

# 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER 2020

SOCAR Polymer Newsletter / Issue 29 / 2020

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**743**  
Employees

**2,186,370**  
Man-hours LTI Free

# Targeting higher production quality and rates

# Celebrating a new year, a new start



Dear colleagues,

It has been a year since we launched the second plant having completed a difficult mission through combined efforts of local and foreign specialists and teams of partner companies. We have already gained full control over the PP plant and the HDPE plant is undergoing last performance tests before the SOCAR Polymer company fully takes over management of all technological and planning processes. We have all that it takes. Our specialists have covered a long distance since the inception of the SOCAR Polymer Project and all along its implementation, gaining hands-on experience side by side with our licensors' teams and professionals of vendor companies. We are now in position fortified by all the necessary hardware, software, labour force and expertise to achieve our subsequent goals, to reach the next milestone. We are stepping up production combined with comprehensive quality management to reach the design production rate of our plants and amplify our products portfolio resting on our vast potential. Statistic data of the

past year and a half show we have taken the right course and have properly set the priorities.

My congratulations to the team are on a triplet of occasions to celebrate: the first is the anniversary of plant launch accompanied with well-achieved targets in production and sales, the second is the International Women's Day that gave an opportunity to hail the fair half of our diverse team, and the third is the 7<sup>th</sup> spring holiday we celebrate together as a SOCAR Polymer family.

So, as families do, let us take care of ourselves and one another at a time of a threatening virus attack by exhibiting the same high standards of HSE culture we have demonstrated during years of construction and operation, because each of our team members is this company's asset. Looking forward to another great year with you all,

**Farid Jafarov**  
General Manager

# 1-year anniversary of the HDPE plant launch

18 February 2020 is a remarkable day in the history of our company as on this date one year ago the President of the Azerbaijan Republic Ilham Aliyev launched the HDPE plant of the SOCAR Polymer chemical facility giving start to the production of Azerbaijan's first ever high-density polyethylene.



While the HDPE plant's design production capacity is 120 KTA, a graduate increase in the production rate was undertaken and the year 2019 ended with statistic numbers indicating 17,555 tons of total HDPE production. For comparison, the PP plant launched 7 months earlier, on 18 July 2018, produced 82,332 tons of several PP grades in 2019.

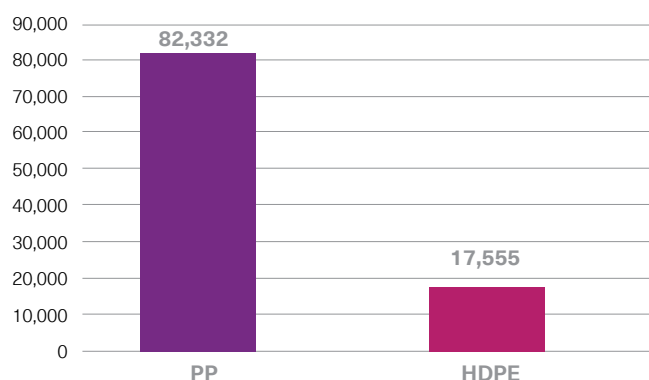


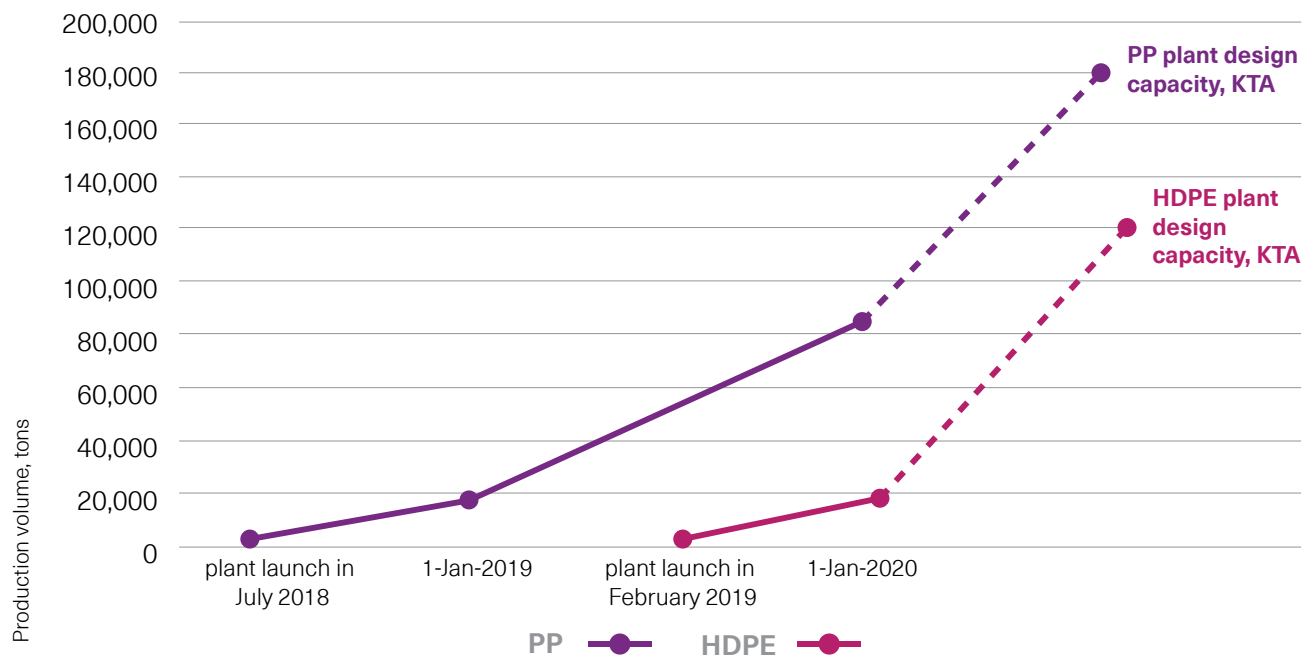
Figure 1. Total polymer production at SOCAR Polymer plants in 2019



**Note:** both plants ceased production during the planned shutdown in October of 2019, intertwined with the shutdown at the republic's other petrochemical facilities until early November. The period of inactivity was used to conduct expansive preventive maintenance checks and to increase equipment reliability.

