Aarhus Centers in Azerbaijan

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3-5 July 2013

Vienna Austria

Ratification and Implementation

- In 1999 the Azerbaijan Republic ratified the UNECE Convention on «Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters» (Aarhus Convention).

- Azerbaijan has carried out large scale and considerable work in this direction. There have been introduced serious reforms in the legislation including laws on the "Access to information on the environment", "Access to information", "Environmental education and public awareness", "Administrative procedure", "Non governmental organizations (public associations and funds)", "Adoption of laws and regulatory acts".

Opening of Centers: Baku, Ganja,Gazakh

- Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) of the Azerbaijan Republic and the Office of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE office in Baku) at the common initiative and with the purpose of implementing the Aarhus Convention created the Aarhus Public Environmental Information Center in 2003 in Baku.In 2007 with the assistance of the OSCE Office in Baku there were set up Aarhus centers in Ganja and Gazakh towns.

- The opening of new regional centers is planned to take place in the near future.

Aarhus centers: Purpose

- Aarhus centers have been created with the purpose of enhancing the public participation in environmentally significant decision making ensuring transparency in the matters related to environment, enhancing democracy and strengthening of modern management.

Aarhus centers: Function

- Participate in the formation of environmental policy and act as a bridge between the government and non governmental organizations;

- Establish contacts between local and international organizations engaged in the environment protection as well as with relevant bodies of foreign countries;

- Create access for non governmental organizations to environmental literature, Internet resources, information received from public and other sources;

- Provide general public with information regarding environmental condition;

- Further public discussions related to environmental issues as well as to ensure active public participation in decision making.

Aarhus centers: Resources

- Library

- Internet access

- Conference room

Joint work of Centers and Sectors of the Ecological Propaganda of the MENR

Employees of the department of ecological propaganda in cooperation with the representatives of the centers carry out on a periodic base campaigns and works aimed at raising aware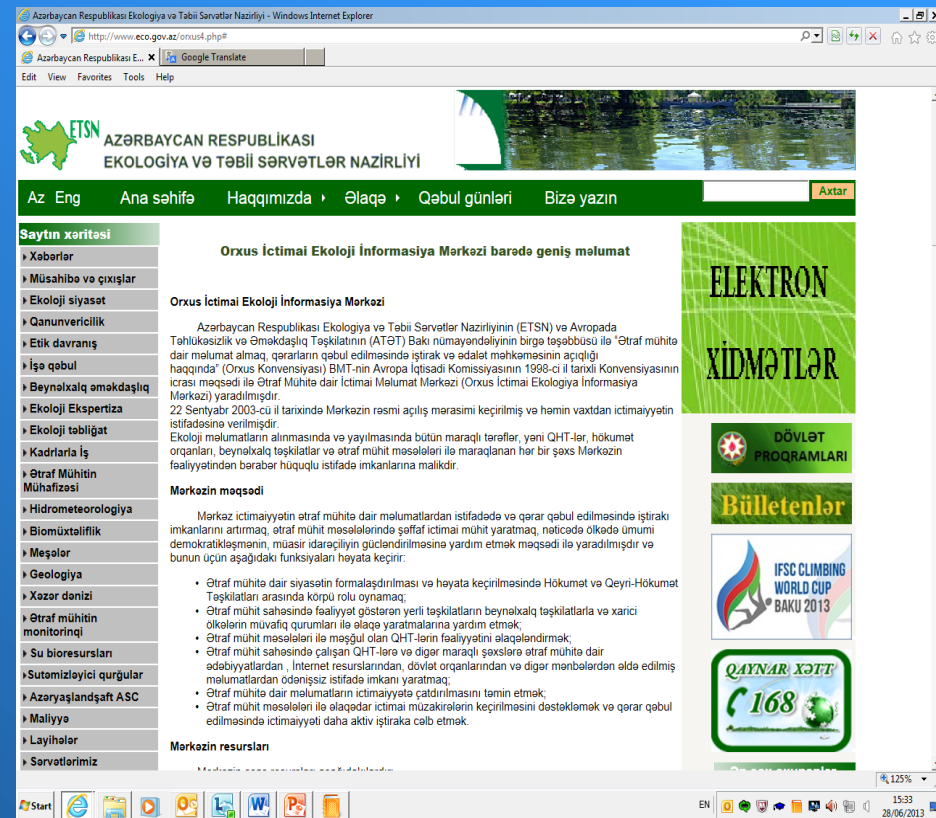ness in the regions of our republic. Environmental seminars are held, information booklets and brochures are distributed in public bodies and organizations, educational centers and non governmental organizations.

 Timed to calendar dates of ecology articles by experienced employees of the ministry, department and territorial departments of ecology and natural resources are published in mass media, programs dedicated to the environmental protection by population, planting and importance of cleanness and reconstruction works are presented on TV and radio , meetings on active participation are organized.

Web site
http://www.eco.gov.az/orxus4.php

Also on the web site of the MENR in the section of the public ecological information center one can access information regarding environment, public participation in decision making and conduction of open court hearing, the law of the Azerbaijan Republic on joining the UN convention, access to information related to environmental issues and open court hearing, convention (Aarhus convention, additional information about the ecological information Aarhus center, photo gallery reflecting the activity of the center, list of literature in the Aarhus Ecological Information Center of the ministry, catalogue of scientific technical books of the ministry which facilitates the access to information.

Thank You for Attention

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