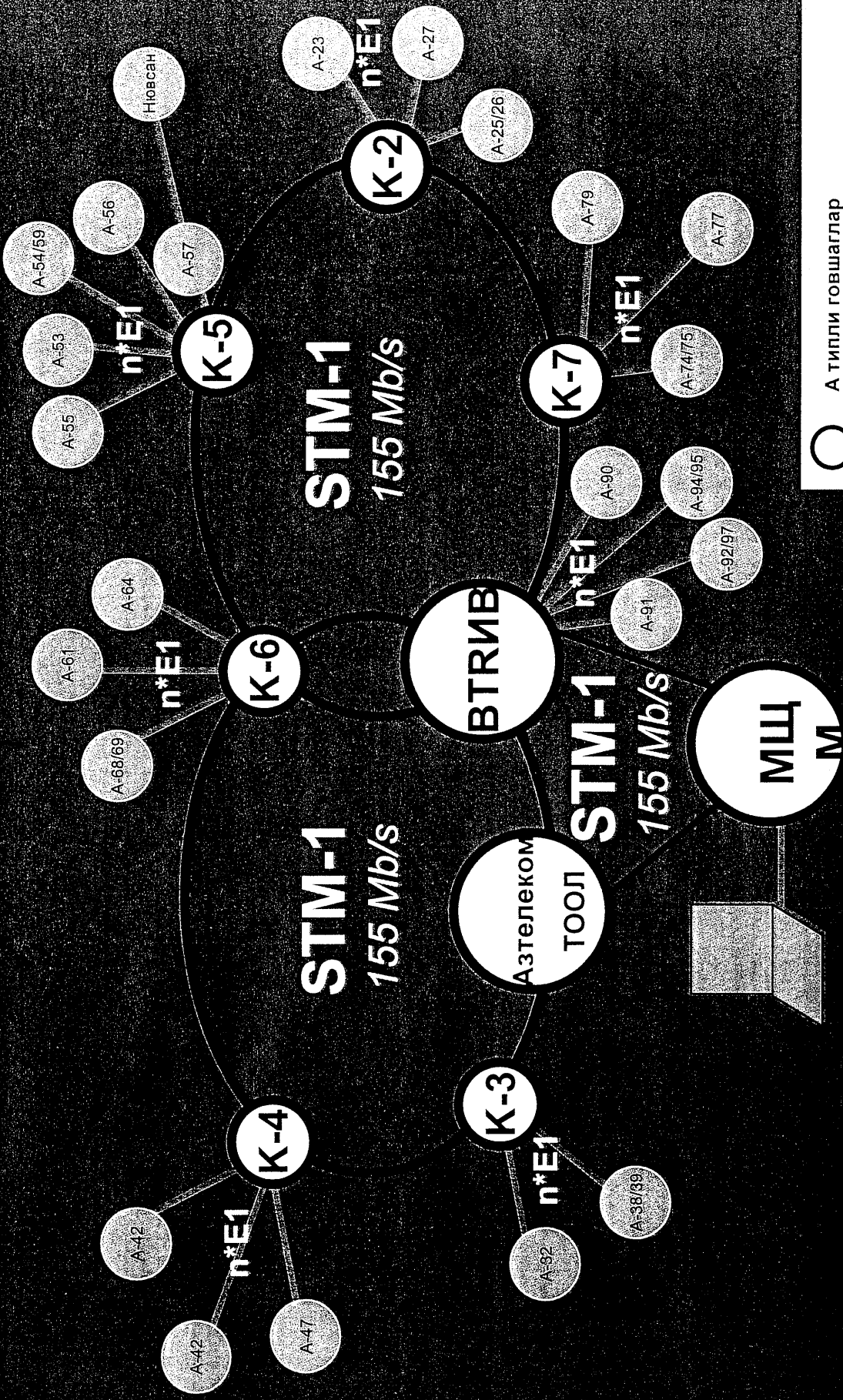   -   Whether there is any IT-related survey material

<u>11-1.</u>

- <u>Poor</u>
- <u>Present.</u>

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АТС район сявиййяси

— 213 —

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
IT INSTITUTE TRAINING PROGRAM

