

SPARE REGIONAL MEETING IN TBILISI (October 29-30, 2009)

The SPARE Regional Meeting was held in Tbilisi on October 29-30, 2009. The meeting was organized by Union of Sustainable Development EcoVison. Four main events was including in the agenda on the meeting:

1. SPARE Regional Seminar
2. Presentation of SPARE Energy Park in Tbilisi ZOO
3. Visit in Gori school #7, where the windows were rehabilitated by SPARE
4. Visit in IDP Village Khurvaleti, where the solar bath will be constructed by SPARE Georgia in 2010

1. SPARE Regional Seminar

The SPARE Regional Seminar was held in the Hotel SANAPIRO, Tbilisi Georgia.

Date: 28-29 October 2009

Time: 09:00 am.

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The purpose of the regional meeting was:

- Information sharing among South Caucasus countries on SPARE
- Presentation of SPARE activities in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia
- Elaboration of SPARE development strategy in the Caucasus Region
- Discussion on cooperation details among SPARE coordinators in South Caucasus region
- Strengthening of partnership among Armenian, Azerbaijan and Georgian schools

The Chairperson, Prof. Gia Sopadze (EcoVision executive director), chaired the meeting, and the Secretary, Ms. Nino Sulkhaniashvili (SPARE National coordinator), served as Secretary of the meeting.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order, and determined that a quorum was present.

The Secretary reported that notice of the meeting had been given in accordance with the Bylaws of the Union of Sustainable Development EcoVision and that the notes would be attached to the minutes.

List of Participants

No.	Name	Institution	Contact
1	Mr. Kay Asbjørn Knutsen Schjørlien	Norges Naturvernforbund	Grensen 9 B, 0159 Oslo, Norway Phone: +47 23 10 96 10 kaks@naturvern.no
2	Prof. Gia Sopadze	Executive Director ECOVISION Geirgia	7a, Bakhtrioni Street, Tbilisi Tel: +995 32 36 60 14 GSM: +995 99 93 92 09 info@ecovision.ge
3	Ms. Nino Sulkhaniashvili, MSc	SPARE National Coordinator Georgia ECOVISION Geirgia	7a, Bakhtrioni Street, Tbilisi Tel: +995 32 36 60 14 GSM: +995 74 73 88 71 nsulkhaniashvili@ecovision. ge
4	Ms. Nailia Ismailova	SPARE National Coordinator Azerbaijan	Tel: +050 347 99 45 nailiasohbet@yahoo.com
5	Mr. Hrant Sargysan	SPARE National Coordinator Armenia	hrant@spareworld.org
6	Ms. Sofia Mirianashvili	Environmentalist ECOVISION Geirgia	7a, Bakhtrioni Street, Tbilisi Tel: +995 32 36 60 14 GSM: +995 77 43 43 06 info@ecovision.ge
7	Mr. Merab Gabidauri	Georgian Green Movement Friends of the Earth Georgia Geirgia	55, Kandelaki str. 0160, Tbilisi, Georgia Tel +995 32 386978 m.gabidauri@yahoo.com www.greens.ge
8	Ms. Goar Martirosian	SPARE Armenia	ara8@mail.ru
9	Mr. Ali Ibragimov	NANA Institute of Soil Science Baku, Azerbaijan	ibrahimli_ali@mail.ru
10	Ms. Elnare Salimova	SPARE Azerbaijan	elnare_elcingizi@yahoo.co m
11	Ms. Marina Tabatadze	Gori school # 7 Teacher	japan15@posta.ge
12	Ms. Tamara Jolbordi	Gori school # 10 Teacher	tamarijolbordi@gmail.com
13	Ms. Inga Okinashvili	Tbilisi school # 98 Teacher	Ingaokin69@mail.ru

No.	Name	Institution	Contact
14	Ms. Mari Gasparian	Armenia Institute of Education	margas18@rambler.ru
15	Ms. Egiana Djaliliva	Teacher Azerbaijan	sahiba68@mail.ru
16	Ms. Ulviyye Tahirova	Teacher Azerbaijan	ulviyye_tahirova1979@hotmail.com
17	Mr. Mirabas Mamedov	Azerbaijan	mirireckalo@mail.ru
18	Ms. Hasmik Nalbandian	Teacher Armenia	nhasmik@mail.ru
19	Ms. Nune Bejanian	Teacher, village Deekh Armenia	Tel: +0238 091 76 09 29
20	Mr. Andranik Galetian	School principal, Yerevan, Armenia	Tel: +0238 093 10 04 52
21	Ms. Karine Manukian	Teacher, Ararat, Armenia	Tel: +0238 093 94 73 77
22	Ms. Sudaba Mikayilova	Director of Ecological Lyceum Azerbaijan	

