



# FOURTH ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

*“Bringing Change through Scientific Youth Force”*

## GUIDE for the Conference

**Baku - Republic of Azerbaijan**  
**6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> October, 2008 / 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Shawal, 1429A.H.**







# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Item	Page
<b>Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO):</b> <i>Inception and Objectives</i> .....	6
<b>ISESCO Organs</b> .....	7
<b>ISESCO Centre for Promotion of Scientific Research (ICPSR)</b> .....	8
<b>Ministry of Higher Education in the Republic of Azerbaijan</b> .....	9
<b>Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference</b> .....	11
<b>Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research</b> .....	12
<b>Draft Agenda of the Conference</b> .....	13
<b>General Information</b> .....	14
<i>Venue of the Conference and Hotels reserved for the stay of the delegations in Azerbaijan</i>	
<b>The Republic of Azerbaijan</b> .....	16
<b>History of Azerbaijan</b> .....	18
<b>Azerbaijan - Chief of State and Cabinet Members</b> .....	19
<b>Baku Tourist Places</b> .....	20
<b>Airlines and Travel Agencies in Azerbaijan</b> .....	21
<b>Prayer Times in Baku</b> .....	22
<b>Islamic Countries's Embassies Accredited to Azerbaijan</b> .....	23
<b>Organizing Committee of the Conference (ISESCO)</b> .....	24
<b>Preparatory Committee (hosting party)</b> .....	24

# ISLAMIC EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (ISESCO)

## *Inception and Objectives*

The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -ISESCO- was set up upon the adoption of its Statute by the Eleventh Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in May 1980. This decision crowned the effort made by the Organization of Islamic Conference to establish an international organization specialized in the fields of education, science and culture. The Third Islamic Summit Conference, held in Makkah Al-Mukaramah and Taef, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, decided, in January 1981, to set up the Islamic Organization -ISESCO-. The Founding Conference of ISESCO was then held in Fez, Kingdom of Morocco, in May 1982.

The objectives of ISESCO include the following :

- a) To strengthen, promote and consolidate cooperation among the Member States and consolidate it in the fields of education, science, culture and communication, as well as to develop and upgrade these fields, within the framework of the civilizational reference of the Islamic world and in the light of the human Islamic values and ideals.
- b) To consolidate understanding among peoples inside and outside the Member States and contribute to the achievement of world peace and security through various means, particularly through education, science, culture and communication.
- c) To publicize the correct image of Islam and Islamic culture, promote dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions, and work towards spreading the values of justice and peace along with the principles of freedom and human rights, in accordance with the Islamic civilizational perspective.
- d) To encourage cultural interaction and to support the aspects of cultural diversity in the Member States, while preserving the cultural identity and protecting the independence of thought.
- e) To consolidate complementarity and coordination among the specialized institutions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the fields of education, science, culture and communication and among the Member States of

ISESCO, and promote cooperation and partnership with the similar governmental and non-governmental institutions sharing the same interest, inside and outside the Member States.

- f) To take further interest in Islamic culture, highlight its specificities and publicize its landmarks in intellectual studies, scientific researches and educational curricula.
- g) To work for establishing complementarity and correlation among the educational systems of the Member States.
- h) To support the efforts of the educational, scientific and cultural institutions for Muslims in non-Member States of ISESCO.

## **ISESCO ORGANS**

### ***THE GENERAL CONFERENCE***

The General Conference is composed of the representatives of the Member States of ISESCO, who are appointed by their Governments. In selecting representatives, it shall be observed that they be among officials working in the fields of education, science, culture and communication.

The General Conference meets in a regular session once every three years. It may meet in a special session.

### ***THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL***

The Executive Council is made up of one representative for each Member State, who shall be versed in education, science, culture or communication.

### ***THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE***

The General Directorate is headed by a Director General, elected by the General Conference for a three-year term, renewable only twice, upon a proposal by the Executive Council. The Director General is the head of the administrative setup of ISESCO and is accountable to the Executive Council and the General Conference. He has direct authority over the entire staff of the General Directorate.

## **ISESCO CENTER FOR PROMOTION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (ICPSR)**

As per recommendations of the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research : Towards Mechanisms for the implementation of the Strategy for the Development of Science and Technology in the Islamic Countries, held on 15-18th October, 2000, at Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, ISESCO Center for Promotion of Scientific Research (ICPSR), was established at the Headquarters of the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco.

