Welcome the International Issue of ADA Alumni Newsletter

Contents

Pages 1-2  What is new?

Pages 2-4  International Alumni insights

Page 5  One day with

Pages 6-7  Alumni story

Page 8  Alumni donations

What is new?

Good news come from the Graduate of MADIA 2012 Class Natavan Aghayeva. She succeeded to start her career with an outstanding position of an Executive Assistant to the Rector of ADA, Amb. Pashayev. This is a great opportunity, Natavan. We are sure that you will make most of it!

Anar Abdullayev, as Project Manager in NISA, started the 7th European Framework Project in collaboration with the Wroclaw University, Masaryk University, and the Georgian Insititue of Public Affairs. Funded by the European Commission, the Project duration is 36 months and is called “Security and Democracy in Caucasus”.
Gunnel Salimova attended European Union security cooperation course at NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany from 3rd to 16th of February. She delivered fascinating presentations there. Gunel, hope that you enjoyed the trip and training.

International Alumni Insights

Since this issue of Alumni newsletter is an international one, we will cover the work and life experience of our International Alumni in more details. In this section, we are sharing the thoughts of our Alumni on what they are doing currently and their memories about the time spent in Azerbaijan and ADA.

What are we doing?

Tibor Szilagyi (MADIA 2012)

Following MADIA2012 graduation ceremony, in the beginning of October 2012, I was recruited to start my career at MOL Hungarian Oil and Gas Plc. as part of the company’s fresh graduate program. MOL Group is a leading integrated Central and East European oil and gas corporation with an extensive international upstream portfolio. Currently, I am part of the Business Development Department, which is responsible for the supervision and coordination of business development activities in all MOL Group business units. This includes all strategic projects, such as mergers and acquisitions, divestments, farm-in and farm-out matters in all business segments of the corporation.

The knowledge and skills learned during my studies at ADA help me on a daily basis, since I am responsible for analyzing the country and market risk, as well as take part in project management.
Jiri Brandys (MADIA 2011)

I work in commercial department of ArcelorMittal, a steel-making company with activities all over the world. My everyday duties include controlling coherence between agreement, contract and business operations; data analysis including market analysis; external communication towards customers etc. I am happy that I am able to materialize negotiations skills acquired during studies at ADA, which is particularly useful during negotiations with our customers on price issues or if I just have to convince them that “something is not possible”. Business trips both in the Czech Republic and Germany are therefore the most interesting part of my current job:) I also like the fact that I have to communicate with various departments all over Europe on everyday basis. What is nice about the company I work for is that the company invests into the development of potential of its own employees, and I take full benefit of it.

Julio Espinoza (MADIA 2011)

I am part of the Mexican Council on Foreign Relations, a think tank that encompasses decision makers, opinion leaders and researchers on Mexican Foreign Policy and International Affairs. I started my career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as personal assistant to the Director General for Asia-Pacific. Through out this time I helped in the opening of the Embassy of Azerbaijan to Mexico and worked for the Mexican Consulate to Omaha, NE, US as a consular assistant. I had also worked with top decision makers of the Mexican rightist National Party and was advisor to a Federal Congressman of the same party. After that I served as research coordinator at the Mexico City Steering Committee of the National Action Party. I also was personal assistant to the Consul General of Mexico to Shanghai for his affairs in Mexico. After serving under the Assistant Secretary for Governance (Mexico Ministry of the Interior) as his personal assistant, I used to report to the Assistant Secretary on international issues that had an impact on national security and governance. Currently I work at the Mexican Consulate to Douglas, Arizona as a consular agent in charge of protecting the human rights of Mexican immigrants.

Olinka Vieyra (MADIA 2011)

I still work at the Ministry of Economy of Mexico. Until very recently I worked as Deputy Director for the European Union, but I got a promotion and I am now Advisor to the Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade. It’s a hectic job, but the good thing is that there’s always room for learning every day.

Although my job is absorbing, I make sure to save some time a day to read and continue to learn about the South Caucasus and Central Asia. I miss Baku, its boulevard, its delicious bread and all the friends back there. I really hope to go back soon.
Chaudhry Naman Zafar (MADIA 2011)

I am the President of two wonderful organizations 1) Azerbaijan – Pakistan Foundation (APF): APF has been established with the aim to promote bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. APF will be a catalyst in the improvement of bilateral political, diplomatic, trade, cultural, etc. relations between both brotherly countries. There is a great untapped potential that can be explored and bring prosperity and security in both countries.

