

# **ALLIANCE OF UNIVERSITIES FOR DEMOCRACY (AUDEM)**

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE ~ 9-12 NOVEMBER 2008**

**Host Institution:**

**AZERBAIJAN UNIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES  
BAKU, AZERBAIJAN**



**Call for**

**Papers**

**Conference Theme:**

**THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN CIVIL SOCIETY**

**About the Alliance of Universities for Democracy.** Founded in 1990, the Alliance of Universities for Democracy (AUDEM) is a consortium of American and Central European, East European, and South-East European universities united for the common purpose of supporting institutions of higher learning in North Central/Baltic, Central, South-East and Eastern Europe and Central Asia and the Caucasus in the transition to their democratic roles in building civil societies and in market-driven economies. Currently, AUDEM's members number 50 institutions of higher learning in CEE and the United States. (For more information about the Alliance and its Members, please go to [www.audem.org](http://www.audem.org). We invite institutions to join to support AUDEM's work.

The Alliance of Universities for Democracy (AUDEM) will hold its Annual Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan. We will be hosted by the Azerbaijan University of Languages, one of Azerbaijan's most distinguished universities. This year's Conference promises to be one of the more interesting and best ever. It will also continue to expand on the range of interests of AUDEM. We invite papers and presentations from colleagues in the USA, the Baltic States, Central Europe, South-Eastern Europe, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Central Asia, the Caucasus and other newly independent

states. Indeed, AUDEM encourages and invites colleagues globally to propose papers and participate in our proceedings.

**Funding.** Some funding may be available to support participants from AUDEM member universities in Eastern Europe. The funding will be very limited; all participants are encouraged to seek funding from their universities and other sources.

**Conference Theme.** The central theme of this year's AUDEM conference will be *The Role of Universities in Civil Society*. Since the founding of AUDEM, we have been concerned with the central theme – as our name indicates – of universities and their relation to democratic societies. Different societies of what we can call the post-1989 generation are, of course, at different stages of change. But always and everywhere the universities as a social institution and a center of learning, scholarship and critical reflection are important in fostering change. At the same time, democracy flourishes best when set in a robust civil society. This year we turn our attention to the relation of universities and civil society. This year we ask: how does the university reach out to nourish civil society in societies in transition and even in post-transition and more fully developed societies.

This is an interesting historical epoch and we are pleased to be able to be in Azerbaijan. This is a nation that faces interesting times and not simply in terms of oil, geopolitics and petro-politics. The university community is growing rapidly and impressively. The government of Azerbaijan has launched an important new initiative that promises to bring Azeri universities squarely into the world education market. For many AUDEM colleagues, this is a new location. We look forward to bringing many good colleagues together from throughout the region.

In addition to looking at topics related to our central theme, we also invite presentations that reflect on current political, social and cultural developments in Azerbaijan and the Caucasus – and elsewhere in the region – this will serve as a historical update since our 2007 meetings. We also invite presentations in the arts, humanities and social sciences. But we welcome all topics and we invite you to submit your ideas.

**Azerbaijan and Baku.** Azerbaijan is located on the Caspian Sea, with Iran to its south and Russia to the north. It gained its independence in 1991 following the break-up of the Soviet Union (although it enjoyed brief independence 1918-1920). Its recent economic growth depends heavily on oil exports. Baku is a charming and bustling city. The Old Town lies at the center of Baku – originally a fortress. In the inner city one will find the the Palace of the Shirvanshahs and the Maiden Tower, which was the first location in Azerbaijan classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The center is a maze of narrow alleys and ancient buildings: the cobbled streets past the Palace of the Shirvanshahs, the Maiden Tower (nice view of the harbor), and the Djuma Mosque. UNESCO has designated the Inner City on the In 2003 , UNESCO placed the Inner City on the List of World Heritage in Danger, citing damage from a November 2000 earthquake. Baku, like all of Azerbaijan, combines the old with the new – the ghosts of the Silk Road with the energy of a society advancing itself into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**AUDEM Encourages Young Scholars and Students to Participate.** We very much encourage young scholars and junior faculty to participate and to submit proposals for any of the themes and subjects described in this Call for Papers. We invite alumni of various exchange programs sponsored by American Councils for International Education and other agencies to contact those agencies to see if support is available. We also invite papers from undergraduate and graduate students. Students should indicate their student status (graduate or undergraduate) when presenting a proposal.