PP production had also increased gradually from 14,586 tons produced in the July-December period of 2018 up to 82,332 tons produced during the past year. Given the design capacity of the PP plant at 180 KTA, the maximal production rate is expected to be achieved in 2023.

With about 30871 tons of PP produced in the first quarter of 2020, we may achieve the production rate target of about 100-110 KTA by the end of this year.



In the first quarter of 2020, SOCAR Polymer produced 49,105 tons of polymers, which indicates roughly a 73% increase in summed production volume as compared to the same period of 2019.

Sales have grown similarly. In the first quarter of 2020, SOCAR Polymer sold 45,730 tons of polymers, which indicates roughly a 66% increase in sales volume as compared to the same period of 2019.

Apart from the local market, our sale markets in 2019 included Turkey, Russia, Ukraine, China, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Poland, Lithuania, and Turkmenistan, mentioned in the order of decreasing volume of purchased polymers. In 2019, Turkey was our largest buyer of PP grades, with orders placed for a total of almost 45 thousand tons. In the first quarter of 2020, SOCAR Polymer has exported 43,466 tons of polymers to 8 countries. Among our HDPE buyers this year have so far been China, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

The share of local buyers in our sales charts has also grown to have reached a total of 2264 tons in the first quarter of 2020 as compared to the same period of 2019 (556 tons). The ratio of domestic to foreign sales (in tons) of polymers by SOCAR Polymer changed from 1:48 in Q1 of 2019 to 1:19 in Q1 of 2020, indicating an increasing demand of local companies in locally produced polymers as opposed to imported feedstock.

SOCAR Polymer is aiming at boosting production rates, and increasing both foreign and local sales to the benefit of domestic economy.



# 5th anniversary of SOCAR Polymer and Maire Tecnimont cooperation



On 28 January 2020, the planned final performance testing of HDPE plant units was discussed at the meeting between SOCAR's President Rovnag Abdullayev and the delegation led by the Maire Tecnimont group of companies' chairman and shareholder Fabricio Di Amato. It was mentioned that the tests would be performed by SOCAR and Maire Tecnimont specialists within the following week.

It is noteworthy that within the SOCAR Polymer Project the Maire Tecnimont company has executed 2 EPC contracts to a total amount of 550 mln USD. One of them was for engineering, procurement, construction, commissioning, testing and start-up of the PP unit and utilities, infrastructure and offsites. The second contract involved the same works for the HDPE unit. The two contracts were signed on 3 April 2015 and 22 December 2015, respectively.

The designing, procurement, supply and construction works were completed under the developed work schedule. The construction works were performed with proper management of safety risks. The scope of works included 373,000 cubic meters of concrete works, 312,000 inch/days of piping works, 799,000 meters of cabling works, 8,307 tons of steel structure works, installation of 847 equipment units and 680,000 pcs of gauging equipment. The technology applied during plant

construction met Italy's highest modern standards.

To meet the requirements applied to foreign companies in the Azerbaijan Republic, the Maire Tecnimont group of companies developed 3 different development strategies. The first was aimed at granting local students up-to-date knowledge of technical disciplines and first employment upon graduation. To this end, a bilateral agreement was signed with the Baku Higher Oil School whose students benefitted from the internship programs organized by Italy's leading companies operating in Azerbaijan. Based on the demonstrated aptitudes, the interns were then offered jobs. The aforementioned programs are still running. The second strategy was aimed at employing and professionally empowering local specialists. Maire Tecnimont's local representative, the Kinetics Technology (KT) company built up 30% of its staff out of local human resources. The third strategy envisaged procuring mostly from local vendors. As a result, during the implementation of the PP and HDPE projects, the KT company generated over 250 local purchase orders, selected more than 200 qualified suppliers and the value of local purchases was about three times the expected. The SOCAR Polymer project is a good example of Maire Tecnimont company's successful performance in Azerbaijan.

# French embassy representatives and executives of French transnational companies visit SOCAR Polymer plants



On February 21, a delegation headed by Zacharie Gross, the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of France in Azerbaijan paid a visit to SOCAR Polymer's PP and HDPE plants in the framework of his acquaintance tour to the Sumgayit Chemical Industrial Park.

The ambassador of France was accompanied by the Head of Economic Mission Serge Krebs, Economic Attaché Theophile Pastre, Second Secretary Frederic Devos, Executive Director for the Total company in Baku Regis Agut, Country General Manager for Schneider Electric in Central Asia Dan Vlasceanu, and Executive Director of the Azerbaijan-French Chamber of Commerce Zibar Huseynova.

With warm welcome greetings, the Deputy General

Manager Fuad Ahmadov ushered the guests to the VIP meeting room of the on-site office premises. Following the large-screen demonstration of a short introductory film about the "SOCAR Polymer" project, F.Ahmadov gave the guests general information about the company and its PP and HDPE plants, the annual production capacity and sales markets. The company's largest export markets being in Turkey and Russia, the sales geography was mentioned to have stretched far to also include Belarus, Ukraine,



several Eastern European countries and, recently, China and Taiwan, among about a dozen other buyer-countries. As the ambassador inquired about the success-promoting factors, the Deputy General Director emphasized the rewarding combination of a young and dynamic personnel with the average age of 32, and purposeful investment into high-standard trainings for local specialists' development. Further elaborating on the success-factors key to the project, Mr.Ahmadov underlined the benefits of residency in the Sumgayit Chemical Industrial Park such as infrastructural support, 10 year property right, exemption from land and profit tax, and 7 years' exemption from VAT on equipment and plants, which has saved the Project approximately 100 mln USD.



