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MEDIA ADVISORY

Ambassador Speaks with Azerbaijani Youth Leaders in Gabala

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On July 22, U.S. Ambassador Matthew Bryza participated in the closing ceremony of the sixth annual Azerbaijani Boys Leadership Experience (ABLE) camp in Gabala. A total of 47 boys, aged 13-16 from 24 regions of Azerbaijan, participated in the five-day summer camp, which aims to improve the boy's understanding of exercising leadership and civic responsibility, as well teaching participant to design and implement community-development projects.

Bryza called on the boys to use lessons learned at the ABLE camp in their daily lives when they return to their communities. "I believe that Azerbaijan has a bright future, and that future starts with you. Applying what you've learned here, you have a chance to bring about positive change in each of your communities." Bryza said, adding that that he looked forward to seeing the impact of their community development projects during future visits to Azerbaijan's regions.

Organized by United States Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) and their Azerbaijani counterparts with financing from the U.S. Embassy in Baku, ABLE aims to assist Azerbaijani youth develop into active citizens and leaders able to effect positive change in their communities. Since 2006 ABLE Camp has provided young men from all over Azerbaijan the opportunity to challenge themselves as individuals and to discuss issues that they all face as community members and citizens of Azerbaijan. A similar camp for young Azerbaijani women will be held in Gabala from July 24-29.

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