

This year's Caspian Construction Week kicked off from the 18–21 of October at Baku Expo Center. The number of its participants makes it the largest event on the non-oil sector in the region. The Caspian Construction Week includes three exhibitions – the 23rd Azerbaijan International Construction Exhibition WorldBuild Baku, the 10th Anniversary International Exhibition for Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, Water Supply, Sanitary, Environmental Technology, Swimming Pool and Renewable Energies Aquatherm Baku and the 10th Anniversary Caspian International Protection, Security and Rescue Exhibition Securika Caspian which occupied two halls at Baku Expo Center. This year, 310 companies from 28 countries take part in the Caspian Construction Week.

The exhibition was preceded by a press conference. The press conference was attended by Mr. Anar Guliyev – Head of Staff of State Housing Development Agency under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Edward Strachan – Regional Director of ITE Group, Mrs. Maya Gafarli – Project Manager of WorldBuild Baku and Mr. Rashad Gadimov – Project Manager of Aquqtherm Baku and Securika Caspian. More than 20 media attended the press-conference from AzTv, APA, Azertag, CBC, ITV, Interfax, Vestnik Kavkaza, Report, TREND and other agencies.

The official opening ceremony was attended by Mr. Niyazi Safarov, Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Sadig Sadigov, Deputy Director of the State Housing Development Agency under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Elkhan Asadov – Deputy Chief of State Agency on Construction Safety Control of Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Elbay Qasimzade, Chairman of the Union of Architects of Azerbaijan, Mr. Edward Strachan – Regional Director of ITE Group Plc.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of WorldBuild Baku 2017, Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Niyazi Safarov stressed that the current exhibition reflects significant signs of the development of the country's construction industry. The exhibition clearly demonstrates the diversification of the Azerbaijani economy, the growth of competitiveness of national products, the provision of jobs to the population and illustrates the fact that today our country is almost completely providing itself with building materials. Thanks to WorldBuild Baku, interest to Azerbaijan from foreign investors and manufacturers who wish to establish business cooperation with local companies is increasing.

Deputy Director of the State Agency for Housing Development Mr. Sadig Sadigov noted the expansion of the geography of participants and the actual participation in the exhibition of four national stands. The construction sector plays an important role in the development of the economy; this area is under the state' due attention. 100,000 people are engaged in the construction sector today. Last year, 15 thousand apartments and 12 thousand private houses were built and commissioned. According to S. Sadigov, the exhibition successfully reflects these achievements, and the Agency, which was established in 2016, has started an active cooperation with the Organisers of WorldBuild Baku.

Deputy Head of the State Agency for Control of Safety in Construction under the Ministry for Emergency Situations Mr. Elkhan Asadov said that the construction boom in Azerbaijan contributed to the growth of local companies that have successfully entered the world market today. The exhibition forms a blessed image of the construction industry, which has a positive impact on the country's economy among non-oil industries.

Chairman of the Board of the Union of Architects of Azerbaijan Mr. Elbay Gasimzade expressed the opinion that the active construction work forms the basis of any progressive society, which largely depends on the professionalism of architects who have a great responsibility in terms of urban development. It is necessary to support the construction sector in every possible way, noted the speaker in conclusion and wished every success to the participants and guests of the exhibition.

Mr. Edward Strachan congratulated the participants on the Independence Day of Azerbaijan, which coincided with the opening day of the exhibitions, and expressed gratitude to all supporting structures for their attention and active participation in exhibitions.

WorldBuild Baku is the most important trade event in the region for building and architecture, and design and renovations. Every year, professionals from a range of different countries attend the exhibition to find business partners.

Participants of the WorldBuild Baku exhibition have increased by 30% thanks to new companies. It is encouraging that 40% of the exhibitors were Azerbaijani participants which include producers, distributors and construction companies. The products under the "Made in Azerbaijan" brand successfully compete with foreign exhibitors. This year's permanent participants were "Akkord", "Altis group", Baku Steel Company, "Faxraddin-K", "Gilan Holing", "Kartash", "Komiforest", "Nabucco", "NB Group", "Safe Life", "Nimex", "Sobsan boya", "Technogym", "Yukseklik", "Vebrostone" The Sponsor of WorldBuild Baku 2017 was Corella (NB Group), and the media partner of the exhibition was the magazine "House and Interior" ("Dom i Interyer").

Note that one of the distinguishing features of WorldBuild Baku is the active participation of joint national stands. As is tradition, this year's national stands represented Germany, Iran, the UAE and Poland. Turkish, Chinese, Russian and Czech manufactures participated with the large groups of companies.