2) Pakistani Center for Security Policy–PCSP: I have just established this institute on the lines of Geneva Center for Security Policy-GCSP Switzerland. I graduated with specialization of International Security and Conflict Resolution. It is therefore my vision to pursue the field of specialization and produce some real and indigenous research material. I have been working closely with my friends involved in Kashmir conflict and conflict of Nagorno Karabakh. Being a native of this region, I have initiated this think tank to provide a neutral and wide platform where researchers can work out of the box thinking and come up with realistic solution of regional and global conflicts.

Memories about Azerbaijan

Nelly Nasike (MADIA 2011)

Well, now as you may be aware, I am working at the Kenyan Embassy to Tokyo as a First Secretary. I am basically in charge of Consular affairs, Tourism promotion, Cultural Diplomacy among other day-to-day diplomatic engagements. Being in Azerbaijan and particularly studying at ADA was such an eye-opener to broader and meaningful issues in the area of International Relations. The broad and intensive curriculum not only deepens ones understanding but also accords a choice and reference in the expanding international field. Having specialized in international security and conflict Resolution, I dare to say that my eyes are still fixed on the international security issues. Of course, Azerbaijan's location itself was akin to the actual laboratory of getting hands on experience and lessons of these key classes.

Tibor Szilagyi (MADIA 2012)

First and foremost, the thing I enjoyed most during my studies in Azerbaijan has got to be the vibrant academic experience, which has truly shaped my mind and opened new horizons. I most of all enjoyed the time spent in class with my professors and classmates. Although I must admit that I am also very fond of the local cuisine and I really liked the trips that I took in different parts of the country (Lenkaran, Qax, Guba, Sheki, Gobustan). Though, I tend to think ahead and only carry on with me the positive emotions and memories, it has to be noted that living abroad as a foreigner is not always easy. In Azerbaijan, the most difficult part perhaps was the language barrier and not understanding the communication between my classmates during breaks. Nevertheless, this experience was also very useful, since it prepared me to become more patient and taught me to deal with frustration. This undoubtedly comes handy in everyday work experience.
Then, I go over the meetings or events he’ll be having during the day and make sure that all the materials (notes, analyses, presentations, statistics, or any necessary information) are ready for him on time. This implies to be all day long in close contact with the different General Directorates in order to require them information and inputs. Once they submit them, another advisor and I check them, correct them and upgrade them in order to meet the Deputy Minister's needs and standards.

We try to stick to schedule and have as much organization as possible, but sometimes unexpected things pop up, such as unplanned meetings, interviews or urgent requests from the office of the Minister or eventually the President. Therefore, we have to react fast. And if my boss asks me to accompany him to any of those events, being there on time and advising him when necessary becomes the priority.

Moreover, when there are international summits or rounds of negotiations abroad, things get a little bit more hectic. For instance, there’ll be two important summits in Chile and a round of negotiations of an important trade initiative in Peru. Thus, we are preparing many materials both for the Minister and my boss, and days can be quite long.

There’s no specific time to leave the office, but it's generally around 9 pm. After work, I try to have dinner with friends or family, or simply go home, read or watch something and rest.

So, I hope you have enjoyed the ultra-fast mental ride and whenever you feel like accompanying me in a regular day at the office for real, I’ll be more than happy to have you with me. Sağ ol!!!
Talking about yourself

1. What are your best childhood memories?

I belong to a mountainous valley Quetta near the border of Afghanistan and also far from Iran. I spent my childhood among people of various traditions, languages, religious beliefs, etc. My best childhood memories were to celebrate various celebrations like Novruz, Diwali especially when old ladies grow grass in a plate for Novruz, we kept waiting for grass to grow (in Azerbaijan it is called “Samani” probably). Secondly, the breaking of eggs was a memorable act.

2. What did you do during your childhood summers?

We used to go to our village in Punjab and I still remember swimming in a nearby canal. In the mornings we would go out for playing cricket and in evenings, our mother strictly made us to finish our school work.

3. On your birthday, you’d like to receive...

things for school.....Yes, I would like to receive things for school and books.

4. How would you define yourself in three words?

Sincere-Friendly-Curious

5. Which is your favorite quote?

“When there is a will there is a way”

6. If someone wrote a biography about you, what do you think the title should be?

Story of “The Friend”

7. What kind of people do you dislike?

I hate discouraging people, that is why Galib Mamad is my favorite person. Whenever I felt defeated, I met with him and felt replenished with enthusiasm again.

Talking about your work

8. How did you come to the idea of creating Azerbaijan-Pakistan Foundation?

During my stay in Azerbaijan, I found many commonalities in language, culture, traditions, food, folklore, etc. between both countries. This country gave me wonderful friends, teachers, etc. Therefore the love and affection that I received during my stay compelled me to do something for the betterment of bilateral relations. Azerbaijan-Pakistan Foundation will be a pioneer organization that will bring people of both countries closer and it will also try to remove all hurdles in the way of prosperous future for both countries.

