

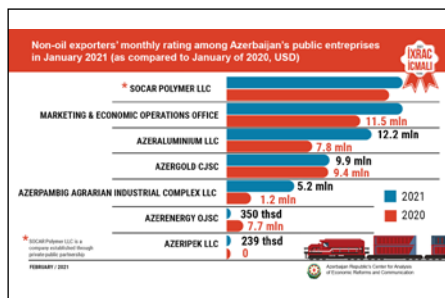
# 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER 2021

SOCAR Polymer Newsletter / Issue 33 / 2021

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Without collaboration our growth is limited to our own perspectives



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An investment in knowledge pays the best interest



Making the joy of the Novruz holiday brighter



**SOCAR**  
POLYMER

**3,194,850**  
Man-hours LTI Free

# Each milestone is a big step



Dear colleagues,

The year 2021 started out with a big achievement that proved the reliability of our production facility's operational performance and that of all the contracts signed under the SOCAR Polymer Project. Passing of the Lender's Reliability Test launched on January 2 and completed successfully early in March was a significant milestone reached through well-coordinated performance of all SOCAR Polymer departments and teams, which is a major accomplishment in itself.

Apart from that, progress has been achieved in the external interactions of the company, such as with buyers to ensure customer satisfaction and with logistic contractors to expand transportation routes and means. Thus, delivery of polymers to Kazakhstan is now conducted predominantly by railway.

Meanwhile, SOCAR Polymer is still leading among homopolymer PP importers to the Russian Federation and domestic exporters of the non-oil sector of economy. Overall, the total volume of our first quarter sales to CIS countries in 2021 has almost doubled as compared to last year. The list of our local customers has grown from 13 unique buyers in the first quarter of 2020 to 36 this year. Local sales in Q1, too, have grown by 64% as compared to the same period of 2020, which is good progress towards the goal of supporting local economy and production more.

In addition to its business activity, our company has continued its involvement in progressive social events, charity campaigns, and environmental initiatives such as beautification of the production site landscapes, as well as its team-building efforts including by celebration of national and international holidays.

In sum, the outcomes of the first quarter of 2021 have been positive and encouraging.

Fuad Ahmadov  
General Manager

# Recalling the grand opening ceremony of the PP plant



"I have looked through information about your activity in Azerbaijan, and of course, I remember the plant opening ceremony in Sumgayit. President Mattarella and I attended that grand event together. In general, your company has been involved in Azerbaijan in projects worth more than 1.6 billion euros, and I think this trend will continue because you have already demonstrated your commitment to our country. Your remark about the number of local citizens employed for your activities also demonstrates your commitment and your long-term strategy regarding Azerbaijan. You wouldn't have done all these if you hadn't been planning to stay in business here for long. At first, only Italians were employed, while now the local nationals constitute more than 70% of your local staff. So, you have contributed to trainings and that's very important, too."

3 February 2021

**Ilham Aliyev**  
**President of the Azerbaijan Republic**

A video-meeting with Fabrizio Di Amato,  
chairman of a delegation from  
Maire Tecnimont Group (Italy)

“

I have looked through information about your activity in Azerbaijan, and of course, I remember the plant opening ceremony in Sumgayit. President Mattarella and I attended that grand event together.



# SOCAR Polymer successfully completed Lender's Reliability Test



Early in March, SOCAR Polymer successfully completed the Lender's Reliability Test (LRT) initiated on January 2. LRT is a rigorous effort designed to demonstrate a production facility's operation reliability at given production rates and other conditions specified by the Lender.

**Thus,** the 2-months' production goals under this LRT had been pre-set by Gazprombank. Accordingly, during the 60-day LRT, SOCAR Polymer's 2-plant chemical complex was operated continuously at the production rate of 415 tons of PP and 297 tons of HDPE per day. As a result, the plants produced 24900 tons of 14 PP grades, and over 18000 tons of 13 HDPE grades.

The RLТ also verified the reliability of all the contracts signed under the SOCAR Polymer Project for provision of the Project's success.





**Rauf Davudov**  
**Operations Director**

The LRT has been our main task and priority since the beginning of the year. Despite the adverse weather conditions and even snowfall, we focused on the accomplishment of the set goals. We have demonstrated that the plants are capable of efficient production at high rates and are operated well. In fact, I would say that the biggest achievement over the two months has been demonstration of exemplary coordination of efforts and cooperation between different departments. Everyone realized how critical and important this milestone was. All teams have done a good job. Well done and way to go!

# Highlights of production and sales in Q1/2021

Total production of polymers (PP and HDPE) over the first three months of 2021 constituted

**48,465**  
tons

including

**29,982**  
tons of PP

and

**18,483**  
tons of HDPE

In terms of product range, 14 grades of PP and 13 grades of HDPE were produced.

Export of PP in Q1 of the current year totaled

**29,273**  
tons

the main export markets being the Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan.

The rest of the export destinations have been in Lithuania, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Belarus, China, Poland, Lithuania, and Romania.



**14,693**  
tons of HDPE

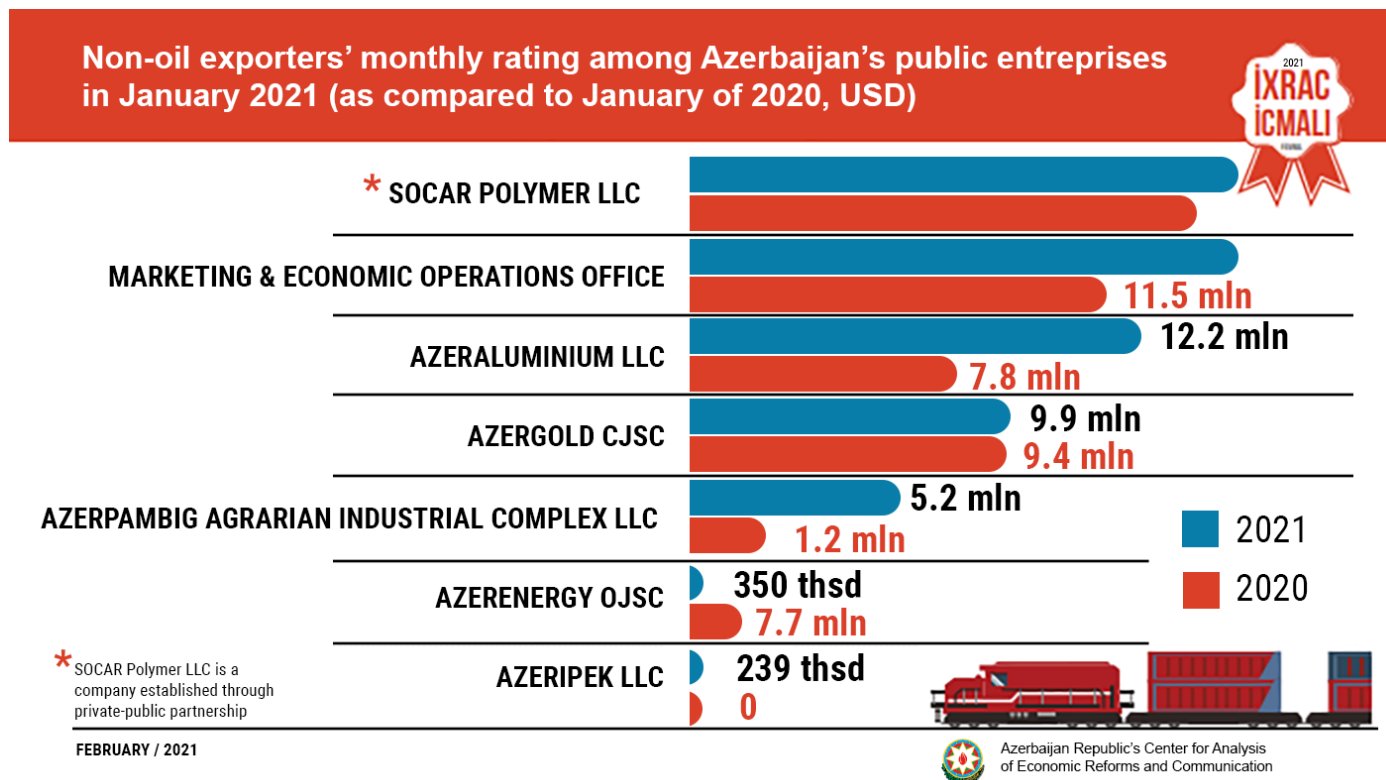
was exported to foreign markets, predominantly to the Russian Federation, Belarus, Bulgaria, China, Georgia, Lithuania, Turkey, Uzbekistan, and Poland.

Bulgaria is a newly acquired export market for SOCAR Polymer's polyethylene.

# SOCAR Polymer leading among Azerbaijan's non-oil exporters

In the February edition of the "Export Review" published by the Center for Analysis of Economic Reforms and Communication (CAERC), SOCAR Polymer rates highest among non-oil exporters in terms of export revenues.

CAERC is a legal entity that suggests proposals to facilitate progressive economic reforms. To this end, CAERC explores analytical data acquired through research on macro and microeconomic levels.



## CAERC's objectives:

- to ensure sustainable economic development of the country
- to prepare mid- and long-term forecasts
- to provide government authorities and agencies with reports and forecasts
- to organize promotion of the achievements made by the Republic of Azerbaijan in various sectors of economy.

CAERC's "Export Review" has been regularly published since April 2017. The purpose of the Review is to educate entrepreneurs on export, to increase the opportunities for local goods on the traditional and new markets, and to speed up the process of integration into international markets.

"Export Review" provides the latest information on the non-oil sector of the Republic of Azerbaijan, ranks export companies based on monetary data, and informs its readers about the export orders entered into the [www.azexport.az](http://www.azexport.az) Internet portal. The publication also informs about state agencies' efforts to promote export and about export-related changes to local legislation.