The center is operating under the Science Directorate of ISESCO. The following will be the main objectives of the center

### ***Main Objectives***

1. To promote advanced studies and scientific research in all fields of science and technology for sustainable economic development in the Islamic countries.
2. To provide a permanent forum for the elite researchers from the Islamic world in all disciplines of science to meet each other, exchange knowledge, address common concerns and develop and supervise realistic programmes for achieving excellence in scientific research.
3. To coordinate with individual scientists, research institutions and centers of excellence in the Member States to establish effective scientific liaison among them and to provide necessary advise on all matters related to scientific research.
4. To act as an apex center for collection, collation and dissemination of high quality innovative research results, scientific knowledge, technical know-how and viable technologies to the Member States.
5. To recognize the high quality scientific research work in the Member States through the award of international science prizes, awards, medals etc.



# MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

In the pre-Soviet period, Azerbaijani education included intensive Islamic religious training that commenced in early childhood. Beginning at roughly age five and sometimes continuing until age twenty, children attended madrasahs, education institutions affiliated with mosques. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, madrasahs were established as separate education institutions in major cities, but the religious component of education remained significant. In 1865 the first technical high school and the first women's high school were opened in Baku. In the late nineteenth century, secular elementary schools for Azerbaijanis began to appear (schools for ethnic Russians had been established earlier), but institutions of higher education and the use of the Azerbaijani language in secondary schools were forbidden in Transcaucasia throughout the tsarist period. The majority of ethnic Azerbaijani children received no education in this period, and the Azerbaijani literacy rate remained very low, especially among women. Few women were allowed to attend school.

In the Soviet era, literacy and average education levels rose dramatically from their very low starting point, despite two changes in the standard alphabet, from Arabic to Roman in the 1920s and from Roman to Cyrillic in the 1930s (see Language , this ch.). According to Soviet data, 100 percent of males and females (ages nine to forty-nine) were literate in 1970.

During the Soviet period, the Azerbaijani education system was based on the standard model imposed by Moscow, which featured state control of all education institutions and heavy doses of Marxist-Leninist ideology at all levels. Since independence, the Azerbaijani system has undergone little structural change. Initial alterations have included the reestablishment of religious education (banned during the Soviet period) and curriculum changes that have reemphasized the use of the Azerbaijani language and have eliminated ideological content. In addition to elementary schools, the education institutions include thousands of preschools, general secondary schools, and vocational schools, including specialized secondary schools and technical schools. Education through the eighth grade is compulsory. At the end of the Soviet period, about 18 percent of instruction was in Russian, but the use of Russian began a steady decline beginning in 1988. A few schools teach in Armenian or Georgian.

Azerbaijan has more than a dozen institutions of higher education, in which enrollment totaled 105,000 in 1991. Because Azerbaijani culture has always included great respect for secular learning, the country traditionally has been an education center for the Muslim peoples of the former Soviet Union. For that reason and because of the role of the oil industry in Azerbaijan's economy, a relatively high percentage of Azerbaijanis have obtained some form of higher education, most notably in scientific and technical subjects. Several vocational institutes train technicians for the oil industry and other primary industries.

The most significant institutions of higher education are the University of Azerbaijan in Baku, the Institute of Petroleum and Chemistry, the Polytechnic Institute, the Pedagogical Institute, the Mirza Fath Ali Akhundzade Pedagogical Institute for Languages, the Azerbaijan Medical Institute, and the Uzeir Hajibeyli Conservatory. Much scientific research, which during the Soviet period dealt mainly with enhancing oil production and refining, is carried out by the Azerbaijani Academy of Sciences, which was established in 1945. The University of Azerbaijan, established in 1919, includes more than a dozen departments, ranging from physics to Oriental studies, and has the largest library in Azerbaijan. The student population numbers more than 11,000, and the faculty over 600. The Institute of Petroleum and Chemistry, established in 1920, has more than 15,000 students and a faculty of about 1,000. The institute trains engineers and scientists in the petrochemical industry, geology, and related areas.

## MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE *(Arabic alphabetical order)*

- 1- Republic of Azerbaijan
- 2- Hachemite Kingdom of Jordan
- 3- Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
- 4- Republic of Albania
- 5- United Arab Emirates
- 6- Republic of Indonesia
- 7- Republic of Uzbekistan
- 8- Republic of Uganda
- 9- Islamic Republic of Iran
- 10- Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- 11- Kingdom of Bahrain
- 12- Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam
- 13- People's Republic of Bangladesh
- 14- Republic of Benin
- 15- Burkina Faso
- 16- Republic of Tajikistan
- 17- Republic of Turkey
- 18- Turkmenistan
- 19- Republic of Chad
- 20- Republic of Togo
- 21- Republic of Tunisia
- 22- People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
- 23- Republic of Djibouti
- 24- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- 25- Republic of Senegal
- 26- Republic of Sudan
- 27- Syrian Arab Republic
- 28- Republic of Suriname
- 29- Republic of Sierra Leone
- 30- Republic of Somalia
- 31- Republic of Iraq
- 32- Sultanate of Oman
- 33- Republic of Gabon
- 34- Republic of the Gambia
- 35- Republic of Guyana
- 36- Republic of Guinea
- 37- Republic of Guinea-Bissau
- 38- State of Palestine
- 39- Republic of Kazakhstan
- 40- State of Qatar
- 41- Union of Comoros
- 42- Republic of Kyrgyzstan
- 43- Republic of Cameroon
- 44- Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- 45- State of Kuwait
- 46- Republic of Lebanon
- 47- Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
- 48- Republic of Maldives
- 49- Republic of Mali
- 50- Malaysia
- 51- Arab Republic of Egypt
- 52- Kingdom of Morocco
- 53- Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- 54- Republic of Mozambique
- 55- Republic of Niger
- 56- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- 57- Republic of Yemen

# **SESSIONS OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH**

## ***FIRST ISLAMIC CONFERENCE of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research***

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
(15-18 October 2000)

President of the Conference: ***H.E. Dr. Khalid Bin Mohamad Al-Ankari***  
Minister of Higher Education in the Kingdom of Saudi  
Arabia, Ministry of Higher Education

## ***SECOND ISLAMIC CONFERENCE of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research***

Tripoli, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya  
(6-9 September 2003)

President of the Conference: ***H.E. Eng. Maatuq Mohamad Maatuq***  
Deputy Secretary for Services

## ***THIRD ISLAMIC CONFERENCE of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research***

Kuwait City, State of Kuwait  
(19-21 November 2006)

President of the Conference: ***H.E. Dr. Adel Tabtabae***  
Minister of Higher Education in State of Kuwait  
Ministry of Higher Education

## DRAFT AGENDA

Document Number and Title	Document Number
<p><b>1. Organizational Matters :</b></p> <p>1.1. Adoption of the Draft Agenda</p> <p>1.2. Adoption of the Draft Programme</p> <p>1.3 Election of the Conference Bureau</p>	<p>ICMHESR-4/2008/1.1 Prov.</p> <p>ICMHESR-4/2008/1.2 Prov.</p> <p>ICMHESR-4/2008/1.3</p>
<p><b>2. Statements, Reports and Draft Documents</b></p>	
<p>2.1. Statements of the Heads of delegation of Member States on national programmes in the field of higher education and scientific research.</p>	<p>ICMHESR-4/2008/2.1</p>
<p>2.2 Report of the Director General on ISESCO's Efforts in the field of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Technology.</p>	<p>ICMHESR-4/2008/2.2</p>
<p>2.3 Draft document on "Transforming Economies into Knowledge Based in the Islamic Countries".</p>	<p>ICMHESR-4/2008/2.3</p>
<p>2.4 Draft Document on the Islamic Area of Higher Education.</p>	<p>ICMHESR-4/2008/2.4</p>
<p>2.5 Draft Document on "Ranking of the Universities of the Islamic world".</p>	<p>ICMHESR-4/2008/2.5</p>
<p>2.6 Presentation of Project on "Atlas of Islamic World Innovation".</p>	<p>ICMHESR-4/2008/2.6</p>
<p>2.7 Draft Document on "Modes and Functions of the Islamic Citation Centre".</p>	<p>ICMHESR-4/2008/2.7</p>
<p>2.8 Draft revised version of the Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation in Islamic countries and its Implementation Mechanisms</p>	<p>ICMHESR-4/2008/2.8</p>
<p>2.9 Draft Proposal for Creation of "the Network of Women Scientists in OIC Member States".</p>	<p>ICMHESR-4/2008/2.9</p>
<p>2.10 Report of the Director General of ISESCO, the Secretary General of FUIW, on the implementation of the Federation's Activities between the Third and Fourth Sessions of the Islamic Conference.</p>	<p>ICMHESR-4/2008/2.10</p>
<p><b>3. Closing Matters</b></p>	
<p>3.1 Election of the Members of the Consultative Council for the Implementation of the Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation in Islamic Countries</p>	<p>ICMHESR-4/2008/3.1</p>
<p>3.2 Date and Venue of the 5th Session of the Conference</p>	<p>ICMHESR-4/2008/3.2</p>

