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Organización
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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Regional Literacy Conference Addressing “*Literacy Challenges
in Europe with a sub-regional focus:*”

Building Partnerships and Promoting Innovative Approaches.

(Baku, Azerbaijan, 14-16 May 2008)

“ICTs for Blind and Visually Impaired Learners”



United Nations Literacy Decade

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE

Presented at the UNESCO Regional Conference in Support of Global Literacy “Addressing Literacy Challenges in Europe with a sub-regional focus: Building Partnerships and Promoting Innovative Approaches”, 14-16 May 2008, Baku, Azerbaijan

Programme name: ICTs for Blind and Visually Impaired Learners

Implemented by: The Heydar Aliyev Foundation

Basic facts

Country: Azerbaijan

Starting year: 2006

Outreach: about 200 children

Target Population: Blind and visually impaired children of 5-12 grades enrolled in the boarding school

Operating in: Republican Secondary Boarding School for Blind and Visually Impaired Children.

Main Funding: The Heydar Aliyev Foundation and UNDP

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Brief Description

Despite a number of remarkable achievements made in ICT application in education in Azerbaijan, the information technologies have not yet opened up the opportunities for blind and visually impaired persons to have access to knowledge by adapting digital media to the nature of their disabilities, and enhance their social and economic integration in communities.

The project is intended to address the general problem by carrying out a comprehensive survey on ICT needs of blind and visually impaired, designing educational/training programmes, training teachers/trainers to be involved in the training courses for blind and visually impaired people, and establishing a library and training center at the Republican Secondary Boarding School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Children, as well as setting up a model ICT classroom.

Foreign experts conducted a 2-week interactive training of trainers course for the group of 10 teachers/trainers working at the boarding school.

Further to the positive results of this pilot project, an Advisory Board encompassing representatives from the following government ministries was created: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, and Ministry of Health. The aim of the Board is to develop similar projects/initiatives in other regions countrywide and to provide technical and organizational support for the project activities. Moreover, the Society of Blind and Visually Impaired People of Azerbaijan has become very active in searching for donors to implement such initiatives in other districts of the country.