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Tengizchevroil Newsletter

ТШО ЖАҢАЛЫҚТАРЫ

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Celebrating 20th anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence with high operational performance

After successful start of 2011, Tengizchevroil has been maintaining the high pace of increasing production over the first six months of the year. The strong team of Tengizchevroil celebrated with great enthusiasm the 20th anniversary of 'first oil' and continues to demonstrate excellence in all areas of business, looking forward to mark the 20th anniversary of Kazakhstan Independence with solid achievements. Among our most recent outstanding records to admire are the following: Tengizchevroil LLP has been recognized the safest company in Kazakhstan; and the inventory of sulfur stored in Tengiz has been reduced to less than 5 million metric tonnes. At the bottom of the above and many more achievements of our team are the hard work and strong dedication. The consummate result is the profile of a world-class company we are all duly proud of.

The brilliant records demonstrated in the first half of 2011 serve yet another proof of TCO's world-class performance, including production, safety and corporate social responsibility.

CRUDE PRODUCTION

• Crude production for the first half of the year was 13 million metric tonnes (104 million barrels).

• TCO exports crude oil through a variety of transportation routes. In the first half of 2011, TCO exported crude oil via the CPC pipeline to Novorossiysk, via rail to Odessa and Feodosiya, as well as to Aktau, then further to Batumi and Kulevi.

PRODUCT SALES

• TCO sold 664,000 metric tonnes of LPG and 3.4 billion cubic meters of dry gas.

• TCO sold 1.9 million metric tonnes of sulfur, which is 165 percent of the 1.1 million metric tonnes of sulfur production for the same period. TCO's sales success has resulted in the reduction of volumes of sulfur stored in Tengiz inventory to 4.9 million tonnes as of June 30, 2011. TCO's premium sulfur is sold in four different forms to customers in many countries, including Kazakhstan, Russia, the Ukraine, China and other countries primarily in the Mediterranean and Central Asia regions.

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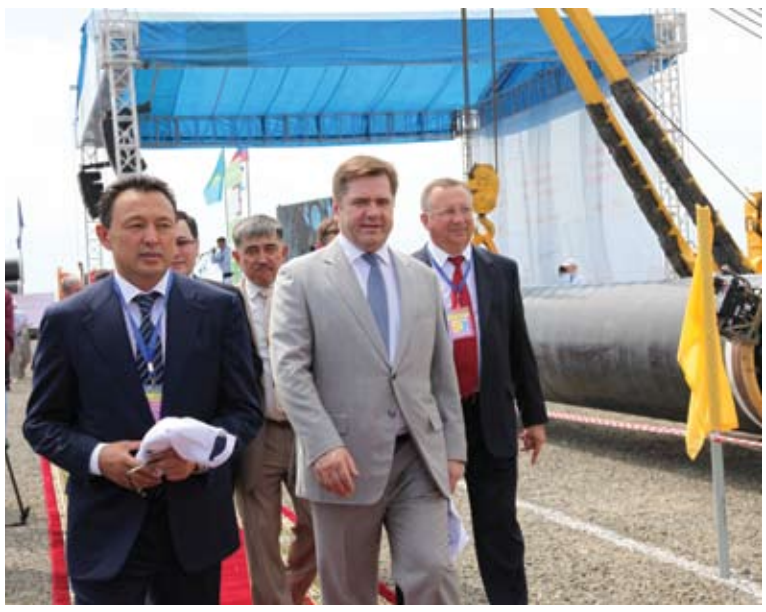
CPC expansion project kicked off in Atyrau

On Friday, July 1, 2011 a groundbreaking ceremony was held in Atyrau near the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC) pump station heralding the start the construction phase of the pipeline's expansion.



At the groundbreaking Nikolai Platonov, CPC general director, handed go ahead certificates to the contractors involved in the project. Kazakh Oil and Gas Minister, Sauat Mynbayev, Energy Minister of Russia, Sergei Shmatko, deputy Akim of the Atyrau Oblast, Bolat Daukenov, ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Kazakhstan, Michael Bocharnikov, representatives of CPC shareholders Transneft, KazMunaiGas and Chevron took the floor to offer to the stakeholders in attendance their warm greetings for the milestone event. In their remarks they emphasized the strategic importance of the project for both the development of interstate relations between Kazakhstan and Russia, and for the strengthening of energy security worldwide.

The two energy ministers proceeded to the control panel to start the first joint welding process. The welding of the first joint was completed by a team of KazStroiService including Yuri Bazavot, Dmitriy Luzhkov, Marat Raisov and Nazhbullah Argynov. The VIP visitors left their autographs on the pipe and proceeded to look at the state-of-the-art equipment used on the project.

The capacity of the 900-mile pipeline, which carries crude oil from western Kazakhstan to a dedicated terminal in the Black Sea, will increase to 1.4 million barrels per day from its current capacity of 730,000 barrels per day. The use of special antifriction additives can further increase the capacity.

The expansion, which is to be implemented in three phases with capacity increasing progressively from 2012-15, will help CPC take advantage of a the potential forexpansion at Kazakhstan's Tengiz oil field, which has estimated recoverable crude oil reserves of 6-9 billion barrels.

The project will be consist of the refurbishment of the existing five pump stations, and the addition of 10 new pumping stations in Russia and Kazakhstan.

The expansion will also see replacement of an 88-kilometer section of the line; six new storage tanks; an addition of a third offshore mooring point at the Black Sea terminal 10 kilometers north of Russia's Black Sea port of Novorossiysk; and communications and controls upgrade.

Under the CPC expansion agreement, the parties committed themselves to finance and implement the $5.4 billion project. The partners representing production companies obliged themselves to provide the crude for project load of the expanded facilities. The upgrades will take effect at all the existing pump stations.

The pipeline consortium places a very strong focus on operational and environmental safety. CPC is a legal holder of ISO:14001 and OHSAS:18001 international certificates.

The specific condition of this expansion is the fact that all the upgrades will be done on the existing pump stations without shutdowns.

CPC will commit over $1 billion worth of investments in social projects in Russia and over 3 billion tenge – in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Nikolai Platonov, CPC general director said in his closing remarks, "The shareholders and consortium have accomplished an impressive scope of work preparing for the start of the construction phase. Over all this time we have been demonstrating a strong desire to, finally, set on the practical action to effect the expansion. Today, we feel as if we were sitting on an arrow put on a bow and set to fire. It is without any exaggeration I can say now we are happy today's groundbreaking is kicking off the practical construction work. Of course, we will have to yet contribute quite an effort to bring this project on track. Meanwhile, I would like to reassure all our stakeholders the earlier experience of the partners' working together and the strong support of the project by the national governments of Kazakhstan and Russia will help us resolve all the problems and complete the expansion successfully."

** As of today, CPC existing facility has lifted over 260m metric tones of crude oil. Over the decade of operations, CPC has reported a zero record of spills on the water and incidents.*

*** At the present moment the owners of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium are as follows: the Russian Federation with 31% total, including Transneft and CPC (Rus) holding 24% and 7% in equity, respectively; the Republic of Kazakhstan holds 20.73%, including through KMG (19%) and Kazakhstan Pipeline Ventures (1.75%); Chevron Caspian Pipeline Consortium Company - 15%, LUKARCO B.V. – 12.5%, Mobil Caspian Pipeline Company – 7.5%, Rosneft-Shell Caspian Ventures Limited – 7.5% and BG Overseas Holding Limited - 2%.*

TENGIZCHEVROIL: reporting 2011 mid-year results

(Continued from page 1)

TCO'S FINANCIAL IMPACT

• From 1993 through June 2011, TCO made direct financial payments of $52.4 billion to Kazakhstani entities, including Kazakhstani employee's salaries, purchases of Kazakhstani goods and services, tariffs and fees paid to state-owned companies, profit distributions to Kazakhstani shareholder and taxes and royalties paid to the government.