## GENERAL INFORMATION

*Venue of the Conference: Gulustan Conference Palace, Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan*

Hotel reserved for the stay of the delegations in Baku  
Participants will be staying at *Hyatt Regency Baku* or *Park Hyatt Baku*, or *Hotel Absheron* or *Park Inn*. Following are the contact details:

***Hyatt Regency Baku***

1 Bakikhanov Street  
Baku, AZ1065, Republic of Azerbaijan  
Tel : +994 12 490 7174  
Fax : +994 12 490 7180  
E-mail: baku@hyattintl.com  
URL: <http://www.baku.hyatt.com>

.....

***Hotel Absheron***

674 Azadiq Square  
Baku, AZ1010,  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Tel : +994 12 493 20 56 /994 12 493 20 57 /994 12 493 75 76  
Fax : +994 12 598 54 88  
E-mail: info@hotel-absheron.com  
URL: <http://www.hotel-absheron.com>

.....

***Park Hyatt Baku***

1 Bakikhanov Street  
Baku, AZ1065,  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Tel : +994 12 490 7174  
Fax : +994 12 490 7180  
E-mail: baku@hyattintl.com  
URL: <http://www.baku.hyatt.com>

.....

***Park Inn Azerbaijan***

Baku 1 Azading Avenue  
Baku, AZ1000,  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Tel : +994 12 490 60 00  
Fax : +994 12 496 89 00  
E-mail: reservations.baku@rezidorparkinn.com  
URL: <http://www.baku.rezidorparkinn.com>

.....

## ***Contact Details of Host***

Contact details in the Republic of Azerbaijan

### **Mr. Gulu Novruzov**

Azerbaijan Ministry of Education  
Head of International Relations Department  
Baku  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Tel: (+994 ) 50 222 5434  
Fax : (+994 12) 4963490  
Email : gnovruzov@gmail.com  
URL : <http://www.edu.gov.az>

### **Mr. Agil Valiyev**

Senior Adviser  
Azerbaijan Ministry of Education  
International Relations Department  
Baku  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Tel: (+994 12) 496 34 14  
Fax : (+994 12) 496 3414  
Email : minedu.a@gmail.com  
URL : <http://www.edu.gov.az>

# THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

**National Name:** Azərbaycan Respublikası

**President:** İlham Aliyev (2003)

**Prime Minister:** Artur Rəzizadə (2003)

**Land area:** 33,436 sq mi (86,600 sq km); total area: 33,436 sq mi (86,600 sq km)

**Population (2008 est.):** 8,177,717 (growth rate: 0.7%); birth rate: 17.5/1000; infant mortality rate: 56.4/1000; life expectancy: 66.3; density per sq mi: 243

**Capital and largest city (2003 est.):** Baku, 2,118,600 (metro area), 1,235,400 (city proper), a port on the Caspian Sea

**Other large cities (2004 est.):** Ganja, 303,000; Sumgait, 280,500

**Monetary unit:** Manat

**Languages:** Azerbaijani Turkic 89%, Russian 3%, Armenian 2%, other 6% (1995 est.)

**Ethnicity/race:** Azeri 90.6%, Dagestani 2.2%, Russian 1.8%, Armenian 1.5%, other 3.9% (1999). Note: almost all Armenians live in the separatist Nagorno-Karabakh region