I Theoretical Part

1. Basics of Programming & algorithms

2. LAN Technologies

3. WAN Technologies

4. Internet

5. Corporative networks & systems

6. Databases

7. Information Security

II Practical Part

8. Windows Operational System

9. Word Processors

10. Spreadsheets

11. Graphical Processors & Multimedia Means

12. Databases

13. Web-Developing

14. E-mail

15. Archives, Dictionaries and other service programs

3. İxtisaslaşma İstiqamətləri üzrə əlavələr
üzrə əlavələr

3.1. Fizika-riyaziyyat və texnika elmləri sahələri üzrə

3.1.1.Fizika, riyaziyyat və texnika elmləri sahələrində informasiya texnologiyalarının tətbiqi.

3.1.2 Fiziki, riyazi və texniki məsələlərin xətti, qeyri xətti və dinamik proqramlaşdırma üsulları ilə kompüterdə həll edilməsi.

3.1.3 İki və üç ölçülü qrafiklərin kompüterdə işlənilməsi.

3.1.4 Paylanmış paralel emal sistemləri. Metakompüterlər.

3.1.5 Tətbiqi paket proqramlarının vasitəsi ilə müxtəlif riyazi və statistik məsələlərin həll edilməsi.

3.1.6 Elektron sxemlərin kompüterdə layihələndirilməsi.

3.2. Kimya, biologiya və tibb sahələri üzrə

3.2.1.Kimya, biologiya və tibb sahəsində informasiya texnologiyalarının tətbiqi. Tibbi İnformasiya və onların işlənilməsi metodları. Tibbi İnformatika.

3.2.2. Biosistemlər. Bioinformatika.

3.2.3. Tibbi ekspert sistemləri. Qərarların qəbulu sistemləri. Tibbi diaqnostika.

3.2.4. Tibbi statistika və statistik paket proqramlar.

3.2.5. Kimyəvi proseslərin modelləşdirilməsi. Təcrübələrin avtomatlaşdırılması.

3.2.6.Kimya, biologiya sahəsində tətbiqi paket p:oqramlardan istifadə edilməsi

3.3. Yer elmləri, kənd təsərrüfatı və coğrafiya sahələri üzrə

3.3.1. Yer elmləri, kənd təsərrüfatı və coğrafiya sahələrində informasiya texnologiyalarının tətbiqi.

3.3.2. Geoinformasiya sistemləri.

3.3.3. Xəritə çəkmə məsələləri. Rəqəm relyef xəritələrinin işlənilməsi. İki və üç ölçülü qrafiklərin kompüterdə işlənilməsi.

3.3.4. Meterologiya və seysmologiyada proqnozlaşdırma.
Seysmik siqnalların işlənilməsi

3.3.5. Kənd təsərrüfatında məhsuldarlığın proqnozlaşdırılması.

2. Praktiki hissə

2.1. Windows əməliyyat sistemi. İnformasiyaların saxlanması və axtarılması işlərinin səmərəli təşkili. Kompüterdə müxtəlif dillərdə sənədlərin hazırlanması üçün şrift və drayverlərin yüklənməsi. Yeni proqramların kompüterə yüklənməsi. Servis proqramları ilə iş. Resursların ümumi istifadəyə verilməsi.

2.2. Mətn redaktorları. Mətn sənədlərinin hazırlanması, redaktə edilməsi və formatlaşdırılması. Mətnə şəkillərin, cədvəllərin və riyazi düsturların əlavə edilməsi. Müxtəlif dillərdə mətn sənədlərinin hazırlanması və orfoqrafik korrektorlardan istifadə edilməsi. Dissertasiya, kitab, hesabat, məktub, tərcüməyi-hal və s. sənəd və materialların şablonların köməyi ilə hazırlanması və çap edilməsi.

2.3. Elektron cədvəllər. Elektron cədvəllərin yaradılması və onlarla iş. Verilənlərin tipi və onların cədvələ daxil edilməsi. Düsturların cədvələ daxil edilməsi. Elektron cədvəllə riyazi, statistik, mətn, məntiq və s. işlərinin yerinə yetirilməsi. Qrafik masterin köməyi ilə müxtəlif formal qrafik və diaqramların yaradılması.