In his turn, Zacharie Gross thanked Mr.Ahmadov on behalf of the entire delegation for the warm reception and provided information. He expressed his pleasure to hear that the young team of the SOCAR Polymer company has been able to implement a Project that boosts the capacity of the petrochemical industry not only in Azerbaijan, but also in the entire Southern Caucasus region. Mr.Gross added that French businessmen are very interested in cooperation with Azerbaijan companies and making investments.



Following the official part of the visit, Junior Process Engineer Farid Aliyev accompanied the guests on a bus tour round the PP and HDPE plants for better acquaintance with the production facility.

# Petroleum Engineers Society members visit SOCAR Polymer



On February 7, fifteen members of the Petroleum Engineers Society and students of the Baku Higher Oil School, Azerbaijan-France University and Azerbaijan Oil and Industry University paid a technical visit to the SOCAR Polymer plants.

The visit started with an electronic presentation given by the HR Training and Development Team Leader, Nargiz Salimova. The presentation provided the guests with overall information about the structure, development plan and current status of the SOCAR Polymer company. N.Salimova underlined the company's significant role in the development of local human resources and mentioned over 1400 applications submitted for the 2019 Summer Internship programme, with only 29 applicants selected to become interns for a period of 8 weeks, at the end of which 22 interns received regular job offers owing to their personal qualities, demonstrated knowledge and skills, and line managers' recommendations.

Following the introductory part, the HSE Team Administrator

Natavan Mammadova briefed the students about SOCAR Polymer's HSE policy, common risks present at the plant and means of protection, safe operation rules and methods, safety equipment and their application rules. All the guests were distributed PPE.

The Operations Manager Rauf Davudov and Jr. Process Engineer Farid Aliyev accompanied the guests on their bus tour around the plant. Having shown the guests the PP and HDPE reactors, the Control Room and Laboratory section, R.Davudov and F.Aliyev answered their numerous questions regarding technological processes.

In conclusion of the technical trip, the Vice President of SPE BHOS Student Chapter Rashad Ahmadov expressed confidence that the trip made a positive impression on the students and that SOCAR Polymer's popularity with students would make it a priority target in their future career plans.





# Team capable of forwarding 115 freight trucks within a day

The Procurement and Supply Chain Management (PSCM) department at SOCAR Polymer holds tenders to procure any goods and services required for the plants or the office. As part of this department, the logistic team ensures the most rational delivery of ordered goods to the destination point. We have interviewed the Logistics Team Leaders, Gulu Nabiyeu and Samir Javadov to learn about the team's roles and daily activities.



**Gulu Nabiyeu**  
Logistics Team Leader



**Samir Javadov**  
Logistics Team Leader

### **What is the logistic team's role in the company?**

**Samir Javadov:** In general, the logistics team performs operations in two directions: import and export. By import operations we imply timely provision of all goods required for our plants' stable operation, including feedstock, chemicals, additives, spare parts, etc. And export operations imply arrangement of timely and safe delivery of SOCAR Polymer plants' products to customers in various countries. Constant monitoring and controlling all transportation and delivery operations is our primary duty. Then, of course, the balance between import and export has largely shifted since the plants were launched. In the construction period, the priority was to import plant units and parts. Now that the plants are working, export operations are gaining ground.

### **How has your team changed over time?**

**Gulu Nabiye:** Initially, the company's logistic infrastructure was established with 3 people assigned to the team, namely, the Logistics Specialist Samira Ibrahimli, and the logistic team leaders in the person of Samir Javadov and myself. The company's subsequent growth and launch of construction works brought about the need to expand the team to include the Logistics Specialist Aygun Karimova, the Customs Declarant Tahir Gasimov, the Senior Expeditor Kristina Safarova, and the Logistics Document Specialist Gulnara Imanova. There was a need for more people to enable timely compiling of customs declarations for exporting the produced polymers and our team was joined by the Customs Supervisor Orkhan Hamidov, Senior Customs Broker Huseynaga Mammadov, Customs Coordinators Riza Hajiyev and Boris Bakhmalov, and Junior Customs Declarant Nazim Rustamov. Optimization of the documentation flow was entrusted to the Customs Declarants Vusal Musayev, Tural Alimardanov and Irada Dadashova. Royal Suleymanov, Samir Shammadov, Vusal Nasibov, Tural Salakhov and Babek Mammadov joined the team to operate the weighbridge round the clock by shifts and to check and verify the weight of the empty trucks entering the plant and the exiting ones loaded with exported products. Another member of the logistics team is the Junior Logistic Document Controller Mehriban Jabrayilova who to everybody's content was promoted from a successful intern to a full-time employee. From the very first day, we have united our efforts as a team and been able to grow professionally together. I can state with confidence that our team is capable of independently managing any logistic or transportation operation with high mastery.

### **Which departments do you work in close connection with?**

**Gulu Nabiye:** In case of an import operation, full information about the goods and the vendor is provided to us by the procurement team of the PSCM department. When product export is performed, we mostly interact with the sales team. We fill in declaration forms for our products on the basis of the invoices submitted against the placed orders and secure smooth transition of our products through the border customs office. We also maintain close interface with the Finance and Legal departments by submitting regular forecasts about the logistic costs, such as duties, VAT, procedure fees and other applicable charges that are incurred during the import and export operations. With the Legal team, we cooperate by providing feedback on the supply and purchase contracts with different companies around the globe, as well as by preparing letters to various state bodies related to import and export activities.