**Religions:** Islam 93%, Russian Orthodox 3%, Armenian Orthodox 2%, other 2% (1995 est)

**National Holiday:** Founding of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, May 28

**Literacy rate:** 98.8% (1999 est.)

**Economic summary:** GDP/PPP (2007 est.): \$72.2 billion; per capita \$9,000.

**Real growth rate:** 31%. Inflation: 16%. Unemployment: 8.5% official rate (2005 est.). Arable land: 20.62%.



**Agriculture:** cotton, grain, rice, grapes, fruit, vegetables, tea, tobacco; cattle, sheep, goats.

**Labor force:** 5.243 million (2007 est.); agriculture and forestry 41%, industry 7%, services 52% (2001). Industries: petroleum and natural gas, petroleum products, oilfield equipment; steel, iron ore; cement; chemicals and petrochemicals; textiles.

**Natural resources:** petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, nonferrous metals, alumina.

**Exports:** \$19.53 billion f.o.b. (2007 est.): oil and gas 90%, machinery, cotton, foodstuffs.

**Imports:** \$6.376 billion f.o.b. (2007 est.): machinery and equipment, oil products, foodstuffs, metals, chemicals.

**Major trading partners:** Italy, Israel, Turkey, France, Russia, Iran, Georgia (2006).

**Communications:** Telephones: main lines in use: 1.189 million (2006); mobile cellular: 3.324 million (2006). Radio broadcast stations: AM 10, FM 17, shortwave 1 (1998). Television broadcast stations: 2 (1997). Internet hosts: 3,067 (2007). Internet users: 829,100 (2006).

**Transportation:** Railways: total: 2,122 km (2006). Highways: total: 59,141 km ; paved: 29,210 km; unpaved: 29,931 km (2004). Ports and harbors: Baku (Baki). Airports: 35 (2007).

**International disputes:** Armenia supports ethnic Armenian secessionists in Nagorno-Karabakh and since the early 1990s has militarily occupied 16% of Azerbaijan; over 800,000 mostly ethnic Azerbaijanis were driven from the occupied lands and Armenia; about 230,000 ethnic Armenians were driven from their homes in Azerbaijan into Armenia; Azerbaijan seeks transit route through Armenia to connect to Naxcivan exclave; Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) continues to mediate dispute; Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Russia have ratified Caspian seabed delimitation treaties based on equidistance, while Iran continues to insist on an even one-fifth allocation and challenges Azerbaijan's hydrocarbon exploration in disputed waters; bilateral talks continue with Turkmenistan on dividing the seabed and contested oilfields in the middle of the Caspian; Azerbaijan and Georgia continue to discuss the alignment of their boundary at certain crossing areas.

## HISTORY OF AZERBAIJAN

Northern Azerbaijan was known as Caucasian Albania in ancient times. The area was the site of many conflicts involving Arabs, Kazars, and Turks. After the 11th century, the territory became dominated by Turks and eventually was a stronghold of the Shiite Muslim religion and Islamic culture. The territory of Soviet Azerbaijan was acquired by Russia from Persia through the Treaty of Gulistan in 1813 and the Treaty of Turkamanchai in 1828.

After the Bolshevik Revolution, Azerbaijan declared its independence from Russia in May 1918. The republic was reconquered by the Red Army in 1920 and was annexed into the Transcaucasian Soviet Socialist Republic in 1922. It was later reestablished as a separate Soviet Republic on Dec. 5, 1936. Azerbaijan declared independence from the collapsing Soviet Union on Aug. 30, 1991.

Since 1988, Azerbaijan and Armenia have been feuding over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. The majority of the enclave's inhabitants are Armenian Christians agitating to secede from the predominantly Muslim Azerbaijan and join with Armenia. War broke out in 1988 when Nagorno-Karabakh tried to break away and annex itself to Armenia, and 30,000 died before a cease-fire agreement was reached in 1994, with Armenia regaining its hold over the disputed enclave. Final plans on the status of Nagorno-Karabakh have yet to be determined.

The country's economic troubles are expected to be transformed through Western investment in Azerbaijan's oil resources, an untapped reserve whose estimated worth is trillions of dollars. Since 1994, the Azerbaijan state oil company (SOCAR) has signed several billion-dollar agreements with international oil companies. Azerbaijan's pro-Western stance and its careful economic management have made it the most attractive of the oil-rich Caspian countries for foreign investment. In the years since its independence, the country has undergone rapid privatization, and the IMF gave it high marks as one of the most successful economic overhauls ever. In Sept. 2002, construction of the 1,100-mile Baku-Tblisi-Ceyhan pipeline (a route through Georgia and Turkey) began. Major investors are Britain's BP (33%), Azerbaijan's SOCAR (25%), the U.S.'s Unocal (8.9%), and Norway's Statoil (8.7%). In July 2006, the pipeline opened.