"Export Review" is published and distributed among participants of conferences and workshops held in Azerbaijan.

After each edition of the Review, press releases are sent to mass media, with data communicated to the audience through TV channels and social media.

Source: <http://iqtisadiislahat.org>

# Getting a wider perspective of our client, 'Azertexnolayn'

In the current conditions of limited cross-border trade due to the COVID-19 induced risks, in order to minimize the negative impact on the domestic economy, SOCAR Polymer prioritized supplying of local businesses' demand for polymer feedstock.



**In** 2020, the number of our local buyers increased from 13 companies (in 2019) to 28 companies and 3 physical persons. Among them is our top buyer of HDPE grades, a resident of the Sumgayit Chemical Industrial Park, 'Azertexnolayn' LLC.

To get a wider perspective of this company rating high among SOCAR Polymer's local clients, an interview was taken from the Marketing Specialist for 'Azertexnolayn' LLC, Rauf Karimov who gave information about the company, its products, main clients, and the effect that cooperation with SOCAR Polymer has had on the company's current development.





**What are the key points in the description of the 'Azertexnolayn' company?**

The first resident of the Sumgayit Chemical Industrial Park, Azertexnolayn LLC is known as one of the key production companies in this country. Established in 2012, the company commissioned its production facility in 2013 and specialized in the production of oil and non-oil products that are in high demand at local and foreign markets under the 'Made in Azerbaijan' brand. Our 24 ha production area comprises 3 plants and 2 production zones. The company employs 700+ people.

**What products does the company produce?**

'Azertexnolayn' company's products have some unique qualities for the domestic market and high export potential. Among them are spiralwelded steel pipes, corrugated drainage pipes, HDPE pipes for water and natural gas, drip irrigation pipes, rust-resistant metal fences, HDPE fittings, a range of plastic injection products, water valves, fire and irrigation hydrants, manhole covers, rainwater grills, well facility, park seats, anti-parking barriers, trash bins, and other products for industrial infrastructure. The company holds API 5L, ISO 9001, OHSAS 18001, ISO 14001, ISO 29001, GOST, and AZS certificates that signify the quality of its products and adherence to the global standards for safety and hygiene.

**What areas are your main clients specializing in?**

Our top clients are companies and state agencies that operate in the oil and gas, water supply, sewerage, agriculture, road construction and urban infrastructure, civil construction and other sectors of industry and business. We have 100+ customers.





**What products are you purchasing from SOCAR Polymer?**

From SOCAR Polymer, our company purchases the HM0359 grade of HDPE.

**What products do you produce from polymer feedstock?**

Feedstock purchased from SOCAR Polymer is mainly used to produce PE fittings and HDPE pipes for water and gas.

**What role does cooperation with SOCAR Polymer play in your company's development?**

Commissioning of the SOCAR Polymer production facility removed our dependence on imported feedstock. Savings made from reduction of transportation and procurement expenses made a positive effect on price-formation and increased the profit margin of our products. These advantages, in their turn, created new opportunities for entering new sale markets and increasing the export potential.



# Two-stage trainings launched for PP plant operators

**There** are, respectively, 56 and 44 operators in the Polymerization and Extruder/Utilities sections of the SOCAR Polymer plants. The two Bagging sections of the PP and HDPE plants are manned by 18 operators each. All these operators have passed trainings organized domestically or abroad by the "Tecnimont", "Fluor" and "SOCAR Polymer" companies to build on the operators' skills and theoretical knowledge regarding a wide range of technical details of equipment operation and maintenance.

The most experienced of the operators manned the Control Room to monitor and regulate the technological processes. They are responsible for constantly checking the technological parameters influencing product quality, as well as for ensuring safe start-up and shutting down of the plants. Field operators, on the other hand, prepare field equipment for maintenance, prepare the catalyst and donors, take product, water, and gas samples at different stages of the production process, commission and constantly monitor equipment in accordance with relevant procedures. They pressure test equipment for leakages and top-up tanks with lubricants and chemical additives. They also keep record of instrumentation readings and such parameters as pressure, temperature, consumption, and levels.

On February 1, two-part trainings were launched at the PP plant to upgrade plant operators' knowledge and skills regarding the equipment of the polymerization unit, extruder, and offsite utilities.

"Operator assessment exams helped us develop a training program that would improve our operators' knowledge and performance. It will be a two-part training program," said the PP Production Lead, Parviz Isgandarov. The first part of the training program comprises such topics as:

- pressure, level, temperature, density, and flow measuring equipment;
- pumps, compressors, blowers,



- valves, and other rotating equipment;
- static equipment such as separators, K.O. drums, scrubbers and heat exchangers;
- reading of process flow diagrams; control loops and their types.

Upon completion of this training part, the operators will have gained new knowledge about equipment, transmitters, and their operation principles; learned the principles of interpreting technological process diagrams; and improved their knowledge of fire-fighting systems, blocking mechanisms, and emergency systems.

In the second part of the training, the processes ongoing in the polymerization, extruder and utilities sections of the PP plant will be

explained based on diagrams and then practical skills will be improved through on-hands demonstrations on site.

Training sessions last 2 hours and are held on daily basis. At the end of the training course, operators will take a written test to demonstrate achieved progress and gained knowledge.

The training participants' list comprises 50 operators in the 24-42 age range. Training materials have been developed by SOCAR Polymer's engineers and field supervisors, and the quality of the training process will be evaluated by the HR team.

The first part of the training will have been implemented by the end of August, 2021. Commencement of the second part of trainings is planned for September.

# SOCAR Polymer on television screens

## AzTV broadcast about production amidst lockdown



"The pandemic has affected different branches of economy across the world countries, including Azerbaijan. However, despite the adverse conditions the resident-companies of the Sumgayit Chemical Industrial Park have been able to increase production as compared to last year". Such was the introduction made by a national television (AzTV) presenter to a 3-minute video coverage about SOCAR Polymer plants on 26 January 2021. The TV reporting team visited our plant among a few others in SCIP to witness the safety precautions in place against the COVID-19 risks. So, the video showed the disinfection and health protection measures undertaken at SOCAR Polymer's production facility which despite the lockdown and minimization of personnel continued its operation 24/7 over the past year and even increased production.

"The pandemic-related safety measures are strictly observed at SOCAR Polymer. We have minimized daily attendance, provided all of our staff with health protection means, and the entire area is regularly disinfected, including shuttle buses," our HSE Director Alovzat Jafarov informed. In his interview, SOCAR Polymer's General Manager Fuad Ahmadov confirmed that our production in the first 6 months of 2020 had already surpassed our total annual production rate in 2019. "The main cause of such increase is that SOCAR Polymer has already been recognized as a reliable brand on the local and foreign markets," he said.

The full episode is available by this link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k5Uecr6Ybm4>

## "Ictimai TV" meets our colleague on Women's Day



Dedicated to the International Women's Day on March 8, the 5-minute video on Public TV channel made spectators' acquaintance with women in different occupations: a street cleaner, a crane operator, a bread baker, and a chemical process engineer. Women doing men's jobs have always sparked interest, so, women in SOCAR Polymer's plant personnel drew the reporter's attention.

"There have been and will be heroic women in Azerbaijan. Today we have met another surprising woman, whose job is unordinary, difficult, and curious," the presenter said handing a bunch of flowers to our colleague, Jr Field Process Engineer, Esmira Jafarova who has worked 2 years at our chemical

plant. "Despite all difficulties, I am proud to be doing this job. My main task is to facilitate cleaning of all systems from hydrocarbons and other harmful substances during regular large-scale maintenance activities. This also includes action planning to ensure preparedness for maintenance. Such jobs are usually performed by men, but there are several women engaged in such occupations at this plant and fearing no challenges thereof," Esmira said and wished all Azerbaijani women a happy Women's Day and success in their work.

The full episode is available by this link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=LSJh1B6Dalw>



## CBC TV highlights some of SOCAR Polymer's achievements



The first frame of the video shows the viewers PP pellets from which pipes, plastic packaging, and many consumer goods are made for use in everyday life.

"For over 2 years, SOCAR Polymer has been producing HDPE and PP in Azerbaijan, and the demand for its products is high both domestically and abroad. The company's product portfolio already features 15 grades of PP and 5 grades of HDPE. Not to mention that initially it was planned to produce only about 10 PP and 4 HDPE grades. High demand triggered both expansion of the portfolio and intensive export. The company is leading among Azerbaijan's non-oil exporters," said the presenter who visited the Bagging section and the Control Room where both the PP and HDPE plants are operated by means of automated control panels.

"Last year we expanded our geography of exports beyond CIA and Turkey to include Romania, Austria, and a few other European countries. On the local market, we supply polymers to over 40 local enterprises. Quality-wise, our products meet all the requirements listed by licensors," the General Manager, Fuad Ahmadov said in an interview to CBC TV.

The video informed that the company's total production in 2020 had increased by 40% as compared to 2019. The General Manager also underlined that SOCAR Polymer is the leading importer of homopolymer polypropylene to Russia, notwithstanding the high price range.

The full episode is available by this link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ECJFg1Pb-Q>

## SOCAR Polymer in the “Objective” program on AzTV



Dedicated to the International Women’s Day on March 8, the 5-minute video on Public TV channel made spectators’ acquaintance with women in different occupations: a street cleaner, a crane operator, a bread baker, and a chemical process engineer. Women In the February 3 episode of the “Objective” TV program, the presenter Jesarat Gambarli emphasized the role that the oil-revenues-supported non-oil sector may play in the development of the Azerbaijan economy in the post-pandemic period. For evidence, the presenter visited the Sumgayit Chemical Industrial Park (SCIP), the Baku Oil Processing Plant named after Heydar Aliyev, the Sumgayit-based Ethylene-polyethylene plant of Azerikimya PU, and the SOCAR Polymer production facilities.