2.4. Qrafik redaktorlar və multimedia vasitələri. Qrafiklərin hazırlanması və redaktə edilməsi. Müxtəlif tip qrafik faylların yaradılması. Slaydların hazırlanması. Slaydlara animasiya, zaman və səslərin əlavə olunması. Şablonların köməyi ilə slaydların hazırlanması. Məqalə və dissertasiyaların təqdimatı üçün slaytların hazırlanması. Multimedia vasitələrinin tətbiqi.

2.5. Verilənlər bazası. Verilənlər bazasının yaradılması. Giriş və çıxış formalarının hazırlanması. Sorğu sisteminin işlənilməsi.

2.6. Web layihələndirilməsi. Web səhifələrin hazırlanması

2.7. İnternet. İnternet Explorer və Netscape Navigator brauzerləri ilə işləmək. İnternetdə informasiya axtarışı. İnformasiyaların məlumat daşıyıcılarına yazılması. Lazımi saytların, İnternet ünvanlarının arxivləşdirilməsi. FTP protokolu ilə faylların göndərilməsi və alınması.

2.8. Elektron poçtu. Microsoft Outlook Express və Netscape Messenger ilə email göndərilməsi və alınması. Elektron poçtu ilə faylların göndərilməsi.

2.9. Arxiv, antivirus, tərcümə və digər xidməti proqramlar.

３－１　ICT コンファレンス資料（バクー宣言）

Global ICT Conference : 25-28, November, 2004 : Baku, Azerbaijan

world summit
on the information society "...to achieve our main objective - transfer our black gold - oil resources ir

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Global ICT Conference 2004
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"Digital Divide and Knowledge Economy: Problems and Solutions"　　25-28 November, 2004

News | The digital ground TV broadcasting technology was tested in Azerbaijan in November | **News Archive**

Baku: 11:37　　**Moscow:** 10:37　　**London:** 07:37　　**New York:** 02:37　　**Tokyo:** 16:37

Prof. Dr. Ali M. Abbasov
Minister of Communications and Information Technologies

The Government of Republic of Azerbaijan, represented by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies and the World Summit Award (WSA), jointly organize the GLOBAL ICT CONFERENCE BAKU - 2004. The initiative is held under the honorary patronage of the President of Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Ilham Aliyev, who will be personally present at the opening ceremony.

With the theme "Digital Divide and Knowledge Economy: Problems and Solutions", the Conference will showcase the world's best practice in quality e-Content in the framework of the World Summit Award Exhibition and place a special emphasis on value added and demonstrating the concrete benefits of quality e-Content to the ICT industry and the general public.

full text

Prof. Dr. Peter A. Bruck
WSA Chairman of the Board

A global Information Society is built by highly motivated individuals, who move beyond the ordinary and secure sustainable development in their region through their the enthusiasm, strong vision and creativity in new media and ICT. With their effort information and communication technologies can be mobilized and serve development. The Baku International ICT Conference 2004 will serve as a meeting point and offer a platform for a discussion on the development of the New Information Society for governments, the private sector, civil society, non-profit foundations and multilateral organizations. The World Summit Award and its global network wish to encourage you to participate and contribute , to this effort!

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Email: global-ict@mincom.gov.az

Azerbaijan hosts international ICT conference in Baku

Mubariz Jafarli

BAKU, Azerbaijan - The increasing role of information in the development of society has shifted the focus of international markets to the development communication technologies. Countries are now trying to work together to solve problems regarding informational technologies, delegates from the Global Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Conference Digital Divide and Knowledge Economy Problems and Solutions, which was held in Baku on Nov. 25-28, said.

"Our goal is to stimulate the development and advancement of informational and communication technologies. These conferences help us to exchange our views and prepare for the World Summit," Secretary General of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Yoshio Utsumi said during the opening ceremony.

In 2005, the World Summit on then Informational Society will be held in Tunis, where more than 40 countries and 100 members of international organizations are expected to attend.

The minister of Communication Technologies of Azerbaijan Ali Abbasov stated that the modernization of the communication infrastructure is one of the core concerns in the development of ICT.