In 2003, President Heydar Aliyev, who was seriously ill, chose his son as the new prime minister. In October elections, the president's son, Ilham Aliyev, was elected president. Heydar Aliyev died in December.

In Nov. 2005 parliamentary elections, Aliyev's New Azerbaijan Party won the largest number of seats.

## **AZERBAIJAN**

### **CHIEFS OF STATE AND CABINET MEMBERS OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS**

President .....	<b>Ilham ALIYEV</b>
Prime Minister .....	<b>Artur RASIZADE</b>
First Dep. Prime Min. ....	<b>Yaquub EYYUBOV</b>
Dep. Prime Min. ....	<b>Elchin EFENDIYEV</b>
Dep. Prime Min. ....	<b>Ali HASANOV</b>
Dep. Prime Min. ....	<b>Abid SHARIFOV</b>
Min. of Agriculture & Food .....	<b>Ismat ABBASOV</b>
Min. of Communications & Information Technology .....	<b>Ali ABBASOV</b>
Min. of Culture & Tourism .....	<b>Abulfaz GARAYEV</b>
Min. of Defense .....	<b>Safar ABIYEV, Col. Gen.</b>
Min. of Defense Industry .....	<b>Yavar JAMALOV</b>
Min. of Ecology & Natural Resources .....	<b>Huseyngulu BAGIROV</b>
Min. of Economic Development .....	<b>Heydar BABAYEV</b>
Min. of Education .....	<b>Misir MARDANOV</b>
Min. of Emergency Situations .....	<b>Kemmalladin HEYDAROV</b>
Min. of Finance .....	<b>Samir SHARIFOV</b>
Min. of Foreign Affairs .....	<b>Elmar MAMMADYAROV</b>
Min. of Health .....	<b>Oqtay SHIRALIYEV</b>
Min. of Industry & Energy .....	<b>Natig ALIYEV</b>
Min. of Internal Affairs .....	<b>Ramil USUBOV</b>
Min. of Justice .....	<b>Fikret MAMEDOV</b>
Min. of Labor & Social Security .....	<b>Fizuli ALEKPEROV</b>
Min. of National Security .....	<b>Eldar MAHMUDOV</b>
Min. of Sports & Youth .....	<b>Azad RAHIMOV</b>
Min. of Taxation .....	<b>Fazil MAMEDOV</b>
Min. of Transport .....	<b>Ziya MAMMADOV</b>

## BAKU TOURIST SIGHTS

Icherisheher Fortress (12th century);

Shirvan Dynasty Palace (15th century);

Synyk-Kala Minaret (11th century.);

The Maiden Tower (Hys Halasy) (7th -12th century);

“Bail Stones” (13th century.);

Seyid Yakhya Bakuvi Mausoleum;

Caravanserais - Multani (15th century.), Bukhara (15th century), Mollakhan (13th century);

Mosques- Mukhammad ibn Abu-Bakr, Mirza-Ahmed (1345), Molla-Ahmed (14th century),

Djuma (15th - 20th centuries), Lezgi (1169), mosques-madrasah (1646-47);

Baths (15th - 19th centuries);

Merchant Complex (16th - 17th centuries);

House of Baku Khans (18th century);

The Temple of Sacred Wives of Russian Orthodox Church

The city has seven theaters, around 30 museums including the Arts Museum, Azerbaijani Carpet Museum, the Museum of Folk Applied Arts and others.

*The vicinities of Baku* are well known for such landmarks as Ateshgah - the unique fire worshipers temple complex (17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> centuries) - burning natural gas outlets and Gobustan - the open air museum featuring rock drawings of late Stone Age .

“*Ateshgah*” (the House of Fire), was built from the place of burning natural gas. The temple complex includes the central temple altar, chapels, cells, caravanserais as well as the square pit intended for burning bodies of the dead on the sacred fire (now filled up with stones). In 1975 after restoration works had been completed, Ateshgah was opened for tourists.