In an interview with SOCAR Polymer’s General Manager Fuad Ahmadov, the journalist asked what the next stage of activity for SOCAR Polymer in the given production chain was.

“As you may know, the SOCAR Polymer production facility consists of the PP and HDPE plants. The foundation for their construction was laid in 2015 by President Ilham Aliyev in person. As a SCIP resident, SOCAR Polymer enjoys some fiscal exemptions, such as tax and customs duty exemptions which have had a positive impact on the enterprise. There are a total of 800 employees at the production site. The PP and HDPE plants were put into operation in 2018 and 2019. Now, we are in stable operation phase. Production continues. I am proud to say that according to the outcomes summary of 2020, SOCAR Polymer rated highest among the local non-oil exporters. We hope to stay on top in future years as well. Our main export markets are in Turkey, the Russian Federation, Europe, and CIS. We produce PP and HDPE that are used in different fields of economy including construction, agriculture, automobile industry, etc. So,

the demand for our products is high. We attach much significance to human resource development. Most of our employees have been trained abroad, by the world’s leading progressive enterprises. They are all young, but are already involved in company management”, F.Ahmadov replied. He also added that all the polymers produced at the SOCAR Polymer plants meet global standards and requirements to technical specifications.

Further, answering a question about correspondence to the new global trends, the General Manager said: “Currently, our plants operate on the basis of state-of-the-art technology. However, we realize that in a dynamically developing market, requirements tend to change, and new ones are applied. We work closely with our customers. We take their needs into account and adjust production processes to the changing requirements. Meanwhile, we have an advanced laboratory which allows us to keep the quality high”.

The full episode is available by this link:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_m3c3ul0Oq0&t=30s&ab\\_channel=SOCARPolymer](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_m3c3ul0Oq0&t=30s&ab_channel=SOCARPolymer)



# Without collaboration our growth is limited to our own perspectives



A project of international standing, "SOCAR Polymer" was conceived in 2013 to implement the construction of two polymer plants in cooperation with foreign companies. Alongside the construction process, professional trainings across a range of disciplines were organized for the plant personnel to adopt new knowledge and best international practices.

Now, two years after the commissioning of the PP and HDPE plants in 2018 and 2019, respectively, the SOCAR Polymer continues engaging foreign specialists to ensure continuous professional development of its plant personnel.

Meet some of our foreign colleagues contributing to the Engineering & Maintenance and Operations teams.

## Ritesh Patel - DCS Specialist



### What area are you specialising in and how did you join SOCAR Polymer?

I have more than 20 years of work experience in the field of instrumentation. For 10 of those years, I have been a Manager of field engineering services in M/S Yokogawa India Ltd, and in charge of projects in 3 Indian states. My main responsibilities were to maintain the commissioning schedule of Yokogawa customers, to train our engineers, and to rectify issues related to DCS and ESD across the three states. For another 10 years before joining Yokogawa, I had worked as an instrumentation engineer, and as a project and maintenance engineer for different chemical companies. My professional experience equipped me with expertise in effective management as a team lead, and in

executing projects in compliance with quality standards. Exposure to work with major EPC contractors such as AKPG, UHDE, EIL, IOTL, Samsung, and L&T, has brought me expertise in interpretation of P&ID's, Control Narratives and Logic Diagrams of any process plant. I am well versed with Yokogawa DCS Centum VP, CENTUM CS 3000, and CENTUM CS 1000; have worked on ESD systems, ProSafe-RS, Automation Protocols like HART, Foundation Field BUS, MODBUS and PROFIBUS.

In Azerbaijan, I used to work for the Kinetics Technology company as a support commissioning engineer from Yokogawa. During that period, I found it a nice opportunity to work in a petrochemical complex, so I joined the SOCAR Polymer team as a DCS specialist in March of 2019.

### What are your main responsibilities?

I am hoping for a good long professional career here. I like challenges and my duty is to try and work hard to bring both my personal expectations and dreams, and corporate goals into reality.

My duties include taking the respective DCS team's reports on daily issues and helping them troubleshoot if necessary; conducting routine trainings for the DCS team; holding discussions with the process and OPS teams regarding management of changes for improvement of plants' operation; focusing on continuous availability of the system; spare part management; and emergency support.

### What are your main achievements?

I consider my biggest contribution to SOCAR Polymer to be the trainings I have conducted over the past two years for the process, OPS and DCS teams on operation and maintenance of the DCS and ESD system.

### How do you like it here in Azerbaijan?

I enjoy Azerbaijan's culture, safety, weather and easiness of adaptation for foreigners. All my colleagues are supportive both at personal and professional level, and I feel at home here.

## Alper Kaplan - Site Maintenance Team Lead



### What area are you specialising in and how did you join SOCAR Polymer?

I have worked as a Piping Lead Engineer and Test Pack & Mechanical Completion Coordinator in Russia, Turkey, and Georgia. In August of 2019, I joined SOCAR Polymer as a Site Maintenance Team Leader.

### What are your main responsibilities?

I am responsible for preparing SoWs for maintenance activities, coordinating equipment warranty claims, and managing external services such as scaffolding, lifting, chemical cleaning, HP jetting, piping works, calibration of PSV&TSV, etc. I check work completion reports, time sheets of third parties, and acts of acceptance of support services for completed maintenance tasks.

I liaise with the procurement and commercial departments to provide support services to maintenance activities.

### How do you like it here in Azerbaijan?

I have established good relations with my local colleagues and enjoy spending time with them off work hours.



# Pavankumar Poosala - Sr Instrument technician

## What area are you specialising in and how did you join SOCAR Polymer?

With 10 years' experience in oil & gas industry, power sector, and petrochemical plants, I have gained thorough knowledge of safety and quality standards. I also have good experience in construction, pre-commissioning, commissioning, start-up, and maintenance activities.

Before joining this company as a Sr Instrument Technician in October of 2020, I had for over 2 years worked in the same position for the Kinetics Technology company involved as an EPC contractor in the construction of these PP and HDPE plants. I applied for this current job as it seemed like an opportunity to build the specific skills I wanted to be learning and teaching in my career, while working in the industry I was most interested in.

## What are your main responsibilities?

I perform scheduled and preventive maintenance on any instrumentation equipment for safety and production purposes, as well as to lower cost and downtime. I also perform calibration on instruments and production equipment and replace or repair defective instruments using hand tools and technical documents.



## How do you like it here in Azerbaijan?

I have worked as an expat in UAE and Azerbaijan. Here, I like people's

polite approach and the climate conditions.

# Aneesh Padmanabhan - Lab Equipment Engineer



## What area are you specialising in and how did you join SOCAR Polymer?

I have previously worked as an Instrumentation Technician and Laboratory Equipment Technician. I joined the SOCAR Polymer in September 2020 as a laboratory equipment engineer.

## What are your main responsibilities?

A major part of my job is to maintain and troubleshoot the QC laboratory equipment. When necessary, vendor's support is acquired.

## How do you like it here in Azerbaijan?

As to the workplace, all my colleagues are very friendly and supportive of me. Meanwhile, I like the Azerbaijan's culture and festivals, as well as beautiful nature and highlands with snow. I also enjoy the beauty of Baku, especially at night.

# Nico Oosthuizen - Analyzer Specialist OPS

## What area are you specialising in and how did you join SOCAR Polymer?

I have worked for 32 years for SASOL in South Africa in all aspects of Analyser work. This includes Analyser maintenance, design of new installations, projects, specifications, and project management.

I was on early retirement back home and very bored when I was recommended to SOCAR Polymer by South Africans who worked here at project implementation stage. As I was experienced in this type of business and it would be my first experience of expat work, I wanted to take the challenge. I joined the SOCAR Polymer team in February of 2018 as an Analyser specialist. Analysers are equipment used to measure chemical properties in process gasses and liquids for control, quality, and safety. My responsibilities are to take-over all analyser systems from E&I contractor (KT), to plan and implement upgrading of all analyser systems up to standard, to train and develop analyser technicians in all aspects of analyser work including development of training material and operating procedures, and to put a complete analyser maintenance system in place including spares management, calibration, and service gas system management. I am also responsible for the maintenance of our moisture analysers on the feed streams at Baku refinery as well as Azerikimya.

## What are your main responsibilities?

My daily round of duties consists of many different actions. To put it briefly, I am taking analyser systems over from contractors and performing proper commissioning, inspection, testing, fault-finding and repair of sample systems and analysers. I also help solve problems in the Laboratory and perform research, testing and development work to better Gas Chromatograph calibration systems and sampling systems.

I work closely with the Materials Management and Procurement





departments to source all analyser spares with correct SAP numbers and arrange procurement of extra spares for storage in a warehouse to be ready for any breakdowns. It is a real pleasure to work with all the different departments and personnel who are all very helpful and willing to organize and improve things.

#### **What are your main achievements?**

My main achievement so far has been promptly getting new analyser technicians ready for operating on analyser systems. Although we have achieved quite a lot, it is an ongoing process of training and learning. Another achievement has been the successful installation and commissioning of new moisture

analysers on the propylene feed streams of SP at Azerikimya and Baku refinery. I am very proud of my analyser team. I have never felt like an expat as the locals are friendly and accept me as one of them.

#### **How do you like it here in Azerbaijan?**

I had read quite a lot about Azerbaijan before I came here to familiarize myself with the weather, people, culture, food, language, religion, etc., but I was still very unsure of what I would find once here.

I had expected local people to be able to speak English, so it was a bit difficult in the beginning as most local people in shops and supermarkets do not speak English.