It should also be noted that we keep constantly in touch with the State Customs Committee, Sumgayit Head Customs Office, and the Antimonopoly Policy and Consumer Rights Protection State Service of the Ministry of Economy to keep abreast of the latest news about procedure changes and reforms, which have largely influenced the way we organize our work. Apart from these, we also keep in touch with SOCAR Russia, and SOCAR's Marketing and Operations Department and various freight forwarding companies to coordinate export operations and get updated on the progress of export products' delivery to buyers.

### **What are the interesting and engaging features of your job?**

**Samir Javadov:** Our job requires continuous self-development. Every professionally performed operation is a fruit of long-standing experience. We keep meeting new people – vendors and customers. Although import and export operations might seem to be duplication of the same job, in practice almost each case has unique features that make our work more diverse and interesting. And I cannot fail to mention our team. We are a family.

### **What risks does your work involve?**

**Samir Javadov:** Late delivery of equipment or spare parts may cause interruptions in the plants' operation, damaging the company's image and affecting the financial status. To support continuous production and to be able to switch to a different vendor in force-majeure cases, it is important to have timely planning in place, which will ensure timely and efficient delivery of goods by considering the ROS (required on site) dates of the procured materials and choosing the right mode of transport. It is in such cases that a team's experience and professionalism become apparent. There have been some challenging problems on our way. I recall the beginning of export operations, when there weren't enough members in our team and we had to work longer hours to complete export paperwork on time. The exports to CIS countries required particularly close attention in preparation of documents, where a single tiny mistake in the export paperwork could delay the delivery process of final products to customers. Now our team is fully shaped and we are trying our utmost to handle the logistics activities in an efficient and timely manner.

### **What has been the most memorable day in your work?**

**Gulu Nabiye:** I well remember two such days. Usually, we load and dispatch an average of 50 trucks a day. Now, we put through as many as 106 and 115 trucks a day on those days, respectively. The team worked strenuously till 2 o'clock in the morning, thus, setting a record that hasn't been beaten in the whole of the Sumgayit city.

# Wood scrap donation continues

In continuation of the charity initiative suggested by the SOCAR Polymer company's HSE department to support low-income families of local communities and employees, about 14-15 m3 of wood waste was donated to a SOCAR Polymer employee. This initiative is also an opportunity for Company to demonstrate adherence to the internationally recognized waste management core principles, a.k.a. "three R's", representing guidance for creating a sustainable life through elimination/reduction of waste.

On 21 February 2020, the HSE department received another employee's request for permission to use the wood waste accumulated to the north and south-east of the bagging section and final product warehouse. The expressed intention was to use the wood scrap as construction material otherwise unaffordable by the employee to complete the construction of his house, which is hard to accomplish alongside with supporting his family. The family currently resides in a dormitory located in the H.Z.Tagiyev settlement of Baku.

The request was duly considered, involving meeting of the family and inspection of the house construction venue. Then the case was reported to the HSE Manager and Directorate for subsequent decision-making. Approval for donation was given and transportation was organized by the requester on March 31.

Prior to handover each waste item was visually inspected for safety, e.g. protruding nails were removed, and contaminated timber was not released. The donation

process was documented and signed by the designated committee members.

SOCAR Polymer is ready and always proud to contribute to the community's welfare in every possible way.





# Upgrading Emergency Response Preparedness

Professional SOCAR Polymer employees continue their education reaching for new heights in their areas of expertise.

Emergency situations warranting a response can range from natural disasters to hazardous materials problems and transportation incidents. Therefore, emergency planning involves preparation and planning for natural or man-made disasters, accidents, breach of security, medical emergencies, food or other essential service chain breakdowns and other disruptive catastrophes. Emergency response plans are a critical component of workplace safety.

Emergency response includes any systematic response to an unexpected or dangerous occurrence. It implies a series of actions to be taken in the case of such emergencies. The goal of an emergency response procedure is to mitigate the impact of the event on people and the environment. It shows the preventive actions, preparation to meet adverse situations, how to mitigate them and how to have positive controls during that situation to save lives and reduce property damage.

An important aspect of emergency response is response time. It refers to how long it takes emergency responders to initiate mitigation actions after the emergency response system has been activated. A long response time can result in increased and permanent damage, a higher likelihood of fatalities, and greater distress to those involved. As such, response time is often used as a proxy for the effectiveness of an emergency response program.

The SOCAR Polymer plants have an Emergency Response (ER) team of 40 members and 8 leaders, all of whom have received appropriate ER training:



| Emergency Response Team Members   | Emergency Response Team Leaders   |
|---|---|
| 9 plant operators (Bagging & dispatch)<br>3 bagging shift supervisors<br>8 forklift operators<br>8 mechanical technicians<br>7 instrument technicians<br>4 electrical technicians, and 1 process analyzer technicians | 4 mechanical technicians,<br>3 bagging shift supervisors, and 1 plant operator (Bagging & dispatch) |

In January, ER trainings were held for 11 ER team members (January 13-19) and 4 ER team leaders (January 28):

|  |        |   |
|--|--------|---|
| <b>Emergency Response Team Member training</b> | 7 days | 5 mechanical technicians, 4 instrument technicians, 1 electrical technician and 1 process analyzer technician |
| <b>Emergency Response Team Leader training</b> | 1 day  | 4 mechanical technicians  |



# Advances in professional development

Professional SOCAR Polymer employees continue their education reaching for new heights in their areas of expertise.



## In pursuit of CIA certification

### Urfan Atakishiyev

**Audit Team Leader** has passed 2 out of 3 levels of CIA (Certified Internal Auditors) certification, one step away from becoming a CIA charter-holder with current 3 years' experience in internal audit services in petrochemical industry, and 4 years in external audit services.