**University Partnership for Education and Democracy.** In 2004 at AUDEM's conference in Pécs, Hungary we initiated a major new initiative, to develop the University Partnerships for Education and Citizenship project (UPEC). This project links member European and US universities with the purpose of

enriching democratic citizenship and civic engagement among university students. UPEC has been developed through the collaboration of AUDEM with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), The Council of Europe, *The New York Times* and *The International Herald Tribune*. UPEC is an extension of the American Democracy Project (ADP), organized in the United States by AASCU and *the New York Times*. ADP is a national project by member universities throughout the United States to advance democratic citizenship and civic engagement among American university students.

We invite interested universities and colleagues in Central and Eastern Europe and the US to work together on UPEC to help advance democratic citizenship and civic engagement in Central and Eastern Europe and the United States. This year we are again devoting an entire track to UPEC. We invite presentations in the UPEC poster session and we invite colleagues to participate in the UPEC roundtable. We invite submissions for the UPEC Plenary as well.

**The Council On Social Work Education (CSWE)** This year we feature our new partner from last year – the Council On Social Work Education (CSWE). The Council will be sponsoring a number of sessions related to the role of social work in societies in transition and the question of educating people for social work. We invite presentation proposals and we invite attendees to introduce themselves to representatives of the Council. The Council will continue to work to set up a permanent AUDEM group on Social Work and Social Work Education.

**Working Arrangements of the AUDEM Conference.** The Conference is held in English. It is most desirable but not required that presenters bring copies of their presentation or a substantial abstract. Overhead projection and power point will be available, but the conference organizers must be notified in advance. Time allotted will be about 20 - 25 minutes for each paper plus a limited time for questions.

## Special Tracks

### **A - University Partnerships for Education and Citizenship (UPEC): Educating Citizens for the Global Challenge**

**A - 1-University Partnership for Education and Citizenship (UPEC): Student Panel on Civic Engagement and the Contemporary Role of Youth in Politics**  
*Student presentation proposals and proposals by Faculty advisers for students are invited.*

### **B - Social Work & Social Work Education Group: Social Work Education and Practice: Roles and Responsibilities in Developing & Post-Transitional Democracies and Civil Society.**

*Presentations are invited on the following themes: International Social Work; Field Experience/Internships; Immigration/Migration; Curriculum development; Disaster Risk Reduction; Diversity and Plural Societies and Quality Assurance. NOTE: In making a proposal for the Social Work Special Track, please indicate clearly that your presentation is designed for this track.*

### **★ C - Rectors' Roundtable**

*This is a new feature. We invite Rectors, Presidents and Chancellors of participating universities to participate in a roundtable dealing – from their perspective – with the Role of Universities in Civil Society. We ask participants to speak briefly for about five minutes and then open the discussion to the audience. We may establish more than one Roundtable depending on the*

*number of Rectors who respond. We invite submissions and abstracts from Rectors, Presidents and Chancellors. Issues for possible discussion: university governance, common problems of the contemporary university, challenge of Bologna,*

### ★ **D - Faculty Development Workshops**

*This is a new feature. We tentatively propose two Faculty Development Workshops: (a) The Engagement of Faculty in Civil Society; (b) Service Learning. A Certificate of Completion will be awarded to participants. We invite proposals from colleagues interested in conducting these workshops or in sharing the conduct with other colleagues. We invite expressions of interests from colleagues interested in attending.*