The translator application on my cellphone helped a lot. Even now that I am learning Azerbaijani, I still use it daily to learn new words. Other than that, I felt at home very easily and it is really a pleasure to live in a city like Baku with all its parks, restaurants, beautiful buildings, beaches, shops, and lovely people. Live music in restaurants, public transport and metros are great. In Baku, you can walk for many kilometers in lovely parks and streets day and night without feeling unsafe or threatened. I have also travelled a lot outside of Baku by public transport and never felt unsafe. There are plenty of lovely places, rivers, mountains, roads, and friendly people throughout Azerbaijan.

## **Narendra Shinde - HDPE Sr Shift Supervisor**

#### **What area are you specialising in and how did you join SOCAR Polymer?**

Having worked in petrochemical sector for more than 10 years, I gained wide experience of different overseas assignments in various streams of pre-commissioning, commissioning, operations, and EPC projects with process improvement in growth-oriented organizations. I started working for SOCAR Polymer in July 2020 as a Senior shift Supervisor for the HDPE Plant.

#### **What are your main responsibilities?**

My daily routine consists of different types of tasks such as to troubleshoot and coordinate maintenance and operation activities during emergency scenarios. I am responsible for accomplishing the plant's objectives on product quality and participating in discussions about implementation of new SOP's in coordination with the technical team.

#### **How do you like it here in Azerbaijan?**

I may sound a little partial, but it is pleasant also to witness my colleagues' special affinity with Indians because of their melodious and cinematic bond and deep liking for Indian movies (Bollywood).



# Sunil Kumar Battala - Sr Instrument & Control Engineer

## What area are you specialising in and how did you join SOCAR Polymer?

As an instrumentation professional with 18+ years of employment in Petrochemicals, Oil & Gas, Power Projects, and Refineries, I have gained profound knowledge and experience. Having 10+ years of experience abroad, in various geolocations including Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, and now Azerbaijan.

Initially, I worked for SOCAR as a contractor from the Kinetics Technology company and in October 2020, I joined SOCAR Polymer as a Senior Instrument Control Engineer. I joined this company because I can explore and utilize the knowledge I had gained during my tenure in various domains and this company is the right platform to exhibit all my skills. I can learn more and explore my expertise here.

## What are your main responsibilities?

My daily routine includes maintenance planning and scheduling, taking a daily report from the instrumentation team, discussing the critical issues, and supporting the team whenever help is required to resolve issues. My primary job is to make sure that instruments, gauges and testing devices are calibrated correctly and give accurate readings. So, I make adjustments to machines, instruments, and components using measuring and diagnostic software to ensure precision settings are in line with standards. I test and repair a variety of instrumentation and equipment. I also conduct daily trainings for the instrumentation team. For improvement purposes, I discuss management of changes with the process and operation teams.

## What are your main achievements?

I would say that my greatest achievement at SOCAR Polymer so far has been effective collaboration with different stakeholders to resolve crucial issues in time.

## How do you like it here in Azerbaijan?

As to working in Azerbaijan as an expat, I like everything about



this country: its people and their friendliness, its culture, weather, food, and many other things. My experience with colleagues in the workplace has to do with building interconnected teams. I thrive on working with others

on solution-based outcomes. I have found that when employees enjoy working together, high-quality results and a positive work environment are the results.

# Professional development milestones achieved

SOCAR Polymer supports its employees' aspiration for continuous education, training, and professional development. Individuals 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.

## SAP Certification



Gulnar Musayeva from the IT department has become a SAP Certified Associate and SAP Activate Project Manager (C\_Activate05). It took her 3 months to self-study to prepare for the exam which verified that she had the knowledge required in SAP implementation project management, advanced business skills, and the ability to apply methodologies and tools

properly. Her skills and experience were refined by practical experience during several projects. The certificate was issued by the SAP SE (Societas Europaea) company. Aside from advanced communication and presentation skills, this certificate verifies that the project manager has skills to manage internal and external stakeholders, basic knowledge of change management processes, and communicating these processes to others. It validates that the project manager can apply the SAP Activate Methodology, can successfully manage the end-to-end transition of the project from sales to realization of the SAP software, can develop roadmaps for project execution, and understands testing and quality management.

Gulnar says that her newly gained knowledge helps her run the SAP Support processes properly and organize the on-time technical support by SAP Basis Admin for any kinds of update/upgrade of the system in compliance with the SAP Standard Procedures. Moreover, it will be useful during the "Transition from SAP ECC to SAP S/4HANA" which is expected by 2027. It will be a big project, as it includes migration of not only master data, but also business processes, historical data, configurations, users, authorizations, customizations, etc. to the new platform.



## CPIM certification



**Rovshan Babayev**  
Production Planner



**Ziya Agharahimov**  
Senior production planning engineer

### Achievement:

Certified in Production and Inventory Management

### (CPIM) Certifying agency:

ASCM / APICS – Association for Supply Chain Management

### Overcome challenge/date:

2nd (final) exam / February 25, 2021



# Production and Inventory Management (PIM) Program

## Part 1

## Part 2

**Module 1.** Strategic Management of Resources (SMR)

**Module 2.** Master Planning of Resources (MPR)

**Module 3.** Detailed Scheduling and Planning (DSP)

**Module 4.** Execution and Control of Operations (ECO)

Exam:



Exam:



# Onsite landscape park design approved

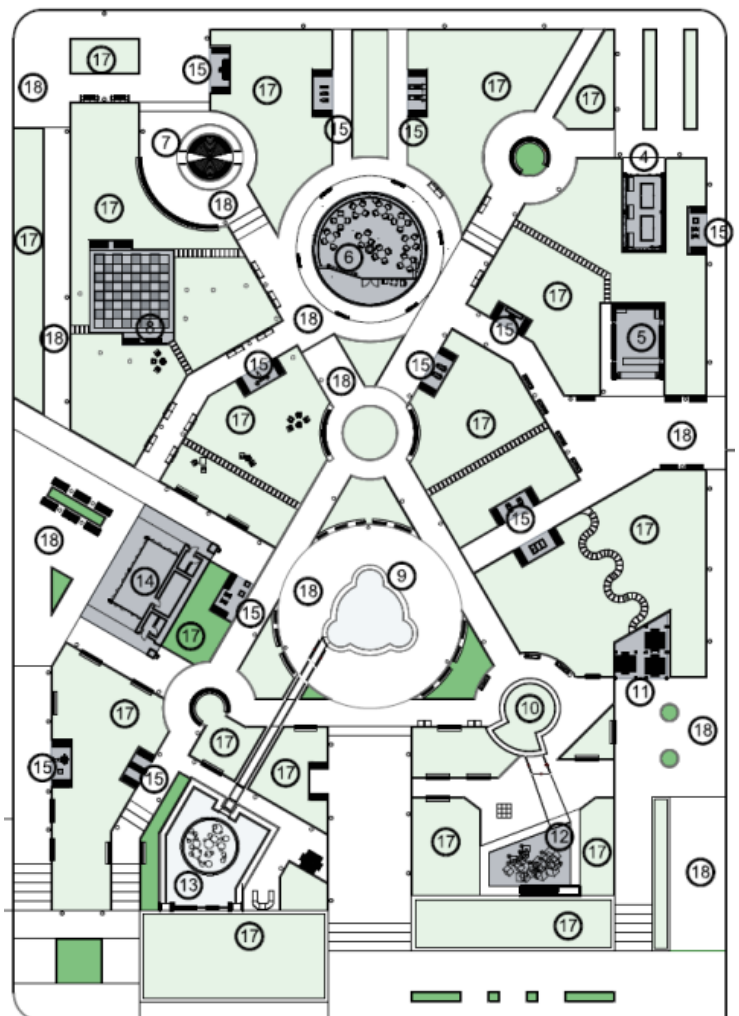
SOCAR Polymer’s production facility in Sumgayit became a “second home” to us all. With production ongoing round the clock, many of us are spending not only days, but also nights at the plant.

To further improve the working conditions and make the staff’s leisure time more productive, to promote physical and psychological health, and to ensure balanced presence of green zones at the production facility, SOCAR Polymer announced a special contest, which will surface the personnel’s considerations and needs, as well as best ideas regarding the planned landscape park. The personnel were invited to make up and submit designs for the park. 20 designs had been submitted by the set deadline and the ideas were analysed for expediency and feasibility. The best ideas even from different proposals were transferred into the approved final design of the future park that would cover an area of 0.847 ha (110 m x 77 m).

We are grateful to all the participants of the park design contest for their assistance in creating a complete vision of what the park should be like. Depending on the originality and creative content of the suggestions, all the contestants received monetary awards in the amount of 100 AZN, 75 AZN, and 50 AZN as a bonus to their salary payment.

**The landscape park shall include the following elements:**

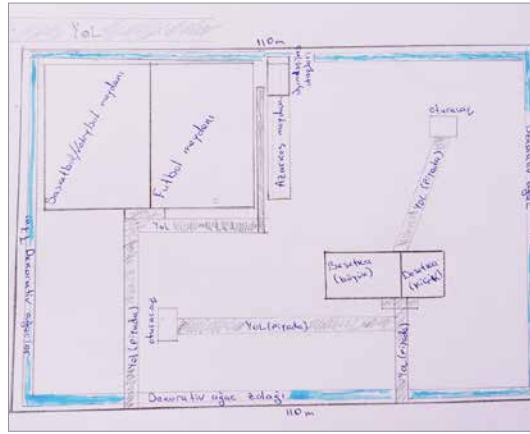
- ✓ Café . . . . . 121 m<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ Gazebos (2 large for 12 prs, 2 small for 6 prs) . . . . . 20 m<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ Billiards pavilion . . . . . 34 m<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ Shooting gallery . . . . . 44 m<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ Open-air chess game ground . . . . . 97 m<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ A pergola for table-games (ping-pong, checker, chess) . . . . . 31 m<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ Car wash station . . . . . 74 m<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ Market . . . . . 129 m<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ Outdoor fitness equipment 3-seater swing sofa . . . . . 2 pcs
- ✓ Green lawn patches with large-crown trees . . . . . 3274 m<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ Wide alleys with benches and open grounds . . . . . 4487 m<sup>2</sup>



The highlights of the submitted design proposals are as follows:

**Najaf Najafov**  
**Shift HSE Advisor**

Suggested a two-in-one sports ground for volleyball and soccer (for cost-saving purposes), including a three-level tribune for spectators; different size gazebos for large and small groups; and longer alleys with benches for walking or comfortably conversing amidst greenery.