Meeting Notes:

Day 1

October 29, 2009

Prof. Gia Sopadze	Opened the meeting and introduced the participants; presented the meeting agenda; introduced goals and objectives of the seminar; asked Mr. Kay Asbjørn Knutsen Schjørlie to make a speech on behalf of SPARE
Mr. Kay Asbjørn Knutsen Schjørlie	Introduced himself as a regional coordinator of SPARE in the Caucasus Region; informed the audience that SPARE has worked since 1996 in many countries; since 2000 SPARE has been working in the Caucasus Region; mentioned that previous regional meeting in Gudauri was very interesting and useful for the development of the project in the region; expressed his hope regarding success of this meeting in Tbilisi as well.
Prof. Gia Sopadze	Agreed with Mr. Mr. Kay Asbjørn Knutsen Schjørlie and added that one of main objectives of the regional meeting is to establish collegial collaboration and friendly atmosphere among SPARE member countries

Mr. Hrant Sargysan	Informed the audience that the Regional Conference -“Development of NGO Capacity and Public Awareness on Climate Change and Mitigation Measures in Caucasus” was held by The Greens Movement of Georgia/FOE Georgia, REC Caucasus and WECF in 27-28 October; Representatives from SPARE Armenia Azerbaijan and Georgia attended the conference; mentioned that the conference was focused on forthcoming COP 15 in Copenhagen; provided information on UNFCCC and COP 15; mentioned that Armenia has strict continental climate and it is affected by climate change and desertification; mentioned that Ararat valley, which provides practically whole agricultural products for Armenia will be converted into desert if temperature increases +20 ^o C in the nearest future; mentioned importance of mitigation and adaptation measures; talked about NGO role in the mentioned processes.
Prof. Gia Sopadze	Informed that the Regional Conference -“Development of NGO Capacity and Public Awareness on Climate Change and Mitigation Measures in Caucasus” was very representative and high level; ambassadors from 16 countries (USA, EU, GB, France, Netherlands, Israel, etc.) attended the Conference and made their official statements; Civil Society representatives from South Caucasus countries have good chance to express their opinion and deliver to the national governments to be taken into account while preparing national positions for the Copenhagen meeting; asked Mr. Kay Asbjørn Knutsen Schjørlie to express his opinion regarding the Regional Conference on Climate Change in Tbilisi.
Mr. Kay Asbjørn Knutsen Schjørlie	Mentioned that in spite of the fact that ambassadors convince us that their countries are doing their best to reduce the CO ₂ emissions, much more needs to be done by developed countries; In reality EU plans to built 80 fuel-burning power plants; EU intend to reduce emissions at the cost of new EU members, the former soviet countries which have relatively low level of industry; mentioned that South Caucasus region does not have historical responsibility for climate change, thus consequences of climate change in the Caucasus will be much more tangible than in North Europe, so it is very important to define regional position to be stated in Copenhagen at COP15; hopes that fair decision will be made in Copenhagen in December, 2009.
Prof. Gia Sopadze	Informed that from October 24 to October 31, 2009 Climate Week was held in Georgia by Georgian NGOs; mentioned that side by side of the Regional Conference -“Development of NGO Capacity and Public Awareness on Climate Change and Mitigation Measures in Caucasus” which was also held in the frame of the Climate Week several events and actions took place all over the Georgia organized by different Georgian NGOs; opened the floor for country presentations.
Mr. Hrant Sargysan	Made a presentation about SPARE activities in Azerbaijan (the presentation is attached)
Ms. Nailia Ismailova	Made a presentation about SPARE activities in Azerbaijan (the presentation is attached)