9. What is the main goal of the forum, and which issues does it address?

Azerbaijan-Pakistan Foundation (APF) will work to effectively catalyze long term economic, political, diplomatic, security etc relations between both countries. Both countries are facing problems of terrorism, drug trafficking, human trafficking etc. APF will be highlighting problematic areas, so that governments can
formulate policies to curb these problems.

10. Is it difficult to be a president of a Foundation?

Yes it is indeed a difficult role to play because of sensitive nature of relations between both countries. I completely understand that governments and embassies cannot do everything required for brilliant relations among countries, therefore the role of non-governmental organizations becomes very important and prominent.

11. What events are you planning to organize in the near future?

I have many ideas regarding events to organize in near future. APF will spread awareness about Negorno Karabakh and Kashmir disputes. Moreover, APF will hold conferences, seminars, discussions about 20 January, Khojali Massacre, Independence Day, Republic day etc.

APF will also work to secure collaboration among Pakistani top educational institutions and Azerbaijani Universities, such as ADA.

12. How about a trip to Azerbaijan?

Azerbaijan is my second home and I always wish to visit my second home and my beloved Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy. It is my wish to meet my Azerbaijani friends, visit ADA, eat Azerbaijani food and see Caspian Sea again and again. Since APF is a reality now, so we will be planning exchange visits of students, businessmen, musicians etc.

Talking about ADA

13. What was the most important influence of ADA on you?

ADA has an indelible influence on me. ADA taught me how to peruse dreams and how to work without keeping in mind the ranks and official positions. Beside everything else, ADA gave me dear friends, loving colleagues, encouraging mentors and above all our very kind spiritual father, HE Ambassador Hafiz Pashayev.

14. What was your best memory at ADA?

My best memory at ADA was the day when I and my dear brother Elnur Huseynov were elected as Vice President and President respectively. That day was really a wonderful day, because the first ever Pakistani student was elected as Vice President and that was the day when Pakistan and Azerbaijan both won the elections together.

15. What would you suggest to add to educational cycle at ADA?

My ADA is really growing fast and reaching new heights. My humble suggestion will be to keep all stakeholders in very close contact.

The last question for you

16. Pepsi or Coke?

Neither Pepsi nor Coke…I love Azerbaijani salty Ayran drink…I love this drink.
Alumni donations

As you probably know, ADA Alumni Office launched a vast “GIVING BACK” project. This project is conducted in three directions (online Alumni giving, MADIA 2012 Award and MADIA 2011 Project) and we can say with pride that our Alumni actively participate in all of them. Below is the detailed information about them.

On February 20th, we launched online giving system, with the help of which our Alumni can donate money to ADA Foundation whenever they want. At the same day, we had an Alumnus who was the first person to donate to ADA online. The name of this noble guy is Amil Hasanov (graduate of MADIA 2012 class). Dear Amil, thank you very much for being so much committed to ADA. ADA is very lucky to have such dedicated Alumni as you.

### MADIA 2012 AWARD

It is our pleasure to let you know that 730 AZN have been collected for MADIA 2012 AWARD so far. 13 people contributed 10 AZN each for 7 months (starting from August, 2012) and continue doing so up till May, 2013. The raised 1300 AZN will cover the prizes of MADIA 2012 AWARD and logistical expenses. Below is the list of those 13 Alumni who, despite their recent graduation, decided to establish and fund such a grand and unique project.

- Amil Hasanov
- Narmin Ahangari
- Gunay Ismayilova
- Natavan Aghayeva
- Gune Salimova
- Nursel Asgarli
- Inara Bashirova
- Rovshan Safarov
- Nadir Sarajli
- Ulviye Mehraliyeva
- Najaf Sadigov
- Tugra Musayeva

### MADIA 2011 PROJECT

Simultaneously, Alumni of MADIA 2011 Class is raising money for the project of their Class, which is going to be in a form of scholarship to one of the ADA BA students. So far, the Class decided to make it in a form of book scholarship, but the final decision is yet to be made. Three Alumni of MADIA 2011 class have already donated 50 AZN each to the project, thus were able to raise 150 AZN. We are looking forward to receiving donation from other group members as well. So far this is the list of people who gave up their own consumption for the sake of well-being of one student.

- Akhmed Gumbatov
- Aygun Huseynli
- Sona Mammadova

On behalf of ADA, we would like to thank representatives of both classes for being committed to ADA values.

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