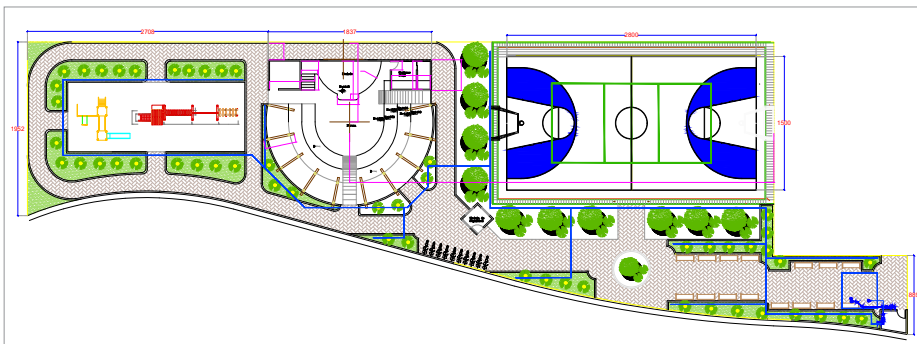
**Kanan Karimov**  
**Junior Maintenance Scheduler**

Suggested a three-in-one sports ground for volleyball, tennis, and basketball (for cost saving purposes), a three-level tribune for spectators; a roofed table-game zone, a roofed outdoor lounge zone with seats and tables, a gazebo, a fountain, a two-seat swing, a hammock, and long walkways amidst greenery.



**Nurlan Imanov**  
**Laboratory Analyst**

Suggested an outdoor fitness equipment zone, gazebos, WC, a game-room for playing billiards and table-tennis, a spacious cafeteria, large lawn areas with benches, mini football courts, and a bicycle track around the park to be used for jogging as well.



**Gunduz E. Darziyev**  
**Plant Operator (Bagging & Dispatch)**

Submitted a miniature model of the proposed design, with gazebos amidst large green lawn areas, sportsground, a fountain, and walkways paved with gravel.

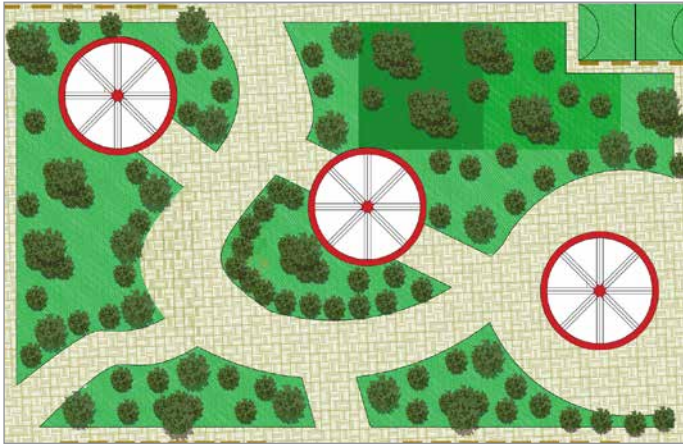
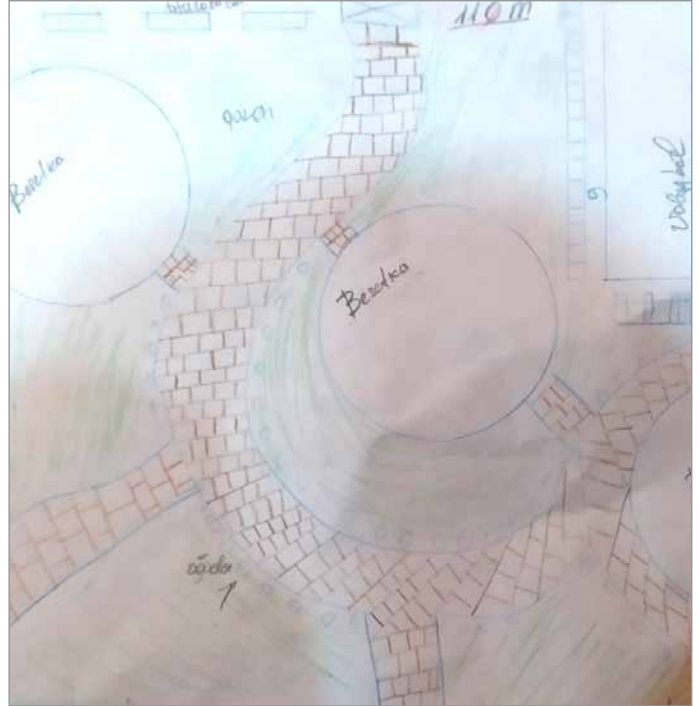






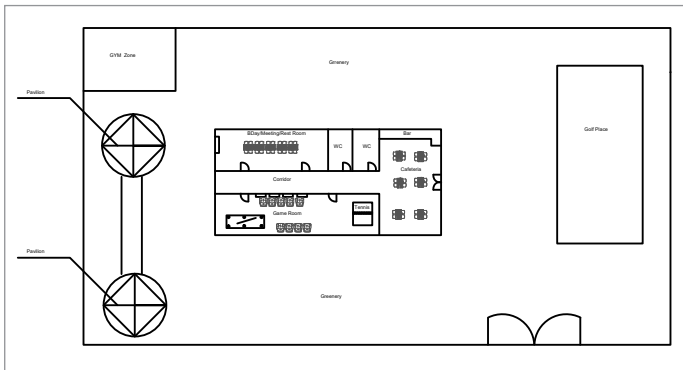
**Murad Aliyev**  
PP Reactor Operator

Suggested a two-in-one sports ground for volleyball and soccer, gazebos, alleys with benches, and plenty of greenery.



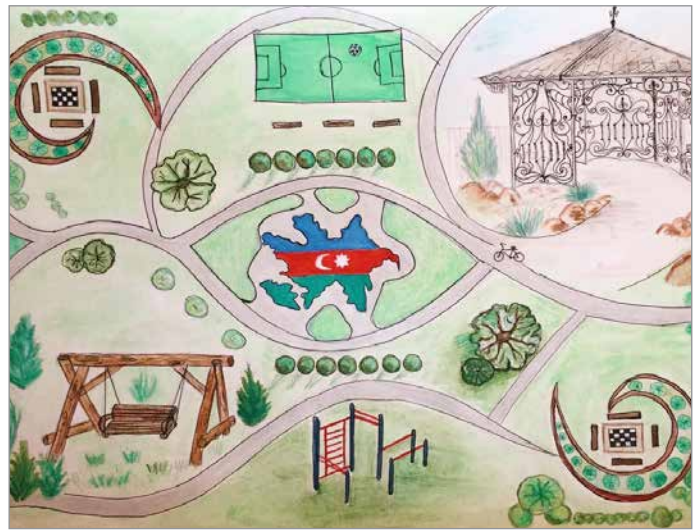
**Elvin Mammadov / Ramin Aliyev**  
Electrical Technicians

Suggested gazebos, a gym, a meeting hall for celebrations on special occasions, WC, a game-room for playing billiards and ping-pong, a golf court, and a spacious cafeteria with a bar desk.



**Aytan Mammadova**  
E&M Team Admin

Suggested a soccer court, outdoor fitness equipment zone, gazebos, a swing, and outdoor chess game zones amidst greenery.



**Elman V.Huseynov**  
Instrument Technician

Suggested a volleyball court, and large green zones with gazebos.



**Allahyar Guliyev**  
Workshop Supervisor

Suggested erecting in the centre of the park a large sunclock with a flag of Azerbaijan in the middle, as its shadow should indicate the hour. The rest of the area is to be covered with lawn, intertwined with alleys for walking.

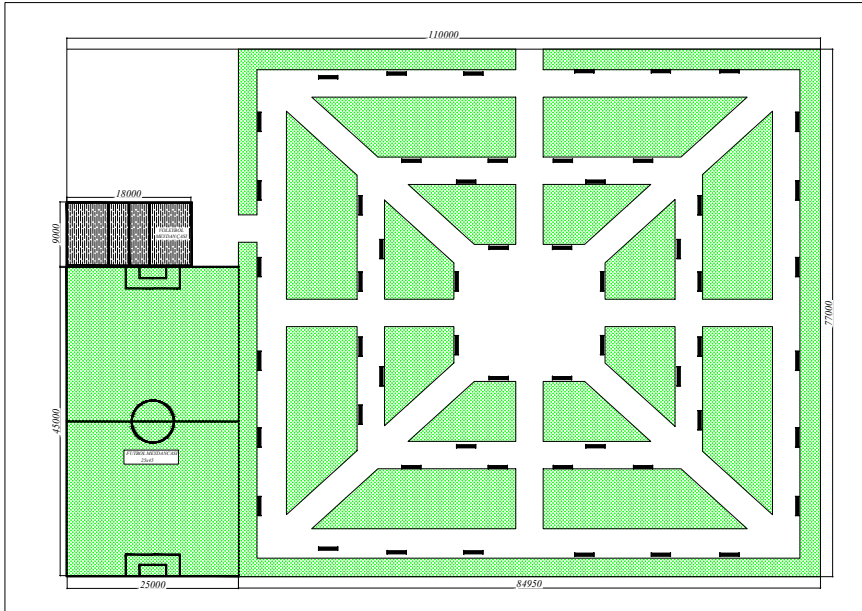
**Nargiz Bunyatova**  
HSE Team Admin

Suggested a simple park fenced with rows of thick bushes; various trees, bushes, and flowers; benches around large tree trunks, stone-paved walkways, gazebos, a few fountains for decoration and freshness, and a soccer, basketball, or volleyball court.