*Azerbaijan History Museum* is considered the main Museum of the Republic. It is located in one of the most beautiful buildings of Baku - the mansion where Gadji Tagiyev, the oilman, the notorious sponsor and patron used to live. The total number of the Museum collection artifacts exceeds 300,000. The numismatic collection covers the entire coin minting history and monies circulation of Azerbaijan territory.

The Museum's collection includes numerous stone and obsidian tools of paleolith, mesolite, late Stone Age. The museum's pride is the fragment of a 300 - 350 - thousand old fossil man's jaw found in Azykh Cave (the city of Fizuli).

*The State Museum of Azerbaijani Carpets and Folk Applied Arts.*

The Museum was established in 1967. Today the Museum's collection consists of more than 10 thousand valuable artifacts. Among them are ceramic articles from the Bronze Age, 14th-century metal masterpieces, carpets weaved in the 18<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> centuries; skillfully crafted jewelry made silver and gold, national apparel and embroidery. Besides, the collection features the works of modern artists.

## AIRLINES OFFICES AND TRAVEL AGENCIES IN AZERBAIJAN

<b>Airline name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Fax Number</b>
<b>AIR KAZAKHSTAN</b>	Nizami str, 129	(99412) 4972217	(99412) 4972217
<b>ALBAN-AVIA</b>	Ataturk ave, 2	(99412) 4650555, 4650444	(99412) 4650555
<b>AZAL</b>	Azadlig ave, 11	(99412) 4972852	(99412) 4972678
<b>BAKU AIRWAYS</b>	Azerbaijan ave, 21	(99412) 4939595	(99412) 4933396
<b>BASHKIRSKIYE AVIALINII</b>	Nizami str, 135	(99412) 4981918	(99412) 4983983
<b>BELORUSSKIYE AVIALINII</b>	Azadlig ave., 75	(99412) 4415219	(99412) 4415878
<b>BRITISH AIRWAYS</b>	Izmir str, 1033 "HYATT INTERNATIONAL CENTRE"	(99412) 4970500, 4970501	(99412) 4970503
<b>CHELYABINSKIYE AVIALINII</b>	Nizami str, 135/130	(99412) 4905701	(99412) 4936859
<b>IMAIR AIRLINES</b>	Hazi Aslanov str, 115	(99412) 4982376, 4989101	(99412) 4932777, 4930478
<b>IRAN AIR</b>	Xaqani str, 1	(99412) 4985886	(99412) 4983455
<b>LUFTHANSA GERMAN AIRLINES</b>	Izmir str, 1033	(99412) 4907050, 4907051	(99412) 4907049
<b>PERMSKIYE AVIALINII</b>	Nizami str, 135/130	(99412) 4939139	(99412) 4982956
<b>PULKOVO</b>	28 May str, 29/11	(99412) 4982930, 4982931	(99412) 4982930
<b>SIBIRAVIA</b>	Nizami str, 135/130	(99412) 4982821, 4981098	(99412) 4982821
<b>SUPERAVIA</b>	Pushkin str, 12/14	(99412) 4936160, 4935253	(99412) 4984457
<b>SWISSAIR</b>	Izmir str, 1033	(99412) 4907221, 4907222	(99412) 4907220
<b>TRANSAERO AIRLINES</b>	Byul-Byul ave, 26	(99412) 4970330, 4935581	(99412) 4970330
<b>TRANS BOING</b>	28 May str, 58	(99412) 4939191, 4984866	(99412) 4939191, 4984866
<b>TURAN AIR</b>	AZ1010, 28 May str, 68/64	99412) 4989431/32/33	4989434 (Baku)
<b>TURKISH AIRLINES</b>	Husu Hacıyev str, 11	(99412) 4975352, 4977300	(99412) 4970027
<b>UKRAINSKIYE AVIALINII</b>	Khagani str, 63	(99412) 4989137, 4989139	(99412) 4989138
<b>UZBEKISTAN AIR LINES</b>	Nizami str, 127	(99412) 4983120	(99412) 4983120

## PRAYER TIMES IN BAKU

*Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2008 to Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2008*

