

**An international partnership for improving the quality of admissions tests**

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Following a conference of the International Association for Education Assessment held in 2004, the Chair of the State Student Admissions Commission (SSAC), Dr. Maleyka Abbaszade, approached the U.S. Ambassador in Azerbaijan to obtain support for improving the university entrance examination system in Azerbaijan. As a result of this contact, and with sponsorship from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Institute of International Education (IIE), representatives from the SSAC as well as other stakeholders traveled to Princeton, New Jersey, U.S., to participate in Educational Testing Service (ETS) Global Institute seminars. In addition, the SSAC obtained sponsorship from USAID and World Learning to allow a team of experts from ETS to travel to Baku to provide an onsite evaluation of the university entrance examinations program and to develop an action plan for improving the products and processes of the SSAC. The ETS team was able to return to Baku in the spring of 2007 to work with SSAC to implement specific steps in the Action Plan. The presentations in this symposium describe the process and outcomes of this unique international experience.