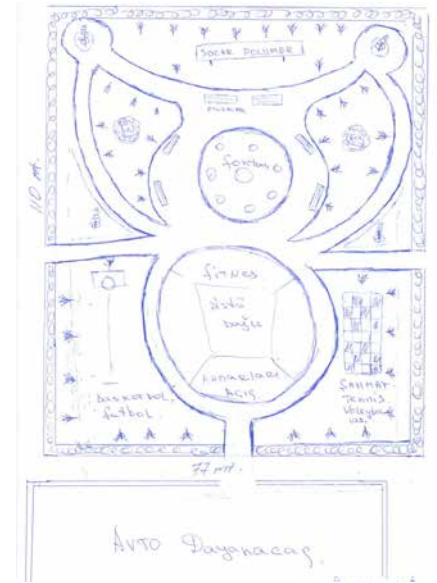
**Rashad M. Suleymanli**  
**Scheduler Maintenance Planning**

Suggested large lawn areas with benches, and soccer/volleyball courts.



**Iftikhar R. Abdullayev**  
**Technical Clerk**

Emphasised the significance of installing a roofed outdoor fitness ground to compensate for long sitting hours of the plant personnel. Suggested a fountain, and a game zone for playing basketball, soccer, chess, checker, and tennis.



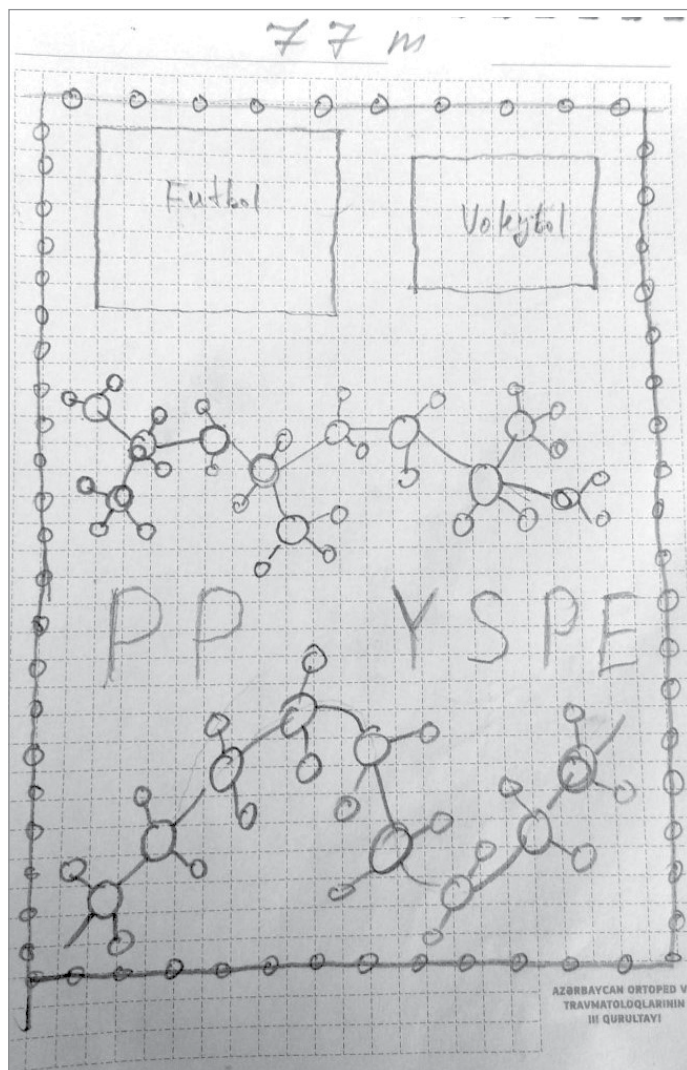
**Rovshan Musazade**  
**Materials Manager**

Suggested segregating a bicycle track around the park, which could be used for jogging as well; providing facilities for playing badminton and table tennis; and creating a bike station with a dozen bicycles for common use.



**Samir R. Mursalov**  
**Plant Operator**

Suggested outlining the park area with a row of large-crown trees and arranging the trees and bushes in the park center to resemble the structure of a PP molecule from above. Bushes can be arranged similarly to read "PP" and "HDPE" from above. Also suggested soccer and volleyball courts.



**Mubariz Mammadov**  
**Plant Operator (Field Pump)**

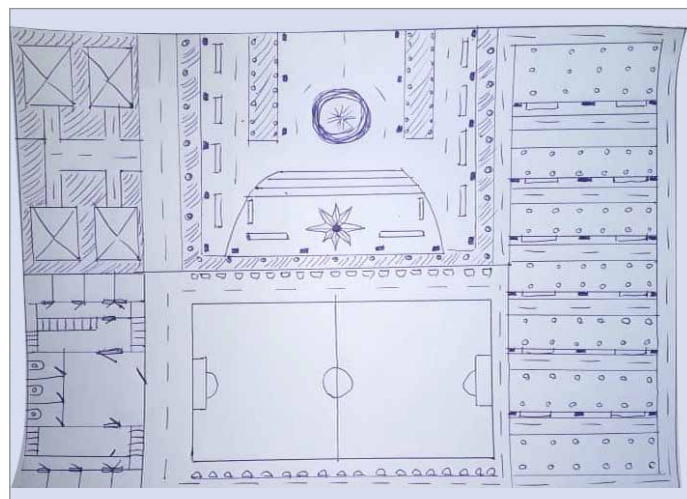
Pondering over the park design in December of 2020, suggested, in addition to mini-soccer and volleyball courts, a board or an installation dedicated to the 44-day Patriotic War, its heroes, and SOCAR Polymer personnel members who participated in the war.

**Farid S. Mikiyev**  
**Process analyzer technician**

Suggested planting lemon trees and colourful decorative flowers; installing outdoor fitness equipment and birdfeeders; and building a small market for the late shifts' personnel to buy food at evening and night hours when the cafeteria is not working.

**Alfaddin Gadirov**  
**Bagging Operator**

Suggested a two-in-one sports ground for volleyball and soccer, a locker-room, shower-cabins and WC for sports players; gazebos, a fountain, and multiple alleys with benches amidst green zones.



**Nijat Yusifov**  
**Planning Team Leader**

Taking into account the current ecological situation, suggested prioritizing greenery, lawn laying and tree planting, with benches provided along the perimeter.



**Ilgar Alimov**  
**Technical clerk**

Suggested a stadium, a recreation zone, a fountain/pond, an orchid, and alleys amidst greenery.



# An investment in knowledge pays the best interest

For continuous learning and development purposes, regular trainings are conducted at SOCAR Polymer through internal resources.

**Some** of these trainings were initially arranged to eliminate any possible gaps in employees' knowledge on the training subject. This training series are planned to be held until the target audience is fully covered as per the company's HSE Training Matrix (except the Fire Extinguisher User training which is accessible to any employee). Training scores are filed in the internal software system with 1 year expiration term. Refresher sessions will be arranged every year.

Training title	Duration	Trained employees (as of early April)	Instructor	Periodicity
Fire Extinguisher User Awareness	1 hour	49	Tofiq Ismayilov	Every Wednesday

**Date the training series started:**

10.01.2020

**Max. participants per training session:**

12 persons

**Training topics:**

General classification of fires; Fire extinguisher types and designations; Firefighting methodologies i.e., safe use of firefighting equipment, visual inspection and positioning of fire extinguishers, wind direction, PPE.

**Practical part:**

Extinguishing fire in a specially designated barriered area in the non-industrial zone of the site

**Instruction medium:**

Azerbaijani language



Training title	Duration	Trained employees (as of early April)	Instructor	Periodicity
Process Safety Management - Overview and Awareness	2 hours	17	Mahmoud Moustafa	Every Friday

**Date the training series started:** 12.03.2021  
**Max. participants per training session:** 12 persons

Engineers, HSE engineers, operators & technicians, supervisors

**Training topics:**

Process Safety is a disciplined framework for managing the integrity of operating systems and processes handling hazardous substances by applying good design principles, engineering, and operating practices.

**Training content:**

37 slides with audio & video aids presented on: Process Safety Management – Introduction; Process safety Vs. occupational safety; Process Safety Management (Obligations); Process Safety Management – Standards Comparison; Components of Process Safety – 14 Elements; Way forward – 2021.

**Training objective:**

To provide a general overview and clear awareness on Process safety management (PSM), to establish the culture of process safety management in this company and to ensure the vision & mission of process safety are applied for safe, reliable, and profitable operations.

**Instruction medium:** English language

**Post-assessment:**

F2F test with direct questions about the course and presented case studies

**Target audience:**

Operations staff, Process Engineers, discipline

**PMS Awareness certificate valid:** 2 years

Training title	Duration	Trained employees (as of early April)	Instructor	Periodicity
Performing Authority Awareness	2 hours	89	Fariz Nabiye	Every Tuesday & Thursday

**Date the training series started:** 08.12.2020

**Max. participants per training session:** 12 persons

**Description:**

In-depth introduction to the SP PTW system with broad overview of the roles and responsibilities and the PTW process itself

**Training topics:**

Hazard identification and control; Types of Permits to Work (PTW); PTW planning; Areas of responsibility; Performing Authority's duties, roles and responsibilities; Discussion of each section of the Permit to Work document; Permit to Work flowchart; Self-Assessment.