• In the first half of 2011, direct payments to the Republic of Kazakhstan totaled $7 billion. In 2010, total payments were $9.6 billion.

KAZAKHSTANI CONTENT

• TCO spent $746 million on Kazakhstani goods and services over the first half of 2011. TCO spent $10.346 billion on Kazakhstani goods and services within the period of 1995 – mid-year 2011.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

• TCO has invested $2.26 billion since the year 2000 on projects to minimize environmental impact.

• Such investments in environmental protection have enabled TCO to reduce total gas flaring volumes by 97 percent since the year 2000.

• Total air emissions generated per tonne of oil produced were reduced by 74 percent from 2000 to 2011. For the first half of 2011, TCO averaged 2.14 kilograms of emissions per tonne of oil produced. Since 2000, TCO has increased annual crude oil production volume by 147 percent.

• Investments in environmental protection and improvements in plant reliability have helped TCO to achieve reduction in the number of technical malfunctions at the KTL plant by 88 percent from 2000 to mid-year 2011, and the volume of sour and acid gas flaring during technical malfunctions by 94 percent from 2000 to mid-year 2011.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

• Kazakhstan citizens hold 85 percent of TCO positions, compared to 50 percent in 1993.

• Kazakhstan managers and supervisors represent 76 percent of the TCO managerial workforce. Ongoing training and development programs exist to support the advancement of employees to positions of increasing responsibility.

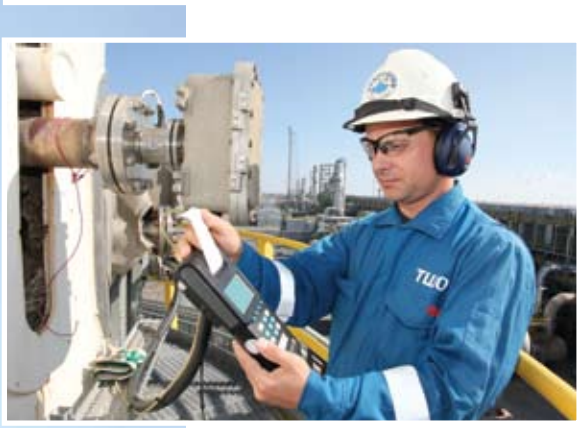
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

• From 1993 to results of 2010, TCO has invested more than $645 million to fund social projects in the Atyrau Oblast for the community and employees.

• TCO invested $20 million in the Egilik (benefit in Kazakh) program in 2010. Most of the investment was focused on rebuilding the water system in Kulsary city. In 2011, TCO has another $20 million budgeted for its Egilik program, the majority of which will again be targeted at the continued construction of the Kulsary water system.

• In 2011, TCO's Community Investment Program has approximately $800,000 in projects planned to help improve the quality of health, education and training in Atyrau Oblast.

Working at a high level



Environmental monitoring across the license area of Tengizchevroil is organized as a continuous process. A network of full automatic stationary monitoring stations along with wells to sample and analyze groundwater is installed on the entire perimeter of the Sanitary Protection Zone (SPZ). Sitting close to the plant is the lab of Kazhydromet, a certified specialist in charge of independent continuous monitoring of the air, water and soils quality. They also measure the impact of the operation on the local vegetation and wildlife.

Caring about the natural environment is our duty, so all the above is exactly how it should be. Presently, the Kazakhstan Law has established pretty rigid rules applied to the subsoil users which is deemed a very timely and opportune action. Tengizchevroil has been demonstrating an exemplary performance in environmental safety, serving as a model to both the production companies and any other business in Kazakhstan in general. TCO implements a Comprehensive Environmental Protection Program based on PP&E philosophy which involves investing significant funds in environmental projects and is known for extremely high effectiveness. Among its success stories to admire is the Gas Utilization Project completed in late 2009 which allowed TCO to eliminate routine flaring. This is an accomplishment unmatched in Kazakhstan petroleum sector.

Some may be interested to know, though, how the environmental monitoring is done in practical terms, for example, how the air quality is tested in the plant area and whether this testing actually takes place at all.

We need to reassure skeptics in the first place – the testing is done in deed on a regular basis, also in a manner to strictly follow the certified methods and with the use of advanced instrumentation.

At the very heart of the Second Generation Plant is the sulfur recovery unit. It is here where the flue gases originate during the work process which will be first trapped and sent to multi-phase treatment before finally released to the stack and into the atmosphere. The red and white X-501 chimney is rocketing high into the skies above the SGP facility, reaching upwards as high as 120 meters above the zero level. At the elevation of 65 meters you can spot the sampling hatches on it used for sampling the gas-air mixture. Now, our two heroes, process engineer Valeriy Stepanov and environmental engineer Vitaliy Puzin will be climbing up to a special observation deck installed at this particular elevation to test the quality of effluent gases. Both gentlemen are specialists with Kazanalit Company which has been in charge of analyzing environmental data in Tengiz for quite some time.

"We are going to test the exhaust gases to see if the emissions are within the established caps (maximum permissible value, or MPV). Specifically, we are measuring the content of carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO2) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) in ppm. To do this operation we are using Testo-350 gas analyzers made in Germany which give us a detailed picture of the chief pollutants content in the effluent gases from every unit, boiler or Gas Turbine Station," explained Vitaliy.

Valeriy complemented his colleague's comment, adding that all the chimneys and stacks like this are similarly fitted with sampling platforms for installing samplers on them. Those samplers or probes, in turn, are connected to the gas analyzer control module, so they transmit the sample from inside the stack to the sensors. Besides the content of noxious substances, the gas analyzer also meters the oxygen in effluent gases, the flow velocity and temperature. Based on the data collected emissions are finally estimated measured in gram per second units to further compare them against the current MPVs.

Meanwhile, in order to make all the above happen, our two brave guys need to climb up to the observation deck putting their hands and feet to work quite a bit, also carrying containers with all kinds of instruments on their backs. This is a job definitely tougher than any workout in the gym.

Up they go, while staying on the ground and watching them climb safely is Gabitkhan Mendigaliyev, an experienced oilman with his job record in Tengiz starting from 1992. Gabitkhan first worked at KTLs, then was transferred to Train 5, then joined the SGP project in 2005 and is currently considered a long-timer at this new facility.

He made his comment for us, explaining that "Kazanalit specialists do such sampling on a monthly basis. We have just completed our annual turnaround, so the readings will essentially show how well we have performed our job this time. Honestly, I have no doubt all our units are working normally, so we are sure the emissions will not exceed the MPVs."

Both Vitaliy and Valeriy have finally reached the platform and feel the cool and freshness of the wind which is always available at elevations this high. One can also enjoy the magnificent panoramic view of the sprawling facility underneath. Down there and all around the place is the pride of the Kazakhstan petroleum industry.