CIA is a globally recognized internal audit certification. Becoming a Certified Internal Auditor® (CIA®) is known as an optimum way to communicate

knowledge, skills, and competencies to effectively carry out professional responsibilities for any audit anywhere in the world. Proving credibility and proficiency, the certificate demonstrates that its holder is a credible trusted internal auditor, who understands and can apply the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing, is knowledgeable in organizational governance, committed to the profession of internal auditing, and equipped for career-advancing opportunities.

## In pursuit of ACCA certification

### Narmin Agayeva

#### Junior Budget Specialist

has passed Management Accounting (F2) and Financial Accounting (F3) level exams.



### Rustam Rashidov

#### Accountant Assistant

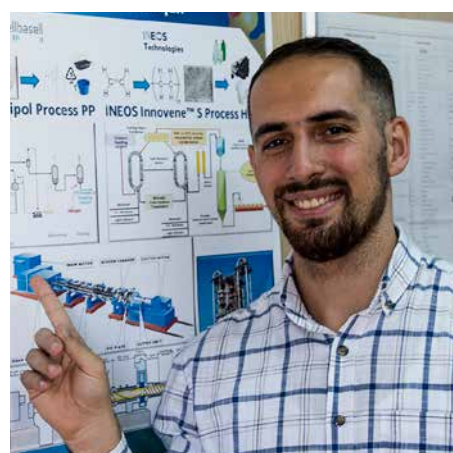
has passed the Financial Accounting (F3) exam with the score of 88%. His further targets on the way to obtaining all ACCA certificates is passing the Management Accounting (F2) exam in February and the Financial Reporting (F7) one in June.



### Rakif Hasanli

#### Senior Budget Specialist

has passed the last of 13 exams and become an ACCA Member. It took him 2.5 years to cover the distance to membership. The last two exams were on Strategic Business Reporting and on Advanced Audit and Assurance.



The exams are administered by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) which founded in 1904 and headquartered in London is a global professional accounting body offering the Chartered Certified Accountant qualification (ACCA). ACCA works through a network of over 104 offices and centres in 52 countries. It takes progressive stances on global

issues to ensure accountancy as a profession continues to grow in reputation and influence. Individuals who describe themselves as Chartered Certified Accountants must be members of ACCA and if they carry out public practice engagements, must comply with additional regulations such as holding a practicing certificate, carrying liability insurance and submitting to inspections.

**Employees setting high standards of expertise motivate other team members to improve and grow further, thus increasing the staff expertise level, the competitive advantages and overall value of a business.**



# My development path

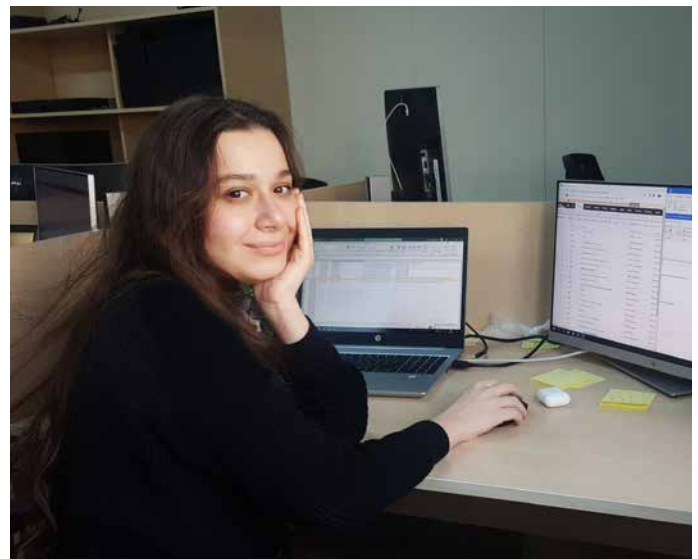
SOCAR Polymer is launching a project titled “My development path” and aimed at tracking three former interns’ development over a one-year period. The interns are Natavan Mammadova, Farida Bayramova and Ismayil Ahmadov. The project’s ultimate objective is to give next year’s internship-pursuing students a better understanding of what knowledge and skills they will obtain by working within SOCAR Polymer’s team of specialists in the selected discipline. The project is also expected to encourage and incentivize Natavan, Farida and Ismayil to best build on their knowledge and improve their skills to master their professions.



**Ismayil Ahmadov**  
Junior field process engineer

- I can confidently say that there have been several changes in my life since I started working here. In general, it takes weeks, even months for interns to adapt to the team and working conditions at a new workplace. I, however, had no such issues. My participation in the 8-week summer internship program and becoming aware of the plant’s overall structure and working scheme facilitated my transition from an intern to an employee status.

- My job requires possession of complete knowledge about the entire plant area. For instance, I am working at the polypropylene plant and am responsible for all the processes taking place there. Spending most of the working day attending to fieldwork is the most engaging part of my job. Knowing the location and operation details of all the equipment units at the PP plant is of key importance. Our input often involves giving advice regarding proper starting and stopping of the plant, its maintenance and proper process flow. I admit that so far, I haven’t always been up to the mark in fully performing these duties, the main reason for that being lack of experience, expertise or skills. To fill in this gap I am inquiring into the production processes at the plant and take every opportunity to apply newly gained knowledge in practice. Currently, I am studying to pass the required tests and am confident that one day looking back at all the overcome challenges I will be proud of myself.