**Instruction medium:**

Azerbaijan / English language

**Post-assessment:**

Paper-based test

**Target audience:**

Those who are going to be involved in thorough assessment of high-risk activities

Training title	Duration	Trained employees (as of early April)	Instructor	Periodicity
Task Risk Assessment Awareness (Level 1)	2 hours	35	Fariz Nabiye	Every Tuesday & Thursday

**Date the training series started:** 12.03.2021

**Max. participants per training session:** 12 persons

**Description:**

Introduction to the basic task risk assessment method as a part of the Permit to Work process

**Training content:**

Definition of Hazard and risk; Hazard and its effects at workplace; Purposes of carrying out Task Risk Assessments; Levels of Task Risk Assessment; Common Workplace Hazard Identification; Demonstrate workplace incident photos and videos; Recording the TRA in the PTW form.

**Instruction medium:** Azerbaijan / English language

**Post-assessment:** Paper-based test

**Target audience:**

Those who are going to act as a performing authority for the task

**Training objective:**

To raise personal awareness about SP COW system.



# With best regards to ladies on SOCAR Polymer staff

## International Women's Day celebrated

**The** world is changing at fast pace. The age of innovations demands that every enterprise stay abreast with recent developments and meet the market requirements, which is impossible without developing the HR potential accordingly. A competitive company's driving force includes properly employed knowledge and skills of the staff, both men and women. This principle, too, lies in the core of SOCAR Polymer's success. Female employees' role in the process of our company's establishment and prompt recognition on the domestic and international market is certainly indispensable. Women are employed at every tier of the company as managers, engineers, accountants, canteen attendants, etc. Women either participate in every operation of the SOCAR Polymer production facility, or even directly manage one. The "Made in Azerbaijan" polymers' meeting the local and foreign customers' qualitative and quantitative requirements became possible also through the efforts made by women at different levels. That is why the Women's Day is celebrated as a special event at our company.







To express regards to all women of our company on the International Women's Day, a small celebration was arranged at the SOCAR Polymer site office on March 5. To this end, all women were called to assemble in the main office lobby at the assigned hour, with due observation of COVID-related restrictions. In his opening speech, General Manager, Fuad Ahmadov extended his best wishes to the assembly. He said: "Our dear ladies, on this remarkable day, March 8, I wish you every joy and happiness. Whatever dreams you may have at heart, I pray that Allah grant them all. We work together, we are colleagues, but I know that every woman

bears greater loads of responsibilities than men do. You are the foundation of families and promote the morals thereof. I wish you to always be surrounded by your dear ones and make men very proud of you, giving you every support you may need now and in years ahead. I wish good health to you, your families, and dear ones. May you always bring joy to our hearts. I once again thank you for the contribution you make to this company. Have a memorable day!"

Further on, the ladies were treated to beautifully decorated cakes.





# Meet a colleague generating beauty through art

In connection with the International Women's Day and the spring holidays, we would like to present to you the art works of a fine lady, our colleague, Zefira Mahmudova who dedicated her 'Touching souls' painting to women and femininity.

## What is your job at SOCAR Polymer?

I came to SOCAR Polymer as a summer intern to the Document Control department in 2017 and was taken on staff subsequently. Through promotions to Accounts Payable Assistant and AP Coordinator, I arrived at my current position of AP Specialist.

## When did you discover a liking for painting?

I have always had great passion for art. When I started taking art classes I realized I was better at it than I had expected. In university years, I took up pencil drawing. My drawings were mostly minimalistic. Why? I have always wanted to be known for my original style and artwork.

## Who and what influenced your art?

My aunt was the first in our family to recognize my talent and register me for art classes. My grandfather, by the way, was good at drawing, too, and I remember asking him to draw me something.

## Which painters do you like?

My favourites are Frida Kahlo, Van Gogh, Claude Monet, Gustav Klimt, and Johannes Vermeer.

## What do you feel while drawing?

Drawing always fills me with positive energy. Every new piece of art I create makes me feel like my next work will be even better. Every drawing helps me discover a new me and generates new inspiring ideas. You see, colors project one's inner world and every such projection becomes a unique piece of art.

## Is painting a hobby only or do your paintings sell?

Painting to me is a way to both entertain myself, explore my imagination and seek development. Nonetheless, I also paint for clients. In fact, I would be glad to have my paintings decorate residential interiors with all the energy and heart I pour into my work.

## Which painting is your favourite?

Actually, I love all of my paintings. One of my favorites has already been sold. I still own another one that is a mix of blue, white, and gold which are my favourite colors.

## What triggered creation of this painting?

It is a spontaneous process, and each painting is unique in a way. Even if the same colours, techniques, and design



— ” —

*Engaging in art has been my way of shaking off the fatigue of the day after office work and my inexhaustible source of motivation to make a good start of the day*

— ” —

are applied the output is always unique and unduplicable. I name my paintings when they are completed. Some of the titled ones are 'The Earth', 'Golden flowers', and 'Lazy ocean hugs the shore'. The 'Fire, water' painting has elements associated with the symbols of Novruz holiday and coming of spring.



# Hard work is the key to achievement

Quality of products at SOCAR Polymer is monitored and controlled by several teams, of which the laboratory personnel is probably the busiest as samples are collected and tested continuously at every stage of the production process. The beginning of a year is a good time to summarize not only the accomplishments of the team as a whole, but also individual progress of each team member. Assessment-based improvement and recognition of outstanding efforts make up a good practice, for the quality of laboratory performance has a direct effect on the quality of product output. At the end of the day, quality matters most, as it is the best kind of advertising for a company.

Thus, the following laboratory employees were recognized for their overall and monthly achievements in 2020:



## January awardee is **Aysel Ismayilova**



Aysel is nominated for her zeal for work, quality performance, inexhaustible energy, and voluntary assistance to other teams. Aysel joined the Lab team in May 2019 as a Jr Laboratory Analyst and was promoted to the Laboratory Analyst position in June 2020. Aysel is currently studying at Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University for her master's degree in "Polymers and composites processing technology".

## February awardee is **Guldana Mehdizada**

Guldana is nominated for her outstanding performance in the Physical Test room she is in charge of, and for keeping up the performance characteristics of the witness sample storeroom which is an important part of the Final Product Laboratory. Guldana joined the Lab team in September 2016 as a Laboratory Analyst and was promoted to the Senior Lab analyst position in March 2021.



## March awardee is **Zulfiyya Musazadeh**



Zulfiyya is nominated for her active efforts in improving the quality of both technical and social activities of the laboratory, as well as for her diligence and responsible attitude to work. Zulfiyya joined the Lab team in September 2016 as a Laboratory Analyst and was promoted to the Laboratory Shift Supervisor position in June 2018. Zulfiyya is currently studying at Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University for her PhD in "Chemistry and technology of Polymers and composites".

## April awardee is **Famil Agayev**



Famil is nominated for exemplary performance of the assigned tasks and for his teambuilding and motivational efforts. Famil joined the Lab team in December 2018 as a Laboratory Analyst. In July 2020, Famil was transferred to a Plant Operator position.

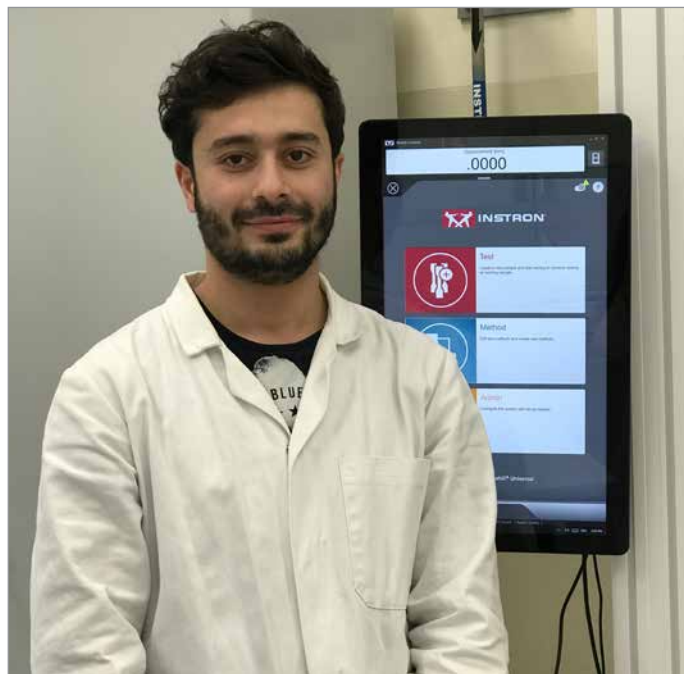
## May awardee is **Tural Orujlu**

Tural is nominated for his more logical approach to testing, for finding practical and quick solutions to any equipment-related problems, and for efforts aimed at increasing performance productivity of the QC Laboratory responsible for product quality control.

Tural had joined the Lab team in September 2018 as a Laboratory Analyst.



## June awardee is **Rajab Mammadov**



Rajab is nominated for his active support to both daytime and shift teams, as well as for timely and proper preparation of Quality Certificates for the final products.

Rajab joined the Lab team in June 2019 as a Quality Laboratory Engineer for final products. In March 2021, he was promoted to the Senior Quality Lab Engineer position. Rajab is currently studying at Baku State University for a PhD in "Ecological Chemistry".

In July 2020, Famil was transferred to a Plant Operator position.

## July awardee is **Gunel Maharramova**



Gunel is nominated for her responsible approach to work, for high precision in every performed test, and for active efforts to boost the quality and output of the laboratory.

Gunel joined the Lab team in September 2017 as a Laboratory Analyst. Gunel is currently studying for her PhD in "Organic chemistry" at the Institute of Additives Chemistry, ANAS (Azerbaijan National Sciences Academy).

## August awardee is **Mirvari Hasanova**



Mirvari is nominated for her active efforts and efficiency during the shutdown period.