The guys work fast and display perfect skills as they open the sampler hatches and remove the jackets from the gas analyzers. They expose the smart gauges to the air flow inside the stack through docking the connection tubes to the sensors. The measuring process started and will take just about half an hour. After the set time is over, Valeriy properly stops the sampling and takes the gas analyzer in his hand. The smart instrument is showing the readings on its display and simultaneously types out the check on its printer. Now all the tested parameters are available in hard copy. Specially for the skeptics I need to once again reassure them no fraud or tempering with the readings is possible due to the "fraud proof" design of the instrument.

"We have a special term for these sampling points which goes as "organized sources of atmospheric impact", said V. Puzin after taking a deep breath upon completing his mission. Such sampling points allow the air monitoring group at TCO to keep a close eye on all equipment status, so we could respond quickly to any deviations."

This time all the tested parameters appeared within the norms. Both the specialists in charge of this job and the SGP personnel demonstrated a high level performance, also literally so.

By Georgy Trukhin

TCO's Gas Utilization Program success acknowledged by the World Bank

Flaring reduction has become an important global topic over the last few decades as the world moves to lower air emissions. Kazakhstan and Chevron are both members of the Global Gas Flaring Reduction Initiative (GGFR); a program which was launched by the World Bank at the Johannesburg Summit for Sustainable Development in 2002.

Execution of TCO's Gas Utilization Project allowed our company to significantly reduce gas flaring volumes. This success was highly valued by GGFR as one of the outstanding gas utilization projects and placed on the World Bank's web page in their "Success Story" column (http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTOGMC/EXTGGFR/0,,contentMDK:22933267~pagePK:64168445~piPK:64168309~theSitePK:578069,00.html).

This article mentions high Kazakhstan Content indicators during the mentioned above project execution. International acknowledgment of TCO successes proves TCO's commitment to minimize its impact on environment.

Kazakhstan content 2011 forum and exhibition

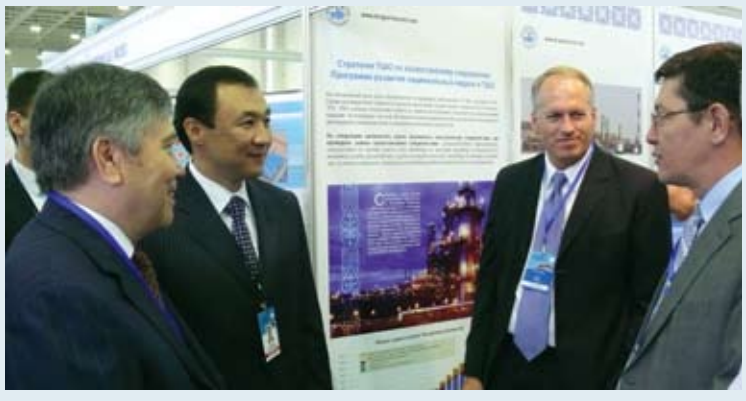
For two days from July 4 through July 5 the Korme Expo Hall was hosting the Kazakhstan Content 2011 Forum & Exhibition

The event was organized by ROK Ministry of industry and new technologies in partnership with National Agency for Development of Local Content (NADLoC). The forum held under the motto A strong leader makes a strong business served primarily the venue for an open dialogue between the government and business.

The event, now organized for the second time in two years, was attended by President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Prime Minister Karim Massimov, deputy Premier, Minister of Industry & New Technmologies A. Isekeshev, heads of ministries and government agencies, CEOs of major businesses – holders of licenses for the use of natural resources, presidents of large national companies acting as key players in their respective sectors and chairmen of associations of entrepreneurs.

High on the agenda of the forum and exhibition were the presentation of the Map of Industrialization, a live teleconference with various regions of Kazakhstan and A strong leader makes a strong business panel attended by the head of state.

Representing TCO at the forum and exhibition were general director Tim Miller, deputy general director Anuarbek Dzhakiyev, general manager of government and public affairs Rzabek Artygaliyev and managers of TCO groups in charge of local content development, operational excellence, safety and environmental and Future Growth Project.



The exhibition which was part of the Kazakhstan Content 2011 Forum featured the total of 120 booths introducing major local producers and small business, including the booth of Tengizchevroil LLP.

Deputy Prime Minister Aset Isekeshev undertook acting as a guide introducing the head of state to every booth, demonstrating a profound knowledge of the subject-matter.

The booth of Tengizchevroil appeared extremely popular among the visitors of the exhibition who were eagerly provided all the information they wanted and took advantage of the opportunity to establish business contacts with TCO Local Content Development managers Marat Dauletyarov and Abat Orazbayev.

TCO general director Tim Miller attending the Forum hosted an interview for Khabar News Agency and Business Resource media holding company, briefing the journalists on TCO strategic intents and objectives in the area of Kazakhstan content development.

By Meruert Sukhankulova

Joint Forum of Suppliers on Original Equipment and Spare Parts

On the 13th of May Kazenergy and KazMunaiGas National Oil Company in association with three lead producers of oil and gas in Kazakhstan, Karachaganak Petroleum Operating Co. (KPO), North Caspian Operating Company (NCOC) and Tengizchevroil LLP (TCO) hosted another joint conference in Astana on the subject of production and supplies of packaged equipment and spare parts for the petroleum sector. This was the fourth such event of a special format and dedicated sponsors, now becoming a good tradition.

The primary subject on this year's agenda was the discussion of the ways to further develop the national market of complex equipment and spare parts for the petroleum sector, establishing partnerships between foreign and Kazakhstan companies and stimulation of indigenous production of oil equipment and spare parts.

Attending the forum on behalf of the government agencies were Vice Minister of Oil and Gas Berik Tolumbaev and Vice Minister of Industry and Innovations Duisenbai Turganov.

In his opening remarks Duisenbai Turganov briefed the audience on the government plans to increase local content., it is necessary to make a forecast and strategic vision of the primary directions for the national industry development and another high priority is to initiate and develop local production of goods to meet the specific needs of subsoil development projects. Such large scale forums involving key players of petroleum industry appear very instrumental in identifying the opportunities for the investors to support local businesses, including through creation of joint ventures.

The plan is to open five advanced industry training centers in the western, eastern, northern, central and southern parts of Kazakhstan which will offer crafts training, introducing trainees to the real equipment actually utilized by production companies. This is expected to create the wanted practical skills and train qualified labor through immersion in the working environment very similar to the actual operations.

The Vice Minister further noted it is essential to build a consistent and systematic state policy to address effectively the local content development through working out the mechanism of assimilating and bringing on new technologies, modernization of existing facilities and ensuring long-term contracts and work-orders for local suppliers. It is also critical to offer technological support and guidance to local suppliers of goods and services. This includes the catalogue of products, goods and services needed by production companies. Such a catalogue and the Internet site on Kazakhstan Content have already been provided and appeared very helpful.

Uzakbai Karabalin, Kazenergy Coordination Council Chairman for Kazakhstan content development took the floor to encourage all involved stakeholders to provide exact information about the needs of producers, both in short and longer term which is essential for the local suppliers to plan and organize production of oil equipment to the best international standard. He further noted in his remarks that, "the newly accepted method of estimating the Kazakhstan content has, on the one hand, provided a very strict definition of locally produced goods and ruled out any misunderstanding or deliberate fraud. On the other hand, it has created a very positive environment for both the customers and suppliers to find potential business partners and extend cooperation. This process is extremely useful and promising to the oil producers, because it is based on very pragmatic calculations. Through partnerships with Kazakhstan producers of machine tools and industry equipment the upstream companies can make their business more cost-effective and save on purchases, transportation and maintenance.