### ★ **E - A Season of Elections: A Roundtable**

*New, but not wholly new – it is an updated encore to the popular 2004 AUDEM US election roundtable in Pecs which fell during the US Election. 2007 has seen and 2008 will see elections in many countries: US, Russia, Georgia, Turkey, Spain, Serbia. Colleagues will remember how successful the 2004 roundtable was. Persons interested in making a short presentation and participating are invited to submit their names and the country and election they wish to speak on for about five minutes. No more than seven persons can be accepted.*

## **Conference Tracks**

*We invite presentations in the following tracks. We encourage colleagues to focus on the region: Central Europe, South East Europe, Baltics, Central Asia, Caucasus, and Eastern Europe. Proposed presentations with a wider scope will certainly be welcome as well. as well.*

F - Recent Developments in the Caucasus and in Azerbaijan: Politics, Culture, Society, & Life in the Region

G - The Meeting of Eastern and Western Cultures in the Caucasus - Dimensions of Civil Society

H - Perspectives on Current Trends in Democratic Transition and Development

I - Societies, Families and Religion in Flux in the Era of Globalization

J - Inclusion of the Excluded: The Place of Women, Minority Nationalities and Ethnic Groups in Civil Society

K - Developments in Higher Education in the Region: Institutional Change – New Directions in Pedagogy – Implementing Bologna – Universities & Civil Society

L - Changing Strategies and Pedagogies in Language Instruction

M - Developments in Humanities, Social Sciences, the Arts and Literature

*We invite presentations on recent Developments in Art, Music, Cinema and Literature and recent developments in Academic Disciplines and Intellectual Life (e.g., history, philosophy, literary criticism,*

*“public” intellectual life, politics, political science, sociology, etc.)*

N - Developments in Business, Business Education & Commerce

O - Open Session

*Proposals on subjects not covered above will be entered into Open Sessions.*

**Requirements for submission:**

Colleagues may submit one or more presentation proposals. Please review the Special Tracks and the Conference Tracks below. Please provide a one-page abstract as follows:

- (a) title of presentation;
- (b) name(s) of presenter(s);
- (c) title of presenter (s);
- (d) department or faculty and name of university and country;
- (f) e-mail address, FAX number, mailing address;
- (g) In your proposal, it is very important that you indicate clearly which track you are submitting for: UPEC track, Social Work Education Track, NAES track, or Conference Tracks F-M. If you are not certain, you may indicate several possible tracks. The Program organizers reserve the option to schedule papers in sessions other than those requested by those proposing presentations.

**Electronic Submission:** In the e-mail proposing the paper, place (a) your name and (b) your paper title (or a short title if necessary) in the subject line of the e-mail and (c) Track Letter or Letters (A, B, C, D, E.... etc.) you are submitting for.

**Send proposals to Mr. Gábor Czéh at the University of Pecs: [audem@ki.pte.hu](mailto:audem@ki.pte.hu)**

For additional information about the conference, contact Mr. Gábor Czéh at [audem@ki.pte.hu](mailto:audem@ki.pte.hu).

**Deadlines.** The deadline for receipt of proposals, including titles, authors' names, institutional affiliation and addresses, and an abstract is **August 15, 2008**. Late proposals may be considered if space is available. Registration will begin around August 1. The website will contain registration forms and information regarding hotels and registration fee – also around August 1. .

**NOTE:** Colleagues requiring formal letters of invitation for visa or funding purposes should contact us ([audem@ki.pte.hu](mailto:audem@ki.pte.hu)) as soon as possible. Invitations will be sent based on the visa requirements of Azerbaijan. Inquiries about visa requirements for Azerbaijan should be directed to the Azerbaijani consulate in your home country. Colleagues are urged to submit early.

**NOTICE:** Presenters *must* register for the conference. Presentations and presenters will *not* be listed in the printed program if the presenter has not registered. Please watch the AUDEM website – [www.audem.org](http://www.audem.org) – for information on registration, fees and the like.

**MEMBERSHIP:** We invite institutions to join AUDEM. Information regarding membership is on the website at [www.audem.org](http://www.audem.org).

**Reminder: Submission Deadline – August 15, 2008**