Mirvari joined the Lab team in March 2017 as a Laboratory Analyst. For her outstanding performance was promoted to the Sr Laboratory Analyst and then Shift Supervisor positions. Mirvari is currently working as a QC Laboratory Engineer and studying for her PhD in "Macromolecular chemistry" at the Institute of Catalysis and Inorganic Chemistry, ANAS (Azerbaijan National Sciences Academy).

## September awardee is **Gulnar Gahramanova**

Gulnar is nominated for her pro-active and productive performance during the shutdown period.

Gulnar joined SOCAR Polymer in October 2016 as one of the first Laboratory Analysts of the Lab team. In September 2019, for her precision and innovational initiatives towards improvement of testing processes, she was promoted to the Dayshift Supervisor position. Gulnar's big contribution to the laboratory has been assisting and coaching the less experienced team members.



## October awardee is **Firanghiz Aliyeva**



Firanghiz is nominated for her responsible approach to work, for finding logical solutions to encountered issues, and for active efforts to improve the laboratory performance and productivity.

## November awardee is **Elshan Magsudov**



Elshan is nominated for his valuable contribution to improvement of laboratory efficiency.

Elshan joined the Lab team in June 2019 as an experienced Laboratory Analyst. In addition to his outstanding performance, Elshan has largely contributed to his team's performance by sharing his experience with other team members.

## December awardee is **Aygun Mammadova**

Aygun is nominated for her punctuality, exemplary performance, and effective troubleshooting skills.

Aygun joined the Lab team in July 2019 as a Laboratory Analyst. For his outstanding performance was promoted to the Sr Laboratory Analyst and then Shift Supervisor positions. Aygun has completed her pre-PhD thesis paper on "Petrochemistry" at the Petrochemical Processes Institute of the Azerbaijan National Sciences Academy and submitted it to the Higher Attestation Committee for defense.



# New Year gifts distributed to 100 Sumgayit children

To make the winter season brighter for at least some of the children in low-income families of Sumgayit, SOCAR Polymer once again donated New Year gifts consisting of warm clothing that would warm not only bodies, but also hearts. The gift bags were distributed at the charity event traditionally organized by the Sumgayit branch of the Red Crescent Society (RCS) under the invariable slogan “Hasten to be merciful”.

**This** list of 100 children in need of warm clothing was made by Sumgayit RCS branch through cooperation with the principals of Sumgayit’s educational facilities. The list included mostly children who had lost one or both parents, as well as multiple siblings in low-income families. Warm overcoats, sweaters, pants, hats, and gloves were purchased and sorted out by the Procurement and PR teams of our company.

Initially planned for the New Year eve, the event was then postponed due to tightened COVID-19-related restrictions, so, the event beneficiaries were invited to come collect their gift bags at the administrative building of Sumgayit RCS on January 11. For health safety purposes, they were invited to arrive in small groups at the beginning of every hour during the day.

The Jr PR Specialist for SOCAR Polymer, Bakhtiyar Allahverdiyev welcomed the event participants and expressed best wishes on behalf of our company. In her turn, the chairperson of the Sumgayit RCS branch, Matanat Maharramova expressed gratitude to SOCAR Polymer for their regular contribution to such charity initiatives over the past 4 years and, thus, for bringing joy to hundreds of families. In conclusion of the event, she presented to our representative a Certificate of Gratitude for SOCAR Polymer’s General Director, Fuad Ahmadov’s support to Sumgayit communities and children.

Those who hadn’t been able to attend the event had their gift bags delivered to their doors by the volunteers of RCS’s Sumgayit branch.







# Making the joy of the Novruz holiday brighter

True to the years-old tradition of supporting low-income families, the SOCAR Polymer company has once again joined in the Red Crescent Society's initiative to distribute Novruz gifts to dozens of families and lonely people in Sumgayit.

**This** year's spring charity event held in the administrative building of the Sumgayit branch of RCS on March 19 was planned in a way to observe the restrictions for safety against the COVID-19 related risks, with social distance secured between the event participants and invited visitors arriving in small groups at every hour of the day. The traditional entertaining part of the event usually including music performances and dancing after distribution of presents was skipped for the same reason.

Welcoming the event participants, the chairwoman of RCS's Sumgayit branch, Matanat Maharramova expressed warm wishes for the festive season and the year ahead. Then SOCAR Polymer's gift baskets containing food products intended for cooking Novruz holiday's crown-dish were handed out to the present representatives of low-income families. On behalf of the beneficiaries and RCS, Mrs Maharramova expressed gratitude to the SOCAR Polymer management for



their continuous support to Sumgayit communities. A total of 140 families received spring holiday baskets from our company.

Among other sponsors of the event were the Pasha Insurance and Pasha

Life Insurance companies.

Those who due to any reason could not attend the event had the food packages delivered to their doors by the volunteers of RCS's Sumgayit branch.





# AmCham facilitates discussion on popular topics



**Following** establishment of cooperation with the SOCAR Polymer company in June of 2020, the American Chamber of Commerce in Azerbaijan (AmCham) has continued inviting our employees to participate in its online events dedicated to different disciplines and topics.

AmCham is a leading private, non-profit business association in Azerbaijan. It promotes the business interests of its Member Companies by providing high quality services to them, as well as by working on improvement of the business climate in Azerbaijan. With over 80% of received investment being foreign, AmCham organizes more than 70 events annually for its 290+ current members.

Participation in the events is provided free of charge. The events are held via Zoom software at business hours on weekdays. The working language of the events is usually Azerbaijani, English or Turkish.

The events held in quarter 1 of 2021 are listed below:

#### **Virtual meeting of AmCham Sustainable Development & Corporate Impact (SD&CI) Committee**

**Date/Time:** January 18, at 11:00

**Topics:** "Brief introduction of "Earthship" ecohouse startup project for Karabakh region", "Stakeholder engagement: framework, components and practical benefit"

**Speakers:** Natavan Khanmammedi, Project Initiator, an alumnus of the Earthship Biotechnology Academy in Taos; Rena Tahirova, Deputy of the Chairperson of AMCHAM SD&CI committee and responsible for stakeholder relation process in Holcim Azerbaijan OJSC for more than 15 years.

The minutes of the meeting were subsequently emailed to the participants.

#### **Virtual meeting of AmCham DT&I Committee**

**Date/Time:** January 27, at 15:00

**Topics:** "How digital technologies and innovations helps in Diversity and Inclusion"

**Speakers:** Khayala Eylazova, Senior Manager for Financial Services at PWC UK, founder of the company's 'Women in Insurance Tech' initiative and leading D&I initiatives in Insurance

#### **Virtual meeting of AmCham Members**

**Date/Time:** January 29, at 15:00

**Topics:** "Organization of Digital Employment"

**Speakers:** Mustafa Abbasbeyli, Chairman of the Board of the State Employment Agency of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population; Farid Valiyev, Deputy Chairman of the Management Board; Emil Huseynov, Head of Human Resources Department of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population

#### **Online session of AmCham BFI Committee**

**Date/Time:** February 03, at 11:00

**Topics:** "Macroeconomic and financial market overview of 2020"

**Speakers:** Elman Eminov, Director of the Macroeconomic Research Department of Pasha Holding

#### **Virtual meeting of AmCham Sustainable Development & Corporate Impact (SD&CI) Committee**

**Date/Time:** February 16, at 11:00

**Topics:** "Food Waste in Azerbaijan: perspectives and opportunities", "UNDP program: Women in STEM"

**Speakers:** Anar Veliyev, Associate Professor at ADA University and Jean Monnet Chair of European Studies Leyla Seyidzade, Head of Exploration at UNDP

#### **Virtual meeting of AmCham Members**

**Date/Time:** February 24, at 10:00

**Topics:** "Issues related to transport, logistics, and supply chain management in the Caspian region"

**Speakers:** Dr. Taleh Ziyadov, Director-General, "Baku International Sea Trade Port" CJSC

#### **Workshop of AmCham DT&I Committee**

**Date/Time:** February 25, at 15:00

**Topics:** "Growth Hacking – implementing Technology for better results"

**Speakers:** Toghrul Samadov, growth hacker, serial entrepreneur, problem solver and Chief Executive

#### **AmCham Online Conference on "Tax regulation of the economy in the global pandemic and post-war period - sustainable economic growth and a favorable investment climate"**

**Date/Time:** March 10, at 10:00

**Topics:** "Improvement of the investment climate as the locomotive of the country's economic development", "Use of modern technology in tax administration", "Innovations in tax audits - Legislative Directions, Efficiency and Appeal Opportunities", and "Application of international best practices in the country"

**Speakers:** Orkhan Nazarli, Acting Head of the State Tax Service (STS); Rashad Abbasov, NEQSOL; Nijat Imanov, Head of the Tax Policy Main Department of the STS; Narmin Aslanova, Deloitte; Fuad Aslanov, Head of the Digital Tax Administration Main Department of the STS; Arzu Hajiyeva, EY; Rizvan Gubiyev, KPMG; Gunel Sadiyeva, PwC; Orkhan Musayev, Acting Head of the International Taxation and Tax Monitoring Main Department

#### **Online session of AmCham HR Committee**

**Date/Time:** March 11, at 14:00

**Topics:** "Outplacement Services"

**Speakers:** Elnara Sadikhova, Talent Acquisition Specialist for BP; Jemma Rice, Sr Client Partner for Lee Hecht Harrison; Outplacement Services

#### **Virtual meeting of AmCham Members**

**Date/Time:** March 15, at 11:00

**Speakers:** Valeh F.Alasgarov, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Alat Free Economic Zone Authority (AFEZA) in Baku

#### **Virtual meeting of AmCham Sustainable Development & Corporate Impact (SD&CI) Committee**

**Date/Time:** March 16, at 11:00

**Topics:** "Water as a credit risk"

**Speakers:** Ambika Jindal, Lead of the Dutch Government Valuing Water Initiative



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