Dimash Bizhanov, general manager in charge of KMG service projects reported, "KMG Group has been strongly committed to increasing the Kazakhstan content in Company upstream projects. While doing so, the Company will be particularly encouraging and contracting with the local suppliers, who actively use modern technologies and employ innovations to enhance competitiveness in what concerns the cost and quality versus the imported products."

Speaking on behalf of KPO, Kairat Kapashev, manager of local development group emphasized that "the building of local suppliers' potential has been among the Company top priorities. KPO is interested in developing the local market of goods and services which creates a favorable and stable business climate for all Kazakhstan companies."

Michael Pekarski, general manager of NCOC Contracts and Purchases said "NCOC together with all partners have been in charge of a world-class project and believe our business provides vast opportunities for Kazakhstan's national economy sustainable development, including the impact on both the regional and national scale." He stressed that the Consortium's strategy on local content development has been systematic and long-term. As a result, in 2010 totals cost of local goods and services paid by the project operator company and partners exceeded $900m (tenge 130 billion). Starting from 2005, the total cost of goods and services supplied by Kazakhstan vendors was estimated around $7 billion.

Anuarbek Jakiyev, Deputy General Director of Tengizchevroil LLP quoted President Nursultan Nazarbayev as saying in his address to the Council of Foreign Investors in its 20th session, that "the effective effort of investment companies doing business in Kazakhstan in increasing Kazakhstan content on their operating expenses budget and human resources can make another significant contribution to the development of the national economy of Kazakhstan." The strengthening of the potential and opportunities of Kazakhstan business has been among the highest priorities of TCO. The Company is committed to continuing its effort in increasing the share of Kazakhstan goods and services in order to support the sustainable development of Kazakhstan and local business. We are hoping this forum will provide a strong momentum to the development of local suppliers, especially in producing complex equipment packages and spare parts."

A more detailed information on TCO's efforts in increasing the local content was given by Steve Messer, manager of total supply chain. In his report he made a special point quoting one of TCO's strategic intents – to be respected in the Kazakhstan community. Through pursuing to be respected in the Kazakhstan community Tengizchevroil is reaching its objective to create a superior value for the benefit of the partners, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Atyrau Oblast and the employees. TCO is doing so by vastly utilizing Kazakhstan goods and services, effective social investments, social infrastructure development programs (Egilik), through actively implementing the personnel development program, protecting the environment and strictly observing the law of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Over the time frame from 1993 through 2011 1st quarter total cost of local goods and services paid by TCO was estimated around $10 billion. The forum attendees demonstrated a keen interest in the examples of TCO's successful cooperation with Kazakhstani suppliers.

The forum organizers have provided an overview of Karachaganak, North-Caspian and TCO projects and debriefed the audience on the specific needs of the customers in complex equipment and spare parts, both in short and longer term. The potential suppliers were also introduced to the requirements the customers apply to suppliers and their products, including prequalification procedures, local content and certification.

The total over 100 Kazakhstan and foreign producers of machine tools, engineering specialists and service providers, including representatives of the Union of Kazakhstan Machine-building Industry enjoyed the opportunity to meet the lead production companies of the upstream sector during panel discussions and reviewed issues of bidding, prequalification, requirements, present-day and longer-term needs and the outlook for their businesses.

In attendance of the forum were representatives of foreign companies from 14 countries, including Canada, China, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Great Britain, Australia, the United States and UAE.

On invitation from TCO, attending the event were Chevron executive officers – K.S. Stewart, Supply Chain Advisor - Local Content, Chevron Services Company - Strategic Capability, Kelly Motensen, Regional SCM Advisor Supply Chain Management Chevron Upstream & Gas, a division of Chevron U.S.A. Inc. and Bill Sasheli, Gorgon AIP Coordinator Chevron Australia Pty Ltd, who praised highly the excellent organization of the forum and its strong benefit for suppliers. They also enjoyed greatly TCO reports on support of local producers of goods and services, the success stories and active interaction during the panel discussions.

The organizers are hoping this forum will continue to stimulate both foreign investments and active engagement of Kazakhstan business, and also encourage technology transfer, knowledge sharing as well as provide a strong momentum for the development of Kazakhstan content for the upstream sector.

By Almagul Ermanova, Supervisor, Planning and Analysis, Local Content Development Group

Focus on Local Suppliers

Eurest Support Services (ESS) has been among the long-time dedicated partners for TCO in the area of total site support for quite long time. It is really hard to imagine Tengizchevroil operation without perfectly organized transportation services, excellent catering and accommodation available in Tengiz, and the smart comfort of offices. This all is responsibility of ESS.

Recently, Eurest Support Services has formed a special group within its organization structure in charge of local content development. Please find below the comment by **Kymbat Sarkenova**, manager of the newly formed group.

– In view of the latest amendments and changes to the Kazakhstani law designed to further development of Kazakhstani content and in line with TCO strategy in the given area, ESS responded accordingly in order to meet newer challenges and address the issue more effectively, with a stronger focus on local suppliers of goods and services. The new group's specific function is to coordinate local content development as part of the total supply chain management process. The specific mission of our new group can be defined through a very laconic formula – to maximize the use of Kazakhstani suppliers of goods and services. In the meantime, I must admit this job is by far not as easy as it may appear at a glance. TCO is a world-class operation and one of the largest businesses in Kazakhstan's economy, which means the standard of goods and services is expected to be similarly competitive. Therefore, the issue is not about a plain increase of the number of local suppliers involved in our projects. The requirement is to simultaneously maintain and upgrade the quality of services and products.

ESS is proud of its long record of productive cooperation with TCO and has established fairly reliable business relations with Kazakhstani suppliers and vendors. Among our long-time credited business partners we can recognize such local suppliers as Tokmansai Farm covering over 1/3 of TCO monthly demand in beef and lamb; Ramazan Factory in Aktobe is our trusted provider of wheat, pasta and barley; Turquoise edible oil industries Co., also based in Aktobe, is our dedicated supplier of vegetable oil; JSC Eurasian Food Corp. known as number one supplier of margarine and mayonnaise in Kazakhstan is yet another long-time business partner of ours. I could probably continue with a longer list of local suppliers, like Milk dairy plant in Kostanai, ICE Company in Aktyubinsk, a supplier of fermented milk products, Elite Company in Kyzyl-Orda producing rice and the Sugar Center which accounts for our purchases of respective product.

In the meantime, while estimating our internal short-term and longer term requirements and needs, we continue to look for more potential suppliers, investigate their capacity and ability to meet our demands in what concerns quality. Then we register the potential suppliers in our data base and invite them to take part in the bidding procedure. One typical area with plenty of opportunities for our potential local suppliers is the market of meat and poultry products. Currently, the monthly demand of TCO's in beef and poultry meat equates to 30 tons and 35 to 38 tons, respectively, with Poland dominating as our chief supplier, while essentially acting as intermediary, importing these types of products from third parties. Unfortunately, local suppliers have so far been unable to handle orders this big and offer a competitive quality.