Days	Shawal 1429 A.H	October 2008	Fajar	Shuruq	Zuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Ichaa
Saturday	05 Shawal	04 October	06:14	07:39	13:29	16:45	19:25	20:38
Sunday	06 Shawal	05 October	06:15	07:40	13:29	16:44	19:23	20:37
Monday	07 Shawal	06 October	06:16	07:41	13:29	16:43	19:21	20:35
Tuesday	08 Shawal	07 October	06:17	07:42	13:28	16:42	19:20	20:34
Wednesday	09 Shawal	08 October	06:18	07:43	13:28	16:40	19:18	20:32
Thursday	10 Shawal	09 October	06:19	07:44	13:28	16:39	19:17	20:30
Friday	11 Shawal	10 October	06:20	07:45	13:27	16:38	19:15	20:29

## ISLAMIC COUNTRIES' EMBASSIES ACCREDITED TO AZERBAIJAN

Embassy	Phone No.
<i>Embassy of EGYPT</i> , Address: Baku AZ-1078, 7, Hasan Aliyev str. alleyway 15	Tel: (99412) 498 79 06 Fax: (99412) 498 79 54 E-mail: emb.egypt@azeuro.net
<i>Embassy of IRAN</i> , Address: Baku AZ-1001, Buniad Sardarov str. 4	Tel: (99412) 492 19 64, 492 44 07 Fax: (99412) 498 07 33, 497 12 23 E-mail: info@iranembassyaz.org
<i>Embassy of IRAQ</i> , Baku, Khagani str. 9	Tel: (99412) 498 14 47, 498 66 03, Fax: (99412) 98 14 37 E-mail: bakemb@iraqmofa.net,
<i>Embassy of KAZAKHSTAN</i> , Baku, 1000, Hasan Aliyev, 82	Tel: (99412) 465 62 48, 465 65 21 Fax: (99412) 465 62 49 E-mail: embassyk@azdata.net
<i>Embassy of KUWAIT</i> Baku, AZ-1065, Caspian Plaza 2, 15 floor, J. Jabbarli str. 44	Tel: (99412) 596 81 72/73/74 Fax: (99412) 596 81 75
<i>Embassy of LIBYA</i> Baky, 370073, Suleyman Dadashev avenue 520, apt. 20	Tel: (99412) 493 23 65, 493 85 48 Fax: (99412) 498 12 47
<i>Embassy of PAKISTAN</i> Baku, 370069, Gandjlik, Ataturk Ave. 30	Tel: (99412) 436 08 39/40 436 19 97 Fax: (99412) 436 08 41 E-mail: parepbaku-1@azeronline.com
<i>Embassy of RUSSIA</i> Baku, AZ 1022, Bakhihanov str. 17	Tel: (99412) 498 60 16, 495 53 00 Fax: (99412) 498 14 46, E-mail: embrus@azdata.net
<i>Embassy of SAUDI ARABIA</i> Baku, AZ 1073, Suleyman Dadashev str. 44/2	Tel: (99412) 497 23 05, 497 23 12 Fax: (99412) 497 23 02 E-mail: najdiahbaku@azeurotel.com
<i>Embassy of TURKEY</i> Baky, Samed Vurqun str. 94	Tel: (99412) 444 73 20/21 Fax: (99412) 444 73 55 E-mail bakube@azeronline.com
<i>Embassy of TURKMENISTAN</i> Baky, Hotel "Republic", Istiqlaliyat str.15	Tel: (99412) 498 71 91
<i>Embassy of the UZBEKISTAN</i> , Baku, Patamdart, 1st high-road, 9th side str., 437,	Tel: (99412) 497 25 49 Fax: (99412) 497 25 48 E-mail: embuzbek@azeronline.com

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE (ISESCO)

<b>Name of the Members</b>	<b>Mobile phone</b>
<b>Mr. Mohamed Ghemari</b> <i>(Organizing Committee)</i>	050 354 1780
<b>Dr. Faiq Billal</b> <i>(Organizing Committee)</i>	050 801 3134
<b>Dr. Ahmed Saïd Ould Bah</b> <i>(Organizing Committee)</i>	050 354 1780

## PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (HOSTING PARTY)

<b>Name of the Members</b>	<b>Mobile numbers</b>
<i>Mr. Gulu Novruzov</i>	050 222 5434
<i>Mr. Azad Askdnov</i>	050 315 5319
<i>Mr. Agil Valiyev</i>	050 361 9848