

Reflections of 2016 by Dr Lyndon Bouah - Olympiad (Baku)

In September 2016 I travelled to Baku, Azerbaijan as captain of the SA Olympiad team that participated in the Olympiad. Upon our arrival I was again mesmerised by the body of water that we played next to each day. The Crystal Hall as the venue is called could comfortably seat up to 25 000 persons and was first used as the Eurovision 2010 venue.



SA Team Crystal Hall

The body of water I am referring to which you can see in the photos below is called the Caspian Sea. The Caspian Sea according to Wikipedia is the largest enclosed inland body of water on earth by area, variously classed as the world's largest lake or a full- fledged sea. It is an endorheic basin (it has no outflows) located between Europe and Asia. It is bound to the northeast by Kazakhstan, to the northwest by Russia, to the west by Azerbaijan, to the South by Iran, and to the southeast by Turkmenistan.



The Caspian Sea lies to the East of the Caucasus Mountains and to the west of the vast steppe of Central Asia. Its Northern Part, The Caspian Depression is one of the lowest points on earth. The ancient inhabitants perceived the Sea as an ocean probably because of its saltiness and large size.

The sea has a surface area of 371 000 square kilometres and a volume of 78, 200 cubic metres.





The world's first offshore wells and machine drilled wells were made in Bibi- Heybat Bay near Baku, Azerbaijan. In 1873 exploration and development of oil began in some of the largest oil fields known to exist at the time on the Absheron peninsula. Even today one can see the effects of the oil industry as Azerbaijan has modernised considerably.



I am fascinated by many things on my travels. I hope you have enjoyed my short article on the Caspian Sea which many of us in Africa may not be familiar with.

Regards Dr Lyndon Bouch