In search of potential alternate suppliers of meat we have traveled a lot and visited a number of facilities based in Almaty and Shymkent. We are still planning another tour of a plant in Kostanai and in some other places in Kazakhstan, hoping to contract with indigenous suppliers and aspiring to, finally, diversify our sources and find competitive players on the local market.

However, there is yet another aspect of this issue we need to consider. Sometimes, even having the necessary resources and capacities available, local suppliers often experience difficulties trying to meet TCO's demands in what concerns quantity and quality, faced with the scale of Tengizchevroil's orders. Confronted with such problems, we are following TCO's example, going for supporting selected companies with the required potential through issuing privileged or interest-free development credits. This is exactly how we treated Tokmansai Farm some time ago, offering a $15,000 loan for purchasing equipment and organization of a slaughterhouse business. Likewise, today, together with TCO Local content development group we are exploring the possibility to give a strong support to Raushan Farm in the Makhambet Region to build a food processing facility producing tomato paste, pickles and juices. By doing so we are pursuing our strong interest in having such a valuable supplier available to us and close at hand.

Quality products and services, the mastership and impeccable delivery, the ability to meet the schedule of shipments, in other words the guaranteed compliance with the contractual terms and obligations – these are the primary criteria and unquestioned requirements we apply to all suppliers, which are based on our Company's duties to provide uninterrupted supplies of food and services to TCO employees.

Working together with TCO's Supply Chain Management Group of, we are strongly committed to continue to act with maximum effectiveness and dedication, pursuing to further increase the Kazakhstani content through proactively identifying and supporting certified local suppliers.

Reflecting on chief values...

Naziya Erkingaliyeva, librarian, administrative support, TCO, Tengiz, active BBS observer

Once after a regular BBS meeting, I thought to myself for a moment about some very simple, yet important things.

The young people are generally unconcerned about life and own health, because they believe their life will be all wonderful and sunny experiences, so why bother. This is deemed a very common phenomenon. However, as the time flows, in a mature age and particularly after your own babies are born, you start to comprehend life in full scope and feel a tremendous responsibility.

Our BBS Program is very consonant with the inner sense of responsibility for your own behavior and safety and for the security of the people around. We spend the better part of our life at work, therefore we must appreciate the type of no-nonsense attitude to behavioral safety and safety culture TCO has been promoting strongly. Sometimes, when I look at how my attitude to BBS has changed, I discover that I started to see many things which had been largely obscure or disregarded before. This helps me to capture and comprehend the ideas and value of the BBS Program in a greater estimate. One needs to understand in the first place that BBS is no trivial manual or written instructions he has to follow.The truth is, courtesy of BBS, we learn to care more about safety at home and in everyday life in general. Being in the course of events about BBS progress, perusing the related reports and statistics on a regular basis, I arrive to the very logical and unequivocal conclusion: when it comes to safety, all depends eventually on the human factor. To put it plainly, the injuries and fatalities are normally the result of employee's carelessness and lack of concentration.

Let alone BBS, how come we forget the very same messages our mothers, family and all who care have been trying to get through to our conscience from early childhood? Are these basic rules so very different from what we are trying to teach our own kids? Just think about it for a moment. As they grow, we are trying to explain and "reason" rather than use abuse the dos don'ts. We are talking to them about traffic rules, the safe conduct on the beach and safe behavior in other situations. It is a common knowledge that the majority of traumas occur as a result of falls, misuse of open fire, electrical shock, accidents on the water and incidental poisoning. The Behavior Based Safety Program is designed to support us in all situations. However, it is only after I became BBS adherent, I discovered the natural course of events does not necessarily guarantees safety. Presently, it often occurs to me I started to pay attention, inadvertently so, to very common things and facts, trying to identify risk factors and watch my daily behavior as if I was a dedicated BBS observer keeping his candid record. Honestly, I feel so happy as if it was my personal accomplishment when I see the guys who I know as TCO employees buckle up instinctively before driving or taking a ride during their off time. This has become the must and the norm of their life, and many strive to share this habit with their families.

I remember once at a BBS meeting I was asked a question about the role of BBS Program in my personal life. Then I decided I should share my thoughts on the issue through this article in TCO News, so I thought I could complement it with a similar input by my colleagues. Below are some of their ideas they were eager to share with the readers.

Kashkinbayeva Zinegul, fax machine operator, Administrative Services – To me the most important is to come home from the shift safe and sound, because I know my dear family is waiting for me. When I come home, I care about my family's safety.

Kostenko Valentina, lead office assistant – The famous Russian hit I love you my Life has served the motto and the basic rule of life for many generations of our citizens. In pursuance of this rule, we need to care about ourselves and follow simple safety precautions in all situations. I truly appreciate TCO's strong drive in this area which works very convincing.

Kaliyev Baghdat, Total Supply Chain specialist – Ever since the man starts to tread his path of life he is striving to live as long and happily as possible. It is here where the basic rules can help, although often resented by the young as copy-book maxims.

Caution is the parent of safety is a common saying encouraging us to watch our step every time and everywhere, at workplace and at home. We also need to think of the potential impact of our action on other people in order to avoid doing harm.

What motivates us best to maintain the best of health is no doubt our family and the desire to watch our children grow and achieve success. In order to make this happen, we must care of our selves and our families.

Muktasheva Marzhan, Information Center assistant – While doing any work, the primary thought should be about being careful and prudent enough to resist the temptation to "use shortcuts" at the cost of safety. We need to necessarily identify, estimate and minimize the risk factors and maintain the sense of safety at all times which will help us return home after work safe and sound.

Dzhamekova Aigul, SGP/SGI archive technical assistant – I believe strongly we spend almost half of our lifetime at work to provide for the wellbeing and happiness of our families which is hardly thinkable without good health. How we succeed on this mission depends entirely on our understanding and dedication.

As it happens, while living their everyday life, people rarely care about safe behavior at home, on a trip and in the kitchen. However, whereas before my family treated my safety remarks and expostulations as nuisance or just laughed back, today they respond positively in a matter of fact manner. This means my family finally understood the safety belts and the piles of plates left carelessly on the kitchen table pose real threat, while adhering to simple safety rules at home and at workplace can protect from injuries.

As you can see from the above comments, everyone at TCO clearly understands and accepts to observe safety rules is critical. The BBS Program encourages us to pay more attention to safety both at work and in everyday life. It helps to identify and improve unsafe habits. Every person should realize his own safety is in his hands and keep in mind that we are similarly responsible for other people's safety.

TCO's environmental initiatives rest on the team of employees' and local public's goodwill

This has become a tradition with TCO to dedicate environmental activities to various holidays and milestone events. This year, the Company has been an active owner of a large variety of projects designed to enhance community awareness of environmental problems and to increase public involvement in the protection of local environment. The Operational Excellence, Health, Safety and Environmental (HES) group of TCO initiated a number of such activities, including public acts and contests, dedicated to the Earth Day and Environmental Protection Day observed worldwide.

As part of these initiatives TCO hosted tree planting days in the park areas adjacent to local public schools in Atyrau and New Karaton. The sponsors appeared perfectly prepared, taking care of the logistics, buying saplings and essential tools, setting up a steering committee, spreading the word across TCO and the community in order to ensure the maximum outreach.