"The number of telephones per 100 persons is 11.9 in Baku. But this figure is below the world and CIS averages. The number of computers to every 100 people in Azerbaijan is 1.5, ten times less than average indices of the world and CIS. Most computers are mainly used by the government or in private sectors. Only a minimal number of individuals have personal computers at home," the minister said.

Abbasov said that ICT development in Azerbaijan will require dedicated investment.

"At the moment, the ministry of communications and information technologies regulates and provides national services. We think that the ministry should only be a regulation organization," Abbasov said.

During the conference, participants discussed the economic prospects of informational technologies and its role in business, national research educational networks' role in ICT development, society and millennium development goals.

Conference participants discussed the economic prospects of communication technologies and its crucial role in business.

Urban housi

Multistory residencies fa

Mubariz Jafarli

BAKU, Azerbaijan - Within the next ten years, the condition of many recently constructed multistory houses in Baku will begin to deteriorate, Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Abid Sharifov declared at the Modern Construction and Concrete Production exhibition, held on Nov. 24 by the Architectural and Construction University of Azerbaijan (ACUA) and Turkish firm Degussa.

"The multi-leveled houses in Baku are being constructed haphazardly. Their facades will deteriorate, because the building companies are using low quality materials. During the Soviet era, these houses were riveted with white stones, and now building companies only paint outside of houses. Furthermore, the strength of these houses also troubles me; I do not believe that the foundations of these buildings have not been checked by authorities," Sharifov said.

On Jan. 29, 2004, the collapse of a five-story house in Lankaran (south of Azerbaijan) caused the death of six people.

Sharifov also said that the roads were being poorly built. "The quality of highways in the cities and towns is extremely low. But in 2006, the government is planning to spend $1.2 billion on the reconstruction of the Baku-Tbilisi roadway," Sharifov said.

Chairman of the State Committee of Construction and Architecture Shair Hasanov also listed several construction concerns.

"Many companies use old technology and their products cannot stand comparison with imported materials. Azerbaijan has very good conditions for manufacturing building materials. If the local companies apply new technologies, they can achieve substantial benefits," Hasanov said.

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Baku Declaration on Digital Divide and Knowledge Economy
Baku, Azerbaijan
27 November, 2004

Global ICT Conference 2004
Baku
25-28 November, 2004

Baku Declaration on Digital Divide and Knowledge Economy

History has endowed the Eurasia region with a rich tapestry of peoples, cultures, and natural resources. In the past decade, rapid technological change has made possible the virtual pathways of an electronic silk route, linking Asia with Europe, creating a new heartland for an emerging regional knowledge-based economy. The future of the Eurasia region depends upon policies that overcome the digital divide and further the transition to a knowledge-based economy. These policies must ensure that the benefits of the knowledge economy are open and available to all, and that the information infrastructures on which it depends are secure, robust and reliable.

Reaffirming the Declaration of Principles and Action Plan adopted by the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva 2003); and,

Recognizing the centrality of overcoming the digital opportunities divide and building knowledge economies to meeting the United Nations Millennium Development Goals;

We the Participants of the Baku Conference on the Digital Divide and Knowledge Economy, hereby agree on the following principles and priorities:

1. Government Leadership and Initiative.

Government leadership is required to create vision for national development that represents the interest and needs of all of its citizens. Societal transformation necessary in the information age entails difficult choices and tradeoffs that must defend the broader public interest. As representatives and custodians of the public trust, governments must lead to establish an enabling environment that benefits all of their citizens. Government is required to ensure both political and administrative support to ICT Development, demonstrating commitment and ownership towards ICT as the development tool.

2. Strengthened Partnership with Private Sector.

Private sector contribution is critical to implementing long-term solutions to the digital divide and establishing the basis for sustainable knowledge economies. Knowledge economies and the infrastructures, on which they depend, require a culture of initiative, innovation and risk-taking that the private sector can provide. "Lessons learned" and best practices of existing partnerships need to be shared, and new forms of partnership, including between the public and private sectors, encouraged emerging.