**Farida Bayramova**  
Network Administrator Assistant

- As an entry level position, mine titled Network Administrator Assistant is comprised of tasks which include installation, monitoring, and performance optimization of computer systems. I am responsible for maintaining the corporate network and keeping our IT support staff updated on the latest tools and processes. My duties include monitoring and supporting company’s network and data centers, troubleshooting, developing and updating firewall policies, drafting, implementing, and maintaining network documentation, coordinating with the manager the user access settings and permissions to prevent unauthorized access, maintaining records of hardware and software used in network systems, and the like. I assist in the application of firewalls and security devices to ensure network security and help maintain telephone systems and computer stations.

- Working in this position is definitely a valuable and fascinating journey that I am happy and proud to experience.

- I believe I have already improved my ability to effectively employ time-management skills, solve complicated situations, and exercise critical observation and adaptability. Teamwork, indeed, has rewarded me with a valuable set of soft skills.

# One workday through the eyes of a coworker

Day-to-day polymer production at SOCAR Polymer plants is accomplished by an integrated team of employees having different professions and engaged in plant operation, maintenance, production process monitoring, quality control, planning, production management, etc. Our interlocutors describe their daily tasks and role in the plants' activity, their work environment, the encountered challenges and some fine details of the work they perform. Let us get to know our colleagues and plant better.



## Ramin Gasimov - Senior storeman

"A warehouse provides centralized storage management of all incoming goods and outgoing products regardless of type or size. For SOCAR Polymer, too, proper organization of warehousing processes is of much significance. Accurate inventory listing facilitates tracking and management of

goods. Sufficient investment into warehouse arrangement and improvement, planned human resource development, and prioritization of safety principles constitute the foundation of our successful performance. My typical working day lasts from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. Actually, the warehouse is functional

round the clock accepting incoming goods at daytime and providing the plant's different departments with necessary spare parts 24/7.

First off, I check my email inbox to sketch the work plan for the day. At 9:30 am I supervise the toolbox meetings held for our team. At that meeting, the attendees are reminded of proper PPE use, emergency exit locations, risk assessment, methods and means of accepting, checking and placing goods on shelves, and manual handling rules.

Information on the incoming goods is emailed to us a day in advance. Once the car plate number of the transportation vehicle is confirmed, I supervise the process of goods' acceptance, handling and placement on warehouse shelves in accordance with the number

of the order. If it is planned to deliver certain goods to any plant department on that day, I get in touch with that department's representative, have the turnover-acceptance act signed and stamped, and provide safe delivery of the goods to the department's storeroom. In general, I spend the day supervising all the processes taking place in three warehouses designated respectively for spare parts, chemicals and clothes. Any goods entering the plant is forwarded to the respective warehouse and my team accurately performs the acceptance, collection and delivery operations. Considering the high risks involved, our work demands flawless planning, proper functioning of equipment, effective two-way information flow within the team, and proper assessment, training and development of new team members. I conclude each workday with a discussion of the daily work done and evaluation of the results."

## Mahammad Alimammadli - Forklift operator

"As a forklift driver, my job is to collect the product pallets exiting the bagging machine, to place them into the appropriate warehouse sections and then stack them into trucks. Our working day lasts by shifts from 8 a.m. till 8 p.m., and from 8 p.m. till 8 a.m. I work alternating one day shift with one night shift. The working day starts for me with collection of the forklift key, with a proper note of the date and time made in the logbook. Every morning there is a meeting held by supervisors to distribute work, to assign jobs for the shift, and to refresh the memory for the hazard-prone parts of the job and risks involved. The polymers produced over a shift are bagged and palletted to be picked up by a forklift and carried over to an assigned section depending on the polymer grade and batch number. The barcode of the section assigned as the destination address for each pallet, as well as the information about the product pallets to be stacked into trucks for delivery to the buyer are provided to us by expeditors.

I participate not only in handling of polymer bags for export, but also in carrying of chemicals to the respective warehouse. Handling of chemicals requires particular care not to give way to spillage, slipping or cracking of containers. Additionally, the forks of the cars are covered with special substances to eliminate the risk of chemical gas explosion from a spark produced by metal-against-metal friction. As in every job, mine has its own challenges. Successful performance of my tasks requires maximal awareness of present risks. That's why we perform all operations in strict accordance with HSE regulations. The interesting part of my job is having a team of professionals always willing to learn. I try to finish every working day with a sense that I have professionally done my work."



# Women's day celebration at the site office



On March 7, 2020, dozens of female employees were invited to gather outside the site office where the Deputy General Director Fuad Ahmadov greeted them with warm congratulatory words of appreciation for the valuable contribution these representatives of the fair half of mankind make into the success of the SOCAR Polymer company. Despite the fact that chemical production and industrial facilities are commonly classified as categories favoured most by men, SOCAR

Polymer's female specialists play an indispensable role in our company by filling many office and even technical positions, some managing, others facilitating, monitoring and improving the daily workflow at this chemical production facility broadly recognized as a significant asset in our country's economy. Following the expressed appreciation and abundant wishes, the employees were treated to a festively decorated holiday cake.





# SOCAR Polymer shields off coronavirus risks

Upon the news of confirmed local cases of coronavirus in Azerbaijan, the SOCAR Polymer company developed a business continuity plan and undertook appropriate actions to minimize the likelihood of transmission and exponential growth of the disease.



On March 17, the HR department shared the list of employees allowed to work from home through application of telecommunication technologies. The IT department ensured security and convenience of such distant work. An all-staff email informed our employees in detail about the virus features, effective ways of protecting individuals and the work community from respiratory virus spreading, the phone numbers of the site doctor, and the outbreak hotline number.

The instructions to be followed by all employees required:

- avoidance of crowding;
- avoidance of close contact, e.g. handshaking, hugging, etc.
- avoidance of direct contact with frequently touched objects and surfaces, including touching of eyes, nose and mouth without prior washing of hands;
- frequent washing of hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- use of 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are unavailable;
- decontamination of frequently touched objects;
- staying home if sick with any contagious disease;
- covering coughs or sneezes with a tissue with immediate disposal of the latter.