The perfectly organized team of school pupils and instructors responded with a tremendous enthusiasm. Each action of the students planting the trees demonstrated their love for Mother Nature, a true patriotism and the strong desire to make their native land a better place to live. As a result, the entire stock of saplings has been planted in front of the two schools, the students' contribution has been rewarded with T-shirts and baseball caps bearing TCO and HES logos, and the faces of the children radiated happy smiles and sincere appreciation of their important role. We are absolutely positive the tree planting initiative will inspire the local community to more systematic involvement and, hopefully, a tradition of planting trees and bushes, while the younger generation should benefit from this through learning to love their blessed native land…

Yet another valuable initiative dedicated to the Earth Day is the established tradition of environmental cleanups, also known as subbotnik in Russian.

Around Tengiz license territory, TCO employees together with contractors' labor have made a significant input in cleaning the area, including the sites of Second Generation Plant, SGI, KTLs, Plant common area, the welding warehouse, the Industrial Base, the offices and the areas adjacent to the TCO Village perimeter.

TCO employees, driven solely by natural desire to bring their workplace in perfect order demonstrated a great enthusiasm, filling up plastic bags with waste. TCO Management recognized the effort of all volunteers and the leadership of TCO Environmental Protection group, and also the important role of HES secondees with Production Operations Dept. in brilliantly organizing the job.

As a result, we now have a vast territory cleaned of garbage which was moved by quite a number of trucks to the landfill. The most active volunteers were recognized with special mementos and hearty applause of colleagues.

In Atyrau, a similar initiative by the local government focused on cleaning the banks of the Ural and the Erik Canal. Naturally, TCO volunteered to support this noble action, thus about 50 employees and members of their families arrived on the river banks to clean the areas from the Mayor's office to Aliev Street.

As yet another effort to introduce people to the rich local biodiversity, TCO HES sponsored a Sunday trip for birds watchers as one more activity dedicated to the Earh Day.

Tengiz is known to be the home for a great number of birds species, some migrating during the summer season, using TCO evaporation ponds around Shanyrak Village for bivouac, while others reside in this region on a permanent basis. According to ornithologists, the total of 275 types of birds have been spotted around the Caspian Recession. This huge biodiversity of fowls includes ducks, tattlers, seagulls and even magnificent pelicans, Egyptian herons, purple swamp hens, beautiful swans and graceful pink flamingos. Clearly, it is truly impossible to overestimate the role of this land for the world wildlife.

Although not ideal and with scarce rays of sunlight in the skies, the weather was acceptable and generally friendly on that particular day. We could feel the long-awaited comfort and warm of springtime, as the wavering green steppe spoiled us with unusual bright pattern of colors of wild flowers in bloom and the symphony of birds' chatter. Dozens of eager eyes of birds-watchers armed with binoculars enjoyed this absolutely fantastic view. No wonder we had so many volunteers willing to join the trip, because many people were eager to leave their normal drab environment and try to immerse for a moment in this heavenly world of divine nature, enjoy a short trip to the wilderness in order to keep for good the precious memories of this unique, although somewhat remote land…

In pursuance of the goal to raise public awareness of environmental protection, a number of environmental contests have been hosted by TCO, like the photo contest on the subject of Caring of the native Land, the best environmental project competition and the With love to Native Land drawing contest for children, all actively attended by TCO employees and contractors. The juries received a great number of good and original works to admire. The winners and all participants have been recognized with special prizes and mementos.

We are proud to know such environmental activities have been joined by more Company employees and community members each year. This serves a clear evidence of the growing civil awareness and a stronger will to preserve Mother Nature and stimulate environmentally responsible and safe use of its resources.

Story by TCO HES Group

Precious present to the Goldfish

In order to better understand the "juice" of this story, we probably need to give some background information to our English-speaking readers. In the Russian folklore there is a famous story about the Old Man and the Goldfish where the latter fulfils every whim of the Old Man's lady as a return courtesy for being liberated from the net. In our case, though, it is the Goldfish who enjoys the gifts.

Goldfish or Altyn balyk in Kazakh stands for the name of a nursery in Atyrau. Once it was one of the best preschool institutions in town, however, when the hard times arrived the nursery and its residents suffered badly from the cash strapped budget. In 2010 Altyn balyk's function was changed by the act of Atyrau Mayor, so the nursery is currently hosting the special school for handicapped children.

"Today we have the total of 96 pupils in eight groups, explained Zhanar Ermekovba, the School Director. – Of those 8 we have five groups for the children with speaking problems, one for the children with hearing problems and two for the mentally retarded children. As you can imagine, attending to our special pupils are not only normal school instructors, but also speech therapists, psychologists and other specialists trained to work with the handicapped children. All of our trainers have completed retraining programs. "

Now that The Goldfish is pursuing a special and very noble mission, the financing has improved (the school is a part of a state program supporting the disabled children), the building has been refurbished and all the equipment and furniture replaced by the newly purchased.

Meanwhile, according to the School Director, the funds allocated under the state programs cannot stretch to meet all the needs of the facility, so the management is extremely appreciative of every support and donation from sponsors, who come to give a helping hand to the children in need.

Guess we have now approached the point from which this whole story had originated. TCO HR keep one good tradition. At least once every year the employees of HR groups join to organize a volunteer charity action, raising funds to further buy various priority items for the nurseries.

Said Samat Janglyshov, supervisor of Management Systems and Business Project supports group of HR, "we became aware the Goldfish School management had approached TCO Government and Public Affairs with a request to assist them with purchasing special equipment and exercisers effective in rehabilitation of the handicapped children. We discussed the issue with Gulnara Aityzhanova of TCO GPA and arrived at a joint decision that we should make a presentation for the Goldfish pupils."

The issue, however, appeared more difficult than we expected. Unfortunately, nowadays, the markets offer too many low quality and sometimes dangerous toys and wares intended for children. Zhanar Ermekova helped us with a special catalogue of certified toys and playgrounds for the children of pre-school age groups, and finally the HR volunteers voted for the Labyrinth Soft Playground. The structure both impresses the children as a thrilling adventure through placing them in a sort of a cave, an unmistakable fairy tale environment, and also proves extremely effective in training motor coordination, let alone it stimulates strong emotions.

"We hardly finished assembling the playground, and the children just could not wait to start exploring the facility, said Christina proskurina and Ainur Sakhmanova, specialists of TCO HR. – They were literally head over heels with joy after completing their first "journey." But what is the most important the playground will work to rehabilitate their natural capacities."

The little kids enjoyed the Big Toy immensely, while the people at the HR thought to themselves they should come back soon by all means to visit the nursery pupils once again and give another present to its small residents.

By the way the HR employees are no exclusive owners of a license to do charity for the benefit of handicapped children.

By Georgy Trukhin

Novus-Yulmar Service – another success story

The development of newer opportunities and business capabilities of Kazakhstani companies, providers of goods and services, has been treated by Tengizchevroil as one of its top priorities. To pursue this strategy effectively, TCO offers low interest loans to support the development of small and medium-sized business in the area. Over the life time of this program, the total of $7.8m worth of loans has been issued to local entrepreneurs.

One vivid example of the high effectiveness of such strategy is the history of TCO cooperation with Novus-Yulmar Service, a Kazakhstan-UK joint venture producing quality packers for TCO. The history of cooperation started yet in the late 90s of the last Century when the company supplied limited volumes of services for TCO capital projects. After switching to heat insulation business, the company (it was Yulmar Service at the time) received the first interest-free loan from TCO to start production of metal profiles used for insulation. It was among the first local businesses in Atyrau certified to ISO standard.

