

AZERBAIJAN: A PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL DIALOG ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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In November this year, Azerbaijan's capital Baku will be hosting the 29th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29), which will be attended by representatives from about 200 countries. It is one of the most important international events dedicated to the most topical problem of climate change and measures to neutralize its negative consequences. The fact that it will be held in Baku is perceived as a sign of recognition of Azerbaijan's role in the international campaign to mitigate the consequences of climate change. Of course, the preparations for and the holding of COP29 are in the spotlight of Azerbaijan's government and public, as the event is viewed as a primary task of national importance. An article in this issue of IRS-Heritage dedicated to this topic provides an overview of the government's efforts to build a green economy, as well as the country's environmental agenda and water resources, with a special focus on the Caspian Sea.

An article on women's philanthropy in Northern Azerbaijan from the mid-19th century to the intervention of Soviet Russia and the Bolshevik coup of 1920 will undoubtedly arouse interest. It is one of the most important periods in the history of Azerbaijan, marked by accelerated economic development and significant social changes that led to a revitalization of public life. In such an environment, women's participation in public affairs, from which they had been largely excluded in the conditions of patriarchal Eastern society, began to increase. The topic is discussed in the context of the history and traditions of charity among Azerbaijanis in general.

Of the other articles of the current issue, it is also worth mentioning an article on "Icherisheher", the medieval walled part of Baku, which was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List back in 2000. The Baku fortress is briefly characterized from the point of view of history and architecture. Information is provided about its key architectural monuments, as well as the settlement of Gala, located 40 km from the city, which is also of great historical and ethnographic importance. As is the case with the Baku fortress, a historical and architectural reserve has been created in Gala.

Fans of history might be interested in looking at the article devoted to one of the miniature illustrations to the 14th century manuscript of the Great Shahnameh, a famous poem by Ferdowsi. The illustration depicts the famous battle between Alexander the Great and Indian king Porus, in which Alexander used unprecedented technical means for that time, iron horses filled with oil, which was set on fire in battle to frighten the enemy's war elephants. The author of the miniature illustration, a medieval Tabriz artist, showed ingenuity and extraordinary knowledge of military technology, coming to very interesting conclusions.

As always, this issue contains other materials on the history, ethnography and culture of Azerbaijan, which will help our readers to expand their knowledge about the Land of Fire. Therefore, we hope you continue to stay with us.