Any signs of seasonal diseases or slightest suspicion of coronavirus infection required reporting of such to line managers or the HSE department.

Starting from March 16, by order of the company management, the canteen at the production facility served food with disposable dishes and cutlery. Respiratory masks were distributed to all employees in company shuttle buses and at the facility entrance gate. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer dosing containers were placed at the entrances to all the office premises. Masks, gloves and sanitizing gel were made easily accessible to all incoming service vehicles and warehouse truck drivers. Violation of the instruction to wear masks at all times within the site or on shuttle buses entailed appropriate punitive measures and deprivation from bus/site access rights.

On March 18, face masks were announced a mandatory minimum PPE, indoor or outdoor, at meetings or within smaller groups of people. The masks were distributed by the company, requiring replacement every 48 hours.

The production site and office premises, including hallways, Control Room, and outdoor gate entrances, underwent daily



cleaning under an approved disinfection plan. Employees were instructed to perform the common hygiene procedures outside of the working hours or premises, as well.

On March 25, it was announced that work from home would continue for most of the employees, while the production facility would be manned at the minimum requirement level to enable isolation from risk of as many of the employees as possible.

Such early, bold and effective actions by SOCAR Polymer reduced short-term risks to employees and long-term costs to business and, in the long run, the domestic economy. Prevention is both easier and more cost-effective for an exponentially growing process, and this health emergency requires effective action by the company and active cooperation of individuals.

Health and well-being of every employee and citizen is of great value. We call upon everyone not to jeopardize it!

Upon the news of confirmed local cases of coronavirus in Azerbaijan, the SOCAR Polymer company developed a business continuity plan and undertook appropriate actions to minimize the likelihood of transmission and exponential growth of the disease.



**Think you have coronavirus?**

Call: Azerbaijan Republic Ministry of Health Hot Line

**9103 (0)**  
Call Site Doctor:

**+994 50 204 12 15**  
**+994 12 404 53 30**  
**/ ext.: 2326**

## Personal Protection Means



Disposable medical mask  
Efficiency: weak  
Good for: 2 hrs



Medical respiratory mask  
Efficiency: medium  
Good for: 24 hrs



Respiratory filter mask  
Efficiency: strong  
Good for: depending on the filter  
(48 hrs – 1 month)

# SOCAR Polymer brings Novruz joy to low-income families

Loyal to the tradition established back in 2016, SOCAR Polymer annually participates in the events organized in support of low-income families through the joint efforts of the Sumgayit city Executive Authority and the Sumgayit branch of the Red Crescent Society (RCS).

This year, too, our company made its contribution to the Novruz holiday initiative undertaken by the Sumgayit branch of the Red Crescent Society despite the impeding coronavirus attack on the country. The format of the event was altered, however, to minimize contamination risks and the festive component was removed from the previous event plan. SOCAR Polymer provided sponsorship support to the event alongside with the Ordubad market, Pasha Insurance and Pasha Life Insurance companies.

A total of 430 families – about three times as many Sumgayit residents – benefitted from the charity event. The SOCAR Polymer company arranged 180 Novruz food-baskets and our Jr. PR Specialist Bakhtiyar Allahverdiyev presented them to the representatives of the invited Sumgayit families. Each basket contained 5 types of foodstuff for cooking delicious dinner in happy celebration of the Novruz holiday.

Opening the event, the chairwoman of the Sumgayit city branch of RCS, Matanat Maharramova briefly greeted the event participants, expressed her and volunteers' best wishes and gratitude to the sponsor companies. The families in their turn, thanked the organizers and sponsors of the event for the care bestowed and the joy given to so many people on this popular spring holiday.

The presents for people who had not been physically able to attend the event were then delivered to the addressees by the RCS volunteers.



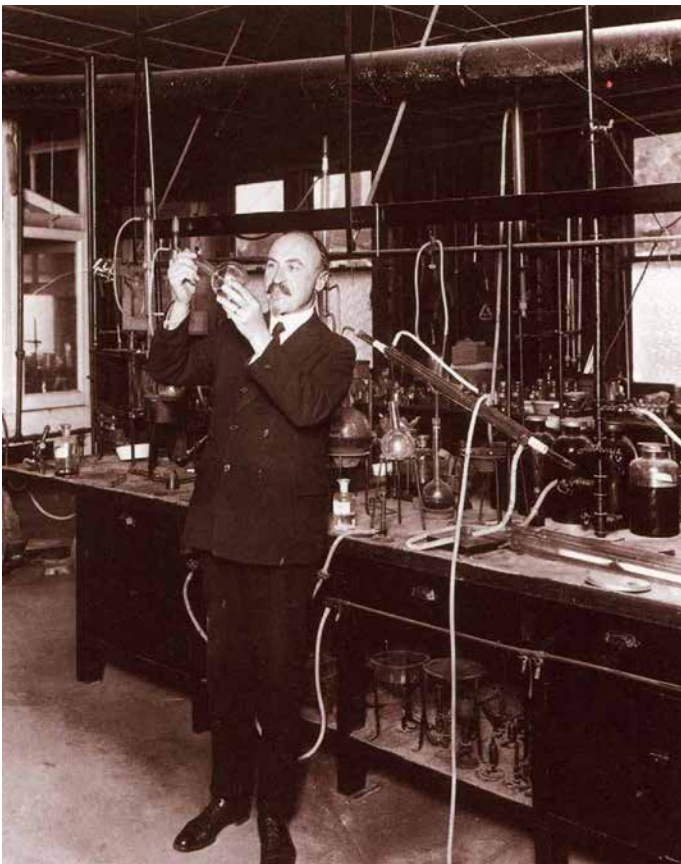






# HDPE increasingly winning favours

Not only is it one of the most versatile of plastics — used in everything from hard hats to house wraps - it's also widely recycled, in both its rigid form (e.g., containers) and flexible form (e.g., bags).