On July 5 a dedication ceremony was held in Atyrau for the newly opened workshop to produce the flange packers attended by Deputy Akim of the Atyrau Oblast Abdirov, TCO Total Supply Chain manager S. Messer and a representative of the British partner. After the ceremony, the attendees were introduced to the up-to-date equipment installed in the spacious workshop which meets the stringent international and national standards of industrial safety. The NC machine tools utilize plasma burners to cut packers with top precision.

"Yulmar Service has been active player on the local market for more than a decade, providing the bulk of services to Tengizchevroil and specializing in heat insulation for the plant equipment," said deputy director Nickolai Ignatov. – We have passed successfully a few phases of quality upgrades. Our products are ISO-9001-certified. While focused strongly on the Kazakhstan content development, we also chose to partner with Novus Co. of the UK, to form a joint venture specializing in production of packers. TCO is our customer of choice, and it has given us a strong support through issuing a privileged loan which we used to build a new workshop, buy and install the equipment, so we are currently starting pilot production and contemplating to meet the urgent needs of Tengizchevroil in the first place."

The success story of Yulmar-Novus Service is inseparable from TCO strategy of local content development and serves a good example of the high productivity demonstrated by TCO Local Content Development Group. It is important that the production supplied by Yulmar-Novus Service features the sign "Made in Kazakhstan."

By Yerlan Kassym

Going to school can be fun

Atyrau is once again hosting one of the world best schools of physics and mathematics

It is now for the fifth time Atyrau is hosting the Summer Schools of Physics and Mathematics, an affiliate of the Novosibirsk State University in Russia known as an "incubator" of future scientists. The school specializes in advanced training of the skilled school students. We earlier introduced our readers to the background history of this unique educational facility which has served the launching ground for dozens of prominent men of letters, designers, researchers and inventors. The school (currently the Specialized Scientific Educational Center under the Novosibirsk State University) has maintained its fundamental mission over the years – to identify the children with special talent in the hard sciences with the purpose of giving them a solid training, sufficient for their future active and productive involvement in scientific research and advanced sectors of the national economy. Tengizchevroil has served as chief sponsor to this educational project and has been a strong supporter of this initiative of the Atyrau Oblast Administration of Public Education for many years.

Please see the numbers below which speak for themselves demonstrating the success of the project. Last year, which incidentally was by far not awfully favorable economically, the Summer School of Math based on the premises of the Small Academy of Arts was attended by the total of 88 students. This year the number is 166 which is exactly a double growth. The sceptics, who may suspect this is a sheer craze of jealous parents willing to enroll their children at an elite school by all means, will be no doubt all wrong. Some seniors have been attending the school for three years in a row, because they consider impossible to miss the precious chance of immersion in the world of mathematics and physics during the summer holidays.

One such student is Anatoliy Denisenko, just past his tenth form at high school and currently into the third year with the Summer School of Math. Last year, he also qualified among the brightest students, who were invited to a special class at the source Scientific Educational Center in Novosibirsk. The young fellow definitely has a knack for the exact sciences and advanced knowledge.

"My parents are electrical engineers by profession, so, probably, my affection for the maths and physics is hereditary," explained Anatoliy, laughing. – I love to do sums more than anything else; the more complex is a problem, the better. Besides, the Summer School is largely based on the higher school curriculum, thus we are getting plenty of new knowledge."

Anatoliy has a strong desire to enroll with the Novosibirsk School of Physics and Mathematics. His dream is to become a nuclear physicist and get involved in the scientific research of nuclear energy civil applications.

Attending the same class with Anatoliy at the Summer School of Math is Kira Lagovskaya, a student of Atyrau Technical College. Different from him, though, she is a novice. Kira generally prefers the humanitarian sciences. She likes to draw and does well both in graphic art and painting. Why the school of math then?

"I came here, courtesy of a friend of mine and schoolmate Dina Orynbasarova, who is absolutely happy attending the school for three years now. I was intrigued and thought I should try out my knowledge of math and physics. At first, though, I had to overcome the feeling of controvercy, because I deemed 'summer' and 'school' as incompatible things. But, eventually, I discovered they can match ideally. I just love it. The standard of training is fairly high," commented Kira.

Kira's case must be a typical example of ideal harmony between physics and lyrics. Kalybek Kabi, a young guy with a hard tan and black eyes is an altogether different story. He is a student of the Daryn School in Atyrau and no freshman at the Summer School of Math either. However, it is not due to his extraordinary talent in hard sciences, but rather because of his restless temper and all kinds of pranks his name has been mentioned often by the trainers. This is what Andrei Karchevskiy, School Director thinks of him, even though recognizing Kalybek's ingenuity.

The instructors, though, are trying to correct Andrei Karchevskiy, reassuring him and us that Kalybek's behavior has improved dramatically this year.

"Getting mature, huh?" we asked the young guy.

"Guess it's time to become prudent and wise," answered Kalybek philosofically. – Time to treat things seriously and make plans for the future."

The young man eagerly joined the conversation and told us he had once come up with an idea of a unique project to clean the near-Earth space of waste when attended a seminar in physical astronomy. His idea was to build some kind of a vacuum cleaner to clean up the space.

"My project was criticized bitterly," admitted Kalybek with a sigh of frustration. – The criticism was fair, however, because the project certainly had some flaws… But in general I like it here. The School of Math is really a fun!"

Not only a fun, but also creates value. That for sure. Svetlana Trepakova, deputy director of Novosibirsk Scientific Educational Center recognized a very good standard the students demonstrate in mathematics and physics and emphasized their true strong desire to receive advanced knowledge in exact sciences. This is an important and very positive indicator of the growing interest in physics and mathematics in high school in general.

The number of students at the Summer School of Math (166) is really impressive. Meanwhile, you should be aware the school of math is not all about lectures, formulas, tests and lab works. The classes start at 9 a.m. and finish at 5 p.m. which means the children stay there the entire daytime, six days a week. Therefore, the school works in a campus mode, also offering cultural and sports events after hours. Among the cultural programs were, for example, several competitions of unmistakable romantic spirit, like a Tilting Match or Miss Summer School of Math beauty contest. As you see, the school is clearly not all hard sciences.

Now, probably, one last fact abot the Atyrau Summer School of Math. Its program has been expanded this year by adding advance training seminars for local teachers of physics and mathematics. Supported by the Atyrau Regional Institute of Teachers' Advance Training, professors of Novosibirsk State University acted as guest lecturers and held a few seminars with the total of 48 local scholteachers, including from rural districts. The world-famous School of Physics and Mathematics of Novosibirsk keeps pursuing its noble mission.

By Georgy Trukhin and Gulnara Aitzhanova

Joi and Tim, the birdwatchers who care...

Tengiz is a place known for keeping all involved very busy all the time. All around the place – at the plants, in the field, at the Industrial Base and multiple construction sites, also in rotational villages people are busy working on their normal 12-hour shift, so one may think active rest and hobby is out of place. But he will be all wrong here.