Prof. Gia Sopadze	Made a presentation about SPARE activities in Azerbaijan, presented videos on construction of energy saving devices (the presentation is attached)
Prof. Gia Sopadze	After the break, announced the topic of the second session: 1. Methods of development of SPARE in the Caucasus 2. Presentations of school teachers from Georgia, Azerbaijan and Georgia
Mr. Hrant Sargysan	Mentioned that 150 school in Armenia are in the contact with SPARE; usually teachers organize seminars in schools for other teachers; in order to increase number of school the Ministry of Education should be involved in the processes more actively
Ms. Nailia Ismailova	Mentioned, that some lessons on energy saving and energy efficiency was held for primary grades as an experiment in Azerbaijan schools. Asked question how to work more intensively with children in primary grades?
Prof. Gia Sopadze	Introduced Georgian experience and mentioned that in 1-7 classes children gain basic knowledge on environment; in 7-9 classes ecological culture of the children is formed, in 9 -12 classes children analyze causes and results of ecological problems
Mr. Andranik Galetian	Informed, that the new handbook for the new discipline on environmental science has been published for II-IV classes in Armenia. The subject name is "Me and Environment" and the lessons are held twice in a week. The handbook is very interesting and describes environment and natural resources; develops the sense of environmental responsibility among children.
Mr. Mirabas Mamedov	Mentioned, that it is necessary to elaborate encouragement mechanisms for SPARE teachers; he does not mean only material payment; for instant there are special nominations for the best school and the best teacher in Azerbaijan; it would be reasonable that teachers participation in international projects to be considered as one of the criteria's during the evaluation process for the title of the best teacher.
Mr. Hrant Sargysan	Mentioned, that if teacher participates in any international project she/he is awarded higher teacher's category in Russia; Generally if teachers indicate in their CVs that they are participants of international project they have good chance to find better jobs
Ms. Sudaba Mikayilova	Informed, that she is a school principle and at the same time teacher of ecology; mentioned that it is possible to integrate ecological topics into different disciplines like physics, biology, geography, etc, but in her opinion ecology must be included in school program as an independent subject at least 1 day in a week (34 hour in the year); they developed handbook on ecology on the basis of Russian handbook, besides they included some materials from Green Pak Azerbaijan. Children from V class prepare presentations on environmental topics; they discuss and express environmental problems also on the lessons of painting.

Ms. Nailia Ismailova	Made a presentation of the book - Energysaving for primary grade, which was developed by SPARE colleagues from Moldova; mentioned that the first handbook and notebook developed for elder children are successfully used by SPARE in many schools in Caucasus countries.
Mr. Hrant Sargysan	Mentioned, that in order to have relevant manual for each age group one more handbook for eldest schoolchildren must be also developed.
Ms. Sudaba Mikayilova	Thinks that ecology as a discipline is very important, because in recent years more and more companies announce vacancies on the position of environmentalists.
Prof. Gia Sopadze	Opened the floor for the teacher's presentations from Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia
Ms. Tamara Jolbordi	Her pupils developed questionnaire on energy saving and distributed among the population around the Gori schools #10 and #12. 25 questions on energy saving was included in the questionnaire. The materials were processed on the lessons of informatics. According to the results, 60% of respondents inefficiently use energy. The pupils carried out public awareness campaign on energy saving among adjacent population; after they established internet block Energy saving: http://energodazogva.blogspot.com/
Ms. Ulviyya Tahirova	Presented the project - FRANK FROG financed by Finish Government and implemented by public school of Ismailinsk region. The pupils made paper frog and gave him name - FRANK. The frog was very bored and the pupil made a sister for him from balloon. The pupils wrote scenario for the story about Frank Frog and his sister, describing their hard life at the dry out lake. The school also organized tree planting action, competition on best environmental thematic lyrics and painting. The lessons on ecology were carried out for primary school pupils by senior pupils. The school was awarded the title of the best school in Azerbaijan. The school received 10000 EUROS as a prize and the project coordinator teacher received – 5000 EUROS.
Ms. Nune Bejanian	Made a presentation on tree planting action in the school; mentioned that Mr. Hrant Sargysan provided young trees (fruit trees and decorative) for the school and carried out training for children how to plant them. Presented technology of creation of decorative flower and tree pots from natural pumice stone developed by teachers and pupils. Presented project on adaptation, translation and publishing of Norwegian folktales about trolls in Armenian language. Introduced school exhibition, where the main displays are created by wastes (plastic bottles, cans, etc.)
	All participants found the school presentations very interesting.
Prof. Gia Sopadze	Adjourned the meeting and thanked all participants