3. Dialogue, Consultation and Partnership with Civil Society.

Dialogue with civil society is necessary so that the interests of all citizens - particularly those least advantaged - have a voice in shaping the knowledge society. In an age of increased global insecurity, the rights of citizens to provide input to public policy must be defended, in order to ensure that legitimate security concerns do not undermine long-term prosperity, development and internationally recognized human rights conventions.

4. Inclusion

ICTs and the benefits of the information revolution must be available and accessible to all citizens, especially socially disadvantaged groups and peoples. As special emphasis must be made on the inclusion of women. Measures and policies must be developed through multi-stakeholder partnerships and dialogue between governments, the private sector, and civil society, to build an inclusive knowledge-based society. Groups and societies resultating from disasters both natural and human made and from post conflict situations.

5. Education

Education is the key to building knowledge economies. Overcoming the digital divide and building sustainable knowledge economies is not possible without a long-term commitment to education, lifelong learning and research. Education must be accessible and open to all citizens; knowledge economies are dependent on all the contributions of all segment of society. A knowledgeable, educated and skilled citizenry can contribute most to the prosperity and stability of the region. The use of information and communications technologies in education, where possible, should be

encouraged; as should the strengthening of international cooperation and networking in education on a regional and global level.

6.   Accountable Internet Governance

The Internet is a strategically important component of national information infrastructures. All stakeholders - the private sector, civil society and national authorities (which constitutionally represent the public trust and act to defend and represent the public interest) -- should participate on an equal and democratic basis in the governance of the Internet through appropriate representative international mechanisms. The character of the Internet as open and democratic medium has to be furthered. In this context, we support the work of the Working Group on Internet Governance.

7.   Financing the ICT for Development.

Ensuring that the benefits of the knowledge economy will be equitable requires a commitment from national governments, the private sector, and civil society. Development of new partnerships between governments, the private sector, civil society and multilateral and bilateral actors, should be encouraged. Best practices must be shared, and investment in less advantaged areas supported to ensure the prosperity and security of the Eurasia region. In this context, we support the work of the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms, to review the adequacy of existing mechanisms in meeting the challenges of ICT for Development. The objectives of the Digital Solidarity Fund are meant to deal with inadequacy of present measures and means and should be supported in terms of finding more effective financing structures. Governments should include in their state budgets special budgets for ICT expenditures.

Safety, Security, Privacy

Given the strategic nature of National Information Infrastructures, and their centrality to the functioning of all modern societies – reliability, security and protection from abuse requires urgent attention. Harmful means such as viruses and other misuses such as spasms need to be addressed. Criminal activities exploit areas in which law does not exist, or where technology is moving faster than the ability of society to adopt rules and regulations that

safeguard the public good. Security is a requirement of the information age that defends the state and societal interest and must be ensured through appropriate self-regulation, national legislation and international treaties, norms and conventions. The respect for individual privacy is also fundamental to the information society development. That all measures in terms of security have to be conducted with the respect to human rights as stated in the Geneva Convention.

8.   Intellectual Property Rights and Content

Content development and an open and internationally equitable mechanism for adjudicating Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) are vital to realise a vision for sustainable cultural identity and diversity, and make accessible the benefits of a global knowledge society. We recognize the role of IPR as critical to facilitating economic development, but it must be balanced by the right for circulation and sharing of knowledge, including recognizing the importance of Free and Open Software and alternative licensing regimes. Harmful contents (pornography, racism) as stated by the Council of Europe/EU pose a threat to citizens' integrity in the Info Society which needs to be addressed.

The Conference calls on the hosts of the World Summit on the Information Society to organize an open forum on the issues outlined above, and to facilitate global understanding of their importance in the conduct of the Summit. This includes issues of best practice in content creativity, showcasing innovative applications, and a celebration of the achievements of creators in the context of the World Summit Awards.

Considering the importance of the forthcoming Tunis Summit, the Baku Conference calls on all governments, the private sector, civil society, and International Organizations to participate actively in the work of the Summit, its related fora and exhibition.

We appeal to governments, civil society, the private sector, International Organizations and donors to accommodate and apply these principles.

We call for these principles and priorities to be noted and reflected in the final documents of the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis, November 2005.