People living and working in Tengiz treasure their time off, and they know how to maximize its value. For example, you will hardly find another operation like Tengiz with its own ballroom dancing class. Likewise, there is little chance to find another rotational village of professional oilmen proud of its own local three-time world champion in weightlifting continuing to practice in his sport. Where else in the world can you plan a trip to a miraculous chalk plateau on a Sunday and return by the end of the day with truly fantastic photos?

Joi Inbody and Tim Perkins have their own common hobby. They are birdwatchers, and Tengiz has proven to be an absolute godsend, offering plenty of unique opportunities in this particular domain.

Tim comes from Washington, D.C. and he graduated from Texas University where he specialized in the environmental aspects of oilfield development. He arrived in Kazakhstan in 2008. His job at TCO is design group leader in charge of small projects associated with KTLs operations.

"I took interest in the birds from my young years, and this happened when I first went fishing," remembers Tim with a mystery in his eyes. Satisfied with the effect his controversial statement produced on us he continued his story telling about his father and his all-absorbing hobby of fishing, so the young boy used to be his partner at fishing trips to local lakes and rivers. For some reason, the trophies were invariably scarce. Given the bite was mostly ignored and the float undisturbed, the young fellow had nothing left to do, except watch the birds. Then he developed a keen interest in the fowls in particular and the nature in general. Gradually, the captivating hobby evolved into a regular subject of scientific research. Tim spent hours browsing ornithologist catalogues and watching various species in their natural habitat in the area of Washington D.C., then learned to make professional records of birds' 'voices', thus he currently keeps a unique collection. His wife Christie respects her man's hobby and is hardly ever jealous about his subject of adoration. She may also feel not very happy when the hobby interferes with family plans and housekeeping duties.

"Here in Tengiz I have no problems with this," admits Tim Perkins with a smile. "The Company Municipal Services is taking care of everything related to housekeeping, so we do not need to be involved. I am just taking my binoculars and go into the wilderness which is quite close behind the village perimeter. The evaporation ponds area is the natural habitat of the birds. During my stay in Tengiz I have learned much more about them. Honestly speaking, I knew very little about the particular species living in Kazakhstan before I came here. The Caspian and Tengiz stand along the regular migration routes, thus my observations prove extremely productive."

Of all local species the cholochrome toadhead, the beautiful small golden-green bird often spotted around Shanyrak village seems to be Tim's favorite type, just like the graceful white-tailed sea eagle.

Joi Inbody, for TCO Waste Water Treatment facilities manager at has been watching birds for 30 years. This hobby of hers took origin a long time ago when she went on a safari tour in Kenia.

"I love this hobby because you can indulge in it practically anywhere you go," disserted Joi. "The world of fowls is unique in its diversity. Can you imagine, in the United States we have a bird that lives on snails only as its exceptional diet. The steppe of Kazakhstan is also the habitat for many kinds of birds. Actually, even in a lifeless desert where hardly any creatures can live you will find birds, for sure."

Joi is keeping her records, registering every time and location where she spotted particular species. She also reads a lot about birds and keeps a large collection of books on the subject at her home. Currently, she is reading about the crows believed to be a very common kind of birds, yet discovers a lot of new interesting facts about them. Amazingly, the crows tend to change their lifestyle as they grow older. In their younger age they normally demonstrate gregarious habits, while in the mature age make a couple and stay so along their lifetime. The crows are also known to have a developed communication system. I would say, the crows and the human beings have a lot of common features," concluded Joi.

We immediately proceeded on the subject, trying to find more analogies between the birds and the people. Check out the following couples: the boss – the peacock, office assistant – secretary-bird, a dull and artless employee – a woodpecker, an ingenious and wise employee – an owl, a slim and tall lady – a heron, etc. I wondered which kind of fowl Joi would prefer for reincarnation.

"A parrot, that without a doubt," was her immediate answer as she laughed out heartily. "The parrots normal habitat is in tropics, secondly, the parrots live as long as 300 years and even longer, thirdly, the parrots can speak and never get tired of speaking and, lastly, the parrots always look very stylish…"

It so happened, Joi and Tim, the two very different personalities shared their hobby and treat it with a true passion. A man will always make his time and find the place for favorite business. As far as the time, in Tengiz they experience a certain deficit, while, otherwise, they have plenty of space and opportunities for their hobby. One can see a large variety of birds around Tengiz – the golden eagles, the quails, the skylarks, the herons and whoops, the flamingos and, of course, the swallows, those restless merry chirpers…

Joi has over 120 entries in her records about various types of birds she spotted near Tengiz and Shanyrak villages.

Sometimes when you walk out through the main gate and leave Shanyrak, take a look around and you can occasionally spot a lonely profile of a person with binoculars above the line of horizon. Or sometimes a couple standing and observing the steppe. I could bet, those will be, for sure, Joi Inbody and Tim Perkins, the birdwatchers from TCO.

By Georgy Trukhin,
photos of swallows
provided by Joi Inbody

Creating value for the children's health

The Zhurek Zhylui NGO was founded in March of 2010, and over the short term of our activity we managed to score significant results. First of all, I would like to thank our sponsors at Eurasia Fund of Central Asia (EFCA) working in partnership with Tengizchevroil. Courtesy of their continuous support, we have purchased the necessary equipment and opened the therapeutic massage and remedial gymnastics studios.

The touch massage studio is for the disabled children with cerebral palsy. Presently, we have the total of 28 children receiving a massage therapy. We are very proud to report in 2010 three of our young patients out of 18 restored their mobility functions and learned to walk on their own, while 18 more children developed a significant progress in rehabilitation of mobility functions and coordination of movements.

Said Esaliyeva Nurziya, mother of Elaman Gulnaz, 4, diagnozed with hypotheriosis (cerebral palsy), "I used to carry my daughter in my arms, because she neither walked, nor could sit upright, and was generally scared to make any unattended motion. After the first course of massage therapy Gulnaz learned to sit upright, although still with her mother's help, and developed interest in the people and objects around her. After completing the second course of massage treatment, Gulnaz is now able to stand up to her feet unattended and learned to walk holding on to furniture and things around.

Over the 9 months of 2010 Zhurek Zhylui provided the total of forty 10-day courses of massage therapy to disabled children.

Starting last year, we initiated a more active interaction and feedback with parents and offered various social events on top of therapy, in order to develop socializing habits in children. Already in 2011 we held three such events for the New Year, Nauryz and the Child Protection Day. The children with partial disability were very enthused to take part in the festivities on their own. Apparently, they discovered and enjoyed for the first time in their life they could do the same things as other children do normally – singing, dancing and reciting verses.

But the most important, a truly revolutionary change happened at our therapeutic facility in march of 2011. We finally purchased a neuro-orthopedic suit effective in rehabilitation

by means of kinesotherapy. Already after using the suit for two initial months, we saw for ourselves it worked times more effectively compared with the massage. We were truly amazed to find out a single session of the "moon suit" application showed a similar effect as a 10-day course of massage therapy. However, the suit we bought is for the children aged under 3 years old, while we have many disabled children attending our physical therapy center, who are older than that, and some as old as 13. We are sure they need a similar neuro-orthopedic device badly. We are hoping EFCA will continue to support us in 2012, so we will be able to buy a bigger size suit. We wish we could have it at our disposal as early as only possible and are looking forward to this opportunity in order to help rehabilitate motion functions in more children.

By Anna Yurchenkova,
co-founder of Zhurek Zhylui NGO

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