Day 2
October 30, 2009

Prof. Gia Sopadze	Opened the meeting; introduced the agenda for the second day of the seminar. Announced 3 main topics to be discussed at the session: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. SPARE competitions2. International day of SPARE3. Farther extension of SPARE in the Region
	The participants started working in groups discussing above mentioned 3 topics. Representatives from all three countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) were introduced in each group. The group presentations were made by group speakers.
Ms. Tamara Jolbordi	Made a group presentation on above listed topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. SPARE competitions<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elaboration of plan how to prepare for SPARE competitions• Organizing the meetings in schools and becoming familiar with the conditions of the competition• Becoming familiar with winner projects from the past competitions• Creation of working groups• Consultations with local scientists• Training for teachers how to develop project for the competition• Identification of pupil's age group to be involved in the completion• Establishment of working group and elaboration of the project for the competition• Computer design of the project2. International day of SPARE<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preparation of big poster on International day of SPARE containing brief information on Climate Change, it's consequences, mitigation and adaptation measures• Putting box in front of the poster in order to collect ideas, comments, questions, etc. from children, teachers and parents• Carry out of tree planting actions, street actions, races by bicycles and skateboards• Competitions of paintings and writings on energy thematic• To invite scientists, environmentalists and organizing seminar dedicated to the International day of SPARE• Organizing excursion in SPARE Energy Park at Tbilisi ZOO.

	<p>3. Farther extension of SPARE in the Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing of debates between schools on climate change and energy saving issues • Establishment of SPARE patrol • Development of SPARE patrol signs • Awarding SPARE patrol signs to most active pupils • Preparation of questionnaire to be distributed among school children teachers and parents on energy saving • Identification of main energy related problem on basis of analysis of the questionnaire • Creation of internet site for schools • Publishing of SPARE information in the media
Ms. Karine Manukian	Raised question about age groups of the pupils who are participating in the competitions; mentioned that it is not fair to evaluate projects received from different age groups with the same criteria.
	Long discussion about age groups of the participants was opened.
Mr. Kay Asbjørn Knutsen Schjørlien	Clarified that most important is the idea of the project, but not sophisticated scientific projects.
Ms. Nailia Ismailova	Mentioned that it would be good if jury makes evaluation criteria accessible for the public.
Mr. Mirabas Mamedov	<p>Made a group presentation on above listed topics:</p> <p>1. SPARE competitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaboration of encouragement mechanisms for participations • Organizing SPARE competition winners meetings from different countries • Publication of winner projects in the national, local or thematic media (for instant thematic publication - "Teacher's Newspaper" is published in Azerbaijan) • Capacity building for teachers <p>2. International day of SPARE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In this year International day of SPARE must be connected to the Copenhagen meeting on COP15 • Celebration of 11 November can be carried out in 2 steps. The first is information distribution in school and second is street actions (bicycle race, etc.) • Exhibitions and completions of paintings • Preparation of big banner with title of 11 November - International day of SPARE and hanging in front of schools • Organizing of souvenirs and handicraft exhibitions from wastes • Invitation of local authorities in the events

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation of local/national media to cover the event • Publication of SPARE information in periodical issues <p>3. Farther extension of SPARE in the Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishing of SPARE information in the media • Informing of Ministry of Education, Energy, Environment, and other relevant organizations about SPARE activities • Raised idea about creation of SPARE hymn
<p>Mr. Kay Asbjørn Knutsen Schjørlien</p>	<p>Informed that Ministry of Education was involved in SPARE competition in Belarus. The Ministry announced the SPARE competition, as a result they received more than 2000 projects from schools</p>
<p>Ms. Hasmik Nalbandian</p>	<p>Made a group presentation on above listed topics:</p> <p>Title of the presentation was SPARE - our lifestyle!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SPARE competitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing of local competitions • Organizing of national competitions • Participation in International competitions • Elaborate encouragement mechanisms • Inform Ministry of Education and Ministry of Energy about competitions • Creation of SPARE Centers, internet sites, brochures and other information materials 2. International day of SPARE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announce SPARE day or Week • Organizing seminars, round tables, meetings • Inviting representatives from relevant State institutions 3. Farther extension of SPARE in the Region <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Interrupting factors for the development of SPARE in Caucasus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of other obligatory school projects • Lack of time • Inactivity • Underestimating of importance of the problem • Lack of communication • Lack of practical examples b) What needs to be done <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of SPARE centers and internet sites at the national level • Organizing of competitions • Invitation of NGOs and organizing trainings for teachers, children, parents, representatives of local government and relevant state institutions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing environmental actions • Carry out insulation activities in schools • Collection of waste papers • Establish exchange programs for SPARE teachers and children • Selection of right time for SPARE competitions <p>c) Results can be achieved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More activity • SPARE distribution and extension • Selection of best schools • Collaboration between different countries and schools
Mr. Hrant Sargysan	<p>Expressed his opinion that it is important to inform Ministry of Education and Education Institutes on SPARE competition. It would be good if Ministry of Education and other relevant organizations monitor which schools are involved in the competitions.</p> <p>Raised question about time of SPARE completions</p>
Open discussion	<p>Open discussion was about starting time of SPARE completions. It was finally agreed that the October is the best time for starting of SPARE competitions in the schools.</p>
Prof. Gia Sopadze	<p>Adjourned the meeting and thanked all participants</p>