Produced in fits and starts in the 1930s in the United Kingdom, HDPE production really took off in the 1950s in the U.S. and has skyrocketed in popularity, making it today's most widely used type of plastic.

## Why so popular?

- It's lightweight yet super-strong. That's why an HDPE milk jug that weighs 2 ounces can carry a gallon of milk, and why many carmakers use HDPE fuel tanks — lighter-weight car parts can help increase fuel efficiency.
- It's impact resistant. Drop the toy truck down the stairs and it bounces.
- It's long lasting and weather resistant, so a plastic lumber veranda can entertain generations of families.
- It resists mold, mildew, rotting, and insects, so it's great for underground pipes used to deliver water.
- And it's easily molded into nearly any shape, providing one of the primary benefits of most plastics: malleability.





HDPE often replaces heavier materials, partly because the global society and many companies are pursuing sustainability goals, such as reducing the amount of material used in packaging and products. "Lightweight and strong" can translate into "less impact on the environment." For example, a recent study of six types of packaging found that plastics can deliver more food with significantly less waste, energy use, and global warming potential than alternatives. When plastics recycling really started to grow, HDPE became quite skilled at evading landfills. In 2012, HDPE bottles alone broke the billion-pound mark for recycling in USA.



Recycled HDPE is typically used to produce:

- storage containers
- lumber
- outdoor patio furniture
- playground equipment
- automobile parts
- trash cans, compost bins, recycling bins

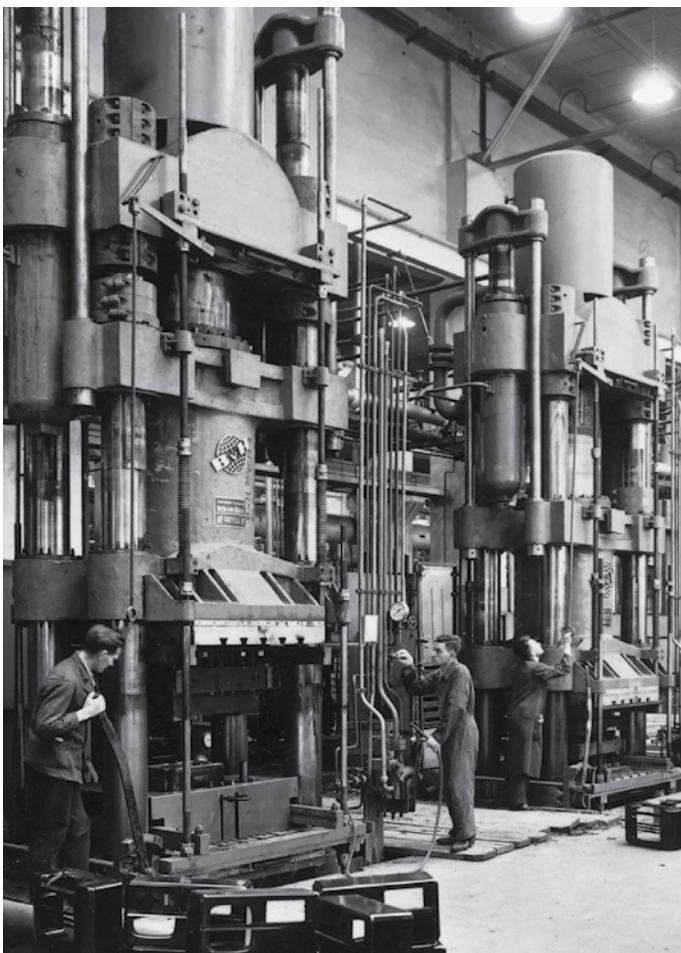
So, HDPE is an advantaged and well-liked material with a stellar future in front of it.

Just don't say that around polypropylene....



# One of the most versatile? Polypropylene!

You run across this multifunctional multi-tasker in your kitchen (utensils), your closet (athletic apparel), your family room (area rugs), your car (batteries)... in fact, polypropylene is found in just about every market sector that uses plastics. Sort of like a superhero of plastics.



Discovered by Italian scientists in the mid-1950s, polypropylene today is surpassed in production volume only by polyethylene, discovered a couple decades earlier. Polypropylene's unique chemical makeup reveals itself in its various advantageous characteristics:

- It has a high melting point, so it's used for many microwave containers;
- It doesn't react with water, detergents, acids, or bases, so it won't break down easily;
- It's resistant to cracking and stress, even when flexed, so it's used in lots of hinges;
- It's quite durable, so it withstands daily wear and tear.

Polypropylene's characteristics make it ideal for tough, robust products ranging from protective car bumpers to life-saving medical tools to cold-weather gear for soldiers. Plus, it also can be engineered into a wide range of packaging that helps protect products we rely on every day, from medicine to yogurt to baby food.

More car batteries are recycled to recover their metals and plastics (polypropylene). Speaking of recycling, polypropylene bottles and containers are collected for recycling in many countries worldwide. Recycling polypropylene helps keep this superhero out of landfills to live another life as colanders, food storage containers, cutting boards, outdoor rugs, car parts and more.

Polypropylene is used in nearly every plastics market, from protective packaging to medical equipment. It's tough. It's durable. It's being recycled from cars and households around the world.



[www.socarpolymer.az](http://www.socarpolymer.az)

OPENING NEW FRONTIERS  
IN THE PETROCHEMICAL  
INDUSTRY OF AZERBAIJAN

 **SOCAR**  
**POLYMER**