WorldBuild Baku 2017 covered a full range of construction materials, including ceramics, trim stones, marble, windows, doors and interior furnishing. The Paint and Varnish Sector will be extensively represented both by local and foreign companies. The exhibition will provide an excellent opportunity to be familiarized with a large selection of interior and entrance doors, as well as metal and automatic doors for country houses and office premises. Traditionally, roofing materials and woodworking are widely represented at the exhibition.

INNOVATIONS OF THE CASPIAN CONSTRUCTION WEEK

As is always the case, the WorldBuild Baku exhibition showcased innovative products which duplicated in the Innovations Catalogue of the exhibition's website. Among the new products this year were energy saving fittings with high light flux (Lena Lighting); new coatings from FAB Boya; thermal flywheels (ELBI); ballistic shields for construction (Amii); automatic fire sprinklers (WEFLO VALVE CO); Smart Home from OJSC "TEKO"; condensing boilers (ECOSTAR BURNERS); compact systems of molecular filtration of drinking water (Bluefilters Graphite New Line) and much more. A lot of interesting and innovative materials and products were presented by national groups.

BUSINESS PROGRAM

For the first time within the framework of the exhibitions, the organisers arranged B2B meetings between the foreign exhibitors and local distributors on the 19th of October. These B2B meetings provided an additional effective business platform for direct meetings and negotiations among the participants of the construction market.

This year's exhibitions featured a comprehensive business program, as is planned by the Organisers. On 20th of October, a special VIP tour was held with the participation of representatives from the Executive Power of Baku and other interested state agencies, including the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

During the entire days of the exhibition, a workshop for young designers was held in cooperation with the Union of Architects of Azerbaijan which supported and participated in the exhibition with its own stand. Participants of the workshop expected to create a project which used the building materials presented at the exhibition within 2 days. At the end of this competition, the Union of Architects of Azerbaijan selected the best works, followed by the winners' awarding ceremony directly at the exhibition.

For the first time, an excursion to the Rustam Mustafayev Museum of National Art of Azerbaijan was organised for the exhibitors of WorldBuild Baku.

SUPPORT

The WorldBuild Baku is supported by Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, State Housing Development Agency under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, State Committee for Town Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, The Union of Architects of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan Export and Investment Promotion Foundation (AZPROMO) and National Confederation of The Entrepreneurs (Employers) Organizations of Azerbaijan Republic (AEC).

ORGANISERS

The exhibitions were organised by Iteca Caspian and its partner ITE Group. ITE Group's network of partners – ITE London; EUF (Turkey); GIMA (Germany); CEM (UAE); Invernizzi Group (Italy); ITE China; and ITE Poland – has invited international companies to exhibit. Among the partners Iteca Caspian in 2017, the tour operator "Premier Tour", the official hotel "Qafqaz Point Hotel" and "Hyatt Regency", and AzExpoMontage, the official stand builder. The organizers of the exhibition are Iteca Caspian and its partner ITE Group.

The organisers awarded certificates to sponsors, partners and exhibitors who stood out with their imaginative approaches to their work:

"Best Corporate Style" – FAB PAINTS & CHEMICALS INDUSTRY LTD

"Best Stand Design" – KARVAN-L GROUP OF COMPANIES

"Best Performance" – NB GROUP OJSC

"Best Shell Scheme" – DUBAI EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

"Best Customer Attraction" – AMII SP. Z O. O.

"Most Creative Stand" – SOBSAN BOYA

"Most Attended Stand" – SAFE LIFE LLC

"Most Fascinating Stand" – ITACA CERAMIC PVT LTD

"Best Debut" – GEONA

"Best Product Presentation" – AKROLITHOS NATURAL STONES

"Best Country Presentation" – FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND ENERGY (BMWI)

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“Most Original Stand” – FAKHRADDIN-K LLC

“Best Company Presentation” – GILAN INDUSTRIAL GROUP

“Best Services Presentation” – ALTIS GROUP OF COMPANIES MMC

“For long term participation” – NIMEX LLC

“Most Active Work with Visitors” – PAKPEN PLASTIK BORU VE YAPI ELEMANLARI SAN.TIC.A.S.

“Most Active Work in Social Networks” – KARTASH LTD MMC

Thus, the number of visitors for 4 days of the exhibition was 8852 people who could get acquainted with the innovations of this construction industry.

In 2018, the 24th Azerbaijan International Construction Exhibition WorldBuild Baku will be held from 23 to 26 October.

#WorldBuildBaku