Upon being duly made, seconded, and passed, the following conclusions were adopted:

- All participants agree that the regional meetings are important and useful for the development of SPARE
- Regional plan for celebration of International SPARE Day was elaborated
- Recommendations for development of SPARE in South Caucasus region was developed
- The partnership among Armenian, Azerbaijan and Georgian SPARE projects and school representatives was strengthened
- SPARE regional seminar was included in South Caucasus Climate Week agenda as one of important activities

Dated: 30 October, 2009

Secretary: Nino Sul Khanishvili, MSc.

SPARE Regional Seminar photos



2. Presentation of SPARE Energy Park in Tbilisi ZOO

Presentation of SPARE Energy Park was held at Education Center of Tbilisi ZOO on 30 October, 2009. Prof. Gia Sopadze opened the event. Provided information about Tbilisi ZOO Education Center, where lessons on environmental science including Climate Change and energy saving are daily carried out. Informed audience that Tbilisi and other region's schools have special agreement with Tbilisi ZOO Education Center to carry out lessons for the pupils.

EcoVision staff demonstrated energy saving equipments installed in Tbilisi ZOO (biogas devise near the elephant, solar panel, solar collector and solar kitchen). Explanation sheets are installed near devises.

It was planned to organize Children's Action - Painting on the Asphalt, but due to rainy weather the action was canceled.

Meeting in Tbilisi Energy Park



3. Visit in Gori school #7, where the windows were rehabilitated by SPARE

SPARE regional meeting participants visited Gori school #7, where the windows were rehabilitated under the SPARE Georgia. We met school principle and teachers. Brief meeting was organized by the school principle Mr. Nodar Iarganashvili. The learning process in smaller building of the school has been restored. The children are back to the newly resorted classrooms and sport hall.

**Meeting Notes:
Gori school #7
October 29, 2009**

Prof. Gia Sopadze	Opened the meeting and introduced Mr. Kay Asbjørn Knutsen Schjørlien and other guests to the school collective
Mr. Nodar Iarganashvili	<p>Expressed his sincere gratitude to the SPARE; provided brief information about August war. Described condition of the school before and after reconstruction; mentioned that SPARE was the first organization that really was interested about the school and made real steps to help more than 1100 pupils and their parents.</p> <p>Provided information that more than 45 % of windows in smaller part and more that 80% in bigger part of the school were destroyed. 450 000 GEL (270 000 USD) was allocated by Bank of Georgia for full rehabilitation of the smaller part of the school.</p> <p>Informed that the boiler-room was ruined and still not rehabilitated.</p>
Prof. Gia Sopadze	Mentioned that in order to reduce energy it is important to install solar collector on boiler system of the school.
Mr. Nodar Iarganashvili	Agreed with Mr. Sopadze and mentioned that they pay about 7000 GEL for the heating annually. He added that this amount of money is extremely high for the school budget.
Mr. Andranik Galetian	Asked question: If there any "civil defenses plans" exist for schools?
Mr. Nodar Iarganashvili	Clarified that there are not any official "civil defenses plans" existing for schools. He described dramatic developments of the war in the school due to absence of any "civil defenses plans".
	Meeting participants stood in memory of dead persons during the war.
Mr. Kay Asbjørn Knutsen Schjørlien	Said thank you to the school administration for their works and achievements regarding rehabilitation of the school. He made a present to Gori school # 7 on behalf of SPARE.
Prof. Gia Sopadze	Adjourned the meeting and thanked all participants

Meeting photos in Gori school #7



4. Visit in IDP Village Khurvaleti, where the solar bath will be constructed by SPARE in 2010

IDP Village Khurvaleti was visited by Mr. Kay Asbjørn Knutsen Schjørlie and Caucasus country coordinators. It is planned to construct energy efficient bath for IDPs in the village under the SPARE Georgia.

For the moment, one bath for 16 persons is under construction, which is not enough for the whole village. The given bath is constructed by financial support of Red Cross. According to the estimation of SPARE group the construction is carried out without energy efficient technologies.

In order to solve partly needs of the villagers it was decided to construct one more bath with energy efficient technologies under the SPARE Georgia in Khurvaleti.